

Kuwait's Legal Framework



Adopt

- 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Newly Stateless / Bidoon Community



- *Suspend and reverse all the decisions made by the state of stripping naturalised people of their Kuwaiti nationality, considering the dire implications on the state and society;*
- Grant citizenship to the Bidoon community members who reside in Kuwait.
- Ensure that equal access to education, health care and employment for the Bidoon population is enshrined in legislation.

Freedom of Expression



General Recommendation: Ensure that journalists and writers work freely and without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering topics that the government may deem sensitive.

Specific Recommendations:

- Amend the 2015 Cybercrime Law, and the 2006 Press and Publications Law to protect expression
- Reform defamation legislation in conformity with ICCPR article 19, "to decriminalise defamation and free speech such as Article 15 of the State Security Law,..."

Freedom of Association



General Recommendation: Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society...

Specific recommendations:

- Bring legislation, notably law 24 of 1962, governing the establishment of associations and non-governmental organisations into full compliance with the ICCPR, ensuring that all associations, including NGOs, are able to operate freely and independently.

Freedom of Assembly



General recommendation: Bring national legislation on freedom of peaceful assembly into line with international standards, particularly by decriminalizing unlicensed public gatherings.

Specific Recommendations:

- Adopt best practices as put forward in 2012 by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association,
- Amend Law 65 of 1979 (Public Gatherings law) in order to fully guarantee the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly, and at a minimum eliminate the requirement for prior authorisation to hold public gatherings.
- Allow judicial review and effective remedy, including compensation, in cases of unlawful denial by state authorities.

Human rights defenders and civil society activists



General Recommendation: Provide civil society members, HRDs and journalists, especially women, with a safe and secure environment in which to carry out their work.

Specific Recommendations:

- Repeal or amendment legislation and decrees that unwarrantedly restrict the legitimate work of HRDs, in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- End the practice of using the judicial system to try HRDs, journalists and anyone else for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association.