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Liechtenstein

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. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to provide information on any intention to ratify other core United Nations human rights treaties to which it was not yet a party.² The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Liechtenstein to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;³ noted with concern the decision by Liechtenstein not to become a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) or to ratify the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156), or the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), which could impede the full achievement of the right of women to equal conditions of work; and recommended that Liechtenstein become a member of ILO and ratify those conventions and ensure that its labour laws were in conformity with them.⁴

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the steps taken to withdraw its reservations to articles 7 and 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁵

4. Liechtenstein contributed financially to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from 2018 to 2022.⁶



III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association had not applied for accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein encourage the Association to apply for A status accreditation, empower it to lodge complaints in its own name, and allocate adequate and sustainable human, technical and financial resources to the Association to allow it to effectively carry out its mandate, in particular with regard to women's rights and gender equality, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).⁷

6. The Committee against Torture requested updated information on whether the law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association had resulted in the creation of a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in Liechtenstein that was compliant with the Paris Principles; whether the Association had been provided with adequate financial, administrative and personnel resources; and whether the Association had sought accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.⁸ The Committee on the Rights of the Child also requested information on any plans to establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles.⁹

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that, although international treaties ratified or acceded to by Liechtenstein took primacy over national laws, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had never been invoked or referred to in court proceedings during the reporting period. It recommended that Liechtenstein ensure that the Convention was sufficiently known and applied in respect of all laws, court decisions and policies on gender equality and the advancement of women.¹⁰

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

8. The same Committee expressed concern about the lack of a comprehensive national gender equality policy, strategy or action plan to systematically address the structural causes of persistent gender inequalities. The Committee noted with concern the restructuring of responsibilities in relation to gender equality in the public administration, including the transfer of the Equal Opportunities Unit from an independent government unit to a unit under the Office of Social Services and the integration of the Gender Equality Commission and the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People into the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association, which had resulted in a more limited gender equality mandate, less accountability and reduced visibility of the new structure.¹¹

9. The same Committee welcomed government initiatives to strengthen equal opportunities, such as the women's politics course, discussions with parliamentarians and the exhibition on the topic of role models. However, it noted that it remained concerned about the limited understanding that Liechtenstein had demonstrated with regard to temporary special measures within the meaning of article 4 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein set time-bound targets and allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of temporary special measures with specific incentives, and continuously raise awareness among politicians, the media and the general public of the necessity of special measures, whether temporary or permanent, in order to achieve substantive equality between women and men in all areas covered by the Convention.¹²

10. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to provide detailed information on any relevant legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment or the Committee's recommendations, including institutional developments, plans or programmes, and to indicate the resources allocated and statistical data.¹³

11. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the measures taken to develop a comprehensive policy and strategy covering all areas of children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to adopt a national plan of action for children.¹⁴

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

12. The Human Rights Committee, while noting the information provided by Liechtenstein regarding protection from discrimination provided under its existing legal framework, expressed regret that Liechtenstein had not taken specific measures to ensure that its legal framework comprehensively prohibited all discrimination, including multiple discrimination, and provided for effective remedies in cases of violation. The Committee requested information on any measures taken to raise the public's awareness of articles 33 (5) and 283 of the Criminal Code.¹⁵

13. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted that sufficient progress had been made with regard to its recommendation that Liechtenstein establish a well-resourced and effective mechanism for the promotion and protection of gender equality.¹⁶ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, while welcoming the numerous initiatives taken by Liechtenstein, noted with concern that discriminatory stereotypes with regard to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society persisted in Liechtenstein and that women and girls continued to choose traditional educational and professional fields. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein intensify its efforts to eliminate discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and, in that regard, recalled its previous recommendation that Liechtenstein further strengthen its efforts to put in place a comprehensive policy with proactive and sustained measures, targeted at women, men, girls and boys, to overcome stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, in particular in areas where women were in the most disadvantaged position. The Committee also recommended that Liechtenstein take more efficient measures against hate speech, with a special focus on women facing intersecting forms of discrimination.¹⁷

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

14. The Committee against Torture expressed appreciation of the information provided by Liechtenstein with regard to the efforts undertaken to incorporate a distinct crime of torture into its Criminal Code. However, the Committee considered that further substantive action was needed in order to fully implement its recommendations, in particular with regard to the guarantee that there would not be any statute of limitations for the crime of torture, so that the crime of torture could be investigated, prosecuted and punished without risk of impunity.¹⁸

15. The Human Rights Committee expressed regret that Liechtenstein did not intend to ensure the existence of an independent mechanism to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment. The Committee took note of the existing legal provisions in Liechtenstein regarding acts of torture and remedies for victims of torture and their families. It required information on measures taken since the adoption of its concluding observations to comply with its recommendations and requested that Liechtenstein demonstrate the adequacy of the existing legal provisions. It requested data on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions that there had been in cases of torture, as well as details of the sanctions imposed. The Committee also requested more specific details on the remedies provided to victims and their families, including the number of cases covered by the Victims' Assistance Act.¹⁹

16. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to indicate whether the Code of Criminal Procedure had been amended to introduce mandatory audio and video recording of

all police interrogations and questioning as a basic safeguard to prevent torture and ill-treatment, and whether there was an independent mechanism within the legal system, but separate from the police, which investigated allegations of torture and ill-treatment. The Committee also asked Liechtenstein to indicate whether juveniles could be subjected to questioning by the police and requested to sign statements without the presence of a lawyer or trusted person and whether it had a full-fledged and properly funded system of legal aid for indigent persons.²⁰

17. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to indicate whether legislation had been amended to ensure complete separation between the functions of investigation and detention so that the Ministry of Justice had full and exclusive competence over the penitentiary system.²¹ The Committee expressed concern about the lack of medical examination of new inmates within 24 hours of arrival in the national prison, and that there had been no improvement in the work and leisure activities for prisoners with a view to facilitating their reincorporation into society.²² The Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the results of the activities of the working group appointed by the Government to explore ways to improve the situation of inmates in the national prison, on whether persons arriving in the national prison were examined by an independent medical doctor within 24 hours of arrival, and on the effectiveness of the service agreement for the delivery of medication to prisoners, concluded with the Family Assistance Liechtenstein association, instead of that service being provided by qualified medical staff, in line with international standards.²³

18. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide updated information on any measures taken to ensure proper separation of detainees in Vaduz National Prison, on any amendments to the Execution of Sentences Act regarding a reduction in the duration of solitary confinement for disciplinary reasons, which currently could be up to four weeks, and on whether juveniles were excluded from such measures.²⁴

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

19. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide updated information on the measures that it had taken to respond to threats of terrorism; to describe whether – and, if so, how – those measures had affected human rights safeguards in law and in practice; and to describe how it had ensured that those measures were compatible with its obligations under international law, especially the Convention against Torture. Furthermore, the Committee asked Liechtenstein to indicate what training was given to law enforcement officers in that area; how many persons had been convicted under legislation adopted to combat terrorism; what legal safeguards and remedies were available in law and in practice to persons subjected to antiterrorism measures; and whether there had been complaints of the non-observance of international standards in applying measures to combat terrorism and, if so, what the outcome had been.²⁵

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

20. While the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the assurances of Liechtenstein that women's access to justice was fully guaranteed and that no gender-specific restrictions existed under the law, it expressed concern about reports that such access was restricted in practice, in particular for women with disabilities and women with insufficient knowledge of German, such as refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein raise awareness among the general public of the legislation prohibiting discrimination against women and of the remedies available to victims, provide capacity-building for the judiciary and training for the police regarding the strict application of the legislation and strengthen measures to raise awareness among women and girls of their rights and of available remedies and services.²⁶

21. The Committee against Torture expressed regret about the absence of information on the training of medical professionals and other public officials who dealt with persons deprived of their liberty on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol).²⁷ The Committee requested updated information on any measures taken to incorporate a distinct crime of torture into the Criminal Code, and whether the definition would contain adequate provisions for the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators and

accomplices of such acts before ordinary criminal courts and ensure that offences amounting to torture carried penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime. The Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on any specific training provided to law enforcement personnel and other public officials involved in work with persons deprived of their liberty, asylum-seekers and migrants on the prohibition against torture.²⁸

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

22. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that it remained concerned that the number of women parliamentarians had decreased considerably following the most recent legislative elections and that the level of representation of women at the municipal level was low. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein continue to assess the underlying causes of the underrepresentation of women in parliament, including in decision-making positions, and take appropriate measures, including temporary special measures, and that it ensure equal representation of women and men in appointments to boards of directors, foundation boards, commissions (including at the municipal level) and working groups.²⁹

6. Right to marriage and family life

23. The same Committee noted with concern that no study had been undertaken on the economic consequences of divorce on both spouses, and recommended that Liechtenstein conduct such a study. Furthermore, the Committee noted that it remained concerned about reports that finding a balanced custody arrangement was sometimes given priority over the best interests of the child, a practice that could ignore the issue of domestic violence.³⁰

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

24. The same Committee welcomed the revision of the Foreigners Act to provide for aggravating circumstances in cases of trafficking in persons; the strengthened regional cooperation in the prosecution of traffickers and cybercriminals; and the establishment of a financial sector commission to detect illicit financial flows linked to trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery. It noted that it remained concerned, however, about the limited awareness-raising activities related to trafficking in women and girls and the exploitation of prostitution. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein continue its efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls through increased regional cooperation, including the harmonization of prison sentences and of procedures, in order to prevent trafficking and bring perpetrators to justice.³¹

25. The same Committee expressed concern about reports regarding the low number of criminal investigations and the absence of prosecutions in cases of exploitation of women in prostitution. It noted with concern that the law on prostitution criminalized women in prostitution, which could prevent them from reporting on exploitation and abuse by pimps and clients. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein increase efforts to detect, investigate and prosecute cases of exploitation of women in prostitution and that it decriminalize women in prostitution in all settings and provide them with support and exit programmes.³²

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

26. The same Committee noted the positive measures taken by Liechtenstein to close the gender wage gap, but noted with concern the slow rate at which the gender pay gap had decreased and the ineffectiveness of the measures taken to close the gap. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein work to close the gap, including through gender-neutral analytical job classification and evaluation methods and regular pay surveys.³³

27. The same Committee noted with concern the vertical and horizontal segregation in the labour market and the concentration of women in low-paid jobs, and the overrepresentation of women in part-time work owing to their disproportionate share of the burden with regard to child-rearing and care responsibilities. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein address occupational segregation, including by adopting measures to eliminate discrimination against women in recruitment and promotion; promote equal

sharing of family and care responsibilities between women and men; guarantee a minimum of 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and an additional minimum of four weeks of paid leave to be taken by the supporting parent; and adopt professional guidelines for tracking gender equality performance in key sectors, with indicators to monitor their implementation.³⁴

28. The same Committee, while welcoming the introduction of flexible working arrangements and special day-care facilities for employees in the private sector, expressed concern that few such measures had been introduced in the public sector. It noted that older women constituted more than 90 per cent of participants in the “Coming back” programme, which was aimed at reintegrating persons into the workforce. It also expressed concern about the lack of a strategic approach to enhance favourable conditions for entrepreneurship among women and about insufficient funding opportunities for enterprises led by women.³⁵

29. The same Committee recommended that Liechtenstein ensure that flexible working arrangements, part-time work, telecommuting and other measures were available to women and men working in all sectors, in order to reduce segregation with regard to work and benefits.³⁶ The Committee also recommended that Liechtenstein conduct a study in order to evaluate the impact of the part-time work of women on their access to social benefits, in particular pensions, and provide economic packages and incentives to expand economic opportunities for women and promote women-led businesses.³⁷

9. Right to social security

30. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted that insufficient progress had been made with regard to its recommendation that Liechtenstein introduce the necessary amendments to articles 49 and 69 of the Foreigners Act to ensure that permanent residents could fully enjoy their right to social security without fear of losing their residency status owing to their dependence on social assistance, despite Liechtenstein having considered introducing such amendments. The Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the number of cases in which residency status had been lost owing to dependence on social assistance.³⁸

10. Right to health

31. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the revision by Liechtenstein of the Criminal Code pertaining to the decriminalization of abortion. It noted that it remained concerned, however, about the restrictive circumstances in which abortion was legal under the law, in particular with regard to the criminalization of abortion in cases of fetal impairment. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein harmonize articles 96 to 98 (a) of the Criminal Code with a view to legalizing abortion both for the pregnant woman undergoing the procedure and the health-care providers who performing it, including in the case of rape, incest, risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman, or severe impairment of the fetus, and decriminalizing it in all other cases.³⁹

32. The same Committee, in follow-up to its recommendations, expressed regret that no information had been provided by Liechtenstein on the collection of data on abortion in cases of incest or severe impairment of the fetus, and that Liechtenstein had explicitly indicated that no further liberalization of the legal regime on punishable abortions was planned following the revision of the Criminal Code in 2015. The Committee considered that the information provided was vague and incomplete, and that it failed to address the Committee’s recommendations.⁴⁰ The Human Rights Committee also expressed regret that Liechtenstein did not intend to take any action with regard to that Committee’s recommendation that it amend its legislation on abortion with a view to providing for additional exceptions to the legal ban on abortion, including cases of fatal fetal impairment, in order to ensure that the life and health of women were adequately protected. It reiterated that recommendation, and its recommendation that Liechtenstein ensure access to clear information on options for voluntary pregnancy termination.⁴¹

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Liechtenstein step up efforts to prevent early pregnancies and ensure that access to information on contraceptives was readily available to young women and girls; specifically prohibit non-consensual sex-reassignment surgery on intersex persons and develop and

implement a rights-based health-care protocol for intersex children that required their informed consent about the performance of medically irreversible sex-reassignment surgery; and collect data and provide information on the use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis among women and girls in its next periodic report.⁴²

11. Right to education

34. The same Committee noted with concern the failure to integrate a gender perspective into the field of education in general, and the absence of mandatory legal provisions specifically addressing equal representation of women and men among university students (one third of students were women) and staff. It recommended that Liechtenstein take measures to increase the number of women among students and teaching staff, as well as among migrants and other vulnerable populations, at the University of Liechtenstein.⁴³

35. The same Committee expressed concern about the gender neutrality of efforts to optimize the transition from compulsory to higher education, and about the absence of a mechanism for students, including women and girls, to report bullying or sexual harassment. It recommended that Liechtenstein adopt mandatory legal provisions specifically prohibiting discrimination against women, girls and other vulnerable populations in education; implement gender-sensitive measures to orient girls and boys towards non-traditional career choices, strengthen vocational, professional or entrepreneurial training for women and girls and provide gender-sensitive teacher training, remedial classes, scholarships and other incentives aimed at bridging the educational gap between girls and boys; and institute a mechanism for students, including women and girls, to report bullying and sexual harassment.⁴⁴

36. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that, with regard to higher education for migrant children and in accordance with the relevant recommendation from the previous cycle of the universal periodic review,⁴⁵ the Education Strategy 2025plus had been launched in 2021 and contained a strategic objective on education for all, under which the activities listed included enabling lifelong learning for all by ensuring access to education, especially for persons with a migrant background. However, no information was available as to specific measures that Liechtenstein had planned to ensure access for migrants, or as to whether that activity extended to higher levels of education.⁴⁶

37. UNESCO noted that digital inclusion had been particularly important in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Nevertheless, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics indicated that Liechtenstein had in place no provisions for television, radio or online learning modalities, despite schools having been at least partially closed for eight weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. No information was readily available to indicate whether and, if so, how distance learning had been utilized during school closures, whether total or partial. UNESCO recommended that Liechtenstein consider implementing digital and distance learning modalities to avoid disruptions.⁴⁷

12. Development and business and human rights

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Liechtenstein to recognize women as the driving force of the sustainable development of the country and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.⁴⁸

39. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on any planned increase in official development assistance with a view to meeting the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income.⁴⁹

40. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the efforts made to engage the business sector on children's rights and to establish a regulatory child protection framework for companies registered in Liechtenstein, and/or operating domestically and abroad, including policies, legislation, regulations, mechanisms for conducting child rights impact assessments, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and access to justice, in order to report and address violations of children's rights.⁵⁰

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

41. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that, while respecting the legal sovereignty of Liechtenstein to freely decide who should be its Head of State, it was concerned that the persistent exclusion of women from succession to the throne affected the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as a whole in Liechtenstein.⁵¹

42. The Committee against Torture expressed regret that no action had been taken to put in place a new action plan on violence against women.⁵² The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to specify the steps taken to develop and adopt legislation to prohibit all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence; to develop and adopt a comprehensive policy, strategy and action plan to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, including within the family, online and at school, particularly in the form of bullying and from teaching staff; and to establish a mechanism that promoted and facilitated reporting of all forms of violence, including sexual abuse.⁵³

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, while welcoming the information provided by Liechtenstein on the amendment of the criminal law to introduce further legal prohibition on gender-specific violence, expressed regret at the absence of action taken towards addressing specific forms of violence that women faced on the basis of their sex. It therefore considered that the action taken failed to respond fully to its recommendation, and also considered that the quality of the information provided was partially satisfactory.⁵⁴

44. The same Committee noted with concern the practice of resorting to police counselling or mediation in cases of gender-based violence against women, and the absence of specialized training for the judiciary and the police on gender-based violence against women. It recommended that Liechtenstein, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, prohibit mediation or counselling by the police in cases involving gender-based violence against women, and provide specialized capacity-building to the judiciary, the police and other law enforcement officers on gender-based violence against women.⁵⁵

45. The same Committee noted with concern the lack of systematic data collection on gender-based violence against women, and recommended that Liechtenstein systematically collect data on gender-based violence, disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between the victim and perpetrator.⁵⁶

2. Children

46. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on legislative and programmatic actions to prohibit and prevent all forms of corporal punishment, to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline and to study the prevalence of corporal punishment of children in the family.⁵⁷

47. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on recent trends in violent offences committed by children and the measures taken to address the causes of such violence; on the steps taken to use deprivation of liberty as a last resort and for the shortest possible time and to promote alternatives to detention; on standards in relation to pretrial detention; on the steps taken to ensure that children deprived of liberty were held separately from adults; on the steps taken to ensure prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance for children in pretrial detention; on the steps taken to prohibit the placement of children in solitary confinement; on the steps taken to ensure the right of children in detention to maintain contact with their family; on the placement of children in conflict with the law in institutional care as a disciplinary measure for bad or dangerous behaviour and the authority or authorities competent to do so; and on the rehabilitation and reintegration services available to children leaving detention.⁵⁸

3. Persons with disabilities

48. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to provide information on measures taken to clarify and regulate the involuntary placement of patients in psychiatric or social welfare institutions abroad, through the conclusion of bilateral agreements, and to indicate whether persons who were subjected to an involuntary placement order by a Liechtenstein court and transferred to a psychiatric or social welfare establishment outside the country were provided with legal safeguards, such as being heard in person by a judge, requesting a judicial review of the placement decision and obtaining an independent psychiatric expert opinion in the context of the placement procedure.⁵⁹

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about reports of discrimination against disadvantaged or marginalized groups of women facing intersecting forms of discrimination. It recommended that Liechtenstein collect data on women facing intersecting forms of discrimination and provide information on the situation of women with disabilities in all spheres of political, public and economic life.⁶⁰

50. UNESCO noted that, with regard to ensuring access to and the right to education for persons of disabilities and in accordance with the relevant recommendations from the previous cycle of the universal periodic review,⁶¹ Liechtenstein had established cooperation networks with neighbouring countries, given the limitations due to its small size and given its physical limitations.⁶²

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

51. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed regret at the absence of an assessment of the 2011 law recognizing same-sex partnerships and its effectiveness in achieving the equal treatment in practice of registered partnerships and traditional marriages. The Committee recommended that Liechtenstein analyse the effects of the law recognizing same-sex partnership to determine whether equality of treatment between registered partnerships and marriage had been achieved in practice.⁶³

52. The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the progress made in adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, and on any form of discrimination against children in a vulnerable situation, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, children of same-sex parents, children with disabilities, children in situations of migration and children from single-parent and/or low-income families, manifested Liechtenstein and the measures taken to address such discrimination.⁶⁴

5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

53. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the measures taken to cease the detention of asylum-seeking children and children in situations of migration and of migrant families with children; to strengthen the integration of asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, including by intensifying efforts to combat discrimination and eliminate hate speech; and to provide all asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, including unaccompanied and separated children, with unhindered and speedy access to birth registration, documentation, education, health care, including psychosocial support, accommodation and social protection services.⁶⁵

54. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to provide information in relation to allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against illegal migrants, including both adults and juveniles.⁶⁶

55. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) welcomed the initiation by Liechtenstein of a temporary protection status in March 2022.⁶⁷ However, UNHCR noted that it remained concerned about the restrictive application of the definition of a refugee contained in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, whereby persons considered refugees by UNHCR were either not recognized as such or were not granted asylum. That issue especially concerned persons fleeing conflict and generalized violence, such as asylum-seekers, or applicants with so-called subjective post-flight reasons

for persecution. UNHCR recommended that Liechtenstein ensure the inclusive application of the definition under the 1951 Convention in accordance with international standards, including with respect to persons fleeing conflict and generalized violence; and introduce a subsidiary protection status, with rights equivalent to those of refugees, for individuals in need of international protection who fell outside the scope of the 1951 Convention.⁶⁸ The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the revisions made to the Refugee Act and their compliance with the Convention.⁶⁹

56. The Committee against Torture asked Liechtenstein to provide updated information on the steps taken to ensure the application of an approach during the refugee status determination procedure that allowed for the identification of victims of violence.⁷⁰

6. Stateless persons

57. UNHCR recommended that Liechtenstein establish a facilitated naturalization process for refugees and stateless persons in accordance with the 1951 Convention and with the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and ensure that exclusion from refugee status was limited in law and in practice to the reasons exhaustively laid down in the 1951 Convention.⁷¹ The Committee on the Rights of the Child asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the efforts made to protect children from statelessness, including information on any legislative, policy or administrative changes made since the ratification in 2009 of the 1954 Convention and of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁷²

58. The same Committee asked Liechtenstein to provide information on the steps taken to establish procedures on family reunification and access to citizenship in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁷³

Notes

- ¹ [A/HRC/38/16](#), [A/HRC/38/16/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/38/2](#).
- ² [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 25.
- ³ [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), para. 45.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 33 (a), 34 (a) and 40.
- ⁵ [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 4.
- ⁶ OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2018*, pp. 76, 78, 88, 100, 109, 133, 136, 140 and 159; OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2019*, pp. 90, 92, 102, 121, 124, 147 and 175; OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2020*, pp. 107–108, 122 and 141; OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2021*, pp. 113–114, 136, 482 and 497; and <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/VoluntaryContributions2022.pdf>.
- ⁷ [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 17–18.
- ⁸ [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 11. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 25.
- ⁹ [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 9 (a).
- ¹⁰ [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 11–12.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 15.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, para 19–20.
- ¹³ [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 26.
- ¹⁴ [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 5.
- ¹⁵ [CCPR/C/132/2/Add.2](#), pp. 1–2. See also [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2](#), para. 12, and [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2/Add.1](#), paras. 2–3.
- ¹⁶ See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCESCR%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F34554&Lang=en. See also [E/C.12/LIE/CO/2-3](#), para. 16 (a), and [E/C.12/LIE/CO/2-3/Add.1](#), paras. 2–6.
- ¹⁷ [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 21–22. See also [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 19 (a).
- ¹⁸ See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCESCR%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F34554&Lang=en. See also [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 3; [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 11; and [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4/Add.1](#), para. 3.
- ¹⁹ [CCPR/C/132/2/Add.2](#), p. 3. See also [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2](#), para. 30, and [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2/Add.1](#), paras. 6–9.
- ²⁰ [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), paras. 4–5. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 13.
- ²¹ [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 6. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 15.

- 22 See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCAT%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F31198&Lang=en.
- 23 [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 7. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 17.
- 24 [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), paras. 8–9. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 19.
- 25 *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- 26 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 13–14.
- 27 See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCAT%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F31198&Lang=en.
- 28 [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), paras. 2 and 16.
- 29 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 29–30.
- 30 *Ibid.*, paras. 41–42.
- 31 *Ibid.*, paras. 25–26.
- 32 *Ibid.*, paras. 27–28.
- 33 *Ibid.*, paras. 33 (b) and 34 (b).
- 34 *Ibid.*, paras. 33 (c)–(d) and 34 (c)–(f).
- 35 *Ibid.*, para. 37.
- 36 *Ibid.*, para. 38 (a).
- 37 *Ibid.*, para. 38 (b)–(c).
- 38 See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCESCR%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F34554&Lang=en. See also [E/C.12/LIE/CO/2-3](#), para. 25, and [E/C.12/LIE/CO/2-3/Add.1](#), para. 7.
- 39 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 35 and 36 (a).
- 40 See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FLIE%2F47246&Lang=en. See also [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), para. 36 (a), and [CEDAW/C/LIE/FCO/5](#), paras. 15–16.
- 41 [CCPR/C/132/2/Add.2](#), p. 3. See also [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2](#), para. 22, and [CCPR/C/LIE/CO/2/Add.1](#), paras. 4–5.
- 42 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), para. 36 (b)–(d).
- 43 *Ibid.*, paras. 31 and 32 (b).
- 44 *Ibid.*, paras. 31 (b)–(c) and 32 (a) and (d)–(e).
- 45 [A/HRC/38/16](#), para. 108.79 (Sierra Leone).
- 46 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Liechtenstein, para. 14.
- 47 *Ibid.*, para. 16.
- 48 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), para. 7.
- 49 [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 13.
- 50 *Ibid.*, para. 12.
- 51 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), para. 9.
- 52 See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCAT%2FFUL%2FLIE%2F31198&Lang=en.
- 53 [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 19 (a)–(c).
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- 55 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 23 (e)–(f) and 24 (e)–(f).
- 56 *Ibid.*, paras. 23 (c) and 24 (c).
- 57 [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 18.
- 58 *Ibid.*, para. 31 (a)–(c) and (e)–(j).
- 59 [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 23.
- 60 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 39–40.
- 61 [A/HRC/38/16](#), para. 108.108 (Madagascar), para. 108.109 (State of Palestine) and para. 108.110 (United States of America).
- 62 UNESCO submission, paras. 18–19.
- 63 [CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1](#), paras. 41 and 42 (b).
- 64 [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 14.
- 65 *Ibid.*, para. 30 (a)–(c).
- 66 [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 10.
- 67 UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Liechtenstein, p. 2.

⁶⁸ Ibid., pp. 2–3.

⁶⁹ [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 4.

⁷⁰ [CAT/C/LIE/QPR/5](#), para. 12. See also [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4](#), para. 21, and [CAT/C/LIE/CO/4/Add.1](#), para. 11.

⁷¹ UNHCR submission, pp. 3–4.

⁷² [CRC/C/LIE/QPR/3-4](#), para. 17.

⁷³ Ibid., para. 4.
