



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-fourth session
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Russian Federation

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 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.²

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged the Russian Federation to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.³

4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.⁴

5. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged, the Russian Federation to ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁵

6. The Committee against Torture recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establishing a national preventive mechanism.⁶

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Russian Federation ratify the 2011 Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).⁷

8. The General Assembly decided to suspend the right of membership in the Human Rights Council of the Russian Federation, in April 2022.⁸



9. The Human Rights Council decided, in a resolution, to nominate a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, in October 2022.⁹

10. The Human Rights Committee deeply regretted that the Russian Federation did not participate in the constructive dialogue with the Committee during its 136th session, despite two postponements of the dialogue. This did not allow the Committee to engage in a meaningful exchange on the State party report.¹⁰

11. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine¹¹ recommended ratifying international instruments to which the Russian Federation was not yet a party, which would strengthen the protection of civilians in armed conflict.¹²

III. National human rights framework

Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended accelerating the adoption of the draft federal act on the mandate and activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation (the national human rights institution), ensuring its independence in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and expanding its mandate to address human rights violations.¹³

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

13. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern about manifestations of hate speech by politicians and religious leaders.¹⁴ The Human Rights Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should conduct awareness-raising activities aimed at promoting respect for human rights and tolerance for diversity and eradicating stereotypical prejudices, and should clearly define and prohibit racial profiling by law.¹⁵

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that articles in the Code of Administrative Offences and in the Criminal Code prohibited discrimination based on sex. It reiterated its recommendation to adopt, with a clear time frame, comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that prohibited discrimination against women and covered direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres.¹⁶ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination made a similar recommendation.¹⁷

15. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. It recommended adopting a comprehensive strategy with proactive and sustained measures as well as a monitoring mechanism for its implementation to eliminate those patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes.¹⁸

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

16. The Committee against Torture regretted that the Russian Federation had not yet criminalized torture as an independent crime in the Criminal Code and that the definition of torture in the annotation to article 117 of the Code did not contain all the elements set out in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.¹⁹ It urged the Russian Federation to criminalize torture as an independent crime.²⁰ The Human Rights Committee expressed deep concern about the lack of effective

investigation into torture complaints and into reprisals against complainants.²¹ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination made similar remarks.²²

17. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about inadequate conditions in penitentiaries and other detention facilities in the Russian Federation and in territories where the State exercised effective control, and about the lack of effective monitoring. It indicated that the Russian Federation should take measures to improve conditions of detention to comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and to ensure the independent monitoring of all penitentiaries and other detention facilities.²³ The Committee against Torture made similar remarks²⁴ and also recommended ensuring the effective and independent operation of the public oversight commissions and their unimpeded access to all places of deprivation of liberty.²⁵

18. The Human Rights Committee expressed extreme concern about the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine initiated by the Russian Federation, which had resulted in large-scale deprivation of life. The Committee was concerned about reports of excessive use of force, killings, extrajudicial and summary executions, enforced disappearances, torture, rape and other sexual violence, arbitrary detentions, forced conscription of civilians and massive population displacement attributable to the Russian Federation, including in the areas where the State exercised effective control.²⁶

19. The Human Rights Committee was further concerned about the lack of investigation of alleged violations committed during the armed conflicts in which the Russian Federation had been involved.²⁷ The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions called on the international community to step up efforts in support of investigations by Ukraine into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the context of the armed attack by the Russian Federation.²⁸ The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine made similar remarks²⁹ and the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine³⁰ verified several cases of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.³¹

20. The human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine regularly reported on the confirmed numbers of civilian casualties in Ukraine as a result of the armed attack by the Russian Federation.³² It also reported about cases of enforced disappearance of civilians, mainly at the hands of armed forces of the Russian Federation and affiliated armed groups.³³ The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported on summary executions of civilians and targeted attacks on them, carried out by military forces of the Russian Federation and affiliated armed groups.³⁴ The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine found that some Russian Federation soldiers had committed sexual and gender-based violence crimes, mainly on women but also on children.³⁵ Numerous special procedure mandate holders³⁶ recalled that it was essential to ensure the protection of women and their full participation in any response.³⁷

21. The Human Rights Committee urged the Russian Federation to immediately: (a) take all measures necessary to fully comply with its obligations to protect the right to life, including in situations of armed conflict; (b) ensure the full respect of all other Covenant rights for all individuals subject to its jurisdiction; and (c) guarantee thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations of human rights violations committed by its agents against individuals subject to its jurisdiction.³⁸

22. Many entities and human rights mechanisms called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Ukraine.³⁹ The General Assembly deplored in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and demanded the immediate cessation of the use of force and that the Russian Federation immediately withdraw its military forces from Ukraine.⁴⁰

23. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of forced conscriptions in the Russian Federation for the war in Ukraine.⁴¹ Several United Nations experts⁴² stated that the recruitment of prisoners serving sentences in correctional facilities in the Russian Federation and in the Donetsk region of Ukraine for the private military and security contractor known as the “Wagner Group” was alarming. These United Nations experts added that the Wagner Group recruits allegedly participated in human rights and

humanitarian law violations in the context of the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine.⁴³ The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine recommended that the Russian Federation limit the use of private military and security companies in the conflict.⁴⁴

24. The Human Rights Committee addressed the violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, and stated that the latter should take all measures necessary to bring all serious human rights violations to an end.⁴⁵ The Secretary-General of the United Nations urged the Russian Federation to ensure unfettered access to Crimea for OHCHR and international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms, and to ensure the effective implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions.⁴⁶

3. International humanitarian law

25. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine found that war crimes and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law had been committed in Ukraine and that armed forces of the Russian Federation were responsible for the vast majority of the violations identified.⁴⁷ The Human Rights Council condemned in the strongest possible terms the human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law resulting from the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation.⁴⁸ The General Assembly made a similar remark.⁴⁹ The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that allegations of violations of international human rights law and of international humanitarian law may amount to war crimes.⁵⁰ Several sources denounced the use of explosive weapons in indiscriminate attacks.⁵¹

26. The Human Rights Council called upon the Russian Federation to immediately end the human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Ukraine.⁵² The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urged all parties to respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law amid growing evidence of war crimes in Ukraine.⁵³ The Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination stressed the importance of ensuring accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law.⁵⁴

27. The human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported cases of torture and ill treatment of prisoners of war held by the Russian Federation.⁵⁵ The Human Rights Council demanded that all parties to the armed conflict treat all prisoners of war in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.⁵⁶

28. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that Ukrainian civilians, including children, had been transferred to occupied territory or to the Russian Federation and that these transfers might constitute violations of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention).⁵⁷ The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine made a similar remark and stated that it was a war crime.⁵⁸ In March 2023, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants⁵⁹ against the President of the Russian Federation as well as against the Commissioner for Children's Rights as allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation and transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.⁶⁰

29. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine reported that the fighting and attacks had affected a significant number of hospitals in Ukraine and had therefore negatively impacted access by the civilian population to health services.⁶¹ The General Assembly expressed a similar concern.⁶²

30. The General Assembly expressed grave concern at reports of attacks on civilian facilities such as schools in Ukraine.⁶³ The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine reported that attacks with explosive weapons had affected educational institutions and had had a significant impact on children's right to education.⁶⁴

4. Human rights and counter-terrorism

31. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the ambiguous definition of terrorism in the 2006 Counter-Terrorism Act, and about lack of clarity regarding the crime of public justification of terrorism under the provisions of article 205.2 of the Criminal Code. It also expressed concern about the application of those provisions to allegedly target political opponents and journalists.⁶⁵ The Committee against Torture expressed concern that provisions of the Criminal Code on combating terrorism were often used against civil activists, and that members of the Federal Security Service routinely used torture to extract confessions from those accused of terrorist activities. It recommended ensuring that any counter-terrorism measures taken were in conformity with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.⁶⁶ The Human Rights Committee made a similar recommendation in relation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁶⁷

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

32. The Human Rights Committee raised serious doubts with respect to the independence of the judiciary in the Russian Federation. The Committee highlighted the overall power of the President in appointing members of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court and the presidents and judges of the federal courts. It also denounced the introduction of constitutional amendments in 2020 to expand the President's competences to include the initiation of the dismissal, on vague grounds, of presidents, vice-presidents and judges of appeals and cassation courts and the appointment and dismissal of the Prosecutor General and all the prosecutors of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.⁶⁸

33. The same Committee considered that the Russian Federation should safeguard, in law and in practice, the full independence, impartiality and safety of judges and prosecutors and prevent them from being influenced in their decision-making by any form of political pressure, ensure the role of an independent body in the appointment and dismissal of judges and prosecutors, and limit the broad power of the President in these processes. The Russian Federation should also ensure the independent functioning of the Constitutional Court and take all measures necessary to tackle corruption in the judiciary.⁶⁹

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

34. The Human Rights Council was gravely concerned at the significant deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, in particular the severe restrictions on the rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association resulting in systematic crackdowns on civil society organizations, human rights defenders, independent media outlets, journalists, media workers, lawyers and political opposition, and the extrajudicial killing of government critics.⁷⁰ Several special procedure mandate holders⁷¹ expressed alarm over the escalating crackdown against civil society.⁷² The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, OHCHR and UNESCO expressed similar concerns.⁷³

35. The Human Rights Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should end acts of harassment, intimidation, unwarranted prosecution, poisoning and violence against, and the killing of, lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and opposition politicians. It should conduct thorough and independent investigations into all these allegations and ensure that perpetrators were prosecuted and that victims were provided with effective remedies.⁷⁴ The Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Council made similar remarks.⁷⁵ Two special procedure mandate holders⁷⁶ raised the case of a prominent opposition leader.⁷⁷

36. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reiterated their concerns about the vague, open-ended and regularly modified definition of "extremist activity" in the federal law. Both Committees were also concerned about the frequent use of the law to target political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, religious communities, artists and lawyers in order to limit civic space. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended reviewing the Law

on Combating Extremist Activities and articles 280 and 282 of the Criminal Code with a view to establishing a precise definition of “extremist activity”.⁷⁸ The Human Rights Committee added that the Russian Federation should refrain from arbitrary use of the law to limit civic space, political dissent, and freedom of expression and religion.⁷⁹

37. The Committee against Torture expressed concern at consistent reports that law enforcement used involuntary placement in a psychiatric institution as a form of harassment and punishment of political opponents and activists. It recommended taking measures to put an end to that practice and ensuring that all persons were guaranteed, in law and in practice, effective safeguards concerning their involuntary internment and psychiatric and medical treatment in psychiatric institutions.⁸⁰

38. The Human Rights Committee was deeply concerned about the amendments to the Criminal Code, made in March 2022, which criminalized: (a) the public dissemination of knowingly false information about the army of the Russian Federation and the exercise of powers by the public authorities of the Russian Federation abroad; (b) the public discrediting of the army of the Russian Federation or of the exercise of powers by the public authorities of the Russian Federation aimed at defending the interests of the Russian Federation and its citizens and maintaining international peace and security; and (c) calls for sanctions against the Russian Federation, its citizens or legal entities. The Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should, as a matter of urgency, take all measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression to all individuals and repeal all legislation unduly restricting freedom of expression.⁸¹ Three Special Rapporteurs⁸² made similar remarks.⁸³

39. The Human Rights Committee was deeply concerned about numerous and consistent reports of restrictions of freedom of assembly and about the implications that Federal Law No. 260-FZ of 14 July 2022 might have on freedom of assembly. The Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should effectively guarantee and protect the right of peaceful assembly.⁸⁴ OHCHR urged the authorities of the Russian Federation to immediately release all those detained for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.⁸⁵

40. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed their deep concern about legislation that severely restricted freedom of association, including provisions on “foreign agents” and “undesirable” organizations. They were further concerned about the recent expansion of these restrictions, as well as the law criminalizing confidential cooperation with foreign States and international or foreign organizations; and about the law extending criminal liability to persons abroad for participating in, financing or organizing the activities of an “undesirable” organization.⁸⁶ The Human Rights Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should repeal or revise legislation that restricted freedom of association, including provisions on “foreign agents” and “undesirable” organizations, end the prosecution and persecution of individuals and organizations based on this legislation, and allow members of human rights organizations to exercise their freedom of association without restrictions incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁸⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture made similar remarks.⁸⁸ The Russian Federation replied to the latter.⁸⁹

41. The Committee against Torture expressed concern at consistent reports on the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials during demonstrations, and indicated that the Russian Federation should ensure that prompt, impartial and effective investigations were undertaken into these allegations, that the perpetrators were prosecuted and that the victims obtained redress.⁹⁰ The Human Rights Committee stressed that the Russian Federation should take measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by law enforcement officers.⁹¹

42. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of undue restrictions on the participation of citizens in electoral processes at all levels. It was also concerned about burdensome administrative procedures hampering the access required by observers and journalists to monitor elections and about the overbroad application of the anti-extremist legislation to limit the participation of political opponents. The Committee emphasized that

the Russian Federation should guarantee the freedom to engage in electoral processes and pluralistic political debate, and facilitate access for independent observers, media and journalists to monitor elections. The Committee mentioned a prominent opposition leader and called for his release.⁹²

7. Right to marriage and family life

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the exceptions to the minimum age of marriage, set at 18 years for women and men, that allowed for child marriage from the age of 16 years. It recommended revising article 13 of the Family Code to remove all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage of 18 years for women and men and to explicitly criminalize violations.⁹³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNESCO made similar remarks.⁹⁴

44. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended reviewing the current legislation and available safeguards and providing incentives to ensure that persons with disabilities were entitled to the rights to marry and to have a family on an equal basis with others.⁹⁵

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

45. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the absence of a national action plan on trafficking and of a coordination entity at the federal level. It recommended adopting such a plan and ensuring its effectiveness. The Committee also noted with concern the absence of a system for early identification and referral of women and girl victims of trafficking. It recommended providing systematic training on such procedures to the police, immigration officials and other law enforcement officers, and establishing shelters and safe houses for victims of trafficking.⁹⁶

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

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the vertical and horizontal occupational segregation, and the persistent gender pay gap, and that women continued to carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work. It recommended that the Russian Federation strengthen measures to eliminate such occupational segregation, to enhance women's access to employment in higher decision-making positions and to enforce effectively the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.⁹⁷

10. Right to an adequate standard of living

47. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food reported that the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation had caused a profound rate of hunger in Ukraine and had raised the risk of higher rates of hunger in the Russian Federation.⁹⁸ The General Assembly expressed concern about the potential impact of the conflict on increased food insecurity.⁹⁹

48. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine emphasized that armed forces of the Russian Federation continued to target energy infrastructure in Ukraine and concluded that these attacks were disproportionate and constituted the war crime of excessive incidental death, injury or damage and may amount to a crime against humanity.¹⁰⁰

11. Right to health

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended preventing the forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities and requiring and guaranteeing free, prior and informed consent for any medical intervention or treatment, and criminalizing forced sterilization in the legislation of the Russian Federation.¹⁰¹ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities made a similar remark.¹⁰²

50. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the restrictions on women's access to abortion and recommended strengthening measures to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of modern contraceptives to all women and girls.¹⁰³

51. The same Committee considered that the intolerance by the Russian Federation for drug use could lead to social stigmatization of drug users.¹⁰⁴

12. Right to education

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern reports about segregation and discrimination in access to education and recommended ensuring that girls and women belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups had access to inclusive education.¹⁰⁵ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities urged further promoting and embracing the concept of quality inclusive education and adopting a long-term road map and an action plan to achieve inclusive education.¹⁰⁶

13. Cultural rights

53. Two Special Rapporteurs¹⁰⁷ warned that targeted attacks against Ukrainian culture, history and language by the Russian Federation may amount to an attempt to erase Ukrainian identity. They expressed great concern at the extent of damage and destruction in violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.¹⁰⁸ The Human Rights Council, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the General Assembly made similar remarks.¹⁰⁹

14. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

54. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Russian Federation review its climate change and energy policies and take into account the negative effects of climate change on the livelihoods of women.¹¹⁰

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

55. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended strengthening the efforts to ensure rural women's access to justice, education, formal employment, health care, credit and income-generating schemes, and land ownership, and to shelters, protection orders and support services for victims of gender-based violence.¹¹¹

56. The same Committee noted with concern the barriers faced by women in gaining access to justice. It recommended developing a comprehensive legal aid scheme for women at the federal and regional levels and addressing the stigmatization of women and girls who submitted complaints about violations of their rights.¹¹²

57. The same Committee expressed concern about the prevalence of violence against women in centres for persons with disabilities, in psychiatric hospitals and in detention centres. It recommended effective monitoring of these centres.¹¹³

58. The same Committee recommended amending the Criminal Code to explicitly criminalize marital rape, ensuring that the definitions of rape and sexual crimes were explicitly based on the lack of free consent and took into account coercive circumstances, and repealing the exemption of perpetrators of statutory rape from criminal liability in case of marriage to the victim.¹¹⁴ The Human Rights Committee made similar remarks.¹¹⁵

59. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about delays in adopting federal legislation prohibiting domestic violence, the lack of adequate services for victims, significant constraints faced by victims regarding the presentation of complaints, and the reluctance of law enforcement officers to prosecute domestic violence. It stressed that the Russian Federation should adopt specific federal legislation prohibiting domestic violence, ensure an accessible complaint process for victims, investigate all cases of domestic violence, prosecute perpetrators, and provide victims with access to effective remedies, protection and support services.¹¹⁶ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture made similar remarks.¹¹⁷

2. Children

60. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the national legislation did not define and criminalize all forms of the sale of children. The Committee recommended that the Russian Federation remove the statute of limitations for offences under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, define and explicitly prohibit and criminalize all offences, and develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at addressing all offences covered under the Optional Protocol.¹¹⁸ The Committee recommended establishing mechanisms and procedures for the early identification of child victims of offences under the Optional Protocol and ensuring that children who were victims were not treated as offenders or subjected to sanctions.¹¹⁹

61. The same Committee reiterated its recommendation to introduce a transparent and competitive process, regulated by law, for the nomination and appointment of all children's rights commissioners.¹²⁰

62. The same Committee recommended that the Russian Federation strengthen its measures to address tourism for the purposes of child sexual exploitation and conduct advocacy with the travel and tourism industry on the harmful effects of the sexual exploitation of children. The Committee urged the Russian Federation to apply appropriate penalties to the perpetrators of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, both within the country and abroad, considering the gravity of the offence.¹²¹

63. The same Committee recommended adopting a coordinated national response for preventing and addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse, consisting of a national policy to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation and abuse through an appropriate legal framework, a strategy for preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse, appropriate support services for children, and a child-friendly, proactive, responsive and victim-focused criminal justice system.¹²²

64. The same Committee was deeply disturbed by the grave violations of children's rights in Ukraine committed by the Russian Federation in its aggression and military attack on that country.¹²³

65. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the application of Decree No. 330 simplifying the adoption of, and the granting of nationality of the Russian Federation to, Ukrainian orphans and other Ukrainian children without parental care, and indicated that the Russian Federation should ensure that the Decree was applied in accordance with international standards.¹²⁴

3. Persons with disabilities

66. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted with concern that the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Code upheld the concept of substituted decision-making and did not provide for supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities. It recommended amending that legislation by introducing the concept of supported decision-making and recognizing the full legal capacity of all persons with all types of disability.¹²⁵

67. The same Committee was deeply concerned about the large number of persons with disabilities living in institutions and the lack of a strategy for their deinstitutionalization. It recommended promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community.¹²⁶ It noted with concern that persons with disabilities were still deprived of their liberty in psychiatric hospitals or other institutions and urged the Russian Federation to amend the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure.¹²⁷

68. The same Committee expressed concern about physical and psychological violence against persons with disabilities which might amount to torture or cruel and degrading treatment. It recommended investigating the reports of ill-treatment and abuse of persons with disabilities, and ensuring that persons exposed to ill-treatment had access to complaint mechanisms and that victims were entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation.¹²⁸

69. The same Committee noted with concern the absence of a legal framework to combat the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities and recommended developing such a legislative framework.¹²⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a similar remark.¹³⁰

4. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

70. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the adoption of a unified list of Indigenous Peoples in the country and a procedure for registration. It recommended adopting measures to facilitate the registration of Indigenous women and girls on that list.¹³¹

71. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended reviewing the legislation to amend the definition of Indigenous Peoples by repealing the requirement not to exceed a numerical ceiling of 50,000 individuals in order to be officially recognized as Indigenous Peoples, and ensuring legal protection of all Indigenous Peoples' cultural, territorial and political rights.¹³²

72. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about infringements on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of extractive industry operations and other development projects. The Committee considered that the Russian Federation should ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the decision-making process concerning their lands and resources on the basis of the principle of free, prior and informed consent, guarantee freedom of association for Indigenous Peoples and protect Indigenous human rights defenders from all harassment.¹³³

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

73. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.¹³⁴ The Human Rights Committee indicated that the Russian Federation should take effective measures to combat all forms of social stigmatization and harassment of, and hate speech, discrimination and violence against, persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and ensure that such cases were investigated.¹³⁵ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended addressing the use of misogynistic language and hate speech against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons.¹³⁶

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

74. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the risks of penalization, detention and refoulement faced by asylum-seekers, and about difficulties in integration faced by persons who had been granted temporary asylum and recognized refugees. It considered that the Russian Federation should expedite the adoption of the bill on the granting of asylum in the country and guarantee access to formal procedures for asylum applications at all border points.¹³⁷

75. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about extraditions and expulsions of foreign persons to countries where they might be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. The Committee was especially concerned about information that persons who might be in need of international protection did not have adequate access to asylum procedures and that immigration authorities often failed to register and interview asylum-seekers, thereby increasing their risk of refoulement. The Committee recommended that the country's procedures on extradition, expulsion and asylum provide protection against refoulement.¹³⁸

7. Stateless persons

76. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the amendment of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation. It recommended expediting the registration of undocumented and stateless persons and the process for issuing temporary identity cards.¹³⁹

77. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about reports that women still faced barriers in obtaining citizenship and birth registration for their children, and recommended effective implementation of the federal act on citizenship and the federal act on the legal status of foreign nationals throughout the territory so that women could acquire citizenship of the Russian Federation and register children's births.¹⁴⁰

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/39/13](#), [A/HRC/39/13/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/39/2](#).
- 2 [CRPD/C/RUS/CO/1](#), para. 6.
- 3 [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), para. 37.
- 4 [CRC/C/OPSC/RUS/CO/1](#), para. 36.
- 5 [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), para. 35; and [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), para. 37.
- 6 [CAT/C/RUS/CO/6](#), para. 25.
- 7 [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), para. 25 (f).
- 8 General Assembly resolution 11/3, para. 1. See also <https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12414.doc.htm>.
- 9 Human Rights Council resolution 51/25.
- 10 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), para. 2; and see [A/75/334](#), para. 56; and UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Russian Federation, para. 13.
- 11 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iic/hr-ukraine/index>.
- 12 [A/HRC/52/62](#), para. 112 (i).
- 13 [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 16 and 17.
- 14 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 10 and 11; and [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#); paras. 4, 5, 14 and 15.
- 15 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), para. 11.
- 16 [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 10 and 11.
- 17 [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), para. 11.
- 18 [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 22 and 23. See also [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 46 and 47.
- 19 [CAT/C/RUS/CO/6](#), paras. 8–15 and 19.
- 20 *Ibid.*, paras. 8, 9, 19 and 27.
- 21 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 20 and 21. See also [A/75/334](#), paras. 13 and 18; and [A/76/260](#), para. 47.
- 22 [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 4 and 5.
- 23 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 20 and 21. See also [A/75/334](#), para. 21; and [A/76/260](#), para. 16.
- 24 [CAT/C/RUS/CO/6](#), paras. 38 and 39.
- 25 *Ibid.*, paras. 22 and 23.
- 26 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/human-rights-committee-considers-report-russian-federation-absence-delegation-experts>; and [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 6 and 7. See also [A/77/533](#), p. 2 and paras. 60–87; [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 4, 5, 23 and 24; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-human-rights-council>; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/06/widespread-use-torture-russian-military-ukraine-appears-deliberate-un-expert>.
- 27 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/human-rights-committee-considers-report-russian-federation-absence-delegation-experts>; and [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 6 and 7. See also [A/77/533](#), p. 2 and paras. 60–87; [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 4, 5, 23 and 24; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-human-rights-council>.
- 28 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/ukraine-un-expert-urges-all-war-crimes-investigators-work-closely-national>.
- 29 [A/HRC/52/62](#), paras. 21 and 48–77. See also [A/75/334](#), para. 15.
- 30 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/09/press-briefing-situation-ukraine-matilda-bogner>.
- 31 [A/HRC/52/62](#), paras. 21 and 48–77; and [A/75/334](#), para. 15; and see <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/09/press-briefing-situation-ukraine-matilda-bogner>. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-human-rights-council> and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/06/detentions-civilians-context-armed-attack-russian-federation>.
- 32 The latest press releases are available from https://www.ohchr.org/en/latest?field_geolocation_target_id%5B1097%5D=1097&field_content_category_target_id%5B158%5D=158&field_content_category_target_id%5B162%5D=162&field_content_category_target_id%5B161%5D=161&field_content_category_target_id%5B160%5D=160&field_content_category_target_id%5B159%5D=159. See also [A/HRC/52/62](#), para. 20; and [A/77/533](#), para. 33.

- ³³ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/05/plight-civilians-ukraine>. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/03/ukraine-high-commissioner-turk-details-severe-violations-and-calls-just-peace>; and A/75/334, para. 15.
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- ³⁵ A/77/533, p. 2 and paras. 88–98; and A/HRC/52/62, paras. 21 and 78–85; and see <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-human-rights-council>.
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- ⁴⁰ General Assembly resolution ES-11/1; paras. 2–4. See also General Assembly resolution ES-11/2, pp. 1 and 2.

- 41 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), para. 8. See also [A/76/260](#), paras. 37 and 48; [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 4 and 5; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/09/arrests-russia-protests-over-troop-mobilization>.
- 42 The Working Group on the use of mercenaries, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 43 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/russian-federation-un-experts-alarmed-recruitment-prisoners-wagner-group>. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/03/ukraine-high-commissioner-turk-details-severe-violations-and-calls-just-peace>; and [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), para. 4 (a).
- 44 [A/HRC/52/62](#), para. 114 (c).
- 45 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 38 and 39. See also [A/76/260](#), para. 47; [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 23 and 24; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/bachelet-urges-respect-international-humanitarian-law-amid-growing-evidence>; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/09/press-briefing-situation-ukraine-matilda-bogner>; and [A/75/334](#), paras. 15 and 18.
- 46 [A/76/260](#), paras. 46 and 50. See also [A/75/334](#), para. 56.
- 47 [A/77/533](#), p. 2 and paras. 36–38. See also [A/HRC/52/62](#), para. 109; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-human-rights-council>.
- 48 Human Rights Council resolution 52/32, para. 1. See also Human Rights Council resolution S-34/1, p. 2.
- 49 General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1, para. 11; and ES-11/2, para. 9.
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- 51 [A/77/533](#), paras. 39–51; General Assembly resolution ES-11/2, p. 2; and [A/HRC/52/62](#), p. 1 and paras. 23–26.
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- 53 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/bachelet-urges-respect-international-humanitarian-law-amid-growing-evidence>. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/02/un-human-rights-chief-urges-immediate-halt-russian-federations-military> and Human Rights Council resolution 52/32.
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- 62 General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1, p. 2; and ES-11/2, p. 2 and para. 4.
- 63 General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1, p. 2; and ES-11/2, p. 2.
- 64 [A/77/533](#), paras. 42 and 104–108; and [A/HRC/52/62](#), para. 26. See also General Assembly resolution ES-11/2, p. 2.
- 65 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 18 and 19. See also [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 23 and 24; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/comment-un-human-rights-chief-volker-turk-sentencing-vladimir-kara-murza>.
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- 67 [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 18 and 19. See also [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 23–24; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/comment-un-human-rights-chief-volker-turk-sentencing-vladimir-kara-murza>.

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- ⁶⁹ Ibid.
- ⁷⁰ Human Rights Council resolution 51/25, p. 1.
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- ⁷⁴ CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 26–29. See also Human Rights Council resolution 51/25; Human Rights Council resolution 52/32, p. 3; A/75/334, paras. 24 and 25; A/76/260, para. 47; CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, paras. 23 and 24; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/human-rights-committee-considers-report-russian-federation-absence-delegation-experts>; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/russia-un-expert-alarmed-continued-targeting-human-rights-defenders>; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2019/03/russia-release-human-rights-defender-oyub-titiev-urge-un-experts>; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2021/02/russia-un-experts-raise-fair-trial-concerns-over-case-gulag-historian>; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/comment-un-human-rights-chief-volker-turk-sentencing-vladimir-kara-murza>.
- ⁷⁵ CAT/C/RUS/CO/6, paras. 28, 29, 46 and 47; CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 8 and 9; and Human Rights Council resolution 51/25. See also CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, paras. 18–24; and UNESCO submission, paras. 19 and 21–23.
- ⁷⁶ The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
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- ⁷⁸ CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 30 and 31; and CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, paras. 20 and 21.
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- ⁸⁰ CAT/C/RUS/CO/6, paras. 40 and 41.
- ⁸¹ CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 28 and 29. See also A/76/260, para. 47; Human Rights Council resolution 51/25; and UNESCO submission, paras. 21–23.
- ⁸² The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.
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- 88 CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9, para. 19; CAT/C/RUS/CO/6, paras. 28 and 29; and CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, para. 19. See also A/75/334, para. 57.
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- 91 CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 32 and 33. See also A/75/334, para. 57; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/human-rights-committee-considers-report-russian-federation-absence-delegation-experts>; and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/03/press-briefing-notes-russia>.
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- 108 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/02/targeted-destruction-ukraines-culture-must-stop-un-experts#:~:text=Cultural%20resources%20%E2%80%93%20such%20as%20repositories,for%20ideological%20repression%20and%20strict>. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/ukrainerussia-violations-cultural-rights-will-impede-post-war-healing-un>.
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- 110 CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9, paras. 54 and 55.
- 111 Ibid., paras. 42 and 43.
- 112 Ibid., paras. 12 and 13.
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- 124 CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8, paras. 22 and 23.
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¹²⁷ [CRPD/C/RUS/CO/1](#), paras. 32 and 33.
¹²⁸ Ibid., paras. 34–37.
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¹³⁰ [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 52 and 53.
¹³¹ Ibid., paras. 44 and 45.
¹³² [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 29 and 30.
¹³³ [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 40 and 41. See also [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), para. 45; and [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 29 and 30.
¹³⁴ [CAT/C/RUS/CO/6](#), para. 32. See also <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/10/turk-calls-russian-legislators-repeal-not-expand-anti-lgbt-bill>.
¹³⁵ [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 12 and 13. See also [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 4–5 and 14–15.
¹³⁶ [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), para. 23.
¹³⁷ [CCPR/C/RUS/CO/8](#), paras. 22 and 23.
¹³⁸ [CAT/C/RUS/CO/6](#), paras. 42 and 43.
¹³⁹ [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#), paras. 33 and 34.
¹⁴⁰ [CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9](#), paras. 34 and 35.
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