

Palestinian Human Rights Organization “PHRO” - STATEMENT

UPR Pre-session on Lebanon

Geneva, 27 November 2025

1. **PHRO** is an independent non-governmental organization, established in 1997, recognized in Lebanon under registration no. 36/AD and works for promoting, protecting and defending the Human Rights of the Palestinian Refugees in MENA region. **PHRO** is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (**FIDH**) and the **EuroMed Rights** and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (**AOHR**). **PHRO** has been actively engaged in the UPR process since Lebanon’s first UPR cycle in 2010. And this statement is delivered based on the 2025, 4th PHRO joint UPR submission¹, prepared in partnership with our international, regional and national partners².

2. **PHRO participated in the national consultation**, jointly organized by **OHCHR** and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 September 2025³, represent Palestinian CSO’s and delivered the priority key recommendations⁴ agreed on at the preparatory Civil Society Roundtable organized by the **OHCHR** on 9 September 2025,

On 1st October (Social Rights session) and 8th October (Economic Rights session), **PHRO** participated in dialogue panels held at the Parliament, organized by the Arab NGO Network for Development (**ANND**) and the Lebanese Parliament Human Rights Committee.

Before the pre-session, **PHRO** in partnership with **FIDH**, **EuroMed Rights** and **CIHRS** advocate and promote priority key recommendations regarding the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon with several diplomatic permeant mission in Geneva and before that in Beirut with our Lebanese partner **CLDH** and the **EuroMed Rights**.

3. Scope and focus of statement

This statement highlights the persistent human rights challenges faced by Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, focusing on:

- Right to Legal Personality
- Right to Work and Social Protection
- Adequate Shelter/Housing
- Right to Own Property
- Right to Movement

Despite repeated commitments during UPR cycles (2010, 2015, and 2021)⁵, systemic discrimination against Palestinian refugees continues. Rather than expanding rights protections, Lebanese authorities maintain restrictive policies, categorizing Palestinian refugees into three groups — with an additional fourth group for Palestinian Refugees from Syria — treated mainly through a political-security lens rather than a rights-based approach. This has left them outside any effective protection framework, denying them access to basic civil, economic, and social rights.

After 77 years of displacement and compounded discrimination, it is time to adopt clear non-discriminatory legislation that guarantees equality and dignity for the Palestinian refugees within a rights-based framework.

¹ http://www.palhumanrights.org/2025/UPR_pal_ref_coalition_2025_en.pdf

² International Federation for Human Rights **FIDH**, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network **EuroMed Rights**, Centre libanais des droits humains **CLDH**, Act for Human Rights **ALEF**, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies **CIHRS**, Arab NGO Network for Development **ANND**, Cedar Centre for Legal Studies, Strategic studies & Human development **TATWIR**, Developmental Action Without Borders **NABAA** Palestinian Association for Human Rights **Witness**, Human Development Center, Khiam Rehabilitation center for Victims of torture **KRC**, Joint Christian committee for Social service **JCC**, Women Humanitarian Organization **PWHO**

³ National consultation brought together: key government ministries, security agencies, the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, national committees on Human Rights, Women, and Missing

Persons, the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), and selected civil society representatives.

⁴ http://palhumanrights.org/2025/Prior_recommd_pal_ref_en.pdf

⁵ <https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2013-09/phropalestinianhumanrightsorganizationjs.pdf> - https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2015-10/js12_upr23_lbn_e_main.pdf - https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-08/js23_upr37_lbn_e_main.pdf

4. Statement Main Issues and Recommendations

I. The Right to Legal Personality

A. Main Issues:

- i. Lack of clarity regarding the legal status of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon
- ii. No sustainable solutions for the Non-ID Palestinians
- iii. Absence of legal recognition for Palestinian Refugees from Syria as refugees
- iv. Barriers to registering children of Palestinian refugee parents from Syria
- v. Denial of the right of Palestinian refugee women to pass legal status to their children

B. Recommendation:

Adopt the LPDC's "Unified Lebanese Vision for the Palestinian Refugees Affairs in Lebanon", and enshrine its principles in national legislation: defining refugees; defining resettlement; and guaranteeing Palestinian refugees' civil, economic, and social rights and their right to live in dignity.

II. Fragmented Right to work and Economic Social protection

A. Main Issues:

- i. Severe restrictions on Palestinian Refugees' access to labor market.
- ii. Deprive Palestinian Refugees from working in professions requiring joining a syndicate, and regulated employment sectors.
- iii. Depriving Palestinian Refugees workers from benefiting from social security services

B. Recommendation:

Develop the Laws 128 and 129 that have been modified in 2010, to:

- Abolish the work permit requirement for Palestinian refugees.
- Grant access to liberal professions.
- Ensure equal access to the National Social Security services, including health and maternity benefits.
- Issue implementing decrees aligning syndicate Bylaws and professional regulations with the amendments.

III. Right to Adequate Shelter/ Housing

A. Main Issues:

- i. Endure inadequate housing conditions in camps whose geographic area has remained unchanged since their establishment in 1950
- ii. Restrictions on entry of construction materials and sanitation materials. These restrictions are based on a decision issued by the Council of Ministers in late 1996
- iii. lack of building regulations inside the camps, which is not linked to municipalities.
- iv. Incomplete reconstruction of Nahr Al-Bared camp

B. Recommendation:

- Develop a comprehensive plan that upholds and promotes the right to adequate housing within Palestinian refugee camps.
- Revoke the 1996–1997 decisions restricting the entry of construction materials and supplies into Palestinian refugee camps.
- Intensify the efforts to complete reconstruction of Nahr el-Bared camp

IV. The Right to own property, Forbidden and Restricted by

A. Main Issues:

- i. Depriving Palestinian Refugee of owning real-estate under Law 296 (2001).
- ii. Confiscation or loss of properties purchased prior to 2001 due to incomplete registration.
- iii. Discriminatory restrictive procedures in registering property for foreigners married to Palestinian Refugees, and transferring ownership of real-estate to inheritance.

B. Recommendation:

- Amend Law 296 (2001) to restore the right of Palestinian refugees to own real-estate. In the interim:
- Suspend the statute of limitations on pre-2001 surveyed sale contracts.
- End arbitrary measures obstructing property transfer, inheritance, and registration for refugees and their spouses.

V. Right to freedom of movement, restricted by**A. Main Issues:**

- i. Isolating Palestinian refugee camps by building concrete walls and erecting iron-gates.
- ii. The imposition of heightened security measures around certain Palestinian refugee camps—particularly in southern Lebanon
- iii. Discrimination against Palestinian refugee in regards to travel documents and their validity and travel opportunities

B. Recommendation:

- Reconsider the security measures and procedures followed around the Palestinian camps, and reform them to ensure the protection of individuals while respecting their dignity, by adopting a human security approach.
- Equity between all Palestinian refugee categories by granting the non-registered within **UNRWA** and **NON-IDs** a biometric travel documents valid up to five years similar to the registered Refugees, and to stop dealing with them with discriminatory exceptions that limit their movement to and from Lebanon.

Conclusion

Lebanon's continued failure to reform discriminatory laws undermines its human rights commitments and contradicts its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

PHRO urge UPR Member States to call on Lebanon to:

- Enact comprehensive legislation recognizing all categories of Palestinian refugees.
- Guarantee access to work, property, social protection, and legal documentation.
- Replace the security-based approach with one grounded in human rights, dignity, and equality.

PHRO urge UPR Member States instead of using the term “**Syrian Refugees**” to use the term “**Refugee of Syria**”, to ensure that all argument and recommendations cover the Palestinian refugees from Syria.