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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Tajikistan

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Process for the preparation of the report

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council decision 17/119 and the updated guidelines of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.
2. Representatives from more than 25 ministries and departments participated in the preparation of the report. The preparation process was led by the Government Commission on Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations, with the Human Rights Guarantees Department in the Executive Office of the President, acting as its secretariat.
3. This report draws on disaggregated statistical data from the Statistics Agency under the Office of the President, including the findings of the 2023 demographic and health survey and the Agency's dedicated publication, *Children of Tajikistan* (2025).
4. Broad national consultations were held during the preparation of the report. This report was prepared taking into account the proposals submitted by civil society organizations, the national human rights institution and international partners during the national consultations on the universal periodic review that were held on 16 July 2026. The consultations provided an opportunity for open discussion of the draft national report, an exchange of views on the implementation of the recommendations from the previous review cycle and the formulation of proposals aimed at enhancing the completeness, objectivity and inclusiveness of the information presented.
5. On 30 July 2026, the draft report was considered and approved at a meeting of the Government Commission on International Human Rights Obligations for subsequent submission to the Council.

II. Voluntary commitments

6. In 2022, Tajikistan submitted a voluntary national report for the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.¹
7. Tajikistan submitted its fourth national communication on the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022.²
8. In July 2023, Tajikistan submitted its second voluntary national review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, prepared with the support of the United Nations system. The review was prepared in accordance with the principles of inclusiveness and broad participation, with particular attention paid to engaging the most vulnerable groups and ensuring that no one is left behind.

III. National human rights institutions

9. The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) has been accredited with category B status; however, the reforms undertaken are bringing it closer to full compliance with international standards.
10. With the adoption of the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act on 19 July 2022, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights was designated as the competent State body in this area. In 2024, corresponding amendments were made to the Act on the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Tajikistan. The Office was empowered to conduct anti-discrimination assessments of draft laws and regulations, examine complaints of discrimination and resolve disputes through mediation.
11. State funding for the Office has increased annually. Its budget has almost doubled, increasing by 92%, from 1,987,864 somoni in 2022 to 3,821,662 somoni in 2025.
12. In 2023 and 2026, presidential decrees provided for 18 additional posts in the Office. By 2026, the total number of staff had reached 58.

13. Since April 2023, funding for the regional offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights (in Sughd and Khatlon Oblasts and the Kūhistoni Badakhshon Autonomous Oblast) has been transferred from local budgets to the national budget, thereby strengthening their independence from local authorities.

14. The Office actively participates in the activities of the Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Between 2022 and 2025, study visits were conducted to Finland, Italy, Spain and the United Nations Office at Geneva to learn from the experience of national human rights institutions that enjoy category A status.

IV. Cooperation with United Nations human rights bodies

15. Tajikistan continues to foster constructive engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. During the reporting period, it demonstrated a high level of commitment to its international obligations by submitting reports in a timely manner and implementing the recommendations received.

16. As part of the events commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and with the support of OHCHR, a number of human rights events were organized, including a national round table held in December 2023 and a Human Rights Week involving international partners.

Cooperation with United Nations treaty bodies

17. Tajikistan is a party to most of the core international human rights treaties and has no overdue reports to be submitted to the United Nations treaty bodies. Since the third cycle of the universal periodic review, the State has successfully submitted reports to, and undergone reviews by, a number of United Nations treaty bodies.

18. In 2024, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the seventh periodic report of Tajikistan. Following its consideration, the Government began implementing an updated national action plan for the period 2025–2032. In 2026, in response to the Committee's specific recommendations, a report was submitted on measures taken to implement them.

19. In 2023, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the combined twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports of Tajikistan. In July 2025, Tajikistan submitted follow-up information on the measures taken to combat discrimination.

20. In May 2024, Tajikistan submitted its third periodic report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, highlighting significant progress in diversifying destinations for labour migration from Tajikistan and the social protection of migrants.

21. In 2022, Tajikistan submitted its fourth periodic report to the Committee against Torture. In September 2025, Tajikistan submitted its replies to the list of issues in relation to its fourth periodic report, emphasizing its policy of zero tolerance towards torture. In 2026, the periodic report was considered and, following its consideration, the Government began developing an updated action plan.

22. In 2022, Tajikistan submitted its combined sixth and seventh periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In 2026, replies to the list of issues were submitted. Preparations are currently under way for the Committee's session in September 2026.

Cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council

23. Tajikistan attaches the highest priority to cooperation with the special procedure mandate holders and responds promptly to their requests to visit the country. An important achievement during the reporting period was the development and adoption of an action plan for follow-up to the recommendations of United Nations Special Rapporteurs for the period 2026–2027. The plan includes measures relating to the recommendations of the Special

Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ms. Nazila Ghanea; and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Mr. Fernand de Varennes.

Universal periodic review and national machinery

24. Tajikistan has a well-established national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, in which the Government Commission on Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations plays a central role by coordinating the preparation of all national reports.

Ratification of new international instruments

25. Following the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the President in 2018, Tajikistan undertook extensive preparations for its ratification through a national road map. Tajikistan is currently preparing to ratify the Convention.

26. In April 2025, an interdepartmental working group on accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness commenced its work.

27. A working group has been set up to facilitate accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and is exploring the possibility of establishing a national preventive mechanism based on the “Ombudsman Plus” model.

V. Achievements and progress made in implementing recommendations from previous cycles

28. To ensure the systematic fulfilment of these commitments, a national action plan for the period 2023–2026 was approved by a presidential decree on 1 April 2023. The plan was developed with the broad participation of civil society organizations, which ensured that the process was inclusive.

29. The parliament continued to play an important role in implementing the recommendations under the universal periodic review through its legislative, budgetary and oversight functions. During the reporting period, the Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, the Social Entrepreneurship Act and the Bar and Advocacy Act were adopted. Work continued on improving legislation in the areas of protecting the rights of women and children, preventing domestic violence and strengthening the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights. In the exercise of its budgetary function, the parliament ensured the adoption of the State budget, which provided funding for measures aimed at implementing the recommendations arising from the universal periodic review, including in the areas of healthcare, social protection, support for persons with disabilities, protection of mothers and children, prevention of domestic violence and education.

30. The following recommendations made during the universal periodic review have been fully implemented under the national action plan:

- On 5 August 2023 the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2038 was adopted.
- On 19 July 2022, the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act was adopted.
- In 2024, the Act on the Responsibility for the Education and Upbringing of the Child was amended to introduce a complete prohibition of corporal punishment.
- On 16 June 2026, a new Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act was adopted, introducing the human rights model of disability.

- The State Programme on Reproductive Health for the period 2023–2027 has been approved.
 - On 14 May 2025, amendments to articles 179 (3) and 307 (1) of the Criminal Code were adopted, thereby addressing the risk of unjustified prosecution for online activity.
31. Significant progress has been made in a number of areas, but there is still a need for further action and technical cooperation:
- The budget of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights increased by 47.8% in 2023 compared with 2022, and 18 additional staff posts were created.
 - The criminalization of domestic violence has been incorporated into the draft Criminal Code. By a government decision of 28 February 2025, the Interdepartmental Council on the Prevention of Domestic Violence was established under the Government of Tajikistan.
 - Since 2025, the monitoring group attached to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights has operated with a renewed membership that includes representatives of civil society. The group actively monitors places of deprivation and restriction of liberty. Repairs have been carried out in closed institutions and living conditions have improved. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture is under consideration.
 - Tajikistan has endorsed the joint declaration of foreign ministers proclaiming Central Asia and Mongolia a death penalty-free region.

VI. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints in the implementation of human rights in the country

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination

32. Tajikistan regards the principles of equality and non-discrimination as a fundamental element of human rights protection that cuts across all areas of public policy and legislation.
33. Under article 17 of the Constitution, the State guarantees the rights and freedoms of every person, irrespective of ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion, political opinions, education and social or property status.
34. The Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act defines direct and indirect discrimination, establishes a mechanism for conducting anti-discrimination reviews of laws and regulations and grants the right to compensation for material and non-material damage.
35. The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights has been designated as the competent State authority in this area. A Department for the State Protection of the Right to Equality and Freedom from Discrimination was established within the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights by a presidential decree of 29 April 2023. The Commissioner has been entrusted with a mandate to conduct anti-discrimination reviews of draft laws and regulations and consider complaints submitted by citizens. Between 2023 and 2025, following the entry into force of the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act, the Office received 27 complaints relating to discrimination.
36. In February 2026, amendments were introduced to article 7 of the Labour Code explicitly establishing mechanisms for protection against employment discrimination.

2. Right to development

37. Tajikistan regards the right to development as an inalienable human right, realized through the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national policy, in accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind.

38. The principal policy document is the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030, which incorporates the Sustainable Development Goal targets. The National Development Council in the Office of the President coordinates the implementation of the Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Council has 14 interdepartmental working groups tasked with analysing the implementation of sectoral programmes in the light of long-term goals.

39. A review highlighted the link between national strategies and the Goals: the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights for the period up to 2038 is directly aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

40. The second voluntary national review, submitted in 2023, showed that the level of integration of the Goal targets into national strategies had reached 78%.

41. Owing to steady economic growth averaging more than 7% annually, the poverty rate fell from 56% in 2010 to less than 20% in recent years.

42. The 2026 labour law reforms, which prohibit discrimination, contribute to the achievement of Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth).

43. The State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for the period 2025–2030 was adopted. The expansion of the network of support centres for victims and the increase in the number of applications to the Committee for Women and the Family under the Government of Tajikistan (3,609 complaints in 2025) demonstrate progress in creating a safe environment (Goal 5).

44. The programme on the first 1,000 days of a child's life is aimed at combating undernutrition. The prevalence of anaemia among children declined from 42% to 35% between 2017 and 2023 (Goals 2 and 3).

45. Vaccination coverage among children has reached 96.7%, which contributes to the goal of reducing child mortality (Goal 3).

46. The transition to 11 years of compulsory education in 2024 contributes to achieving quality education for all (Goal 4).

47. The adoption of the Policy Framework for Inclusive Education for the period up to 2045 is aimed at the integration of children with disabilities (Goal 4.5).

48. Implementation of the National Water Strategy of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040 and the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Act is contributing to improved access to drinking water, particularly in urban and rural schools. There has been an improvement in water supply and sanitation conditions in penal institutions (Goal 6).

3. Environmental issues and climate change impacts on vulnerable groups

49. Tajikistan recognizes the inextricable link between the environment and the enjoyment of human rights and establishes the right of its citizens to a healthy environment in law. Given the country's high vulnerability to climate-related risks, the Government has integrated a human rights approach into its key environmental programmes.

50. In Tajikistan the Environmental Information Act (2011, as amended in 2024) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (2017) are in force. In 2018, the procedures for environmental impact assessments were adopted. An Environmental Code is currently being drafted.

51. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the period 2019–2034 has been adopted and is being implemented, providing for the creation of a database and the inclusion of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability in hazard/risk vulnerability assessments.

52. The Strategy for the Development of the Green Economy for the period 2023–2037, aimed at resource conservation and decarbonization, has been adopted and is being implemented.

53. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the period up to 2030 is in effect; it takes into account the interests of the most vulnerable segments of the population, including women and rural communities.

54. The State Environmental Programme for the period 2023–2028, aimed at ensuring environmental safety, was adopted in 2023.

55. The project entitled “Additional Funding for the Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Aral Sea Basin”, with a budget of \$9 million, is being implemented to support areas with the most vulnerable populations.

56. In July 2023, an agreement was signed between Tabiat, a State-owned enterprise under the Committee for Environmental Protection, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Programme Office in Dushanbe to facilitate the implementation of the project activities of the Aarhus centres in Tajikistan. In 2023, the Aarhus centres in Tajikistan carried out project activities on the topic “Strengthening environmental education among the public and the effective implementation of nature conservation activities in the Republic of Tajikistan”.

57. According to the 2022 report on implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, one of the long-term adaptation priorities of Tajikistan is to strengthen the resilience of the population to disaster risks, with particular attention to women, children and other vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons.

58. The State actively promotes the participation of women in climate-related decision-making through platforms such as the Women and Water Forum (2024) and the Women and Glaciers Forum (2025).

59. Under the presidential grants programme for women entrepreneurs, 10% of funding is reserved for rural women implementing climate change adaptation projects.

60. In 2024, a situational analysis was conducted of the needs of persons with disabilities during climate-related emergencies.

61. Tajikistan has spearheaded global initiatives that contribute to the realization of the rights to life and health, including the adoption of the following United Nations resolutions: the resolution declaring 2025 the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, a matter of particular importance given the loss of 30% of the country’s glacier volume over the past century; the resolution proclaiming the period from 2025 to 2034 as the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, which is regarded as an important step in addressing global climate change; the resolution proclaiming the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, which aims to promote sustainable water management, strengthen cooperation and achieve water-related goals; and the resolution on strengthening cooperation on water and climate change for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, which is aimed at addressing climate- and water-related challenges.

4. Human rights and counter-terrorism

62. New versions of the Counter-Terrorism Act of December 2021 and the Counter-Extremism Act of 2020 were adopted, both of which establish respect for human and civil rights and freedoms as a key guiding principle. In March 2023, the Act on Countering the Legalization (Laundering) of the Proceeds of Crime, the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was adopted.

63. In 2026, the Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism for the period up to 2040 and the Action Plan for its Implementation for the period 2026–2030 were approved. The Strategy identifies respect for human rights as a key prerequisite for the effective implementation of security measures.

64. In April 2023, a Unified Information Centre for the Prevention of Extremism, Terrorism and Cybercrime was established within the Office of the Procurator General, coordinating preventive efforts and methods for detecting terrorist content on the Internet.

65. In 2023, a set of risk assessment and classification criteria for convicted persons, internal guidelines and a training module for the implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation programme were developed.

66. In April 2023, the procedure for the social rehabilitation of individuals affected by terrorist acts was approved.

67. On 28 March 2025, the Government approved the Programme for the Rehabilitation, Recovery and Reintegration of Prisoners Convicted of Extremist and Terrorist Offences for the period 2025–2029. The Programme focuses on psychological support and the social integration of convicted persons, including engaging them in educational activities.

68. In 2025, the national courts heard 578 criminal cases involving 676 persons as part of efforts to combat terrorism and extremism.

69. At Dushanbe International Airport, pre-departure interviews were conducted with 43,169 prospective migrants in order to reduce the risk of their recruitment into radical groups abroad.

70. More than 16,000 written materials and over 3,200 video clips aimed at preventing citizens from joining extremist organizations have been published and distributed.

71. In November 2024, at an international forum, Tajikistan officially announced its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, underscoring the country's commitment to global security and human rights standards.

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person

72. An indefinite moratorium on the use of the death penalty has been in place in Tajikistan since 2004. The death penalty has been replaced by life imprisonment or deprivation of liberty for 25 years. An interdepartmental working group tasked with examining the social and legal aspects of the abolition of the death penalty continues its work within the Executive Office of the President.

73. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Act on Procedures and Conditions for the Custody of Suspects, Accused Persons and Defendants, strict standards apply to the protection of individual rights from the moment of actual detention – namely, the point at which a person is deprived of the freedom to move. The record of arrest must be drawn up within three hours of the person being brought before the competent authorities. Falsifying the time of arrest in the record is considered forgery by an official. Detention without a court decision is limited to 72 hours for adults and 48 hours for minors.

74. A person who has been detained is entitled to a lawyer from the moment of his or her actual detention. Visits with the defence lawyer are granted in private, with no restrictions on their number or duration. The authorities are required to inform the relatives of the detainee's whereabouts without delay.

75. The Legal Aid Centre of the Ministry of Justice provides free primary and secondary (representation in court) legal assistance to vulnerable groups.

76. The State is implementing a zero-tolerance policy toward torture by improving legislation and law enforcement practices. The definition of torture in article 143 (1) of the Criminal Code has been brought fully into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture.

77. Before being placed in a temporary holding facility, a medical examination is mandatory and the detainee has the right to have an independent doctor carry out this examination. Where minors lodge complaints of violence, a mandatory medical examination by a panel of at least three doctors who are not subordinate to the institution's administration is required.

78. On 29 December 2025, the plenum of the Supreme Court adopted Decision No. 32, which provided courts with clear guidance on the compensation for harm suffered by victims of torture. Courts have already begun awarding compensation ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 somoni (in cases from 2022 and 2024) for unlawful actions by law enforcement officers.

79. All interrogation rooms at the temporary holding facilities are being equipped with audiovisual equipment to prevent unlawful actions. As part of the police reforms for the period 2026–2030, there are plans to equip a further 90 interview rooms with recording systems.

80. Military units have installed confidential complaint boxes, direct telephone lines to procurators and video surveillance cameras in barracks to prevent hazing and other forms of abuse. Daily medical screening of military personnel is conducted to facilitate the early detection of signs of violence.

81. Between 2022 and 2025, 280 judges and 60 judicial trainees completed training on the standards of the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol) and the fight against torture.

82. The Penal Correction System Reform Strategy in the period up to 2030 is being implemented to ensure compliance with United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

83. In recent years, more than 30 facilities serving various purposes have been built and renovated in correctional institutions and remand centres.

84. In 2025, a new temporary holding facility meeting international standards was commissioned in Dushanbe. Construction is under way on new four-story dormitory buildings for convicted persons with a total area of more than 8,000 m². More than 400 pay phones and 140 televisions have been installed in these facilities; The prison service's library collection now holds almost 52,000 books.

85. The monitoring group of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights is the key monitoring mechanism. Since 2025, the group's membership has been increased to 30 people to include representatives from civil society. The monitoring group regularly visits closed facilities. Since 2014, the group has made 154 visits to closed facilities. Between April 2025 and April 2026, 30 monitoring visits were conducted to places of deprivation or restriction of liberty. Members of the group are entitled to conduct confidential interviews with detained persons.

86. Tajikistan became the sixty-seventh country in the world to legally ban corporal punishment of children in all settings in 2024. The first national programme on the protection of children's rights for the period 2026–2030 has been adopted. Penalties for sexual offences against minors have been increased.

87. In 2024, significant amendments were made to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, which broadened the definition of violence and established the right of victims to free medical and legal assistance. Between 2023 and 2026, secondary legal assistance was provided to 204 victims of domestic violence.

2. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

88. In June 2026, the President signed the Amnesty Act, which applies to 18,038 convicted persons and provides for significant leniency for women and minors.

89. The implementation of the fourth Judicial and Legal Reform Programme for the period 2019–2021 has been completed, and an assessment of the effectiveness of all previous phases has been carried out with a view to drafting a new programme document.

90. The judicial system operates 78 official court websites in Tajik and Russian, providing access to information about the courts' activities. These websites are accessible to persons with disabilities.

91. Interference in the work of judges is prohibited by law. A Code of Ethics for Judges is in force, aimed at preventing the risks of corruption and enhancing public confidence in the justice system.

92. On 3 January 2024, amendments were made to the Bar and Advocacy Act to strengthen the legal status and independence of lawyers.

93. The Legal Aid Centre of the Ministry of Justice has expanded its network to 55 cities and districts. The Centre has gradually transitioned to full State funding (60% in 2022 and 100% by 2024).

94. Between 2016 and 2025, the Centre provided legal advice in 118,015 cases, including more than 79,000 for women and 3,000 for persons with disabilities. As of 1 January 2025, secondary legal assistance (representation by a lawyer in court) has also become available in cases concerning administrative offences.

95. The Juvenile Justice Reform Programme for the period 2023–2027 has been adopted. Cases involving children are heard by experienced judges who have undergone training in juvenile justice standards. Restorative justice measures are increasingly being introduced. In 2025, the courts dismissed 20 criminal cases involving adolescents, imposing compulsory educational measures instead of custodial sentences.

96. At young offenders' institution No. 3/12 in Dushanbe, a new three-storey school building for 250 pupils has been built.

97. The following programmes were successfully completed: the National Programme for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency for the period 2020–2024 and the Programme for the Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Children Who Have Served Their Sentences for the period 2020–2024.

98. With the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), eight specialized rooms for interviewing children have been set up and the first child-friendly courtroom has been opened.

3. Fundamental freedoms and participation in public and political life

99. In July 2022, amendments were made to the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations Act, under which persons who have committed sexual offences, terrorist or extremist offences and other serious and especially serious offences may not serve as founders or employees of religious associations.

100. A new central mosque was opened in Dushanbe, and the new building of the Islamic Institute of Tajikistan was commissioned, underscoring the State's support for the rights of believers.

101. As part of the implementation of the State Policy Framework on Religion, more than 900 conferences, 4,350 round tables and 92,000 meetings with the public have been held.

102. There are more than 4,000 religious organizations officially operating in the country, 66 of which are non-Islamic, reflecting continued interfaith harmony.

103. Training sessions were organized for more than 500 imam-khatibs, aimed at fostering tolerance and legal literacy within the religious community.

104. The number of media outlets is steadily increasing. During the period 2022–2024, the following publications and organizations were registered in the State register:

- 199 newspapers, of which 67 were independent
- 168 magazines, of which 29 were independent

- 6 news agencies, of which 5 were independent
- 104 printing houses, of which 80 were independent

105. Heads of ministries and departments continue to be required to hold press conferences twice a year in order to provide information directly to the public through the media.

106. There are more than 1,800 voluntary associations operating in the country. Financial difficulties have led some voluntary associations to close.

107. Representatives of voluntary organizations participate in the work of 14 interdepartmental working groups and have contributed to the drafting of the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2038, the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act, the Social Entrepreneurship Act, the Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act and others.

108. In 2022, the list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participating in the Monitoring Group of the Office of the Human Right Commission for visits to closed institutions was significantly expanded.

109. The year 2024 was declared the Year of Legal Literacy in the country. On the initiative of Tajikistan, the United Nations has proclaimed 2027 as the International Year of Legal Literacy.

110. A legal literacy course has been introduced in higher education institutions, reaching a significant number of students and youth leaders.

111. The Central Commission for Elections and Referendums, in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, conducted a series of training sessions on electoral law for university students, graduate students and civil servants.

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery

112. Tajikistan pursues a consistent policy of eradicating trafficking in persons and forced labour, based on the provisions of the Constitution and its international obligations. Article 8 of the Labour Code explicitly prohibits forced labour; in 2019, amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code, article 130.1 (Trafficking in persons), to align it with international standards.

113. An important step was the ratification of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which entered into force for the country in 2020 and is aimed at protecting migrants from abusive recruitment practices.

114. These measures are being implemented as part of the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the period 2022–2024 and the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the period 2025–2027, under the coordination of the relevant Interdepartmental Commission.

115. State funding for this area has increased. In 2023, the Government allocated 926,905 somoni to a shelter operated by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to improve social services for victims of trafficking in persons. In 2022, 824,400 somoni were allocated for the same purpose. The Government allocated 527,362 somoni to NGOs engaged in combating trafficking in persons and assisting victims and 2.1 million somoni to a State institution that provides services to girls who are victims of trafficking.

116. During the period 2023–2025, law enforcement authorities initiated 157 criminal cases involving 193 persons under provisions relating to trafficking in persons. During the same period, 626 victims were identified, 317 of whom were referred to specialized State shelters and NGOs for medical, psychological and legal assistance.

117. In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 27 victims of trafficking were repatriated to Tajikistan from Myanmar, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

118. In 2025, the courts heard 21 cases involving 29 persons in connection with trafficking-related offences. Of these, 23 persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 5 to 9 years.

119. To ensure a rapid response, a 24-hour hotline (227-07-07) operates under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and relevant departments.

120. A 24-hour hotline (+992 900 800 800) and a WhatsApp channel linked to that number operate under an IOM project.

121. Particular attention is paid to protecting children and eliminating the worst forms of child labour. In August 2024, the Government approved the National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour for the period 2024–2028, which calls for strict monitoring of employers and regular inspections. As part of the effort to combat child trafficking, 42 criminal cases were investigated between 2021 and 2025. It was found that the main purpose of such offences remained unlawful adoption.

122. The State also runs reintegration programmes for children returned from areas of armed conflict, providing them with education and psychological support.

5. Right to privacy and family life

123. Article 23 of the Constitution guarantees the protection of privacy. The unlawful collection or dissemination of information concerning a person's private life is prohibited by the Criminal Code (art. 144). The Labour Code prohibits employers from requiring employees to provide information concerning their private life (art. 57).

124. The Government places particular emphasis on safeguarding medical confidentiality and privacy in the health sector. Under the Health Code, information concerning an individual's health status, the results of medical examinations, including HIV status, and reproductive choices is confidential and may not be disclosed without the individual's consent. Such information is provided only pursuant to a court order or at the request of investigative authorities.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

125. The new Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act (2022) established mechanisms for effective protection, including in employment.

126. The new Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act (2026) established guarantees for inclusive employment.

127. In February 2026, amendments were made to the Labour Code (art. 7) that broadened the definition of discrimination, explicitly prohibited sexual harassment and victimization in the workplace and established the right to seek compensation for non-material damage in court for such violations.

128. In 2023, the list of work in which the use of women's labour is prohibited was reduced by 140 entries (from 334 to 194). Consideration is being given to further reducing the list.

129. As part of the implementation of the State Employment Promotion Programme for the period 2023–2027, around 932,000 new jobs were created between 2022 and 2025.

130. Between 2019 and 2025, a total of 3,164 new enterprises and 53,244 jobs were created as part of the country's accelerated industrialization efforts.

131. According to data from the Statistics Agency in the Office of the President, the average monthly wage in May 2026 stood at 3,304.05 somoni.

132. To ensure fair remuneration, in 2024, the salaries of public sector employees and law enforcement officers were increased by 40%. Beginning in September 2025, salaries in a number of sectors were increased by up to 30% and further increases are planned for 2026.

2. Right to social security

133. Article 39 of the Constitution guarantees everyone social security in old age and in cases of illness, disability or incapacitation.

134. By 2030, the State plans to increase budget expenditure on social sectors to 16% of gross domestic product (GDP).

135. The Social Protection Development Strategy for the period up to 2040 was approved by a government decision of 29 November 2022. To support its implementation, an action plan for the period 2024–2026 has been adopted with a view to improving quality of life and creating equal opportunities.

136. On 2 January 2025, the Social Entrepreneurship Act came into force, aimed at supporting socially vulnerable groups through job creation and the provision of social services.

137. In 2022, pensions for orphans and persons deprived of parental care were increased by 25%. An agreement with Russia on pension provision (2022) has been ratified for migrant workers, establishing a mechanism for recording length of service and paying contributions.

138. Since 2020, the means-tested targeted social assistance programme has been fully rolled out across all 68 cities and districts of the country. More than 15% of households are covered by the programme. In 2024, more than 419,000 children received targeted assistance payments. A Unified National Information Register is in operation to ensure the accurate registration of beneficiaries. Since January 2024, all statistical reporting in the sector has been converted to electronic format.

139. More than 476 million somoni were allocated to the construction of healthcare and social service facilities during the period 2023–2025.

140. Between 2023 and 2025, the number of day-care centres for children with disabilities and older persons reached 59, with more than 21,000 persons receiving services at these centres. A total of 51.5 million somoni was allocated from the budget for this purpose.

141. The social protection system comprises 115 institutions, including rehabilitation centres, residential care institutions for older persons and a prosthetics and orthotics plant in Dushanbe.

142. The State makes active use of the social procurement mechanism, engaging NGOs to provide support to victims of domestic violence and trafficking in persons.

3. Right to an adequate standard of living

143. During the reporting period, the poverty rate, measured against the national poverty line, fell to 19.8% in 2024, while the poverty rate, measured against the international poverty line, fell to approximately 16.9% in 2024.

144. The Food Safety Programme for the period 2024–2028 has been approved, and the National School Meal Programme already serves more than 450,000 children in 2,000 elementary schools.

145. A significant step forward was the entry into force in 2022 of the new Housing Code, which introduced the concept of social rental arrangements for those in need and strengthened procedural safeguards against unjustified evictions.

146. In the area of water supply, the National Water Strategy for the period up to 2040 is being implemented. In 2025, the State Programme for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation for the period 2025–2029 was adopted. The country has in force the Water Code, the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Act and others.

147. Particular attention was paid in the period 2024–2025 to access to water in educational institutions. The proportion of schools with access to safe drinking water reached 93% in urban areas and 73% in rural areas.

148. In the agricultural sector, which forms the backbone of the economy, the State is working to strengthen women's land rights. Although women now head 23.5% of *dehkan*

(smallholder) farms, they manage only 11% of arable land, a disparity that sets the direction for further reforms aimed at expanding economic opportunities for rural women.

4. Right to health

149. The Public Health Strategy for the period up to 2030 is being implemented. During the reporting period (2022–2025), funding for the health sector increased steadily. The planned budget allocation for the sector in 2026 amounts to 5.028 billion somoni, representing an increase of 16.1% over 2025 and equivalent to 2.6% of GDP.

150. The legal framework was strengthened through amendments to the Health Code adopted in 2024 and the implementation of programmes on the prevention of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of reproductive health for 2023–2027.

151. Significant progress has been achieved in maternal and child health. Under-5 mortality fell to 14.6 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality was 24.0 per 100,000 live births. Thanks to the National Communication Programme Covering the First 1,000 Days of a Child's Life, the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age decreased from 18% in 2017 to 14% in 2023.

152. To improve access to high-quality services, two modern perinatal centres were opened in Kūlob and Bokhtar in Khatlon Oblast.

153. In 2025, the Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2025–2029 was approved.

154. In January 2025, the leadership of the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Justice approved the procedures for the provision of medical care to persons in pretrial detention and persons serving criminal sentences in places of detention.

155. In December 2025, the Health Code was amended to provide that persons living with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral therapy and have achieved an undetectable viral load are considered not to present a risk to their sexual partners.

156. Under the National Programme to Counter the Epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2021–2025, HIV Stigma Index studies were conducted and measures to reduce stigma were implemented.

157. In November 2025, the Programme to Counter the Epidemic of HIV and Viral Hepatitis B and C in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2026–2030 was approved.

158. In response to issues arising in judicial practice concerning criminal cases involving HIV transmission under article 125 of the Criminal Code, the Plenum of the Supreme Court adopted, on 26 December 2023, a decision on judicial practice in criminal cases involving infection with the human immunodeficiency virus. The decision encourages judicial authorities to take account of international scientific advances in antiretroviral therapy, to give due consideration to defendants' undetectable viral load status and to assess the actual risk of transmission.

159. With the support of relevant United Nations bodies, a comprehensive gender analysis of the HIV response was conducted, identifying specific barriers faced by women in accessing treatment, prevention services and legal protection.

160. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in cooperation with UNICEF, conducted a comprehensive national assessment of the country's readiness for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and other infections. The resulting report and the comprehensive action plan developed on its basis are currently under review for approval.

161. Antiretroviral therapy coverage among children living with HIV has increased to 97.6%. Children under 18 living with HIV receive a monthly State benefit equivalent to seven notional units. In 2025, 5 million somoni was allocated for these payments.

162. Significant progress has been made in the prison system, where 100% treatment coverage has been achieved for all identified HIV-positive and tuberculosis patients and the tuberculosis treatment success rate among inmates rose to 93% by 2025.

5. Right to education

163. The National Strategy for the Development of Education for the period up to 2030 remains the key strategic document. The enrolment rate for primary and secondary education in the country exceeds 99.9%. The expansion of access to preschool education continues, with enrolment reaching approximately 30% of children aged 3 to 6 years.

164. In 2024, amendments were made to the Education Act, under which completing full general secondary education (11 years) became compulsory for everyone.

165. The Policy Framework for Inclusive Education for the period up to 2045 and the Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act adopted in June 2026 have strengthened access to quality education for children with special needs and children with disabilities.

166. In 2026, the Programme for the Development of Preschool Education in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2026–2030 was approved.

167. The presidential quota scheme continues to operate effectively, enabling over 17,872 young women from remote rural areas to gain admission to higher education institutions. By 2025, the number of female students enrolled in secondary vocational institutions (colleges) had reached 77,360. During the academic years 2020/21 to 2024/25, 3,344 students in teacher-training fields graduated from universities under the presidential quota, including 1,742 women (52.1%).

168. As of 1 September 2025, a modern 10-point grading system has been introduced in all schools across the country. Digital transformation has advanced, with the education management information system improving the collection of disaggregated data on vulnerable groups of children.

169. In 2023 alone, 212 new educational facilities with a total capacity of 45,500 students were opened nationwide.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

170. Gender issues and the promotion of women's participation in society play a key role in national social policy. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees equal rights regardless of sex.

171. A gender perspective has been integrated into the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030. The National Strategy to Promote the Role of Women for the period 2021–2030 is being implemented.

172. The State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for the period 2025–2030 was adopted. The Committee for Women and the Family has established the Resource Centre on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Gender Equality, which operates a helpline (221-40-30). In the first half of 2026, the Centre's staff provided free legal assistance to 1,011 citizens who sought help regarding domestic violence and other legal matters.

173. According to the 2023 demographic and health survey, the percentage of women who have experienced intimate partner violence has decreased from 31% in 2017 to 16%.

174. In 2022, the Act on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities was amended to introduce a modern definition of gender and strengthen the principles of non-discrimination.

175. In 2024, significant amendments were made to the Domestic Violence Act: the definition of violence was broadened and victims' rights to free medical, legal and social assistance and compensation for damage were clarified.

176. The number of medical rehabilitation rooms for victims has increased from 14 to 27. Assistance is provided free of charge and funded through the State budget.

177. Twenty-one posts for domestic violence prevention officers have been introduced within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which have primarily been filled by women. Starting in 2025, a mandatory course on combating domestic violence will be introduced at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Academy. Events are held regularly, in collaboration with development partners, to analyse the causes and circumstances of domestic violence.

178. In 2024, the Reference Guide for Judges on Domestic Violence was developed. Training on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was conducted for judges and court staff.

179. In 2025, women's rights initiatives reached more than 100,000 people at universities and in the regions. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and OSCE, guidance materials and leaflets are published for the general public and religious leaders.

180. The Bangkok Rules, which are designed to address the special needs of female prisoners, are being implemented in the prison system.

181. On 8 April 2026, Tajikistan was elected to the Commission on the Status of Women for the 2027–2031 term, receiving 48 of the 58 votes cast.

182. As part of the implementation of the National Strategy to Promote the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2021–2030, the Committee for Women and the Family approved, by Decision No. 53 of 29 May 2026, guidelines on the functioning of working groups on gender issues, which were circulated to ministries and departments for implementation.

183. In June 2026, training sessions were held in cities and districts across three regions of the country for the heads and members of the working groups in State bodies on the procedure for conducting gender analyses.

184. In 2025, a public council, Women of Tajikistan, was established under the Committee for Women and the Family and has been actively engaged in its mandate.

185. By Government Decision No. 420 of 28 July 2025 on grants from the President of Tajikistan to support and develop women's entrepreneurship for the period 2025–2030, every year in that period, 15 million somoni are allocated to fund 200 presidential grants. Through a transparent selection process aimed at preventing corruption, 200 women and young women received grants to support entrepreneurial activities.

186. With a view to expanding the range of social services provided to victims of trafficking in persons and domestic violence, social service centres have been established in Kūlob and Bokhtar in Khatlon Oblast, in collaboration with the NGO Dilafruz, and are funded through the national budget.

187. The work of the State Centre for Social Services for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Dushanbe and Femida, a voluntary organization, is also aimed at providing assistance to victims of violence.

188. Twenty-nine units providing medical and social support have been established and are operating at maternity clinics and central hospitals for women and girls who have been subjected to violence, including domestic violence.

2. Children

189. An important step towards strengthening the protection of children from all forms of violence was the adoption in 2024 of the Act on the Responsibility for the Education and Upbringing of the Child, which provides for a complete prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings. The proportion of children aged 1 to 14 who are subjected to violent parenting practices decreased from 69% in 2017 to 56% in 2023.

190. A further step towards strengthening the child protection system was the adoption in June 2026 of the National Programme on the Protection of Children's Rights for the period 2026–2030, which aims to improve interdepartmental coordination, develop social services and strengthen institutional capacity for child protection.

191. A new Civil Registry Act has been in effect since January 2025, simplifying birth registration procedures. During the reporting period, more than 249,000 children were registered free of charge. The “mobile civil registry office” scheme is widely used in remote regions. During the reporting period, 882 children were registered in this manner.

192. Significant progress has been made in nutrition in reducing chronic undernutrition: the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 has fallen. In 2022, the State Programme for the Development of School Meals for the period 2022–2027 was adopted.

193. Tajikistan continues to implement comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour. In accordance with the National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour for the period 2024–2028, efforts are under way to strengthen interdepartmental coordination, improve monitoring and expand preventive measures.

194. A total of 381 persons, including 291 children, were repatriated from conflict zones in Iraq and Syria and are benefiting from rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

195. Climate change poses additional risks to the realization of children's rights: approximately 74% of children are exposed to extreme heat, 26% are at risk from droughts, 19% are at risk from floods and 85% breathe air with pollution levels exceeding permissible limits. The Government continues to step up measures to adapt to climate change and ensure that the education, health and social protection systems are resilient to climate-related risks.

3. Persons with disabilities

196. As of 2025, there were 172,538 persons with disabilities registered in Tajikistan, of whom 35,381 were children under the age of 18. Social protection is provided through the implementation of laws and programmes, and through the system of pensions, benefits, allowances and tax relief.

197. On 16 June 2026, a new Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act was adopted. The most significant step was the shift from the medical model to the human rights model of disability. The Act established the principles of inclusion, accessibility and reasonable accommodation.

198. The Policy Framework for Inclusive Education for the period up to 2045 and a State programme on accessibility are being implemented. In addition, a system for the early identification and support of children with disabilities is being developed. In 2025, more than 7,300 children with disabilities were attending school.

4. Minorities and Indigenous Peoples

199. According to the 2020 census, the country is home to 83 nationalities and ethnic groups. To further progress in this area, a national action plan for the period 2024–2027 has been adopted to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

200. The State pays particular attention to the social integration of the Roma ethnic group (Jughi/Lyuli). In recent years, in collaboration with voluntary organizations, assistance has been provided to more than 330 members of this group in obtaining passports and further 25 people have received documents on the basis of court rulings establishing the fact of their birth. Roma children attend general education schools on an equal footing with other children, and 1,083 Roma children are currently enrolled in school.

201. During the 2025/26 school year, schools and classes providing instruction in Uzbek, Russian, Kyrgyz, Turkmen and English are in operation throughout the country. There are 41 registered voluntary associations of ethnic minorities in the country.

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons

202. Tajikistan is a leader in Central Asia on refugee protection, having been the first country in the region to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto in 1993. The legal status of refugees is governed by the Refugees Act and a number of regulations, which ensure access to education, healthcare and the labour market.

203. As of late 2024, there were 10,753 registered refugees and asylum-seekers (2,670 families) in the country, 63% of whom were Afghan nationals.

204. An important legislative reform was the repeal of the provision in article 499 of the Code of Administrative Offences on the mandatory expulsion of refugees for violations of residence regulations, thereby strengthening adherence to the principle of non-refoulement.

205. To provide temporary housing, there are accommodation centres near Dushanbe and a new facility in Jaloliddin Balkhi District in Khatlon Oblast with a capacity for 100 families.

206. In the field of labour migration, the Strategy for the Regulation of Migration Processes for the period up to 2040 is being implemented.

207. Particular attention is paid to the families of migrant workers who remain in Tajikistan: in partnership with UNICEF and IOM, projects have been implemented to support more than 400 vulnerable women and children, providing them with healthcare and access to social services. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and relevant departments operate hotlines to provide immediate assistance to migrants who find themselves in difficult situations abroad.

6. Stateless persons

208. A landmark achievement in this area was the adoption in December 2019 of the Act on Amnesty in Connection with the Regularization of the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons Staying Unlawfully in Tajikistan, which remained in effect until 25 December 2022. As a result of the implementation of this law, 1,421 people were granted residence permits, of whom 952 were stateless persons (including 635 women).

209. Since 2014, the Government has been undertaking a large-scale effort to document the population, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. During the period from 2014 to February 2023, 59,287 persons with undetermined or no citizenship were identified in the country, of whom 55,416 have already been issued with identity documents. Assistance in obtaining a Tajik passport was provided to 35,166 people, 84% of whom were women, primarily residing in remote rural areas. The main causes of statelessness remain a lack of legal literacy, financial difficulties and living far from administrative centres.

210. Tajikistan is currently considering whether to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

211. Although the amnesty law to legalize stateless persons and foreign nationals staying unlawfully in Tajikistan has expired, stateless persons (originally from the former Soviet Union) retain the right to obtain a residence permit under the current rules governing the stay of foreign nationals.

Notes

¹ Добровольный промежуточный отчет Республики Таджикистан о ходе выполнения Сендайской рамочной программы по снижению риска бедствий (англ.), <https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/media/85615/download?startDownload=20240721>.

² Четвертое национальное сообщение Республики Таджикистан по Рамочной конвенции ООН об изменении климата. Душанбе, 2022. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/4NC_TJK_ru_0.pdf.