



**Cameroon**  
**Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Founded in 1983, **The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States.

**L'Association Sourires de Femmes (ASDF)** was created in February 2018 with the aim of contributing to the advancement of the rights of young women and girls in Cameroonian communities. Their activities consist of major advocacy actions both for the mobilization of resources and in the fight against violence against women and girls in their communities. In 2022, ASDF set up a life center to welcome victims and provide them with comprehensive support and mental health services so that survivors of violence can be assured of full reintegration into society and complete fulfillment. ASDF also partners with civil and state society as well as financial partners, in order to work intensely to achieve their ultimate goal of complete equality between men and women.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Cameroonian government fails to protect women from acts of violence and abuse. Despite criminalization of such acts within the penal code, victims of sexual violence and female genital cutting continue to lack assistance from law enforcement and perpetrators continue to act with impunity. The armed conflict within Cameroon has exacerbated the issues of violence against women, with increased reports of domestic violence.
2. Women, especially in rural areas, face significant barriers to healthcare, with little to no access of basic medical care in hard-to-reach areas. The armed conflict has resulted in mass health care facility closures, with those that remain open operating at limited capacity. Men, who often restrict their female family member's decision-making power, women are further limited from accessing health care. Pregnant women lack access to care during pregnancy and delivery, which is a contributing factor to Cameroon's high maternal mortality rate. Additionally, as abortion is outlawed, many women are forced to seek unsafe and/or delayed abortions.
3. Despite the Gender Policy Document and National Action Plan to reduce inequality between men and women, discrimination remains widespread and systemic, especially due to articles in the Cameroonian Civil Code and Civil Status Registration that authorize men to exert control over their wife's finances and decision-making. Although the legal age of marriage is 18, forced and early marriage continues to exist due to several exceptions to the Civil Code.
4. LBIQ+ (lesbian, bisexual, intersex, queer, and other sexual minority) and transgender women are vulnerable as homosexual conduct is criminalized under the Cameroonian penal code. Cameroonian police forces target and prosecute transgender women with forced anal exams and HIV and STI testing. Cameroon is one of the few countries that criminalizes both male and female consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults.<sup>1</sup>

### I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

5. Cameroon's Third Cycle UPR happened in May of 2018.<sup>2</sup> It received 196 recommendations, and it supported 133 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 39, in September 2018 (an increase of 10% with respect to the 2nd cycle).<sup>3</sup> Many of the recommendation rejected involved the abolition of the death penalty, the legalization of same-sex relations, reproductive education for women, combatting impunity and legislation to protect human rights defenders and rights related to marriage and family.

#### **A12 Acceptance of international norms; A41 Constitutional and Legislative Framework**

##### **Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted; Not Implemented**

6. During its 2018 Universal Period Review (UPR), Cameroon received forty-seven recommendations related to the acceptance of international norms, of which it accepted twenty-nine,<sup>4</sup> noted four,<sup>5</sup> and rejected fourteen.<sup>6</sup> Cameroon also received twenty-six recommendations related to its constitutional and legislative framework, of which it accepted nine,<sup>7</sup> noted five,<sup>8</sup> and rejected twelve.<sup>9</sup> Cameroon accepted many

recommendations related to strengthening laws to end forced marriages and criminalizing female genital cutting.<sup>10</sup> It also accepted recommendations to increase enforcement for acts of violence against women and girls, including instances of marital rape.<sup>11</sup> Cameroon responded noting that its penal code already criminalizes rape (and does not include an exception for spousal rape)<sup>12</sup>, early/child forced marriage, and female genital cutting.<sup>13</sup> A number of recommendations that the State rejected were related to the decriminalization of same sex sexual relations<sup>14</sup> and abortion.<sup>15</sup>

7. Cameroon also noted a recommendation to decriminalize abortion and to remove the requirement that a woman must obtain a certification from a prosecutor prior to obtaining a legal abortion.<sup>16</sup>
8. Although Cameroon's rates of female genital cutting are lower than its neighbors, in part due to legislation limiting female genital cutting and civil society campaigns against the practice, it persists. The COVID-19 pandemic and civil conflict have slowed these efforts.<sup>17</sup> In 2020, the number of girls circumcised in and around Kousseri reportedly increased to 10%, up from 2% in 2015.<sup>18</sup>
9. Cases of domestic violence and sexual assault remain prevalent.<sup>19</sup> Although the addition of the criminalization of rape is a step towards combatting violence against women, the lack of protection against spousal rape leaves many individuals without recourse.<sup>20</sup> The lack of criminalization means the cases will likely remain unprosecuted. Additionally, since domestic violence is considered a private matter, perpetrators are rarely prosecuted.<sup>21</sup>
10. Section 337 of the penal code criminalizes abortion, stating any woman that consents to her own abortion shall be punished with imprisonment from 15 days to one year or/and fine 5000 to 200,000 CFAF.<sup>22</sup>

#### **E41 Right to health care; E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services**

##### **Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted; Not Implemented**

11. Cameroon received eleven recommendations related to health, including the right to health care,<sup>23</sup> access to sexual and reproductive health and services,<sup>24</sup> and persons with disabilities.<sup>25</sup> Of the recommendations, Cameroon supported six<sup>26</sup> and noted five.<sup>27</sup>
12. In Cameroon, adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years give birth at a rate of 122.2 per 1,000, an increase from 2014 when the rate was 119 per 1,000.<sup>28</sup> The high rate of teenage pregnancy is due, in part, to a widespread lack of access to contraceptives and information on sexual and reproductive health.<sup>29</sup> Teenage pregnancy impacts girls in rural communities to a greater extent.<sup>30</sup>
13. As of 2021, the maternal mortality rate in Cameroon was 529 per 100,000 live births.<sup>31</sup> Reports indicate that there are 12 to 13 cases of maternal mortality each day, one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>32</sup> Only 12% of women give birth in health centers.<sup>33</sup> A recent review of studies assessing the critical determinants of maternal mortality in Cameroon identified several risk factors, including “a high prevalence of unsafe abortions, an increased likelihood of home delivery, the use of traditional birth attendants, and [distance from] a health facility or hospital.”<sup>34</sup>
14. Women's rates of HIV infection (5.0%) remains approximately two times higher than men's (2.3%).<sup>35</sup>

15. In Cameroon’s Southwest region, reported attacks by state and non-state actors on medical providers and infrastructure have resulted in widespread closures of health facilities.<sup>36</sup> Those facilities that are open are not able to function at full capacity<sup>37</sup> and “do not have protocols or the infrastructure to treat victims of sexual and gender-based violence.”<sup>38</sup>

**D8 Rights related to marriage & family; F32 Children: family environment & alternative care; F31 Children**

**Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted; Not Implemented**

16. Cameroon received ten recommendations related to marriage, family, and children,<sup>39</sup> accepting seven related to early and forced marriage.<sup>40</sup> Three recommendations were rejected.<sup>41</sup>
17. It is estimated that more than one-third of women aged 25-49 are married by age 18.<sup>42</sup> The median age for women with no education at the time of their first marriage is 16.7.<sup>43</sup> Cameroon has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>44</sup> and the Cameroonian Penal Code (Article 356) complies with the international standard that the minimum age for marriage is 18 years old. The Cameroon Civil Code (Article 144), however, permits a government prosecutor to grant exceptions to the minimum age for serious reasons.<sup>45</sup> Despite the legal protections against early or child marriage, authorities often fail to enforce such protections or to prosecute the perpetrators.<sup>46</sup> Early or child and forced marriages persists throughout the country but is particularly prevalent in the Northern region.<sup>47</sup>

**B51 Right to an effective remedy; D6 Rights related to name, identity and nationality; F4 Persons with disabilities**

**Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented**

18. Cameroon received five recommendations related to the right to effective remedy and rights related to name, identity and nationality, supporting three<sup>48</sup> and rejecting two.<sup>49</sup>
19. Protective services, including police, judiciary, and social services, to prevent and address gender-based violence are inadequate.<sup>50</sup>
20. Women in some rural areas do not have access to formal courts and must turn to customary courts that reinforce discriminatory practices and attitudes that tend to favor men.<sup>51</sup> Additionally, under customary law, women are often considered to have the legal status of minors as opposed to adults.<sup>52</sup>
21. Further, women and girls with disabilities are repeatedly subjected to sexual violence and lack access to protective services.<sup>53</sup>

**D28 Gender-based violence**

**Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented**

22. Cameroon received two recommendations<sup>54</sup> related to gender-based violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ communities in the 2018 Universal Periodic Review

and rejected them.

23. Article 347-1 of the Cameroonian penal code continues to criminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, which puts LGBTIQ+ people at a higher risk of mistreatment, torture, or assault. Although it is not technically unlawful to identify as LGBTIQ+, sexual conduct is criminalized.<sup>55</sup> Transgender women are particularly vulnerable in Cameroon. Human Rights Watch has documented that police and prosecutors target transgender women and force them to undergo anal exams so they can have reason to charge them with consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.<sup>56</sup> In May 2020, the police arrested 53 people, most of them LGBTIQ+, at a gathering hosted by an HIV organization in a hotel in Bafoussam and charged them with “homosexuality” related offenses.<sup>57</sup> At least 6, including 3 teenagers aged 15 to 17, were subjected to forced anal examinations and HIV tests. These forced anal exams and mandatory HIV tests are common practice and should be considered cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.<sup>58</sup>
24. A report from the Thomson Reuters Foundation detailed the extent to which lesbian, bisexual, and other sexual minority women and girls in Cameroon face violence and “corrective rape,” often orchestrated by their own family members. Sexual violence is used to “cure” a woman of deviant sexuality. Culturally, same-sex conduct is considered black magic or witchcraft and the stigma of such behavior has prompted legislation and criminalization.<sup>59</sup> The Association Sourire de Femmes (ASDF) has received increased reports of incest in 2022, thought to be linked to the corrective rape of lesbian, bisexual, and other sexual minority women.
25. Out of 113 cases of gender-based violence reported to ASDF, there were 54 cases of psychological violence, 18 cases of physical violence, 18 cases of incest, 37 cases of rape, and 6 cases of sexual harassment. In most of these cases, the victim did not seek a follow up to the report due to a lack of access to justice and cultural restraints.<sup>60</sup>
26. Although sexual violence most significantly affects women and girls in Cameroon, eight men reported experiencing torture, inhumane treatment, and arbitrary detention, including the use of sexual violence as torture. <sup>61</sup> The Cameroonian penal code, Section 296, does not include sexual violence committed against men.<sup>62</sup> Cameroonian organizations report that government actors strategically use rape to disempower or emasculate victims of the conflict and undermine their gender and sexual identity. Because of the wording of the Penal Code, lawyers can only charge the perpetrators with “forced homosexuality,” as homosexuality is still criminalized.<sup>63</sup> By “feminizing” or “homosexualizing” heterosexual men, this practice aims to punish, humiliate, terrorize, and repress them. They also conduct other types of sexual violence, such as forced nudity, sexual humiliation, and blunt genital trauma, which are often under-reported.<sup>64</sup>

## **D29 Domestic violence; F13 Violence against women**

### **Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not implemented**

27. During the 2018 Universal Periodic Review, the Government of Cameroon accepted one recommendation related to victims of domestic violence<sup>65</sup> and five recommendations on comprehensive and effective protection of women from violence, including female genital cutting and access to legal, medical, and psychological resources for survivors.<sup>66</sup> In response to these recommendations, the Government of Cameroon has reiterated that

they have a National Plan of Action and National Gender Policy Paper to implement their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).<sup>67</sup>

28. Approximately 43.2% of married women experience domestic violence, while nearly 40% experience emotional violence, and 14.5% sexual violence. “[N]ationally[,] 20.1% of women were reported to have been forced to have sex for their first sexual relationship.”<sup>68</sup>
29. The lack of a formal referral mechanism to guide survivors of domestic violence greatly limits their access to appropriate holistic treatment services.<sup>69</sup> Health centers, while more accessible, do not offer the privacy and confidentiality necessary, information about cases of violence is not stored safely, and the medical treatment of such cases and PEP kits are not readily available.<sup>70</sup>
30. In addition, survivors do not report abuse to the police for fear of arrest or fear that their case will not be handled in a way that protects their safety.
31. Further, often it is the perpetrators of domestic violence that hold all or most of the familial or economic power within the household, so victims often do not denounce abusers for fear of poverty, losing their children, the threat of reprisals or repudiation, or the fear of being married off to the abuser as a means to prevent reporting.<sup>71</sup>
32. Armed conflict between the Anglophone and Francophone regions of Cameroon have exacerbated incidents of violence against women, especially in rural areas.<sup>72</sup> Women experience many human rights violations including killings, abduction, and arbitrary arrests due to lack of protection.<sup>73</sup> In rural areas, displaced people may not be able to receive protection and, thus, are unable to properly report abuse, due to their lack of identification documents.<sup>74</sup>
33. Human Rights Watch reported that at least 20 women were raped by Cameroonian security forces in an attack in the Southwest region village of Ebam on March 1, 2020.<sup>75</sup> Girls and women have reportedly also been increasingly targeted by armed separatists. At the same time, civilian perpetrated gender-based violence also spiked in 2020, “perhaps due in part to national lockdowns imposed by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; similar pandemic restrictions have caused an increase in gender-based violence worldwide.”<sup>76</sup>
34. There is no legislation in Cameroon that specifically criminalizes domestic violence, provides preventative measures that address the underlying causes of domestic violence, nor are there measures to promote the protection of survivors.<sup>77</sup>
35. Polygamous relationships are legal for men, but women must have the consent of their husband to engage in sexual relationships with another person otherwise they can be punished with the crime of adultery and face 2 to 6 months of imprisonment, as seen in section 361 of the Penal Code.<sup>78</sup>
36. The Cameroonian Government has criminalized eviction from the matrimonial home outside of any judicial proceedings and without valid reason in an effort to protect women from forceful eviction from the home.<sup>79</sup> Section 358-1 of the Penal Code states that such an eviction could result in a penalty of two to five years of imprisonment. It is unclear what effect this has had to lessen the number of instances of men evicting their wives from their homes.

**E31 Right to work, F11 Advancement of women, F12 Discrimination against women, F14 Participation of women in political and public life**

**Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented.**

37. During the 2018 Universal Periodic Review, Cameroon received and accepted four recommendations related to the right to work.<sup>80</sup> In addition to supporting and enhancing efforts to promote women's rights and employment for women, Member States recommended that the Cameroonian Government implement measures to protect violence against women when accessing employment.<sup>81</sup> Additionally, Cameroon accepted two recommendations related to the advancement of women;<sup>82</sup> six recommendations on discrimination of women;<sup>83</sup> and one recommendation on the participation of women in political and public life.<sup>84</sup>
38. In response to these recommendations, Cameroon stated that their "legal framework provides for equal opportunities for men and women in the labor market[, but e]fforts will be made to eliminate discrimination in the labor market."<sup>85</sup> Cameroon stated that "[w]omen empowerment is an important component of the National Gender Policy."<sup>86</sup> Between 2018 and 2020, the government of Cameroon was set to implement their National Action Plan for Women in Development, using the Gender Policy Document as a tool for planning and guiding its implementation.<sup>87</sup>
39. Despite the existence of the Gender Policy Documents and National Action Plan, discrimination against women is prevalent within Cameroonian society and incorporated in laws that subordinate women's status to men. The Civil Code, which applies in Francophone regions, names men as the head of households (Article 213), grants husbands the right to choose the place of residence (Article 215), denies men and women equal rights to immovable property (Article 1428), and denies spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage (Articles 1421 and 1428).<sup>88</sup>
40. Through the National Gender Policy document, the Government of Cameroon referenced cultural differences among regional tribes as the primary reason why inequality between men and women exist in the home;<sup>89</sup> however, this inequality is also augmented and supported in the Government's Civil Code.
41. Article 74, subs. 2 of Cameroon's Civil Status Registration (Ordinance No. 81-02 of 29 June 1981) provides that a husband may object to his wife working in a different occupation, arguing it is in the best interest of their marriage or children.<sup>90</sup> Article 1421 states that the husband has sole control over common property. Article 1428 states that the husband has control over his wife's property.
42. In 2021, Cameroon ranked 148<sup>th</sup> among the 170 countries ranked in relation to their level of gender inequality. The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is measured using maternal mortality rate, gender empowerment, which considers the shares of parliamentary seats held by women and percentage of female population with at least secondary education, and labor force participation rates.<sup>91</sup>
43. According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, there is a 25.5% gender gap in labor participation rates and a 48.2% gender gap in the share of seats held by women in parliament.<sup>92</sup> Further, while 39% of all Cameroonians live below the poverty line, 51.5% of women live below the poverty line. Eight out of ten of these women experience poverty because they are underemployed.<sup>93</sup>

44. Cameroonian law recognizes the right to legal assistance for all unemployed persons who lack resources, or those abandoned by their spouses. The Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, however, focuses most of their work on women in urban and semi-urban towns, where they have offices, and provides insufficient support to rural women, who form the bulk of women with limited financial means.<sup>94</sup> Women in rural areas are left in a vulnerable position, where they face difficulties reporting violence in the work place, often are economically dependent on their spouse or male members of their family, and any income they make is usually handed over to their spouse or father.<sup>95</sup>

## **E51 Right to education – General**

### **Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented**

45. During the 2018 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Cameroon accepted 10 recommendations related to increasing access and participation in education, with six of those recommendations related to the protection and support of girls’ enrollment in schools and access to education.<sup>96</sup>
46. In response to these recommendations, Cameroon stated, “Sexual harassment is criminalised under the 2016 Penal Code (section 302-1), cases of sexual harassment of students by teachers are heavily sanctioned (both criminal and disciplinary), the Gender National Policy document has also included the improved access to education for girls in its Strategic orientation No. 2.”<sup>97</sup> The Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family have partnered with UNICEF to prevent exploitation of girls in school and improve the protective learning environment for children.<sup>98</sup>
47. Local organizations have noted factors that contribute to girls’ low school attendance rate include: child marriage and a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health for girls.<sup>99</sup> Fortunately, the Government issued the decision N°02/22/C/MINESEC/CAB on 22 April 2022, in which the Minister of Secondary Education, Pauline Nalova Lyonga, lifted sanctions on girls who became pregnant in school. Previously, girls who became pregnant were expelled.<sup>100</sup>
48. In the Northwest and Southwest regions of the country, the protracted humanitarian crisis and armed conflict has affected 2.1 million children.<sup>101</sup> Armed non-state actors attack schools, kidnap teachers, impose lockdowns, and close schools.<sup>102</sup>

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

49. This report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Cameroon:
- Take measures to ensure access to justice and protection for victims of violence, especially in rural areas and areas where armed conflict is prevalent. Available report stations/follow-up commissions should be put in all remote areas wherein victims of such violations could report, with increased funding provided to medical and psychological services for victims.
  - Critical support needs to be strengthened for women experiencing mental health concerns, both to prevent and address violence. This includes access to long-term counseling, affordable housing, childcare supports, better legal assistance, and employment opportunities.



- Parliament should initiate the repeal of Article 74 of Cameroon’s Civil Status Registration so that women do not require their husband’s permission to work in their preferred trade.
- Parliament should initiate the repeal of Articles 1421 and 1428 in which husbands have singular control of all common property shared with their wife. Collaborate with civil society in drafting a new family code so as to prevent women suffering from a lack of economic autonomy and a vulnerability to abuse.
- Revise Article 360 of the Cameroonian Penal Code, which stipulates that only a member of a victim’s family may lodge a complaint of incest, to allow for people outside of the victim’s family to report allegations of incest.
- Parliament should initiate a repeal of Article 347 bis of the Cameroonian Penal Code, which punishes consensual same-sex sexual relations with up to five years in prison. The justice minister should make absolutely clear, in particular to all law enforcement, prosecuting and judicial authorities, that Cameroonian law does not make it a crime or offense to be a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person, or to dress in a way that is perceived as gender nonconforming.
- The Cameroonian police should be instructed to and trained to immediately cease exercising their authority to detain, charge, or prosecute an LGBTIQ+ person on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender nonconformity and cease forced anal exams and STI and HIV testing.
- The National Human Rights Commission should investigate allegations of ill-treatment of detainees on the grounds of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Take measures to improve education concerning sexual and reproductive health and improve access to contraceptive care and family planning services, particularly in rural communities.
- Take measures to reduce unsafe abortions by repealing provisions that establish criminal sanctions for abortion, including Section 337 of the penal code.
- Amend the Penal Code by enacting a law to explicitly define and criminalize spousal rape.
- Enact measures to improve the access to, and quality of, maternal health care services, guaranteeing all pregnant women have universal access to health care throughout their pregnancy and delivery.
- The Cameroonian government should continue to make efforts to implement the policy and guidelines established in the Gender Policy Document.

- Take steps to ensure that women in rural areas of the country have access to healthcare, education, and services to assist with the repercussions of violence.
- Repeal any laws allowing early/child and forced marriage. Enact laws criminalizing early/child and forced marriage and ensure implementation and enforcement to effectively protect women and girls.
- Submit State party reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which have not been sent for several years. Engage civil society before, during, and after the writing of national reports.

<sup>1</sup> PENAL CODE art. 347-1 (Law No. 2016/007) (Cameroon).

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "Cameroon 30<sup>th</sup> Universal Peer Review Infographic." *United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*, [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session30/CM/CAMEROON\\_Infographic\\_30th.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session30/CM/CAMEROON_Infographic_30th.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "Cameroon 30<sup>th</sup> Universal Peer Review Infographic." *United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*, [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session30/CM/CAMEROON\\_Infographic\\_30th.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session30/CM/CAMEROON_Infographic_30th.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.10 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq); ¶ 121.11 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (Côte d'Ivoire); ¶ 121.12 Consider ratifying the conventions to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Gabon) ¶ 121.44 Speedily incorporate the international conventions ratified by Cameroon into national law, and implement action plans and laws (South Africa); ¶ 121.43 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia); ¶ 121.15 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine) ¶ 121.17 Ratify and fully implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand); ¶ 121.19 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal); ¶ 121.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia) ¶ 121.21 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Finland); ¶ 121.25 Take necessary measures to complete ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia) ¶ 121.22 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Burkina Faso) ¶ 121.14 Speed up the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on

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the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Georgia) ¶ 121.26 Move towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Democratic Republic of the Congo); ¶ 121.13 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); ¶ 121.16 Consider speeding up the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique); ¶ 121.31 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Slovenia); ¶ 121.39 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Lesotho);; ¶ 121.38 Strengthen the work of the Technical Council on Labour Migration in examining the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);; ¶ 121.29 Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Portugal); ¶ 121.24 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Indonesia) ¶ 121.32 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Slovenia);; ¶ 121.33 Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Botswana); ¶ 121.34 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Togo); ¶ 121.35 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Uganda) ¶ 121.23 Move towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Democratic Republic of the Congo); ¶ 121.37 Adhere to the human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras);; ¶ 121.40 Complete the process of ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uganda);; ¶ 121.41 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo).

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.129 Consider after 2019 extending the decent work country programme signed with ILO in October 2014 (Haiti); ¶ 121.154 Ratify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Madagascar) ¶ 121.155 Move towards the ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Democratic Republic of the Congo); ¶ 121.156 Accelerate the process of the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan).

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.18 Ratify without reservation the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Belgium);; ¶ 121.36 Ratify the international human rights legal instruments to which it is not a party, and further strengthen its cooperation with the treaty bodies (Niger);; ¶ 121.6 Abolish the death penalty from its legislation definitively and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile); ¶ 121.27 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Austria); ¶ 121.28 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France); ¶ 121.1 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to

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abolishing the death penalty for all crimes (Italy); ¶ 121.2 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, and culminating in the process of eradicating the death penalty (Uruguay); ¶ 121.4 Proceed with the abolition of the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Brazil); ¶ 121.5; ¶ 121.7 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France); ¶ 121.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia) (Spain); ¶ 121.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and commute all existing death sentences (Czechia); ¶ 121.3 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Rwanda); 121.42 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Benin).

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.111 Carry out investigations into alleged torture and ill-treatment of detained persons, ban incommunicado detention and enact laws aiming at the prevention of torture in places of detention (Czechia); ¶ 121.173 Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and ensure that cases of domestic violence are investigated and prosecuted (Rwanda); ¶ 121.180 Prohibit all forms of domestic violence against women, especially rape in marriage, as the new Penal Code does not cover all forms of violence against women (Germany); ¶ 121.126 Respect the rights to peaceful assembly, and freedoms of association and expression, including when exercised online, and afford all of those detained all the rights enshrined in Cameroon's constitution and under international law (United States of America); ¶ 121.168 Repeal all discriminatory provisions in marriage and family relations, and adopt legal provisions that criminalize female genital mutilation (Spain); ¶ 121.56 Accelerate the process of the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan); ¶ 121.163 Fully implement article 356 of the 2016 Penal Code, and criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Namibia); ¶ 121.174 Adopt legal provisions specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation, breast ironing and discriminatory widowhood rites, and include adequate sanctions for perpetrators of such acts (Iceland); ¶ 121.179 Adopt a law on violence against women, and repeal legal provisions that eliminate the crime of rape if the perpetrator marries the victim (Spain).

<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.75 Decriminalize same-sex relations by replacing article 347-1 of the Penal Code, and initiate a campaign to raise awareness in the public about homosexuality (Germany); ¶ 121.93 Review and amend the 2014 antiterrorism law to ensure that it is not used to restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association (Switzerland); ¶ 121.141 Adopt comprehensive legislative and political measures to ensure access to health services for persons with HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive education for women and girls, particularly in rural areas (Honduras); ¶ 121.186 Revise current legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro); ¶ 121.187 Enact legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Namibia);

<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.92 Formally abolish the death penalty by amending its Penal Code and counter-terrorism laws (Australia); ¶ 121.96 Amend the 2014 antiterrorism law to bring the definition of terrorism into line with international human rights obligations and standards, repeal the death penalty, and end the use of military tribunals to try civilians (Canada); ¶ 121.51 Adopt legislation to protect human rights defenders and journalists (Czechia); ¶

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121.147 Decriminalize abortion and repeal section 339 (2) of the amended Penal Code to remove the requirement of obtaining certification from a prosecutor before an abortion can be legally obtained (Iceland); ¶ 121.74 Decriminalize homosexuality, punished under article 347 bis of the Penal Code (France); ¶ 121.76 Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, and take all necessary steps to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from all forms of discrimination and violence (Ireland); ¶ 121.77 Review the Penal Code with a view to decriminalizing homosexuality (Spain); ¶ 121.78 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex, and combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico); ¶ 121.79 Decriminalize consensual sex between adults of the same sex, and any other discriminatory practice based on sexual orientation or gender identity, protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and guaranteeing their fundamental rights (Uruguay); ¶ 121.80 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Australia); ¶ 121.82 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations and immediately cease targeted discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America); ¶ 121.52 Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy).

<sup>10</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.173 Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and ensure that cases of domestic violence are investigated and prosecuted (Rwanda); ¶ 121.168 Repeal all discriminatory provisions in marriage and family relations, and adopt legal provisions that criminalize female genital mutilation (Spain); ¶ 121.163 Fully implement article 356 of the 2016 Penal Code, and criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Namibia); ¶ 121.174 Adopt legal provisions specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation, breast ironing and discriminatory widowhood rites, and include adequate sanctions for perpetrators of such acts (Iceland).

<sup>11</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.180 Prohibit all forms of domestic violence against women, especially rape in marriage, as the new Penal Code does not cover all forms of violence against women (Germany); ¶ 121.179 Adopt a law on violence against women, and repeal legal provisions that eliminate the crime of rape if the perpetrator marries the victim (Spain).

<sup>12</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. In response to ¶ 121.180, Cameroon stated, “There are provisions in the Penal Code that are used to prosecute domestic violence. The Cameroonian Penal Code punishes rape. The formulation of this punishment does not say marital status should be an excuse.” In response to ¶ 121.179, Cameroon stated, “The Penal Code contains provisions on violence against women. Subsequent marriage of the victim and the perpetrator does not cancel prosecution as per section 297 of the Code.”

<sup>13</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. In response to ¶ 121.163, Cameroon stated, “The Penal Code has criminalised various forms of violence against women, including Female Genital Mutilation (art 277-1), early and forced marriages (art 356). Henceforth giving a boy or girl below 18 in marriage is a criminal offence contrary to the previous law which set different ages for boys (18) and girls (15). Regarding FGM, less than 1% of the population is concerned by this practice. Two regions are concerned by this practice namely: The Far North and the South West. The cosmopolitan nature of some towns has led to the spread of this phenomenon giving the impression that it is a national concern. Though insignificant, this proportion is considered huge by Cameroonian authorities for measures to be taken to stamp it out. Also, Government showed its determination to combat FGM by signing, on 11 September 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Muslim Dignitaries to continue this sensitisation. Furthermore, proximity actions are carried out through local structures created for the

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sensitisation activities of Traditional Authorities. The five year action plan to fight against FGM adopted in 2011 was revised in 2016.”

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.74 Decriminalize homosexuality, punished under article 347 bis of the Penal Code (France); ¶ 121.76 Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, and take all necessary steps to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from all forms of discrimination and violence (Ireland); ¶ 121.77 Review the Penal Code with a view to decriminalizing homosexuality (Spain); ¶ 121.78 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex, and combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico); ¶ 121.79 Decriminalize consensual sex between adults of the same sex, and any other discriminatory practice based on sexual orientation or gender identity, protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and guaranteeing their fundamental rights (Uruguay); ¶ 121.80 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Australia); ¶ 121.82 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations and immediately cease targeted discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America); ¶ 121.52 Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy).

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.147 Decriminalize abortion and repeal section 339 (2) of the amended Penal Code to remove the requirement of obtaining certification from a prosecutor before an abortion can be legally obtained (Iceland).

<sup>16</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon* (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15, ¶ 121.147 Decriminalize abortion and repeal section 339 (2) of the amended Penal Code to remove the requirement of obtaining certification from a prosecutor before an abortion can be legally obtained (Iceland)

<sup>17</sup> Trent R. Nelson, *Female Genital Mutilation in Cameroon*, The Borgen Project, June 17, 2021, <https://borgenproject.org/female-genital-mutilation-in-cameroon/>.

<sup>18</sup> Moki Edwin Kindzeka, *Cameroon Says Female Circumcision Resurfacing Because of COVID-19, Other Crises*, VOA News, Feb. 7, 2021, [https://www.voanews.com/a/africa\\_cameroon-says-female-circumcision-resurfacing-because-covid-19-other-crises/6201737.html](https://www.voanews.com/a/africa_cameroon-says-female-circumcision-resurfacing-because-covid-19-other-crises/6201737.html).

<sup>19</sup> Freedom in the World 2022, “Cameroon” <https://freedomhouse.org/country/cameroon/freedom-world/2022>

<sup>20</sup> Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2021: Cameroon, U.S. Department of State (2021).

<sup>21</sup> Baker McKenzie, *Fighting Domestic Violence: Africa*, 2021, [https://resourcehub.bakermckenzie.com/en/-/media/fighting-domestic-violence/reports/reports/2021\\_fdv\\_cameroon.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://resourcehub.bakermckenzie.com/en/-/media/fighting-domestic-violence/reports/reports/2021_fdv_cameroon.pdf?sc_lang=en).

<sup>22</sup> PENAL CODE, Sec. 337 (Cameroon)

<sup>23</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15 Noted ¶ 121.142 Strengthen the implementation of measures to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child (Angola); Noted ¶ 121.145 Further intensify its efforts to ensure right of access to health care for all, in particular access to medical care for women (Viet Nam).

<sup>24</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15 ¶ 121.146 Take all necessary action to reduce maternal mortality (Afghanistan).

<sup>25</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15 ¶ 121.70 Adopt measures to eliminate discrimination against vulnerable senior citizens and persons with disabilities, in particular older women and women with disabilities (Ghana).

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<sup>26</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.138 Continue to promote the health sector (Egypt); ¶ 121.139 Speed up the implementation of health coverage for all (Gabon); ¶ 121.140 Take measures leading to the eradication of all forms of discrimination in health-care settings, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, by ensuring that the Ministry of Public Health develops strategic documents that take into account the human right to health (Portugal); ¶ 121.69 Pursue all efforts to enhance women’s empowerment (Egypt); ¶ 121.193 Further continue the implementation of its policy for the integration of persons with disabilities at the strategic and operational levels (Ethiopia); ¶ 121.70 Take necessary measures to ensure effective access to justice for women (Ukraine).

<sup>27</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15 ¶ 121.142 Strengthen the implementation of measures to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child (Angola); ¶ 121.143 Provide a sufficient number of health centres and hospitals throughout the country (Serbia); ¶ 121.144 Continue to improve health infrastructure and access to health care, especially for the rural population (Togo); ¶ 121.145 121.145 Further intensify its efforts to ensure right of access to health care for all, in particular access to medical care for women (Viet Nam); ¶ 121.146 Take all necessary action to reduce maternal mortality (Afghanistan).

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Women, “Cameroon” accessed March 10, 2023, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Women, “Cameroon” accessed March 10, 2023, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>30</sup> Fotso JC, Cleland JG, Muki B, Adje Olaitan E, Ngo Mayack J, *Teenage pregnancy and timing of first marriage in Cameroon—What has changed over the last three decades, and what are the implications?*, 2022, available at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0271153>.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Women, “Cameroon” accessed March 10, 2023, <https://data.unwomen.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>32</sup> Frankline Sevidzem Wirsiy, Denis Ebot Ako-Arrey, Patrick Achiangia Njukeng, Nicholas Tendongfor and Florence Titu Manjong et al, *Maternal Mortality in Cameroon: A Critical Review of its Determinants*. *J Gynecol Neonatal* 2(1): 105 (2019).

<sup>33</sup> Humanitarian Programme Cycle, *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Cameroon*, at 14 (June 2020), available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-revised-june-2020>.

<sup>34</sup> Frankline Sevidzem Wirsiy, Denis Ebot Ako-Arrey, Patrick Achiangia Njukeng, Nicholas Tendongfor and Florence Titu Manjong et al, *Maternal Mortality in Cameroon: A Critical Review of its Determinants*. *J Gynecol Neonatal* 2(1): 105 (2019).

<sup>35</sup> CAMPHIA, *Cameroon Population-based HIV Impact Assessment 2017-2018: Final Report*, (Dec. 2020), available at <https://phia.icap.columbia.edu/cameroon-final-report/>.

<sup>36</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Cameroon*, (New York: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, June 2020), 14. Also available online: <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-revised-june-2020>.

<sup>37</sup> Humanitarian Programme Cycle, *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Cameroon*, at 14, June 2020, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-revised-june-2020>.

<sup>38</sup> Jess Craig, *Sexual violence pervasive in Cameroon’s Anglophone regions*, Al Jazeera, 29 April 2021, [https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/29/gender-based-violence-pervasive-in-cameroods-anglophone-regions\\_](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/29/gender-based-violence-pervasive-in-cameroods-anglophone-regions_).

<sup>39</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon* (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.166; ¶ 121.177; ¶ 121.189; ¶ 121.130; ¶ 121.183; ¶ 121.188; ¶ 121.190; ¶ 121.85; ¶ 121.167; ¶ 121.185.

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<sup>40</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon* (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.166; ¶ 121.177; ¶ 121.189; ¶ 121.130; ¶ 121.183; ¶ 121.188; ¶ 121.190,

<sup>41</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon* (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.85 Accelerate the process of updating the Civil Code with a view to enhancing the protection of children's rights (Zimbabwe); ¶ 121.167 Complete the drafting of the national family policy paper in order to adequately address the issue of early and forced marriage (Zimbabwe); ¶ 121.185 Review laws that discriminate against women, in particular articles 1421 and 1428 of the Civil Code relating to the administration of family assets (Mexico).

<sup>42</sup> National Institute of Statistics (Cameroon) and ICF (2020), *Cameroon: 2018 Demographic and Health Survey Summary Report*, available at <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/SR266/SR266.pdf>.

<sup>43</sup> National Institute of Statistics (Cameroon) and ICF (2020), *Cameroon: 2018 Demographic and Health Survey Summary Report*, available at <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/SR266/SR266.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> Bessem Ayuk, *IHRDA, APDEL sue Cameroon for upholding laws that enable child marriage*, IHRDA, Dec. 9, 2021, <https://www.ihrda.org/2021/12/ihrda-apdel-sue-cameroon-for-upholding-laws-that-enable-child-marriage/>.

<sup>45</sup> Bessem Ayuk, *IHRDA, APDEL sue Cameroon for upholding laws that enable child marriage*, IHRDA, Dec. 9, 2021, <https://www.ihrda.org/2021/12/ihrda-apdel-sue-cameroon-for-upholding-laws-that-enable-child-marriage/>.

<sup>46</sup> Mokom Prospe Akum & Nzalie Joseph Ebi, *Early Child and Forced Marriage: A Cultural Scourge Affecting Women and the Girl Child in Cameroon*, 4 INT'L J.L. MGMT. & HUMAN. 1359, 1380 (2021).

<sup>47</sup> Mokom Prospe Akum & Nzalie Joseph Ebi, *Early Child and Forced Marriage: A Cultural Scourge Affecting Women and the Girl Child in Cameroon*, 4 INT'L J.L. MGMT. & HUMAN. 1359, 1360 (2021).

<sup>48</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.170 Take necessary measures to ensure effective access to justice for women (Ukraine); ¶ 121.88 Ensure that women have equal rights to nationality as men under the Nationality Code (Republic of Korea); ¶ 121.89 Review the Nationality Code to ensure that men and women have equal rights in the area of nationality (Côte d'Ivoire).

<sup>49</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.86 Eliminate all discriminatory provisions from the Nationality Code relating to the acquisition of nationality by children born outside wedlock and the naturalization of children with disabilities (Portugal); ¶ 121.86 Ensure universal birth registration without discrimination by developing information systems with solid databases that would include information on the number of people yet to be registered, creating mobile registration units to reach the most remote areas, and conducting campaigns to inform all families about deadlines and ways to register their children (Mexico).

<sup>50</sup> Humanitarian Programme Cycle, *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Cameroon*, June 2020, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-revised-june-2020>.

<sup>51</sup> OECD Development Centre, *SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa: Legal Frameworks in the African Region* (2019).

<sup>52</sup> OECD Development Centre, *SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa: Legal Frameworks in the African Region* (2019).



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<sup>53</sup> Humanitarian Programme Cycle, *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Cameroon*, at 43, June 2020,

available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-revised-june-2020>.

<sup>54</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.83 Eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from violence and harassment (Netherlands); ¶ 121.84 Take the necessary measures to protect and prevent discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, as previously recommended (Argentina).

<sup>55</sup> PENAL CODE, Sec. 347-1 (Cameroon)

<sup>56</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Cameroon: Wave of Arrests, Abuse Against LGBT People*, 14 April 2021. Also available online at: <https://www.hrw.org/node/378472/printable/print>.

<sup>57</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Cameroon: Wave of Arrests, Abuse Against LGBT People*, 14 April 2021. Also available online at: <https://www.hrw.org/node/378472/printable/print>.

<sup>58</sup> UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, art. 5.

<sup>59</sup> GCN, *Horrific Report Finds LGBT+ Women Face Violence And 'Corrective Rape' In Cameroon*, 2 October 2018. Also available online at: <https://gcn.ie/horrific-report-lgbt-women-face-violence-corrective-rape-cameroon/>.

<sup>60</sup> ASDF, *Rapport D'Activites 2022 Association sourires de femmes (ASDF)*, (Yaounde, 2023), 5-6.

<sup>61</sup> GenCap, *A more generous embrace: Why addressing the needs of adolescent boys and men is essential to an effective humanitarian response in Cameroon's North West and South West*, by Delphine Brun (Oslo: NorCap, July 2022), 7&13.

<sup>62</sup> PENAL CODE, Sec. 296 (Cameroon)

<sup>63</sup> GenCap, *A more generous embrace: Why addressing the needs of adolescent boys and men is essential to an effective humanitarian response in Cameroon's North West and South West*, by Delphine Brun (Oslo: NorCap, July 2022), 7&13.

<sup>64</sup> GenCap, *A more generous embrace: Why addressing the needs of adolescent boys and men is essential to an effective humanitarian response in Cameroon's North West and South West*, by Delphine Brun (Oslo: NorCap, July 2022), 7&13.

<sup>65</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.178 Strengthen the fight against gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Algeria).

<sup>66</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon* (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶ 121.176 Intensify awareness-raising campaigns throughout the territory to eradicate the practices of female genital mutilation and forced marriage, involving all social actors, including religious and community leaders (Chile); ¶ 121.164 Continue to fight against female genital mutilation through the implementation of the five-year action plan adopted in 2011 and reviewed in 2016 (Burkina Faso); ¶ 121.171 Continue efforts to eliminate discriminatory and harmful traditional practices against women and girls (Nepal); ¶ 121.175 Strengthen measures to investigate and punish perpetrators of practices or acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage (Argentina); ¶ 121.181 Redouble efforts to eliminate any form of discrimination and violence against women, implementing positive actions and awareness-raising campaigns on the subject (Uruguay); and Supported ¶ 121.182 Provide women greater access to legal resources, and psychosocial and medical assistance (Spain).

<sup>67</sup> Human Rights Council, *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21 of the Human Rights Council*, (2 Mar. 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/30/CMR/1, 12.

<sup>68</sup> Francis Tazoacha, Masah Claudia, and Dr. Odette Kibu, *Gender-Based Violence: Beyond the Crises in Cameroon and Effects on Mental Well-Being*, Nkafu Policy Institute, <https://nkafu.org/gender-based->

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violence-beyond-the-crises-in-cameroon-and-effects-on-mental-well-being/.

<sup>69</sup> Document prepared by Delphine Brun, Inter-agency GenCap advisor for Cameroon, 17th of October 2019.

<sup>70</sup> Document prepared by Delphine Brun, Inter-agency GenCap advisor for Cameroon, 17th of October 2019.

<sup>71</sup> OCHA, *Cameroon: Humanitarian snapshot in South-West and North-West regions*, June 2019, 7.

<sup>72</sup> International Rescue Committee, “Displaced by Violence, : Cameroon,” accessed on March 24, 2023, <https://www.rescue.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>73</sup> International Rescue Committee, “Displaced by Violence, : Cameroon,” accessed on March 24, 2023, <https://www.rescue.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>74</sup> International Rescue Committee, “Displaced by Violence, : Cameroon,” accessed on March 24, 2023, <https://www.rescue.org/country/cameroon>.

<sup>75</sup> Jess Craig, *Sexual violence pervasive in Cameroon’s Anglophone regions*, Al Jazeera, 29 April 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/29/gender-based-violence-pervasive-in-camerouns-anglophone-regions>

<sup>76</sup> Jess Craig, *Sexual violence pervasive in Cameroon’s Anglophone regions*, Al Jazeera, 29 April 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/29/gender-based-violence-pervasive-in-camerouns-anglophone-regions>

<sup>77</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Cameroon: Events of 2022*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon#e81181>.

<sup>78</sup> PENAL CODE, Sec. 361 (Cameroon)

<sup>79</sup> George Mbella, *Cameroon: Eviction from Matrimonial Home & New Penal Code*, Cameroon Tribune, Aug. 23 2016, available at: <https://sisterspeak237.com/cameroon-eviction-from-matrimonial-home-new-penal-code/>

<sup>80</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15 ¶ 121.130 Support and enhance efforts to promote women’s rights, paying particular attention to ensuring equal opportunities in the labour market (Mali); ¶ 121.132 Continue efforts to ensure gender equality, in particular in the labour market (Tunisia); ¶ 121.133 Effectively implement the measures taken against violence against women and in the promotion of equality of men and women, particularly in access to employment (Djibouti); ¶ 121.134 Make a greater effort and devote more resources to programmes aimed at promoting employment for young people and women, especially through training and vocational education (Viet Nam).

<sup>81</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (10 July 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15.

<sup>82</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1 ¶ 121.169 Pursue all efforts to enhance women’s empowerment (Egypt); ¶ 121.127 Adopt concrete measures to strengthen the participation of women and minority groups in public life (Angola).

<sup>83</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1 ¶ 121.172 Assign human, technical and financial resources to the national action plan against female genital mutilation in order to protect the human rights of women and girls (Honduras); ¶ 121.72 Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and to promote gender equality and the implementation of the national strategy to combat gender-based violence (South Africa); ¶ 121.165 Strengthen its efforts to promote women’s rights, particularly in combating gender-based violence and discriminatory practices related to marriage, and collect data disaggregated by gender (Brazil); ¶ 121.68 Take further positive measures to better protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China); ¶ 121.71 Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and ethnic minorities (Senegal); ¶ 121.131 Intensify efforts to improve work conditions for women workers (Iraq).

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- <sup>84</sup> Human Rights Council, *Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1 ¶¶ 121.128 Take steps for the adequate representation of women in political life, and encourage their economic empowerment (Bulgaria);
- <sup>85</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1.
- <sup>86</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1.
- <sup>87</sup> A Programme of the Women's International League For Peace & Freedom, "Cameroon's National Action Plan," accessed Mar. 20, 2023, <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/cameroon/>.
- <sup>88</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Cameroon: Events of 2022*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon#e81181>.
- <sup>89</sup> Civil Code of the Republic of Cameroon, *ORDONNANCENo81/002 DU29 JUIN 1981 Portant organisation de l'état civil et diverses dispositions relatives à l'état des personnes physiques*. Art. 74 (Cameroon).
- <sup>90</sup> Civil Code of the Republic of Cameroon, *ORDONNANCENo81/002 DU29 JUIN 1981 Portant organisation de l'état civil et diverses dispositions relatives à l'état des personnes physiques*. Art. 74 (Cameroon).
- <sup>91</sup> UNDP, "Human Development Report, *Gender Inequality Index*," accessed March 20, 2023, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/CMR>.
- <sup>92</sup> UNDP, "Human Development Report, *Gender Inequality Index*," accessed March 20, 2023, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/CMR>.
- <sup>93</sup> Daphne Brun, "Gender-based violence beyond the crisis," accessed Feb. 28, 2023, [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/article\\_-\\_gender-based\\_violence\\_beyond\\_the\\_crises.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/article_-_gender-based_violence_beyond_the_crises.pdf).
- <sup>94</sup> Video Teleconference Interview with Viviane Tathi, Executive Coordinator, ASDF, Minneapolis, MN, Mar. 7, 2023.
- <sup>95</sup> Civil Code of the Republic of Cameroon, *ORDONNANCENo81/002 DU29 JUIN 1981 Portant organisation de l'état civil et diverses dispositions relatives à l'état des personnes physiques*. Art. 74 (Cameroon).
- <sup>96</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1. ¶¶ 121.157 Adopt measures preventing sexual harassment by teachers and child marriage, which lead to high dropout rates of girls in secondary schools (Poland); ¶¶ 121.159 Take steps to effectively ensure the equality of girls and young women at all levels of education, and their retention in schooling (Portugal); ¶¶ 121.158 Step up efforts to raise the school enrolment rate for girls (Lesotho); ¶¶ 121.153 Ensure that access to education for children from minorities is guaranteed and respected, without discrimination (Madagascar); ¶¶ 121.161 Take measures to increase the attendance rate of girls in secondary education (Togo); Supported ¶¶ 121.162 Ensure that girls and young women have equal access to all levels of education (Iceland).
- <sup>97</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1.
- <sup>98</sup> UNICEF, *Country Office Annual Report 2022: Cameroon*, 2-3.
- <sup>99</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon Addendum*, (12 September 2018), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/39/15/Add.1.
- <sup>100</sup> Arnaud Nicolas Mawel, *Cameroon-éducation : les grossesses désormais autorisées à l'école*, Journal du Cameroun, May 11, 2022, <https://www.journalducameroun.com/cameroon-education-les-grossesses-desormais-autorisees-a-lecole/>.
- <sup>101</sup> UNICEF, *Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2: Cameroon*, Aug 5., 2022, available online at: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/cameroon-humanitarian-situation-report-june-2022>.

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<sup>102</sup> UNICEF, *Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2: Cameroon*, Aug 5., 2022, available online at: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/cameroon-humanitarian-situation-report-june-2022>.