United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/49/KWT/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2025

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-ninth session
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Kuwait*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.[1] It is a summary of 23 stakeholders' submissions[2] for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[3] and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. PFT recommended Kuwait to ratify international instruments, treaties and protocols related to the promotion and implementation of human rights to which it is not yet a party.[4]

3. Maat and JS2 recommended the government to ratify International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.[5]

4. JS1 and Alkarama recommended Kuwait to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[6]

5. Alkarama and JS4 recommended Kuwait to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.[7]

6. JS2 and Egypt-Peace recommended the government to ratify and effectively implement the International Labor Organization Convention 189 (Domestic Workers' Convention).[8]

7. JS4 recommended the government to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[9]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

8. JS4, Alkarama and ICSRF recommended Kuwait to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.[10]

9. KSHR urged the government to withdraw its reservations on Articles 9(2) and 16(1)(f) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).[11]

10. ICAN urged Kuwait to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.[12]

11. HRW recommended Kuwait to fully implement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[13]

12. PFT encouraged the government to accept visit requests submitted by special rapporteurs and allow them to visit the country as soon as possible.[14]

B. National human rights framework

13. JS1 recommended Kuwait to abolish the death penalty and replace it with a punishment that is fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.[15] In the interim, JS1 recommended the government, among others, to immediately institute a *de jure* moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty; and to commute the death sentences of any persons currently under sentence of death and replace them with penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.[16]

14. JS1 recommended to revise the penal code to prohibit the death penalty for any crime that does not rise to the level of "most serious," defined as involving intentional killing by the person charged with the death-eligible offense.[17]

15. Maat recommended the government to introduce new amendments to the legal framework regulating the death penalty in Kuwait, allowing the abolition of this penalty, replacing it, or applying it at its minimum and limiting it to the most serious crimes.[18]

16. Alkarama advised the government to adopt a narrow interpretation of the death penalty, ensuring that it is applied exclusively to the "most serious crimes" as required by the Convention and fully comply with all fair trial requirements in death penalty cases.[19]

17. Alkarama recommended the government to abolish death sentences against vulnerable categories especially persons with disabilities; and commute death sentences to prison sentences where possible.[20]

18. JS1 further recommended to collect and regularly publish, on at least an annual basis, disaggregated data on people executed and on death row during the reporting period, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, nationality, crime of conviction, profession at the time of arrest, relationship to any victim or co-defendant, age of any dependent children, and current location.[21]

19. AKSW recommended the government to strengthen the independence of the national human rights institution and ensure its ability to operate freely and effectively.[22]

20. Alkarama recommended the government to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the effective independence of the National Bureau for Human Rights; and establish an independent NHRI that complies with the Paris Principles and request its accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.[23]

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

21. JS4 called on the government to amend the 2015 Cybercrime Law, and the 2006 Press and Publications Law to protect freedom of expression. article 6 of the Cybercrime Law restricted online expression by criminalising any content that could be interpreted by authorities as insulting Islam, the Emir, the Constitution, public prosecution, or public morals.[24]

22. HRW urged the government to repeal laws that violate the right to freedom of expression, including articles 6, 7, and 13 of the cybercrimes law.[25]

23. PFT recommended Kuwait to amend the Public Gatherings and Assemblies Law No. 65 of 1979 in accordance with Article 44 of the Constitution to ensure the right of all individuals to assemble peacefully without unjustified restrictions.

24. KABEHR urged the government and the parliament to amend the Electronic Media Law to align it with Kuwait's legal obligations.[26]

25. JS4 urged the government to reform defamation legislation in conformity with ICCPR article 19 and remove articles that criminalise defamation and free speech such as Article 15 of the State Security Law, which criminalised individuals for sharing "false or biased news, information, or rumours about the country's internal conditions" and for any actions perceived to undermine national interests.[27]

26. JS4 further called on Kuwait to align legislation, notably law 24 of 1962, governing the establishment of associations and non-governmental organisations into full compliance with the ICCPR, and adopt measures to ensure that all associations, including NGOs, are able to operate freely and independently.[28]

27. Alkarama recommended Kuwait to revise the national legislation to bring the definition of torture in full compliance with the international definition.[29]

28. JS2 recommended Kuwait to pass and implement legislation recognising all migrant workers' rights – including domestic workers – to freely associate, organise, collectively bargain and form a trade union (including migrant workers' rights to hold leadership positions in unions and participate in collective bargaining committees) in line with ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98.[30]

29. JS3 recommended the government to terminate its endorsement of honour killings by repealing Article 153 of the Kuwaiti Penal Code.[31]

30. JS6 urged Kuwait to abolish article 153 of the Penal Code; and to strengthen the penalties for honour killings under the Penal Code to ensure they are proportionate to the crime's severity in a fair and deterrent manner.[32]

31. Egypt-Peace urged the government to harmonize national legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[33]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

32. ICSRF recommended the government to implement the provisions of international law and the constitution within the framework of the national judiciary and to issue a decree stipulating the primacy of international treaties and agreements over national legislation.[34]

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

Equality and non-discrimination

33. Maat recommended to combat all forms of discrimination in accordance with Article 29 of the National Constitution, Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[35]

34. Maat, Egypt-Peace and HRW urged the government to review the nationality law to ensure equality between women and men in order to enable Kuwaiti women to grant their nationality to their children and non-Kuwaiti husbands on an equal footing with men.[36][37][38]

35. ECLJ urged Kuwait to continue to reform its laws and policies to protect the rights of religious minorities.[39]

36. Egypt-Peace further recommended to address the situation of stateless women and eliminate all forms of discrimination against them and grant them all economic and social rights.[40]

37. PFPD advised the government to initiate effective measures to end all forms of discrimination against Bidoon and work to integrate them into society and taking legislative measures to guarantee their rights and the rights of their children.[41]

38. PFPD further recommended ending discriminatory policies against Bidoon children and enabling them to have the right to free education.[42]

39. PFPD advised the government to provide passports and identification documents to the Bidoon and recognise their right to acquire Kuwaiti citizenship.[43]

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

40. JS6 recommended the government to expedite the activation of shelters for domestic violence victims and establish a fund to care for them;[44] and to determine penalties for domestic violence crimes in proportion to their severity in a fair and deterrent manner.[45]

41. AKSW recommended the government to strengthen laws for the protection of victims of domestic violence and ensure their effective implementation; to increase awareness campaigns to renounce domestic violence.[46]

42. WPPIKW requested the government to invoke law no.16 (2020) for protection against domestic violence and publish it one the broadest scope through awareness programs, educational curricula and mass media of different forms.[47]

43. Maat stressed the necessity of issuing a unified law to criminalize all types of domestic violence in its comprehensive sense.[48]

44. WPPIKW further recommended to activate the hotline to receive reports on domestic violence cases as appropriate and publish and circulate it on the broadest scope and appoint competent staffs to handle domestic violence cases; and to publish the statistics of domestic violence and protection against them and set national parameters for reduction of domestic violence.[49]

45. JS6 recommended the government to train employees to receive complaints through a hotline connected to the emergency number 112, operating at all hours, to receive reports.[50]

46. Alkarama recommended establishing a national independent preventive mechanism against torture and create an independent complaint mechanism in prisons.[51]

47. KABEHR observed several complaints from the central prison regarding the poor quality and insufficient quantity of food provided to inmates; and reiterated its concern over recurring complaints of torture inside some police stations, and concern also raised by the National Human Rights Bureau.[52]

48. Alkarama further recommended conducing thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of torture, in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol, bringing those responsible to justice with appropriate sanctions and providing reparations for victims.[53]

49. IBA called on the government to immediately institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and, in the meantime, commute the death sentences of any persons currently under sentence of death and replace them with penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.[54]

50. KABEHR called for the improvement of conditions in detention centers, particularly the Farwaniya and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police stations, where complaints have been received about the miserable conditions of detainees, especially in women's detention facilities, particularly during the winter.[55]

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

51. Alkarama recommended the government to take all necessary measures to ensure the full independence and complete impartiality of the judiciary from the executive and strengthen all guarantees required for a fair trial.[56]

52. Alkarama further recommended the government to enhance the impartiality of judges by ensuring transparency in appointments and protect them against executive interference.[57]

53. JS5 recommended extend labour law protections to domestic workers to ensure equal rights regarding wages, working hours, sick leave, and job mobility. Expand the wage protection system to include domestic workers.[58]

54. JS3 recommended the government to ensure that foreign nationals have access to fair trials and transparent administrative processes to challenge their deportation orders predicated on immorality charges.[59]

55. JS6 recommended the government to establish a specialized domestic violence court to handle sensitive family cases and provide legal counsel to victims of domestic violence.[60]

56. IBA recommended Kuwait to take all measures necessary to safeguard the full independence and impartiality of members of the judiciary and prosecutors and guarantee that they are free to operate without any type of undue pressure or interference.[61]

57. IBA stated that, in doing so, Kuwait should ensure that the procedures for the selection, appointment, suspension, transfer, removal and disciplining of judges and prosecutors comply with the ICCPR and relevant international standards, including the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.[62]

58. IBA recommended Kuwait to develop a code of conduct for judges and prosecutors in line with international standards, including the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Bangalore Principles on Judicial Conduct, to strengthen the integrity of the Judiciary and improve the accountability of judges.[63]

59. IBA called on the government to take measures to ensure that persons under arrest or detention have sufficient time and resources to prepare their defence, including being promptly informed of their right to legal counsel and provided with adequate opportunities, time and facilities to be visited by and to communicate and consult with a lawyer, without delay, interception or censorship and in full confidentiality, and having access to appropriate information, files and documents to enable the lawyer to provide effective legal assistance to their clients.[64]

60. KSHR urged the government to intensify programs and training courses aimed at enhancing the awareness of judges, public prosecutors, public officials, and law enforcement officers regarding the application and activation of international human rights instruments to which Kuwait is a party.[65]

61. ICSRF recommended establishing legislation that allow detainees and defendants whose freedom has been restricted without legal reason to claim compensation.[66]

62. ICSRF also recommended the government not to expand the use of pre-trial detention.[67]

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

63. JS4 called on the government to 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.[68]

64. JS4 urged Kuwait to take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by removing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limit the freedom of association.[69]

65. KABEHR emphasized the need for the Kuwaiti government to uphold and promote freedom of opinion and expression, as guaranteed by the national constitution, in all forms of media, including broadcast, print, and social media.[70]

66. PFT recommended removing restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression in the media and ensure that activists and bloggers are able to speak out and cover human rights issues without censorship or threats.[71]

67. Maat urged Kuwait to amend the Electronic Media Law to be consistent with the national constitution and international instruments.[72]

68. HRW urged the government to release prisoners detained for exercising their right to peaceful expression immediately and unconditionally.[73]

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

69. KABEHR appreciated the efforts of the relevant authorities in combating human trafficking, particularly referring many individuals to the Public Prosecution on charges of trafficking in persons.[74]

70. KABEHR urged the authorities to address the gaps in law 91 (2013), including by establishing a national body or authority responsible for implementing and enforcing the law regulations; taking measures to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants; establishing mechanisms that provide victims with information about the judicial and administrative procedures concerning their situation; and taking measures that ensure physical, psychological, and social recovery for victims of trafficking and smuggling.[75]

71. KSHR advised the National Permanent Committee to Combat Human Trafficking to double its efforts to activate the national referral system at the required level and to maintain continuous coordination with all authorities and entities involved in combating human trafficking.[76]

72. JS5 urged the government to abolish all aspects of the *kafala* system and to transition from the employer-tied kafala system to a government-regulated visa system to improve labour mobility and reduce employer control over migrant workers' residency status. It also recommended to abolish absconding charges and enable workers to change employers more freely.[77]

73. HRW advised Kuwait to abolish the kafala system and adopt risk-based heat protection measures such as the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature index with appropriate thresholds based on work intensity to impose evidence-based work-rest schedules.[78]

74. PFT recommended the government to amend the sponsorship system to provide better protection for migrant workers and guarantee their rights to move and work without permission from their employer.[79]

75. JS5 recommended to strengthen anti-trafficking measures by fully implementing the National Committee’s strategy and enhancing oversight over recruitment agencies to prevent exploitation; and providing safe and accessible shelters for all migrant workers, including male workers, with clear timelines for the completion of shelter projects.[80]

76. JS2 recommended the government to prohibit employers from filing “absconding” charges to retaliate against workers and hold non-compliant employers accountable with adequate penalties.[81]

77. JS2 recommended Kuwait to ensure that all migrant workers, including domestic workers, can meaningfully exercise their right to freedom of movement and to provide all domestic workers the right to change employers and/or sectors of employment employers without required permission of employer.[82]

78. JS2 recommended the government to mandate that all migrant domestic workers be provided with one day off per week and ensure that this policy is implemented in practice to allow them access to unions, advocates, and accountability mechanisms.[83]

79. JS2 recommended Kuwait to criminalise passport confiscation by employers and hold employers accountable for violations of passport confiscation and other labour rights violations by improving screening in labour inspections and strengthening prosecutions.[84]

80. AKSW urged the government to reform the sponsorship system to ensure that the rights of expatriate workers and employers are protected and that fair working conditions are provided.[85]

81. AKSW further recommended to strengthen oversight of companies and employers to ensure implementation of workers' rights; and to provide support and assistance to migrant workers facing problems under the sponsorship system.[86]

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

82. JS2 recommended the government to mandate that labour inspections are conducted at the workplaces where domestic workers are employed; and extend all protections provided to workers in the Private Sector Labour Law to migrant domestic workers, including removing barriers to labour inspections in private homes.[87]

83. JS5 urged the government to extend labour law protections to domestic workers to ensure equal rights regarding wages, working hours, sick leave, and job mobility; and expand the wage protection system to include domestic workers.[88]

84. Egypt-Peace recommended to integrate domestic workers into the labor law so that they are entitled to the same labor rights protection as all other workers and to create more websites for domestic workers to submit complaints and report violations.[89]

85. PFPD called on the government to raise awareness of the rights of domestic workers and educate domestic workers on complaint mechanisms and legal recourse against employers who violate contract terms.[90]

86. PFDF recommended establishing an approved mechanism to resolve labor disputes regarding entitlements and facilitating transfer procedures if a worker wishes to work for another sponsor and not leave.[91]

87. PFDF urged the government to unify efforts aimed at ensuring and preserving the rights of all expatriate workers without discrimination against domestic workers.[92]

Right to an adequate standard of living

88. JS5 recommended the government to prohibit discriminatory policies that prevent migrant workers from renting in family zones and implement measures to ensure safe and affordable housing for all workers.[93]

Right to health

89. JS5 recommended Kuwait to eliminate discriminatory healthcare fees for migrant workers, including medicine dispensary charges, and guarantee equal access to healthcare services, including maternity care, regardless of residency status.[94]

90. AKSW urged the government to provide specialized health staff that government hospitals currently lack and provide all necessary supplies.[95]

91. AKSW further recommended promoting training and continuous development programs for doctors and nurses to ensure the provision of high-quality health services; and establish centers specializing in rare and complex diseases to reduce the need to travel for treatment abroad.[96]

92. CFAM encouraged Kuwait to improve maternal and child health outcomes, including by ensuring adequate nutrition for pregnant women and affordable maternal health care, as well as improving access to hygiene, sanitation, and adequate nutrition, particularly for pregnant women and mothers, with special attention to those in rural and remote areas and for those in low-resource settings.[97]

Right to education

93. Broken Chalk recommended the government to prioritise education goals and establish better metrics to observe the achievement status of these goals; and to develop specific, measurable goals for education reform under Kuwait Vision 2035, allowing for better tracking of progress and accountability.[98]

94. Broken Chalk recommended that the Ministry of Education of Kuwait implement a cohesive, long-term educational strategy that fosters stability and consistency in educational

policies and practices throughout the country. Stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and community members, should also be engaged in all levels of the planning process.[99]

95. Broken Chalk recommended the Ministry of Education to try to raise awareness of parents on the importance of academic standards and the long-term impacts educational policies have on their children's futures.[100]

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

96. ICSRF noted that women in Kuwait may be exposed to unjustified violence because of the fact that Kuwaiti legislation did not provide adequate protection for them in the first place.[101]

97. JS6 recommended the government to eliminate the discretionary nature of granting maternity leave for women working in the private sector and ensuring that they have full maternity leave rights with salary, as stipulated by law.[102]

98. WPPIKW recommended the government to set a national action plan for implementation of the Security Council resolution1325 on Women, Peace and Security.[103]

99. WPPIKW urged the government to permit women to be employed in the military and armed forces as their entry into the military field would be an important part of the implementation of resolution no. 1325 through a national action plan and their participation in UN committees.[104]

100. CFam encouraged Kuwait to ensure that women and girls have access to secure and high-quality education, including secondary education, and to improve women's literacy.[105]

Children

101. JS6 urged the government to establish a link between the Ministry of Education, the Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Education, and the Public Authority for Civil Information to ensure that children are enrolled in education in those cases where guardians or custodians refuse or neglect to do so.[106]

102. WPPIKW advised the government to amend or revoke article 26 of the personal status law no. 51 of 1984 that permit children marriage and set the minimum marriage age at 15 years for females and 17 years for males under the law.[107]

103. WPPIKW urged Kuwait to revoke or amend all law articles including article 6 of the child rights law and article 29 of the penal code so that it would not be interpreted as justifying the use of physical punishment against children.[108]

104. Broken Chalk recommended Kuwait to implement targeted initiatives to support the educational needs of marginalised populations, including the Bidoon community and children with disabilities.[109]

105. ICSRF recommended the government to implement article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child has the right to education.[110]

Older persons

106. AKSW urged the government to enact a special law for the elderly in accordance with the principles of the United Nations related to the elderly and the rights of the elderly, and in accordance with their rights in Article no. 11 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, which provides that "The State guarantees aid to citizens in the event of old age, illness or disability to work, and also provides them with social insurance services, social aid and health care."[111]

107. AKSW urged the government to provide a health centre specialized in geriatrics and develop special policies and programs for the care of the elderly, including health and social care.[112]

108. AKSW recommended the government to strengthen legislation to protect the rights of older persons and address discrimination against the and provide awareness programs for the community on the rights of the elderly and the importance of respecting them.[113]

109. AKSW further recommended establishing a health centre specialized in geriatrics; and developing special policies and programs for the care of the elderly, including health and social care.[114]

Persons with disabilities

110. AKSW recommended the government to provide psychological and social support centers; sign language interpreters in public universities and colleges; and to take into account international standards in classifying the degree of disability of persons with disabilities.[115]

111. KSHR recommended that the government adopt a clear national strategy, coordinated among all governmental bodies, that is based on a human rights approach to addressing disability issues in order to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.[116]

112. KSHR recommended Kuwait to ensure that the public and private sectors are mandated to implement regulations related to accessibility to buildings and transportation, and enforce the application of universal design codes, with appropriate penalties for non-compliance with accessibility regulations.[117]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

113. JS3 recommended the government to discontinue the arbitrary targeting of transgender individuals and adhere to the rulings of the Supreme Constitutional Court, refraining from circumventing these through the enforcement of other immorality statutes against transgender persons.[118]

114. JS3 recommended the government to meet its legal obligations by taking affirmative actions to facilitate the realization of fundamental human rights for transgender individuals.[119]

115. HRW observed that, in February 2022, the Constitutional Court of Kuwait ruled that article 198 of the penal code that prohibited "imitating the opposite sex" was unconstitutional. HRW stated that in December 2022 it was reported that authorities deported around 3,000 gay and transgender people.[120]

116. HRW urged the Kuwaiti National Assembly to repeal the amendment to article 198 and called on the Kuwaiti authorities to immediately release all individuals detained under article 198 of the penal code and formally overturn any convictions.[121]

Migrants and refugees

117. KABEHR called for halting the decision that prevents foreign workers in the public sector from transitioning to private-sector jobs if their services are terminated or they resign, stressing that the transition between the public and private sectors should depend on the worker's wishes and market conditions.[122]

118. KABEHR expressed appreciation for the Public Authority for Manpower implementing a new mechanism to ensure the protection of workers' rights, requiring workers in the private sector and domestic workers to sign a fingerprint-based model to cancel work permits and guarantee full payment of their dues. This model was prepared in five different languages.[123]

119. KABEHR recommended creating normative frameworks that allow non-citizens to benefit from social security plans based on contributions to receive pensions for old age and unemployment[124]; and encouraged expanding union rights to include non-citizens, allowing them to form and join unions on equal footing with Kuwaiti workers.[125]

120. KSHR urged the government to abolish the sponsorship system, which ties each worker to an employer as their sponsor, helping to end exploitative labor relations characterized by abuse, violence, harassment, and human trafficking, especially in the domestic and private sectors.[126]

121. KSHR stressed the need of facilitating access to effective legal remedies, including the provision of legal assistance and translation services, to protect the rights of migrant workers, including domestic workers.[127]

122. KSHR stated that efforts should be intensified to strictly enforce labor laws, decisions, and regulations that protect migrant workers, including domestic workers, from practices such as passport confiscation by employers and other violations. The frequency of labor inspections should also be increased.[128]

Stateless persons

123. KSHR recommended the government to take serious measures to resolve the legal status of the Bidoon and ensure that all their rights are respected in accordance with international human rights conventions and instruments.[129]

124. KSHR urged Kuwait to introduce new mechanisms to address the situation of the Bidoon and grant Kuwaiti citizenship to those who are eligible; to ensure fairness for Bidoon female employees by equalizing their wages with their Kuwaiti female employees or even migrant colleagues and granting them the right to maternity leave, annual leave, sick leave, and all other benefits, in parity with their colleagues.[130]

125. PFT urged the government to provide legal mechanisms that ensure that migrant workers can file work-related complaints without fear of retaliation, especially in the light of the increasing cases of violence and assault.[131]

126. NPWJ recommended Kuwait to recognise that the rights of the Bidoon Community had not been respected and ensured as required by the ICCPR, and provide full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres to Bidoon and other stateless people residing in Kuwait, including by protecting them against discrimination relating to nationality and citizenship, and allowing equal access to birth certificates, marriage certificates, education and healthcare.[132]

127. HRW advised the government to create a transparent process to determine the citizenship claims of the Bidoon community or to provide a clear path to nationality.[133]

128. NPWJ urged Kuwait to protect the Bidoon Community's rights to association, freedom of expression, freedom of opinion and freedom of assembly in line with international standards, including through the prohibition and punishment of all forms of harassment and reprisals in response to these rights being exercised.[134]

129. NPWJ called on the government to undertake a full review of its judicial system in accordance with international best practices – including the independence, impartiality and competence of the judiciary.[135]

130. Maat urged the government to facilitate the procedures for accepting stateless Kuwaiti students to enrol in studies, like their counterparts from the original Kuwaitis.[136]

131. KABEHR observed a rise in the revocation of citizenship from a large number of citizens within a short period, increasing the number of stateless individuals rather than reducing it; and recommended that the revocation or withdrawal of citizenship be subjected to judicial authority.[137]

132. KABEHR stressed the need to address the issue of evicting a number of stateless individuals "Bidoon" from their homes in the Sulaibiya area, especially considering the humanitarian suffering of this category.[138]

133. KABEHR called for taking the necessary measures to grant Kuwaiti citizenship to around 34,000 stateless individuals.[139]

134. KABEHR stated that the stateless individuals' problem, which has persisted for over 70 years, is a humanitarian and social issue and should not be addressed solely from a security perspective but through comprehensive legal reform.[140]

135. KABEHR urged Kuwait to take serious and tangible steps to resolve the "security restrictions" issue, which prevented stateless individuals from enjoying their basic human rights.[141]

Notes

[1] A/HRC/44/17 and A/HRC/44/17/Add.1, and A/HRC/44/2.

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

Civil society

Individual submissions:

AKSW	Association of Social Workers, Kuwait City (Kuwait);
Alkarama	Alkarama, Geneva (Switzerland);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CFam	Center for Family and Human Rights, New York (USA);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
Egypt-Peace	Egypt Peace for development and Human Rights, Ramada (Egypt);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
IBA	Interational Bar Association, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICSRF	International Center for supporting Rights and Freedoms, Geneva (Switzerland);
KABEHR	The Kuwaiti Association of the Basic Evaluators of Human Rights, Kuwait City (Kuwait);
KSHR	Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Kuwait City (Kuwait);
MAAT	Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
NPSG / NPWJ	Non c'è Pace Senza Giustizia, Rome (Italy);
PFPD	Pixology Foundation for Peace and Development, South Windsor (United States of America);
PFT	Partners for Transparency, Cairo (Egypt);
UNESCO org	UNESCO, Geneva (Switzerland);
wppikw	Women Peace Pioneers Initiative, Hawali (Kuwait).

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by:** Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis)United States of America;
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by:** Anti-Slavery International (London) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Cairo 52 Legal Research Institute (Giza) Egypt;
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by:** Gulf Centre for Human Rights (Dublin) Ireland;
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Migrant-Rights (Orlando, Florida) United States of America;
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Rawasi (National Association of Familial Security) (Kuwait City) Kuwait.

[3] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child

OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[4] PFT, p.4.
[5] JS3, para 11.
[6] JS1, para 28; Alkarama, para 9.
[7] Alkarama, para 9; JS4 p.11.
[8] JS3, para 11; Egypt-Peace, p.8.
[9] JS4 p.11.
[10] JS4 p.11; ICSRF, p.5.; Alkarama, para 9.
[11] KSHR, p.3.
[12] ICAN, p.1.
[13] HRW, p.3.
[14] PFT, p.4.
[15] JS1, para 28.
[16] JS1, para 28.
[17] JS1, para 28.
[18] Maat, p.7.
[19] Alkarama, para.15.
[20] Alkarama, para.15.
[21] JS1, para 28.
[22] AKSW, p.8.
[23] Alkarama, para 11.
[24] JS4, p.11.
[25] HRW, p.3.
[26] KABEHR, p.2.
[27] JS4, p.11.
[28] JS4, p.11.
[29] Alkarama, para 19.
[30] JS2, para 11.
[31] JS3, p.9.
[32] JS6, p.8.
[33] Egypt-Peace, p.8.
[34] ICSRF, p.4.
[35] Maat, p.7.
[36] Egypt-Peace, p.8.
[37] HRW, p.3.
[38] Maat, p.7.
[39] ECLJ, para 23.
[40] Egypt-Peace, p.8.
[41] PFPD, p.7.
[42] PFPD, p.7.
[43] PFPD, p.7.
[44] JS6, p.6.
[45] JS6, p.7.
[46] AKSW, p.4.
[47] WPPIKW, p.2.
[48] Maat, p.7.
[49] WPPIKW, p.2.
[50] JS6, p.6.
[51] Alkarama, para 19.
[52] KABEHR, p.5.
[53] Alkarama, para 19.
[54] IBA, para 5.1.

[55] KABEHR, p.5.
[56] Alkarama, para 24.
[57] Alkarama, para 24.
[58] JS5, p.9.
[59] JS3.
[60] JS6, p.8.
[61] IBA, para 5.1.
[62] IBA, para 5.1.
[63] IBA, para 5.1.
[64] IBA, para 5.1.
[65] KSHR, p.1.
[66] ICSRF, p.8.
[67] ICSRF, p.8.
[68] JS4, p.11.
[69] JS4, p.11.
[70] KABEHR, p.2.
[71] PFT, p.4.
[72] Maat, p.7.
[73] HRW, p.3.
[74] KABEHR, p.2.
[75] KABEHR, p.2.
[76] KSHR, p.4.
[77] JS5, p.9.
[78] HRW, p.5.
[79] PFT, p.4.
[80] JS5, p.9.
[81] JS2, para 22.
[82] JS2, para 22.
[83] JS2, para 22.
[84] JS2, para 39.
[85] AKSW, p.8.
[86] AKSW, p.8.
[87] JS2, para 43.
[88] JS5, p.9.
[89] Egypt-Peace, p.8.
[90] PFDF, p.5.
[91] PFDF, p.5.
[92] PFDF, p.5.
[93] JS5, p.9.
[94] JS5, p.9.
[95] AKSW, p.10.
[96] AKSW, p.10.
[97] CFam, para 17.
[98] Broken Chalk, para 35.
[99] Broken Chalk, para 36.
[100] Broken Chalk, para 37.
[101] ICSRF, p.6.
[102] JS6, p.9.
[103] WPPIKW, p.2.
[104] WPPIKW, p.2.
[105] CFam, para 18.
[106] JS6, p.9.
[107] WPPIKW, p.3.
[108] WPPIKW, p.3.
[109] Broken Chalk, para 39.
[110] ICSRF, p.9.
[111] AKSW, p.7.
[112] AKSW, p.7.
[113] AKSW, p.7.
[114] AKSW, p.6.
[115] AKSW, p.6.
[116] KSHR, p.1.

[117] KSHR, p.1.
[118] JS3, p.3.
[119] JS3, p.9.
[120] HRW, p.5.
[121] HRW, p.5.
[122] KABEHR, p.4.
[123] KABEHR, p.4.
[124] KABEHR, p.4.
[125] KABEHR, p.4.
[126] KSHR, p.4.
[127] KSHR, p.4.
[128] KSHR, p.4.
[129] KSHR, p.2.
[130] KSHR, p.2.
[131] PFT, p.4.
[132] NPWJ, para 19.
[133] HRW, p.4.
[134] NPWJ, para 19.
[135] NPWJ, para 19.
[136] Maat, p.7.
[137] KABEHR, p.3.
[138] KABEHR, p.3.
[139] KABEHR, p.3.
[140] KABEHR, p.3.
[141] KABEHR, p.3.