



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Uzbekistan

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. Several treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders made recommendations relating to ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.²

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Uzbekistan to consider ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).³

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Uzbekistan ratify the ILO Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156).⁴

5. The Committee against Torture recommended that Uzbekistan grant access to United Nations special procedure mandate holders who had requested visits.⁵

6. Uzbekistan contributed financially to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2018 and 2021.⁶



III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

7. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan amend article 235 of its Criminal Code with a view to ensuring that the definition of torture was in full compliance with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ensuring that any person could be considered a victim and that it was applied to acts committed by all persons acting in their official capacity, outside their official capacity or in a private capacity when the acts of torture were committed at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of, a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.⁷

8. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting male adults, under article 120 of the Criminal Code, and recommended that Uzbekistan repeal the article.⁸

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

9. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan adopt measures to bring the Office of the Ombudsman into full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), including by further strengthening its independence and by providing it with adequate financial and human resources to effectively and independently carry out its mandate, including the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights.⁹

10. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen the anti-torture mechanism under the national human rights institution, in particular its transparency and independence.¹⁰

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

11. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, including multiple, direct and indirect discrimination, in all spheres, in both the public and the private sectors, on all the grounds prohibited under the Covenant, including colour, political or other opinion, national origin, property, birth, sexual orientation and gender identity or other status. It also recommended that Uzbekistan guarantee effective remedies for victims of discrimination in judicial and administrative proceedings.¹¹

2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

12. The same Committee was concerned about continued reports of torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence and rape, of persons deprived of liberty, including individuals detained on what appeared to be politically motivated charges, by prison officials and law enforcement personnel. It was also concerned about reports of reprisals against those who reported those abuses. It was further concerned about the high level of impunity that existed in those cases and the lenient penalties often imposed on perpetrators.¹²

13. The United Nations country team stated that impunity for torture and other ill-treatment was largely the result of a lack of effective investigations in the criminal justice system and the absence of an independent police complaint mechanism.¹³

14. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan conduct prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, in line with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation

of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), ensuring that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished appropriately and that victims received full reparation.¹⁴

15. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that children had access to confidential, child-friendly complaint mechanisms for reporting cases of torture and ill-treatment, particularly in children's detention centres and alternative care, and that those reporting such cases did not face reprisals.¹⁵

16. The Committee against Torture recommended that Uzbekistan adopt further measures to ensure that no statement made as a result of torture or ill-treatment was invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against the person accused of torture or ill-treatment as evidence that the statement had been made under duress.¹⁶

17. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that persons arrested or detained on a criminal charge were brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power, within 48 hours, in order to bring their detention under judicial control.¹⁷

18. The Committee against Torture was concerned at reports that authorities had refused to release prisoners who had completed their sentences, on alleged health grounds.¹⁸

19. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan expedite its efforts to improve conditions and reduce overcrowding in places of deprivation of liberty and ensure that conditions in places of detention were in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).¹⁹

20. The Committee against Torture was concerned that, as a punishment, prisoners were denied adequate health care and access to medicines.²⁰

21. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan undertake a comprehensive reform of the penitentiary system, transfer control over the penitentiary system from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Justice and bring conditions in all places of detention fully in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules.²¹

22. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan take measures to ensure that all places of detention were subject to independent, effective and regular monitoring and inspection without prior notice.²²

23. The same Committee further recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that effective, independent and accessible complaints mechanisms were available to all persons deprived of their liberty.²³

24. The United Nations country team stated that, while the authorities had committed to prohibiting corporal punishment, including by accepting relevant recommendations made during the universal periodic review, the prohibition had still to be codified in the home and alternative care settings, as well as in day care and schools. It recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the prohibition of all corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment in the home and all other settings where adults had authority over children, including alternative care settings, day care and schools.²⁴

25. The Committee against Torture was concerned at reports that national security officers had continued to engage in secret renditions from abroad and that many of the persons abducted or forcibly returned had been subjected to incommunicado detention, including in undisclosed locations, and had allegedly been tortured and ill-treated in order to obtain confessions to crimes or to incriminate others.²⁵

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

26. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the overly broad and vague definitions contained in the Counter-Extremism Act, in particular those of "extremism", "extremist activity" and "extremist materials", and at the use of such legislation to unduly restrict freedoms of religion, expression, assembly and association, in particular of political dissidents and of religious groups that were not sanctioned by the State.²⁶

27. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism stated that much of the domestic law regulating terrorism-related offences was vague and ambiguously worded. She was concerned that those provisions were used to discourage criticism of the State, the Government, its policies and institutions. Security offences were accompanied by lengthy sentences, sustained allegations of torture, inhuman and other degrading treatment and a plethora of human rights concerns arose in connection with prosecutions for those offences.²⁷

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

28. The Committee against Torture was concerned about the continued weakness and inefficiency of the judiciary and the precariousness of the security of tenure for judges. It was also concerned about the predominant role of the prosecution in criminal proceedings; the broad and vague grounds for initiating disciplinary proceedings against judges for violations of the rules of ethical judicial conduct; and the discretionary power of the President to appoint the Deputy, the Secretary and seven members of the Supreme Judicial Council.²⁸

29. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan continue to take additional measures to ensure the full independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary; enhance the security of tenure for judges; and review the regime of appointment, promotion and dismissal of judges in line with the relevant international standards, including the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.²⁹

30. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers recommended that Uzbekistan envisage minimum safeguards to ensure that lawyers were able to perform all of their professional functions freely and without any intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference.³⁰

31. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan end the practice of granting amnesties to persons convicted of torture or ill-treatment and consider including article 235 of the Criminal Code in the list of articles for which there was no statute of limitations.³¹

32. The Committee against Torture was concerned that law enforcement officials prevented detained persons from meeting with their lawyers or created obstacles for such meetings; that lawyers were sometimes threatened with physical violence from law enforcement officers; and that there were no separate rooms for them to meet privately with clients.³²

33. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers recommended that Uzbekistan adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that persons arrested or detained, with or without criminal charge, had prompt access to a lawyer of their choice.³³

34. The Committee against Torture recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that lawyers were able to carry out their professional activities without any intimidation, harassment, improper interference or reprisals.³⁴

35. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that proceedings before courts met international fair trial standards, inter alia, guaranteeing the full application of the principle of equality of arms, the right to a public trial and the defendant's prompt access to a lawyer of their choosing.³⁵

36. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen its efforts to combat corruption by ensuring effective implementation of the Act on Combating Corruption (No. LRU-419 of 3 January 2017) and strengthening the role of the Anti-Corruption Agency, including with the provision of adequate financial and human resources, ensuring its independence and expanding its inspection and monitoring role. It also recommended that Uzbekistan establish safe and accessible channels for reporting corruption and adopt measures to ensure protection of anti-corruption activists, whistle-blowers and witnesses.³⁶

37. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that he had reiterated his Office's call for a transparent and independent "after action" review on the

events of July 2022 in Nukus, including accountability for the loss of lives and the importance of fair trial standards.³⁷

38. The Committee against Torture reiterated its concern that the events of May 2005 in Andijan, which had resulted in hundreds of deaths, had not been the subject of impartial, effective investigations, despite the acceptance by Uzbekistan of a recommendation during the universal periodic review in 2018 to establish recognition mechanisms for truth and compensation for the victims of the events in Andijan.³⁸

5. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

39. The Committee against Torture was concerned by allegations that human rights defenders and journalists in Uzbekistan continued to face arbitrary detention, surveillance, harassment and other measures aimed at deterring them from carrying out their work. It noted with concern the allegations it had received of human rights defenders and journalists having been involuntarily committed to psychiatric hospitals in order to prevent them from conducting their work.³⁹

40. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that all journalists and bloggers could work, online and offline, free from intimidation and from judicial and other forms of harassment.⁴⁰

41. The United Nations country team stated that in March 2022, Uzbekistan had adopted legislative changes criminalizing online criticism of the President. Despite pledges to decriminalize defamation, article 139 of the Criminal Code criminalized defamation which, in the case of a repeated offence, was punishable by a fine of up to 50 monthly wages or correctional labour of up to two years.⁴¹

42. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Uzbekistan to decriminalize defamation and incorporate it into the Civil Code, in line with international standards.⁴²

43. The United Nations country team stated that undue restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly were imposed by the authorities, including as evidenced by their response to the 2022 Karakalpakstan protests.⁴³

44. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned about reports of arrests, detention and sanctioning of activists for organizing and/or participating in peaceful protests.⁴⁴

45. The same Committee also remained concerned that legislation continued to impose restrictions on the right to freedom of association, including: (a) unreasonable and burdensome legal and administrative requirements for registering non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and political parties; (b) an extensive list of reasons to deny registration; (c) the requirement for NGOs to obtain de facto approval from the Ministry of Justice when travelling abroad or receiving funds from foreign sources; and (d) the prohibition of NGOs from participating in “political activities”. It noted with concern the small number of independent self-initiated NGOs registered in the State and the high number of rejections for registration.⁴⁵

46. The same Committee remained concerned about the persisting obstacles and burdensome requirements for the registration of religious associations and the repeated denial of registration of certain religious organizations, as well as reports of arrest, detention, fines and criminal convictions of individuals belonging to unregistered religious groups for conducting peaceful religious activities.⁴⁶

47. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan abolish burdensome registration procedures for NGOs, political parties and other independent groups, ensuring they could register, fundraise and operate free of interference.⁴⁷

48. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan foster a culture of political pluralism, refrain from arbitrarily denying registration to opposition political parties and preventing their participation in elections, and ensure freedom of genuine and pluralistic political debate.⁴⁸

6. Right to privacy

49. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recalled its recommendation that Uzbekistan safeguard the right of children in alternative care and in child justice facilities to the privacy of their personal belongings and correspondence.⁴⁹

50. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan develop legislation, regulations and safeguarding policies for the media and in the digital environment to protect the privacy of children, as well as standards for ethical reporting on children, and establish mechanisms to prosecute violations.⁵⁰

7. Right to marriage and family life

51. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Uzbekistan review article 15 of the Family Code in order to remove the exception to the age of marriage and that it pursue its efforts to combat polygamy and child and forced marriage, especially in rural areas.⁵¹

52. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, while welcoming the establishment of the age of marriage for boys and girls at 18 years in 2019, called upon Uzbekistan to remove all exceptions that allowed marriage below the age of 18.⁵²

8. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

53. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that Uzbekistan remained a source country for trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual and labour exploitation.⁵³

54. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that all cases of trafficking in women and girls were investigated and prosecuted, that perpetrators were adequately punished, and that women and girl victims of trafficking had adequate access to support services.⁵⁴

55. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan intensify its efforts to eradicate forced labour and remaining forms of child labour, including by ensuring the effective implementation of existing laws and policies prohibiting forced labour, by strengthening the State Labour Inspectorate to ensure proper investigation and prosecution of such cases and by ensuring the provision of full reparations to victims.⁵⁵

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

56. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the participation of social partners in the annual periodic review of the minimum wage, and index it to the cost of living, thereby ensuring that it enabled workers and their families to enjoy a decent living.⁵⁶

57. The same Committee further recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen the State Labour Inspectorate to enforce the minimum wage and carry out inspections in the informal economy.⁵⁷

58. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about poor working and living conditions in the cotton sector, which had resulted in several deaths. It recommended that Uzbekistan improve the working and living conditions in the cotton industry and take all measures necessary to prevent deaths in connection with cotton harvesting, thoroughly investigating such cases when they occurred and providing effective remedies, including adequate compensation, to victims' families.⁵⁸

59. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations urged Uzbekistan to eliminate the temporary ban on unscheduled inspections and to ensure that labour inspectors were able to undertake labour inspections as often and as thoroughly as was necessary.⁵⁹

60. The same Committee requested Uzbekistan to ensure that the labour inspection reports were published and transmitted to the ILO.⁶⁰

61. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen its measures to ensure the right of employees to establish trade unions of their own choosing, by eliminating the requirement of prior authorization by the Ministry of Justice and removing the administrative obstacles to the formation of trade unions.⁶¹

62. The ILO Committee of Experts requested Uzbekistan to take the necessary measures, in consultation with the social partners, to amend its legislation with a view to ensuring full recognition of the right of strike.⁶²

63. The same Committee urged Uzbekistan to take steps to include provisions defining and prohibiting both quid pro quo and hostile environment sexual harassment in legislation.⁶³

10. Right to social security

64. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan ensure an appropriate level of social protection benefits for persons with disabilities, older persons, Roma/Lyuli, refugees and asylum-seekers, and conduct periodic recalculations of social allowances.⁶⁴

65. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the inadequate financial and social support given to parents of children with disabilities and the requirement of a disability certificate, hindering access to the child disability benefit for nearly 50 per cent of children with disabilities.⁶⁵

11. Right to an adequate standard of living

66. The same Committee noted with concern that 24 per cent of children lived in poverty, which made them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.⁶⁶

67. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted reports of the expropriation of property, the demolition of houses and forced eviction in the light of urban development projects. It was concerned about reports of non-compliance with the national legal framework on property deprivation, especially about the absence of prior consultation with the residents affected and the lack or inadequacy of compensation and alternative housing.⁶⁷

68. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan adopt legal and policy measures to ensure that evictions were carried out only as a last resort, and in accordance with the law and in conformity with the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights.⁶⁸

69. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan intensify its efforts to provide affordable and social housing.⁶⁹

70. The same Committee further recommended that Uzbekistan adopt a comprehensive legislative framework to guarantee the right to adequate food and to strengthen its efforts to combat hunger and chronic malnutrition, especially for disadvantaged groups.⁷⁰

12. Right to health

71. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan intensify its efforts to strengthen and develop the public health-care system, including by allocating sufficient human and financial resources and by adopting measures to combat corruption, to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality health-care services, particularly in rural and remote areas and for persons belonging to marginalized groups.⁷¹

72. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan combat corruption in the health sector, ensuring integrity in health system governance and delivery of health-care services.⁷²

73. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan pursue its efforts to further reduce neonatal, infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates, including by improving the quality of and access to prenatal and postnatal services and facilities, and early identification and intervention and screening programmes.⁷³

74. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan decriminalize HIV transmission and ensure that HIV testing was strictly voluntary, in all circumstances.⁷⁴

75. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Uzbekistan introduce mandatory age-appropriate and inclusive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights in school curricula, including education on modern forms of contraception, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and the risks of unsafe abortion.⁷⁵

76. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the availability and accessibility of quality sexual and reproductive health services for all, including family planning counselling services and modern contraception, with services tailored to especially vulnerable groups, including migrants.⁷⁶

77. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan adopt measures to increase the availability and accessibility of quality mental health services throughout the State. It also recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen its efforts to tackle and address the root causes of the high prevalence of suicide and to provide individuals and groups who were at risk of suicide with effective prevention programmes and support services.⁷⁷

13. Right to education

78. The same Committee recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen measures to improve the quality of education by allocating sufficient resources to the education sector and increasing the number of qualified teachers and the quality of teaching material.⁷⁸

79. UNESCO encouraged Uzbekistan to increase the duration of free education in its legislation to cover at least 12 years of primary and secondary education.⁷⁹

80. The United Nations country team stated that a 2020 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis had revealed that the majority of schools (63 per cent) did not have access to drinking water, while 22 per cent of schools did not have functional toilets, particularly in rural areas.⁸⁰

81. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan improve the educational infrastructure to ensure the accessibility of all schools and universities for persons with disabilities and to achieve inclusive education.⁸¹

82. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged Uzbekistan to put an end to de facto segregation in education and ensure that all Lyuli/Roma children, particularly Lyuli/Roma girls, enjoyed their right to inclusive and quality education.⁸²

83. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the high dropout rates among girls in secondary education, attributable to early pregnancies and child marriage, as well as the preference given to the school enrolment of boys and the high cost of school fees.⁸³

14. Cultural rights

84. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Uzbekistan support members of the Karakalpak ethnic group in preserving their livelihoods and traditional lifestyle and respecting and promoting the use of the Karakalpak language as an official language.⁸⁴

15. Business and human rights

85. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its recommendations that Uzbekistan establish a clear regulatory framework for the business sector, ensure its effective implementation and appropriately sanction and provide remedies when violations occurred.⁸⁵

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

86. The United Nations country team stated that domestic violence remained largely unaddressed in Uzbekistan, despite improvements in legislation. Gaps in statistics on gender-based violence, including femicides, remained a concern.⁸⁶

87. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that cases of violence against women were thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that victims had access to effective remedies and means of protection and assistance, including to accommodation or shelters in all parts of the country and to other support services.⁸⁷

88. The Committee against Torture recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that all victims of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, had access to medical and legal services, including counselling, redress and rehabilitation, as well as to shelters throughout the country.⁸⁸

89. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan amend its legislation to include marital rape as a specific crime in the Criminal Code entailing *ex officio* prosecutions.⁸⁹

90. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan enforce the prohibition of child marriage, including through campaigns and programmes to raise awareness of its harmful effects, in particular on women and girls.⁹⁰

91. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned by the persistent inequalities between women and men, including in employment, political and public life. It was concerned at the continued low representation of women in the judiciary, the legislative and the executive bodies, especially in high-level decision-making positions. It was further concerned about the persistence of stereotypes regarding the place of women in society, including through the media.⁹¹

92. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about women's concentration in the informal economy and in low-paid jobs, often in exploitative conditions and without access to labour and social protection.⁹²

93. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan adopt measures to eliminate gender-role stereotypes and to address the low enrolment of women in secondary education and higher education, including through awareness-raising campaigns targeted at the general public, in particular with a view to facilitating women's and girls' participation in the economy, the labour market, education and other areas of social and cultural life.⁹³

2. Children

94. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that all cases of violence against children, including sexual violence, were promptly investigated.⁹⁴

95. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that perpetrators of crimes involving violence against children, including sexual violence, were prosecuted and duly sanctioned and that reparations were provided to victims, as appropriate.⁹⁵

96. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan intensify its efforts to strengthen family-based and alternative care support for children, particularly children with disabilities, while ensuring the effective implementation of its deinstitutionalization policy.⁹⁶

97. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about delays in the implementation of deinstitutionalization policies in the country, the large number of children deprived of a family environment, with an increasing share of children below 3 years of age, and the high institutionalization rates, in particular due to socioeconomic hardship, divorce, abandonment and disability.⁹⁷

98. The same Committee also remained concerned about reports of abuse and sexual violence in residential care, where children were vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.⁹⁸

99. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the development and adoption of a comprehensive strategy and programme of action on children's access to justice by the end of 2023.⁹⁹

100. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that alternative measures to detention and imprisonment were used for juvenile offenders where appropriate.¹⁰⁰

101. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan establish a specialized comprehensive child justice system with adequate human, technical and financial resources, designate specialized judges and prosecutors for children and ensure that they received specialized training, and seek technical assistance from UNICEF to that end.¹⁰¹

102. The Committee against Torture recommended that Uzbekistan refrain from placing children in solitary confinement, ensure that they received regular family visits and ensure that the Child Rights Ombudsman carried out visits to places where children were deprived of their liberty.¹⁰²

103. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the protection and recovery of, and the provision of assistance to, children in street situations, provide family support and establish mechanisms to prevent children in street situations falling victim to trafficking and to economic and sexual exploitation.¹⁰³

3. Persons with disabilities

104. The United Nations country team stated that the lack of access to quality services, affordable social services and physical and informational accessibility for all persons with disabilities remained problems, which were exacerbated by a lack of disability-inclusive budgeting.¹⁰⁴

105. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities had access to public services and facilities, and to ensure that they had access to employment, health services and social services.¹⁰⁵

106. The ILO Committee of Experts, noting the persistent obstacles in practice encountered by persons with disabilities, despite the existing legal framework, asked Uzbekistan to take steps to increase its efforts to promote the employment of those persons, including through quotas.¹⁰⁶

107. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen its efforts to achieve inclusive education at all levels, including by improving the physical accessibility of schools and universities, providing adequate transportation, equipping educational facilities with adapted learning materials and providing teachers and educators with adequate training.¹⁰⁷

108. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the high institutionalization rates among children with disabilities, with regional disparities in the distribution of Muruvvat homes. It urged Uzbekistan to develop alternative family-based care options for children with special needs and disabilities, instead of placing them in Muruvvat homes.¹⁰⁸

109. The same Committee also urged Uzbekistan to strengthen awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, aimed at government officials, judges and law enforcement officials, lawyers, the public and families, to combat the stigmatization of children with disabilities, and to promote both their positive image as rights holders and opportunities for them to express their views on matters affecting them, including at school.¹⁰⁹

110. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan carry out a full review of national legislation to assess and ensure its compliance with the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities, providing for inclusive social protection, employment and education policies and for community-based services to prevent institutionalization.¹¹⁰

4. Minorities

111. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about the socioeconomic discrimination and marginalization of the Lyuli/Roma in the State with regard to their access to education, health, work and housing. In particular, it remained concerned that Lyuli/Roma were confined to a low level of education, informal employment, temporary housing and unaffordable medical services.¹¹¹

112. The same Committee was concerned about the obstacles Lyuli/Roma faced in obtaining identity documents and urged Uzbekistan to take immediate steps to ensure that all Lyuli/Roma had access to personal identity documents.¹¹²

5. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

113. The United Nations country team stated that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community faced frequent discrimination. Intimidation and harassment of those persons and violence and stigma against them were prevalent. The country team also took note of reports of persecution of human rights defenders who promoted the rights of those persons. It recommended that Uzbekistan ensure the full protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including from harassment, intimidation, violence and stigma.¹¹³

114. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uzbekistan conduct awareness-raising campaigns targeting the public, health-care providers and law enforcement and other public officials to eliminate negative stereotypes and stigma against members of marginalized groups, such as persons living with HIV, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.¹¹⁴

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

115. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that Uzbekistan did not have any comprehensive national legislation, structure or mechanism in place for asylum-seekers and refugees.¹¹⁵

116. UNHCR also stated that, in the absence of national asylum procedures, asylum-seekers did not have access to registration, documentation or legal status, thus could access only basic needs based on their status as migrants under domestic immigration law provisions. That limited their access to rights and potentially forced some individuals to move irregularly to third countries. Given the migrant status of asylum-seekers, there were no effective safeguards protecting them against possible refoulement.¹¹⁶

117. UNHCR recommended that Uzbekistan, as an interim measure until it acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and established an adequate national asylum system, immediately ensure implementation of the existing Presidential Decree on political asylum and register and document persons seeking international protection as asylum-seekers.¹¹⁷

118. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Uzbekistan prohibit all detention of children, including unaccompanied children, for migration-related reasons.¹¹⁸

119. The same Committee also recommended that Uzbekistan facilitate access for asylum-seeking and refugee children to education, health care and social services.¹¹⁹

120. The United Nations country team recommended that Uzbekistan adopt comprehensive legislation and allocate sufficient financial resources to protect the rights of migrants' families before, during and after migration, including the rights of partners and other family members of migrant workers to social protection and to receive child support and alimony, as appropriate.¹²⁰

7. Stateless persons

121. UNHCR recommended that Uzbekistan develop and implement a statelessness determination procedure in line with international standards and amend the national definition of a stateless person to bring it into line with the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.¹²¹

122. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that girls and boys born in the territory of the State party were registered at birth and had access to Uzbek nationality and identity documents, regardless of their parents' consent, nationality or residence or marital status, and that loss or renunciation of nationality be contingent on the possession or acquisition of another nationality.¹²²

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/39/7](#), [A/HRC/39/7/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/39/2](#).
- 2 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 46 (a), 60 and 66; [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 41; [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), paras. 21 and 24; [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), paras. 28 (d), 43 and 46; [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), paras. 23, 60 and 61; [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 21, 26 (d), 44 (e), 51 and 52; and [A/HRC/49/45/Add.1](#), para. 64 (e). See also United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Uzbekistan, p. 2; and UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Uzbekistan, pp. 4 and 5.
- 3 [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 24.
- 4 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 32 (f).
- 5 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 67.
- 6 OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2018*, p. 76; and *United Nations Human Rights Report 2021*, p. 115.
- 7 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 23 (a). See also [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 21 and 22.
- 8 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), paras. 20 (b) and 21 (b).
- 9 *Ibid.*, para. 9. See also [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 16; [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 46 (c) and 48 (a); and United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- 10 United Nations country team submission, p. 5. See also [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 42 and 44 (b); and [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 25 (b).
- 11 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 9. See also [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 10 (b); [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), paras. 20 (a) and 21 (a) and (d); [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 6; and [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 17.
- 12 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 24. See also [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 7.
- 13 United Nations country team submission, para. 20.
- 14 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 25 (a). See also [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 40 (f); and [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 26 (b).
- 15 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 26 (c).
- 16 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 10 (a). See also [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 27.
- 17 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 29 (a).
- 18 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 38.
- 19 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 32 and 33 (b).
- 20 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 37.
- 21 *Ibid.*, para. 40 (a).
- 22 *Ibid.*, para. 44 (c). See also [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 26 (d).
- 23 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 44 (a).
- 24 United Nations country team submission, para. 67 and p. 16.
- 25 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 57.
- 26 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 20. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 15.
- 27 [A/HRC/49/45/Add.1](#), para. 20.
- 28 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 33. See also [A/HRC/44/47/Add.1](#), para. 90.
- 29 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 34 (a), (d) and (e). See also [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 7.
- 30 [A/HRC/44/47/Add.1](#), para. 120.
- 31 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 23 (b). See also [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 26.
- 32 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 29.
- 33 [A/HRC/44/47/Add.1](#), para. 120.
- 34 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 36.
- 35 United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- 36 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 13. See also [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 7.
- 37 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/03/un-high-commissioner-human-rights-volker-turk-concludes-his>.

- 38 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 19. See also [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 17; and [A/HRC/49/45/Add.1](#), para. 64 (m).
- 39 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 17.
- 40 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- 41 *Ibid.*, para. 30.
- 42 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Uzbekistan, para. 22.
- 43 United Nations country team submission, para. 28.
- 44 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 46.
- 45 *Ibid.*, para. 48. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 29.
- 46 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 42.
- 47 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- 48 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 51 (a) and (b).
- 49 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 25.
- 50 *Ibid.*
- 51 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 42 (a). See also [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 15 (a).
- 52 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 16.
- 53 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 23.
- 54 *Ibid.*, para. 24 (b) and (c). See also [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 47 (b).
- 55 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 29.
- 56 *Ibid.*, para. 31.
- 57 *Ibid.*
- 58 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 34 and 35 (c) and (d).
- 59 See https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4308550,103538:NO.
- 60 *Ibid.*
- 61 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 35.
- 62 See https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4321374,103538:NO.
- 63 See https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:3956464,103538:NO.
- 64 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 39.
- 65 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 35 (b).
- 66 *Ibid.*, para. 41.
- 67 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 42.
- 68 *Ibid.*, para. 43.
- 69 *Ibid.*, para. 45.
- 70 *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- 71 *Ibid.*, para. 49 (a).
- 72 United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
- 73 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 38 (a).
- 74 United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
- 75 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 34 (d). See also [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 39 (a).
- 76 United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- 77 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 51.
- 78 *Ibid.*, para. 55 (a).
- 79 UNESCO submission, para. 21 (i).
- 80 United Nations country team submission, para. 51.
- 81 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 55 (b).
- 82 [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 13 (d).
- 83 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 29 (a).
- 84 [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 15 (c).
- 85 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 15.
- 86 United Nations country team submission, para. 55.
- 87 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 15 (c). See also [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 22 (g).
- 88 [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 56 (b).
- 89 *Ibid.*, para. 56 (c).
- 90 United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
- 91 [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 12.
- 92 [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 31 (d).
- 93 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 27 (b).
- 94 [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 28 (g).
- 95 *Ibid.*, para. 28 (h).
- 96 [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 41 (b).

- ⁹⁷ [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 31 (a)–(c).
⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 31 (h).
⁹⁹ United Nations country team submission, p. 15.
¹⁰⁰ [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 29 (d).
¹⁰¹ [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 48 (a).
¹⁰² [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 54 (b). See also [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 48 (f).
¹⁰³ [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 46.
¹⁰⁴ United Nations country team submission, para. 71.
¹⁰⁵ [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 25.
¹⁰⁶ See https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4122388,103538:NO.
¹⁰⁷ [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 25.
¹⁰⁸ [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), paras. 35 (c) and 36 (e).
¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (g).
¹¹⁰ United Nations country team submission, p. 17.
¹¹¹ [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 12.
¹¹² *Ibid.*, paras. 12 and 13 (c).
¹¹³ United Nations country team submission, para. 11 and p. 3.
¹¹⁴ [E/C.12/UZB/CO/3](#), para. 21 (e).
¹¹⁵ UNHCR submission, p. 1.
¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 3 and 4.
¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4. See also [CCPR/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 41; [CERD/C/UZB/CO/10-12](#), para. 21; [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 44; [CAT/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 60; and [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 28 (c).
¹¹⁸ [CRC/C/UZB/CO/5](#), para. 44 (b).
¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 44 (d).
¹²⁰ United Nations country team submission, pp. 13 and 14.
¹²¹ UNHCR submission, p. 6. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 20.
¹²² [CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](#), para. 28 (b).
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