



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-second session
7–18 November 2022

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Benin*

Report of 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 periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 20 stakeholders' submissions¹ for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Benin Human Rights Commission (CBDH) noted that young people welcomed the legislative measures taken to abolish the death penalty.²

3. CBDH indicated that young people, who make up the bulk of the prison population, condemn the conditions of detention, the overcrowding, the failure to differentiate between different types of prisoners, the inadequate quantities of food, which is sometimes of poor quality, and a criminal law policy that is essentially based on detention. It recommended that Benin continue to reform the prison system in accordance with a human rights-based approach, prioritize the path to restorative justice by using alternative measures to detention, improve detention conditions and enhance cooperation between the different actors in the justice system.³

4. While noting that training in human rights has helped to improve respect for the human person, CBDH recommended that Benin build the capacity of prison staff, socioeducational and medical staff and the staff of the defence and security forces.⁴

5. CBDH recommended that Benin continue its efforts to facilitate access to justice through the provision of legal assistance.⁵

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



6. CBDH recommended that Benin ensure that the right to freedom of political expression and opinion is upheld and that elections are genuinely inclusive.⁶
7. CBDH recommended that Benin improve employment programmes and projects for young people and young people's working conditions and that it facilitate their access to credit for the purpose of starting a business.⁷
8. While noting the effectiveness of the reforms carried out in the health sector, CBDH recommended that Benin improve the human and material resources necessary for the proper functioning of health facilities.⁸
9. Despite the existence of programmes to promote entrepreneurship and finance microprojects for women and young people, CBDH noted that young people do not consider that their right to an adequate standard of living is being upheld. It recommended that more account be taken of the needs of young people and other vulnerable groups in the drafting and implementation of municipal development plans, and that efforts continue to be made to extend access to mains drinking water to the entire population.⁹
10. While noting that a series of reforms has been carried out to put the food and nutrition sector at the heart of development actions, CBDH recommended that Benin strengthen measures to combat hunger in order to ensure food security and the availability of sufficient healthy and nutritionally balanced food, and that it continue its efforts to create jobs in this sector.¹⁰
11. Noting that, despite the numerous reforms carried out, access to property is often a source of conflict owing to the contentious nature of land ownership and the anarchic way in which sales prices are established, CBDH recommended that Benin expedite the operationalization of the special court with jurisdiction over land matters and ensure compliance with the benchmark sales prices established for each commune.¹¹
12. CBDH recommended that the fight against corruption be continued in order to strengthen the public's and the political classes' new attitude to good governance.¹²
13. CBDH noted that, despite the greater protection afforded to women in recent years, the gains made in this area must be consolidated, and that women continue to be subjected to violence, with several cases having been brought before the courts. In that connection, CBDH recommended that Benin ensure the effectiveness of laws intended to protect women and girls; improve the warning system and put into operation the mechanism for supporting victims of gender-based violence; draft a law to organize the domestic work sector; ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190); and step up the implementation of programmes to empower women.¹³
14. Noting that legislative and regulatory measures are in place to protect children, but that begging, child rape, early pregnancy, forced or early marriage, child labour, and child abuse remain a problem, CBDH recommended that Benin continue its efforts to establish childcare centres; improve warning mechanisms and mechanisms for reporting and dealing with violations of children's rights; strengthen the work of the social advancement centres by increasing their resources; and improve children's access to social services, including health care and education.¹⁴
15. While noting the Government's efforts to strengthen protection for persons with disabilities, CBDH recommended that Benin make all public and private buildings accessible to persons with disabilities, improve access to health care and inclusive education for persons with disabilities and issue decrees to implement the law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.¹⁵

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

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

16. Noting the instruments ratified by Benin during the reporting period,¹⁶ JS4¹⁷ and Amnesty International (AI)¹⁸ recommended that it ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, and any other relevant human rights treaties.

17. Noting that, on 23 April 2020, Benin had withdrawn its declaration accepting the competence of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, under which citizens and non-governmental organizations could bring cases before the Court,¹⁹ JS6²⁰ AI²¹ and the Centre de Formation en Mécanisme de Protection des Droits Humains (CFMPDH)²² recommended that Benin redeposit its declaration accepting the Court's competence.

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

18. AI,²³ le Groupement la vie pour tous (GLVPT)²⁴ and JS1²⁵ noted that Benin adopted a new Criminal Code in June 2018 and a new Constitution in November 2019, which abolished the death penalty and that a presidential decree commuted the sentences of the last 14 death row prisoners to life imprisonment in February 2018.

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

19. JS1 noted that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions had accredited CBDH with category A status in March 2022.²⁶

20. Noting that CBDH includes two commissioners who are also elected members of the National Assembly, JS4 recommended that Benin take the steps necessary to ensure that their presence does not affect the independent functioning of CBDH.²⁷ JS4²⁸ and AI²⁹ recommended that Benin allocate an appropriate level of funding to CBDH to ensure that it can carry out its mandate effectively and independently.

21. JS1³⁰ and JS4³¹ noted that Benin does not have a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and recommended that it adopt a law establishing such a mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, drawing on the expertise of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

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

22. JS1,³² AI,³³ CFMPDH,³⁴ GLVPT³⁵ and Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF)³⁶ reported on the acts of violence, including deaths, for which the authorities were responsible during the legislative and presidential elections in Benin. JS6,³⁷ AI,³⁸ the Coalition des défenseurs des droits humains (CDDH),³⁹ CFMPDH⁴⁰ and GLVPT⁴¹ recommended that Benin combat impunity by ensuring objective, thorough, and transparent investigations into all violations of the right to life and ensuring the right to effective reparation.

23. GLVPT recommended that Benin redouble its efforts to prevent and combat arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions and the excessive use of force by the security forces.⁴²

JS4⁴³ and JS6⁴⁴ recommended that the defence and security forces be trained to maintain order during demonstrations in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

24. JS1 noted that the definition of torture does not cover cases where the act is committed at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of, an official or other person acting in an official capacity. It also noted that the definition does not establish the imprescriptibility of acts of torture and does not prohibit invoking an order from a superior as justification for torture.⁴⁵ JS1⁴⁶ and JS4⁴⁷ recommended that Benin bring the legal provisions criminalizing torture into line with those of the Convention against Torture. They also recommended that Benin ensure that perpetrators of torture are prosecuted and receive penalties commensurate with the gravity of their acts.⁴⁸

25. JS1 recommended that Benin ensure that the rights of persons in custody are upheld, that records of arrests are properly maintained and that the legal time limits applicable to police custody are respected.⁴⁹

26. JS1 also noted that the improper use of pretrial detention is the main cause of prison overcrowding in Benin and recommended that Benin ensure that legal provisions on pretrial detention are strictly enforced.⁵⁰

27. JS1⁵¹ and JS4⁵² recommended that Benin combat prison overcrowding by prioritizing alternative measures to detention and continuing its efforts to separate convicted and unconvicted prisoners. They also recommended that it improve the material conditions of detention by ensuring that inmates have access to food of sufficient quality and quantity and have access to health care by providing prisons with medicines and medical staff.

28. JS1 noted that civil society organizations have not had access to prisons since March 2020 and the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and recommended that this access be restored.⁵³

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

29. CFMPDH reported on the progress made in ensuring access to justice, including the adoption of a law on the modernization of the justice system, the establishment of new courts and the progressive digitalization of procedures.⁵⁴

30. JS1 noted that the citizens of Benin have difficulty in gaining access to justice because illiteracy rates are high and they lack information, the necessary means and access to legal aid. JS1 recommended that Benin guarantee access to justice for all.⁵⁵

31. CFMPDH noted that, although the Constitution of Benin provides for the independence of the judiciary, several institutions have raised doubts about its independence, including the Supreme Council of Justice and the Court for the Prevention of Financial Offences and Terrorism. CFMPDH recommended that Benin ensure the independence of the judiciary and cease using State means to suppress dissenting opinions.⁵⁶

32. JS1⁵⁷ and AI⁵⁸ recommended that Benin repeal Act No. 2019-39 on amnesty for serious, ordinary and minor offences committed during the April 2019 legislative elections and prosecute public officials responsible for any excessive use of force.

33. JS1 noted that judicial proceedings in Benin are excessively prolonged, which contributes greatly to prison overcrowding.⁵⁹ JS1⁶⁰ and CFMPDH⁶¹ recommended that the judicial system be strengthened by recruiting more judges and court clerks and by establishing a greater number of competent courts.

34. JS1 drew attention to several cases of mob justice and recommended that mob justice be established as an offence, that persons responsible for acts of mob justice be prosecuted and given appropriate sentences, and that public awareness of this phenomenon be raised.⁶²

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

35. JS6⁶³ and CDDH⁶⁴ reported that arbitrary bans on demonstrations, excessive use of force, and the arrest of demonstrators and use of live ammunition against them were common during the reporting period. JS6 recommended to release all protesters detained for exercising

their right to the freedom of peaceful assembly and all human rights defenders detained for exercising their rights to the freedoms of association and expression.⁶⁵

36. JS4⁶⁶ and JS6⁶⁷ noted that the Government has begun the process of adopting a bill on associations and recommended that Benin proceed to adopt the bill, ensuring that it complies with articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

37. AI⁶⁸, CDDH⁶⁹ and JS6⁷⁰ noted that the Criminal Code contained provisions which could be used to unduly restrict the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of expression, including article 237 that prohibits “any prohibited non-armed gathering that could disturb public order”. CDDH also noted that calling for an unarmed gathering is prohibited under article 240.⁷¹ JS6,⁷² AI,⁷³ and CDDH⁷⁴ recommended that Benin revise articles 237 and 240 of the Criminal Code to bring them into line with international law on freedom of assembly.

38. JS6⁷⁵ and CDDH⁷⁶ recommended that Benin adopt a notification process for holding gatherings rather than an authorization process.

39. AI⁷⁷ and JS6⁷⁸ noted that the Digital Code contained certain repressive provisions which could be used to silence any critics, including the article 550 concerning false information. AI⁷⁹, JS6⁸⁰ and JS8⁸¹ noted that several activists and journalists were charged with publishing “false information” or for “harassment by means of electronic communications”. JS4,⁸² JS6,⁸³ JS8,⁸⁴ AI,⁸⁵ CFMPDH,⁸⁶ and GLVPT⁸⁷ recommended that Benin revise the Digital Code, particularly article 550, to bring it into line with international law.

40. JS6 noted that despite the removal of harsh prison sentences for defamation in the Information and Communication Code, individuals could still be subjected to excessive fines for insults and contempt, and recommended to reform defamation legislation in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁸⁸

41. JS6,⁸⁹ JS8,⁹⁰ CFMPDH,⁹¹ and GLVPT⁹² reported that media outlets and citizens practised self-censorship out of fear of reprisals. JS4⁹³ and HRWF⁹⁴ noted that, between 2017 and 2022, Benin had fallen from 78th to 121st place in the list of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders.

42. CDDH⁹⁵, JS6⁹⁶ and JS8⁹⁷ recommended to provide civil society members with a safe and secure environment, and conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against them. JS4 recommended that Benin continue the process of adopting a law on the protection of human rights defenders, ensuring its compliance with international standards and including civil society in the process.⁹⁸

43. JS6⁹⁹ and JS8¹⁰⁰ reported that the Audiovisual and Telecommunications Authority (HAAC) has frequently used undue discretion to arbitrarily suspend and harass media outlets, particularly those critical of the ruling party. JS8¹⁰¹ and CFMPDH¹⁰² recommended that Benin reform HAAC by ensuring that journalists are represented and depoliticizing the institution. JS6 recommended to reinstate all media outlets that have unwarrantedly been closed.¹⁰³

44. JS6,¹⁰⁴ JS8,¹⁰⁵ AI,¹⁰⁶ CFMPDH¹⁰⁷ and GLVPT¹⁰⁸ noted that Internet access had been cut off during the legislative elections of 28 April 2019. JS6 recommended to refrain from blocking access to the internet and social media platforms.¹⁰⁹

45. HRWF reported that the electoral commission, packed with President Talon's allies, barred all opposition parties from the parliamentary election in 2019 for allegedly failing to follow the rules closely enough.¹¹⁰ According to HRWF, the parliament subsequently changed election laws in such a way that presidential candidates needed to have the approval of at least 10% of Benin's MPs and mayors, while parliament and most mayors' offices were reportedly controlled by President Talon. HRWF indicated that these changes have drawn condemnation from international observers.¹¹¹

46. HRWF¹¹² and CFMPDH¹¹³ reported that since coming to power, President Talon has jailed most of his rivals or forced them to take refuge abroad.

47. CFMPDH recommended that Benin organize inclusive, free and transparent elections.¹¹⁴

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

48. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) reported that Benin was a country of origin, transit and destination of child trafficking with an estimate of more than 40,000 victims of child trafficking living in the country.¹¹⁵ ECLJ noted that, as a result of extreme poverty, it was common for families to “rent” their kids to individuals in other west African countries and that employers of trafficked children promised to pay the parents a fixed monthly sum and to provide food, clothes, and education for the children, but these promises were usually broken and very few parents knew what actually happened to their children.¹¹⁶ ECLJ recommended to Benin to prevent children from being trafficked nationally and to other countries, including by allocating resources and training border agents to identify cases of human trafficking, and by providing immediate aid to the victims, as well as to support families by educating parents of the dangers for children who are sent to work in other countries, and by providing as many food resources as possible.¹¹⁷

49. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) recommended Benin to ensure thorough investigations and prosecutions¹¹⁸ of persons subjecting children to forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation and child trafficking, particularly of *vidomégon* children as well as effective sanctions; to adopt a law enabling labour inspectors to access households, including for the identification of worst forms of child labour; to ensure implementation in practice of section 219 of the Children’s Code that establishes the obligation for the child placed in the family to attend school and prohibits the use of such children as domestic worker; to take effective measures to prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour and provide assistance for the removal of children from such labour, including those working in mines and quarries.¹¹⁹ Union fait la force Benin (UFF) recommended that Benin punish persons who exploit children by involving them in the sale of adulterated petrol.¹²⁰

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

50. JS2 recommended that Benin promote young people’s employability and access to employment and strengthen the mechanism for monitoring companies’ recruitment practices, paying particular attention to the prevention of informal work.¹²¹

51. AI¹²², CDDH¹²³, JS4¹²⁴ and JS6¹²⁵ noted that the adoption of the Law No. 2018-34 amending the Law No. 2001-9 on the exercise of the right to strike in 2018, threatened the right to strike. AI¹²⁶, ITUC¹²⁷, JS4¹²⁸ and JS6¹²⁹ recommended Benin to revise this law to comply with international human rights norms, notably regarding conditions applicable to the duration of strikes and the prohibition against the exercise of the right to strike by certain categories of personnel.

52. ITUC reported that the law in Benin contained provisions imposing numerous barriers to the free exercise of the right to form and join trade unions. ITUC recommended Benin to amend its legislation to ensure that trade union registration is not hindered by prior authorization or approval by authorities, to establish clear grounds on which trade union registration may be refused and provide recourse to an independent body in the event of administrative refusal to register a trade union, and to ensure that trade unions can freely draw up their constitutions and rules and freely organize their activities and formulate programs.¹³⁰

Right to social security

53. JS5 recommended that Benin inform the public of the benefits of the Insurance for Human Capital Strengthening (ARCH) project, and that a special scheme be put in place for self-employed persons, agricultural workers, persons working in the informal sector and migrants to ensure their comprehensive social protection.¹³¹ Franciscans-Benin ONG (FB) also recommended that Benin expedite the implementation of ARCH throughout the country and ensure free access to care for needy families.¹³²

Right to an adequate standard of living

54. JS4 noted that, despite the progress made in expanding supply infrastructure in both rural and urban areas, universal access to safe water was not yet guaranteed owing to a

number of substantial difficulties. The authors recommended that all necessary measures be taken to promote equitable access to safe water and sanitation for all.¹³³

Right to health

55. JS4¹³⁴ and JS5¹³⁵ recommended that the financial, material and human resources of health centres be improved.

56. JS4¹³⁶ and FB¹³⁷ noted the very high rate of infant morbidity and mortality. FB recommended that Benin implement a strengthened policy on access to prenatal, postnatal, and obstetric care services throughout the country, and that it improve the quality of existing services.¹³⁸

57. JS5 reported that acts of obstetric violence continue to be carried out and recommended that legislative and practical measures be taken to prevent and suppress such violence.¹³⁹

58. JS7 recommended that Benin make contraception free of charge and ensure that the entire population are informed about sexual and reproductive health.¹⁴⁰

Right to education

59. JS2¹⁴¹ and FB¹⁴² welcomed the adoption of an education sector plan, the implementation of a primary school canteen programme and the efforts made to ensure free schooling for girls in State schools.

60. JS2,¹⁴³ JS4¹⁴⁴ and FB¹⁴⁵ noted that, for social, cultural, and economic reasons, thousands of children do not have access to education and recommended that Benin increase the budget for the education sector and step up efforts to ensure free primary education.

61. JS2 drew attention to the disparity between girls' and boys' access to school, the causes of which include the practice of using children as *vidomégons* (domestic workers) and the sociological influence of gender-based representations. It recommended that Benin continue conducting awareness-raising campaigns to encourage girls to enrol in school and that it hand down more dissuasive penalties to persons who promote the use of children as *vidomégons*.¹⁴⁶

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

62. Noting the establishment of the National Women's Institute, whose remit covers women's empowerment, issues related to gender-based violence and the ability to take legal action in response to it, JS4 stated that the main challenge remains the depoliticization of the Institute, as it is attached to the Office of the President.¹⁴⁷

63. JS4,¹⁴⁸ JS7¹⁴⁹ and ECLJ¹⁵⁰ noted the adoption of Act No. 2021-12, which broadens the grounds on which women may have access to safe abortion by authorizing abortions up to the twelfth week of pregnancy in cases where it is likely to cause or aggravate material, educational, professional or mental harm that is incompatible with the best interests of the woman and/or the unborn child. However, JS7 noted that the failure of Benin to issue implementing regulations leaves a number of issues unresolved, such as the practical conditions in which safe abortion care may be obtained, the facilities that are authorized to provide safe abortion services and the exact cost of these services.¹⁵¹ JS4¹⁵² and JS7¹⁵³ recommended that Benin adopt a decree implementing the Act. JS7 also recommended that campaigns be conducted to raise awareness of the Act and that staff be trained to provide safe abortions by 2023.¹⁵⁴ Other submissions raised concerns and made recommendations related to abortion.¹⁵⁵

64. As a result of COVID-19 school closures, the UPR Project at BCU (UPR BCU) noted that girls might have increased exposure to sexual violence and unwanted pregnancy, and that a disproportionate number of girls will not return to education, and recommended to adopt a COVID-19 response strategy that prioritizes the prevention and elimination of child,

early and forced marriage, paying particular attention on vulnerable adolescents, girls, and women.¹⁵⁶

65. JS1 noted the lack of an appropriate national instrument dealing with gender-based violence and recommended that Benin prevent such violence by conducting public awareness-raising campaigns and investigating and prosecuting perpetrators.¹⁵⁷ JS4 also recommended that Benin provide specialized training in this area to all actors involved in victim support.¹⁵⁸

66. JS1 reported that, although female genital mutilation is prohibited under Act No. 2003-3, it continues to be carried out in secret in several communities in the country. It recommended that Benin ensure the implementation of Act No. 2003-3 by investigating and punishing this practice and conducting awareness-raising campaigns in communities where it is carried out.¹⁵⁹

Children

67. UPR BCU noted that articles 120 and 123 of the Persons and Family Code 2002 and Article 375 of the Child Code 2015 established the legal minimum age of marriage as 18 years-old but minors could marry before 18 years with parental consent or in some cases judicial consent.¹⁶⁰ JS2 commended Benin for launching a zero tolerance campaign to combat child marriage and making the Court for the Prevention of Financial Offences and Terrorism responsible for matters related to forced marriage. However, it noted that these measures come into conflict with traditional law on the ground.¹⁶¹ UPR BCU recommended Benin to prioritise the effective implementation of the Child Code, to adopt a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage, and to conduct awareness raising and education programmes.¹⁶²

68. JS2¹⁶³ and FB¹⁶⁴ recommended expediting the authorization of the opening of childcare and child protection centres, stepping up efforts to raise awareness of the Children's Code, establishing and putting into operation a national institution for child protection and introducing a reliable data-collection mechanism. JS4 also recommended that Benin establish integrated centres to support victims of gender-based violence and to reintegrate children in conflict with the law in all departments.¹⁶⁵

69. With regard to the killing of so-called witch children, JS1 noted that a significant amount of awareness-raising work still needs to take place and recommended that Benin ensure the effective implementation of the Children's Code, articles 339 and 340 of which establish infanticide as an offence. It also recommended that Benin implement an awareness-raising policy in areas where the ritual killing of such children is prevalent.¹⁶⁶

70. JS1¹⁶⁷ and JS2¹⁶⁸ reported that, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment established in article 220 of the Children's Code, many children are subjected to acts of violence, particularly in schools. They recommended that article 220 be enforced, that a system for reporting and sanctioning corporal punishment be established in schools, and that officials working with children be informed that corporal punishment is illegal.

Persons with disabilities

71. JS4 recommended that Benin endow social advancement centres with sufficient human, material and financial resources, improve the system for managing community-based rehabilitation, progressively establish orthopaedic equipment centres and implement the project for integrating children with disabilities in schools, raise awareness of Act No. 2017-06 on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and issue all the decrees implementing the Act.¹⁶⁹

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

72. JS3¹⁷⁰ and JS9¹⁷¹ reported that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people face a legal vacuum and that neither sexual orientation nor gender identity are established as prohibited grounds of discrimination in article 26 of the Constitution. JS3¹⁷² noted that article 545 of the Criminal Code on gross indecency and indecent assault is used to punish homosexual relations. JS9¹⁷³ recommended that existing anti-discrimination laws be amended to account for sexual orientation and gender identity and that a legal framework

be established to punish violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people. JS3¹⁷⁴ recommended that Benin introduce a law to protect persons against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics.

73. JS3,¹⁷⁵ JS7¹⁷⁶ and JS9¹⁷⁷ reported that sexual minorities continue to face stigma, discrimination and violence, including arrests by the police, physical and verbal assaults, media lynching, homophobic rape and rejection by their families. JS7 recommended that Benin ensure the protection of sexual minorities against all forms of violence and discrimination.¹⁷⁸ JS9 recommended that national surveys on violence motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity be conducted.¹⁷⁹ AI¹⁸⁰ and JS3¹⁸¹ recommended Benin to ensure investigations into all threats and attacks against LGBTI people.

74. JS3¹⁸² and JS4¹⁸³ recommended that Benin take steps to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people are treated with respect by the police, including by organizing staff training workshops on sexual and gender diversity.

75. JS3 recommended that Benin ensure that associations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people may freely register with the authorities, specifying that their missions include the defence of such persons' rights, and that they may expand their civic space and participate in national consultation processes.¹⁸⁴

Notes

¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
CDDH	Coalition des défenseurs des droits humains au Bénin, Cotonou (Benin);
CFMPDH	Centre de Formation en Mécanisme de Protection des Droits humains, Cotonou (Benin);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
FB	Franciscains-Benin ONG, Cotonou (Benin);
GLVPT	Groupement la vie pour tous, Cotonou (Benin) ;
HRWF	Human Rights Without Frontiers, Brussels (Belgium);
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation, Brussels (Belgium);
UFF	Union fait la force, Porto-Novo (Benin);
UPR BCU	The UPR Project at BCU, Birmingham (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Fédération internationale des Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture (FIACAT), Paris (France); L'Action des Chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture au Bénin (ACAT Bénin), Cotonou (Benin).
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), Veyrier (Switzerland); International Volunteerism Organisation for Women, Education, Development (VIDES International), Roma (Italy); l'Institut des Filles de Marie Auxiliatrice (IFMA), Cotonou (Benin) ;
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Réseau Benin Synergie plus (BESYP), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin); Réseau Sida Benin (RSB), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin); Alliance des femmes pour une relève orientée (Afro-Benin), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Bénin) ; Hirondelle Club International (HCI), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin); Collectifs des associations des personnes transgenres du Bénin (CO-TRANS), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin);

- JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Changement Social Bénin (CSB), Abomey-Calavi (Bénin); Women In Law And Development In Africa (WILDAF), Cotonou (Benin); Association des Femmes Avocates du Bénin (AFA-B), Cotonou (Bénin); Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM), Cotonou (Benin); Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture au Bénin (ACAT-Bénin), Cotonou (Benin); Franciscains International Bénin (FIB), Cotonou (Bénin);
- JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Human Rights Priority (HRP-ONG), Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin); Réseau des Soignants Amis des Patients (RSAP), Cotonou (Benin) ;
- JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS), Johannesburg (South Africa); Coalition des Défenseurs des Droits Humains-Bénin (CDDH-Bénin), Cotonou (Benin); Réseau Ouest Africain des Défenseurs des Droits Humains - West African Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADDH/WAHRDN), Lomé (Togo); Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD), Porto-Novo (Benin).
- JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** l'Association Béninoise pour la Promotion de la Famille, Cotonou (Benin) ; Réseau Ouest-Africain des Jeunes Femmes Leaders du BENIN (ROAJELF-Bénin), Cotonou (Benin) ; Association des Blogueurs du Bénin, Cotonou (Benin) ; Réseau Bénin Synergie Plus, Commune d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin).
- JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by:** Paradigm Initiative, Lagos (Nigeria); Small Media, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); CIPESA, Kampala (Uganda).
- JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** AFRO-BENIN (Benin); Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL), Johannesburg (South Africa); Sexual rights initiative, Geneva (Switzerland).

National human rights institution:

CBDH*

Commission Béninoise des Droits de l'Homme, Cotonou (Benin).

² NHRC, para. 9.1.³ NHRC, para. 9.2.⁴ NHRC, para. 9.3.⁵ NHRC, para. 9.5.⁶ NHRC, para. 9.4.⁷ NHRC, para. 10.2 and 10.3.⁸ NHRC, para. 10.1.⁹ NHRC, para. 10.4.¹⁰ NHRC, para. 10.6.¹¹ NHRC, para. 10.5.¹² NHRC, para. 12.¹³ NHRC, para. 11.1.¹⁴ NHRC, para. 11.2.¹⁵ NHRC, para. 11.3.¹⁶ JS4, para. 7 and AI para. 2.¹⁷ JS4, paras. 7–8.¹⁸ AI, paras. 2 and 23.¹⁹ JS6, para. 2.5; CFMPDH, para. 3.2; and AI, para. 12. See also Coalition des défenseurs des droits humains au Bénin (CDDH), p. 2.²⁰ JS6, para. 6.1.²¹ AI, para. 24.²² CFMPDH, para. 3.2.²³ AI, para. 5.²⁴ GLVPT, para. 3.1.²⁵ JS1, p. 3.²⁶ JS1, page 1. See also JS4 para. 9 and AI para. 4.²⁷ JS4, para. 9.²⁸ JS4, para. 9.

- 29 AI, para. 25.
30 JS1, p. 11.
31 JS4, para. 25.
32 JS1, p. 5.
33 AI, para. 13.
34 CFMPBH, para. 3.1.
35 GLVPT, para. 3.1.
36 HRWF, para. 2.
37 JS6, para. 6.4.
38 AI, para. 27.
39 CDDH, p. 5.
40 CFMPBH, para. 3.1.
41 GLVPT, para. 3.1.
42 GLVPT, para. 3.1.
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44 JS6, para. 6.4.
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46 JS1, p. 4.
47 JS4, para. 25.
48 JS1, p. 4 and JS 4, para. 25.
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50 JS1, p. 6.
51 JS1, p. 10.
52 JS4, para. 25.
53 JS1, pp. 10–11.
54 CFMPDH, para. 3.2.
55 JS1, p. 1.
56 CFMPDH, para. 3.2.
57 JS1, p. 5.
58 AI, para. 28.
59 JS1, p. 2.
60 JS1, p. 2.
61 CFMPDH, para. 3.2.
62 JS1, p. 3–4.
63 JS6, para. 5.1.
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65 JS6, para. 6.2, 6.4.
66 JS4, paras. 12–13.
67 JS6, paras. 2.2 and 6.1.
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69 CDDH, p. 3.
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72 JS6, para. 6.4.
73 AI, para. 29.
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75 JS6, para. 6.4.
76 CDDH, p. 5.
77 AI, para. 7.
78 JS6, para. 3.2.
79 AI, paras. 15–17 and 19.
80 JS6, para. 3.2–3.7.
81 JS8, paras. 16–22.
82 JS4, paras. 13 and 16.
83 JS6, para. 6.2.
84 JS8, para. VII.1.
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86 CFMPDH, para. 3.3.
87 GLVPT, para. 3.2.
88 JS6, paras. 4.3 and 6.3.
89 JS6, para. 3.8.
90 JS8, para. 12.
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- 92 GLVPT, para. 3.2.
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102 CFMPDH, para. 3.3.
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107 CFMPDH, para. 3.3.
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114 CFMPDH, para. 3.1.
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118 A similar recommendation was made by ECLJ, para. 27.
119 ITUC, pp. 6–7.
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124 JS4, para. 13.
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126 AI, para. 31.
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128 JS4, paras. 13 and 23.
129 JS6, para. 6.1.
130 ITUC, pp. 2–3.
131 JS5, para. 13.
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141 JS2, paras. 8 and 10.
142 FB, paras. 12–13.
143 JS2, paras. 9, 11 and 18.
144 JS4, paras. 28 and 30–31.
145 FB, paras. 14–15.
146 JS2, paras. 11 and 18c) and k).
147 JS4, paras. 32–33.
148 JS4, para. 33.
149 JS7, para. 25.
150 ECLJ, para. 11.
151 JS7, para. 26.
152 JS4, para. 33.
153 JS7, para. 28.
154 JS7, paras. 30–31.

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- ¹⁵⁵ GLVPT, para. 3.1; ECLJ, paras. 12–18 and 26 ; JS2, paras. 33–34h); and JS4. paras. 27 and 31.
¹⁵⁶ UPR BCU, paras. 25–26 and p. 6 D-Recommendations iii.
¹⁵⁷ JS1, p. 11.
¹⁵⁸ JS4, para. 33.
¹⁵⁹ JS1, pp. 11–12.
¹⁶⁰ UPR BCU, para. 7.
¹⁶¹ JS2, paras. 27–28.
¹⁶² UPR BCU, p. 6.
¹⁶³ JS2, para. 34b) and f).
¹⁶⁴ FB, p. 5, C. Recommendations a), e) and f).
¹⁶⁵ JS4, para. 31.
¹⁶⁶ JS1, pp. 12–13.
¹⁶⁷ JS1, p. 13.
¹⁶⁸ JS2, paras. 17–18i) and j).
¹⁶⁹ JS4, para. 42.
¹⁷⁰ JS3, paras. 12–13.
¹⁷¹ JS9, para. 17.
¹⁷² JS3, paras. 14–16.
¹⁷³ JS9, paras. 22–23.
¹⁷⁴ JS3, para. 41.
¹⁷⁵ JS3, paras. 28 à 37.
¹⁷⁶ JS7, para. 19.
¹⁷⁷ JS9, para. 5–9.
¹⁷⁸ JS7, para. 23.
¹⁷⁹ JS9, para. 23.
¹⁸⁰ AI, para. 33.
¹⁸¹ JS3, para. 42.
¹⁸² JS3, paras. 47–49.
¹⁸³ JS4, para. 43.
¹⁸⁴ JS3, paras. 24–25, 43 and 45.
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