



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fifty-first session
Geneva, 19–30 January 2026

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Austria*

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 17 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Austrian Ombudsman Board (AOB) recommended that Austria ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.³

3. The AOB welcomed its re-accreditation with A-status by GANHRI in April 2022.⁴

4. Concerning national policies, the AOB observed that the current governmental programme provided for the adoption of a National Action Plan for Human Rights and recommended that Austria initiate the process of adoption, with the participatory involvement of civil society and stakeholders from the human rights sector.⁵

5. The AOB noted the fragmented legal framework on equal treatment and anti-discrimination at federal and *Laender* level, leading to a lack of clarity and different levels of protection across grounds. The AOB recommended that Austria level up the protection of rights to ensure a uniform level of protection for all vulnerable groups in all areas of life.⁶

6. The AOB noted the institutional placement of the Investigation and Complaints Office for Allegations of Police Ill-treatment within the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, itself anchored in the Ministry of the Interior, indicating that this organizational structure could suggest that investigations were conducted in its own ranks.⁷ The AOB also indicated that,

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



although the Investigation and Complaints Office referred all cases of alleged police ill-treatment to the public prosecutor, almost all proceedings were dismissed for not meeting the threshold of criminal liability under the Austrian Criminal Code.⁸

7. The AOB noted the rising number of suicides in detention. It recommended that Austria strengthen efforts to prevent suicides and self-harm and provide inmates in crises with continuous and professional psychological and psychiatric support. It also recommended that Austria undertake regular reassessment of inmates' suicide tendencies, as proposed by the multidisciplinary working group on suicide prevention established by the Ministry of Justice in 2002.⁹

8. The AOB observed persistent overcrowding in penitentiary and forensic institutions across Austria. It recommended that Austria promote conditional release measures to address structural overcrowding.¹⁰

9. The AOB stated that detainees in preventive detention lacked access to legal representation, including in cases involving health care complaints or coercive measures such as fixation.¹¹

10. The AOB noted the absence of laws, regulations, as well as training for penitentiary staff, addressing the specific needs of LGBTQTI+ persons in detention, and recommended that Austria develop specific guidelines for dealing with LGBTQTI+ persons in the penitentiary system.¹²

11. The AOB recommended that the Federal Ministry of Justice develop a long-term strategy to attract more personnel to law enforcement administration, with particular attention to medical practitioners, especially psychiatrists.¹³

12. The AOB indicated that Austria had started a process for the development of a National Action Plan against violence against women and recommended that Austria conclude this process promptly and successfully, with meaningful involvement from civil society.¹⁴

13. The AOB indicated that around 21 percent of children and adolescents in Austria were affected by or at risk of poverty, which acted as a risk factor for health, nutrition, education and social inclusion, particularly for families with multiple children. The AOB recommended that Austria implement effective measures to combat child poverty.¹⁵

14. The AOB also stated that child and adolescent psychiatric care in Austria remained inadequate. It noted that, depending on the facility, only acute care was available in both inpatient and outpatient settings, while longer-term therapeutic services were scarce or insufficient.¹⁶

15. The AOB noted the absence of concrete plans and funding for the comprehensive deinstitutionalisation strategy envisaged in the 2022–2030 National Action Plan on Disability.¹⁷

16. The AOB recommended that Austria create an environment that enabled persons with disabilities living in institutions to access their right to sexual self-determination, which included protection from sexual violence and abuse, with around one in two persons with disabilities having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime and women being disproportionately affected.¹⁸

17. The AOB also indicated that persons with disabilities had limited access to inclusive employment, noting that individuals considered as having less than 50 percent work capacity were excluded from public employment services and confined to occupational therapy workshops where they received only pocket money and lacked pension entitlements.¹⁹

18. The AOB also stated that Austria had not enacted a strict ban on non-medically necessary and externally imposed surgeries on intersex children, despite a 2021 initiative from the National Council's Equal Treatment Committee to strengthen protections, which did not result in a draft law. The AOB recommended that Austria adopt legislation to prohibit non-medically necessary and externally imposed surgeries on intersex children.²⁰

19. The AOB observed the often inadequate care for unaccompanied migrant children in many facilities. It noted disparities in treatment between Austrian children in child and youth

welfare services and unaccompanied migrant children. It also observed that adolescents beyond compulsory school age often lacked developmentally supportive daily structures. The AOB noted that unaccompanied migrant children were frequently placed for extended periods in federal facilities intended only for short-term stays, due to delays by the *Laender* in transferring them to the *Laender's* care system. The AOB further noted that *Laender* laws on basic reception conditions did not sufficiently address the needs of refugees with disabilities, with necessary therapies and assistive devices often unavailable or which could only be financed privately.²¹

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

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

20. International Alliance for Peace and Development (IAPD) recommended that Austria ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.²² Two stakeholders recommended that Austria ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications procedure.²³ Amnesty International (AI) recommended that Austria ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and take immediate steps to give full effect to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in national legislation.²⁴

21. Joint Submission 3 (JS3) recommended that Austria ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169.²⁵ JS1 recommended that Austria ratify the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter on Collective Complaints of 9 November 1995 and Declaration on Article D of the European Social Charter (revised) of 3 May 1996, as well as articles 30 and 31 of the European Social Charter.²⁶

B. National human rights framework

Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

22. While welcoming the accreditation of the AOB with A status under the Paris Principles, two stakeholders indicated that the appointment process lacked transparency and civil society participation. They recommended that Austria review and amend the appointing procedure to allow the selection of members and staff of the AOB in a transparent and accessible manner for all eligible individuals.²⁷

23. While welcoming the government's pledge to revive the National Action Plan on Human Rights, three stakeholders regretted that it had not yet been developed.²⁸ Four stakeholders recommended that Austria develop the National Action Plan.²⁹

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

24. JS1 stated that Austrian anti-discrimination legislation was incomplete³⁰ and AI noted that it remained fragmented and lacked harmonisation at federal and regional level.³¹ AI recommended that Austria ensure equal protection from all forms of discrimination, including by harmonising national legislation and extending its scope to include protected grounds, such as age, religion and belief, and sexual orientation and gender identity.³²

25. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers recommended that Austria intensify efforts to ensure consistent enforcement of legislation addressing hate crime and hate speech,

including online. It also recommended that Austria raise awareness among affected groups about existing legislation and remedies, and regularly assess whether training for police, prosecutors and judges on racist offences required strengthening.³³

26. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers also stated that Austria had made insufficient efforts to promote mutual respect, intercultural dialogue, and awareness of diversity as an integral part of Austrian society. The Council recommended that Austria strengthen efforts to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding in society and combat all forms of racism and intolerance, including antigypsyism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism. It further recommended that Austria address discrimination against Roma through awareness-raising, independent research, regular evaluation, and the collection of disaggregated data.³⁴ JS1 recommended that Austria develop specific National Action Plans on combatting all forms of racism, including anti-Muslim racism, anti-Semitism and antiziganism.³⁵

27. JS1 noted the insufficient statistical data on crimes motivated by discrimination or racism, which hindered the development of effective strategies. It recommended that Austria establish traceable documentation and recording of such offences.³⁶

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

28. While welcoming the creation of an Investigation Unit against Police Violence, two stakeholders regretted that the unit's independence remained insufficiently guaranteed.³⁷ JS1 noted ongoing concerns about racist misconduct by the police.³⁸ It recommended that Austria evaluate and strengthen the independence of the Investigation Unit, with a focus on addressing systemic misconduct, increase transparency around ethnic profiling and develop alternatives.³⁹ Two stakeholders requested that Austria introduce mandatory identification markings for police officers to facilitate complaints.⁴⁰

29. IAPD observed practices of preventing demonstrations and, at times, excessive use of force by the Austrian police and recommended that Austria halt restrictions on peaceful demonstrations.⁴¹

30. AI raised concerns about prison conditions for juveniles and reports that children in detention were restrained in ways that are potentially dangerous and held in solitary confinement. It recommended that Austria ensure that the juvenile justice system was fully in line with the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules).⁴²

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

31. AI raised concern about the state of the justice system and prison conditions and recommended that Austria end prison overcrowding by ensuring that prisons were provided with adequate financial resources to fulfil their aim of rehabilitation and social reintegration, and consider alternatives to detention.⁴³

32. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture noted the low staffing levels in Austrian prisons and recommended that Austria increase staffing levels where necessary to ensure safe and humane conditions.⁴⁴ JS1 reported that psychiatric, psychological and social work services in prisons remained inadequate and called for an increase in medical and psychosocial staffing in prisons.⁴⁵

33. JS1 criticized the abolition of the previously separate juvenile court system and called for the re-establishment of dedicated juvenile courts and penal institutions.⁴⁶ JS1 highlighted that visiting times and facilities were not adapted to the needs of children of imprisoned parents and recommended that Austria improve opportunities for contact and visits between children and their imprisoned parents.⁴⁷

34. AI raised concerns about the conditions for individuals held for prolonged periods in police detention centres while awaiting their deportation, as some of the facilities were not of adequate standard. It recommended that Austria ensure that the rights of individuals awaiting deportation were fully respected and protected, including by using detention only when it was necessary and proportionate. It added that detention facilities must be safe and

suitable, with adequate sanitation and access to social, educational, as well as mental and physical health services.⁴⁸

35. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment indicated that not all indigent adult detainees could benefit from the presence of a lawyer during police questioning. It recommended that Austria, in consultation with the Bar Association, ensure effective access to legal counsel throughout police custody, including during police questioning.⁴⁹ JS1 noted the absence of free legal counselling for inmates after conviction, and recommended that Austria establish free legal counselling opportunities for prison inmates.⁵⁰

36. JS1 indicated that not all judges and public prosecutors had sufficient knowledge of gender-based and domestic violence and recommended that Austria introduce mandatory training on gender-specific and domestic violence for judges and public prosecutors.⁵¹

37. JS1 stated that, in criminal proceedings, too little attention was often paid to ensure that defendants understand their rights and follow the content of the proceedings. It noted a shortage of qualified interpreters, including for foreign languages and Austrian Sign Language. It recommended that Austria take measures to guarantee access to sufficiently qualified interpretation services, including sign language, written interpretation and plain language, and called for clearer legal information, particularly for defendants in criminal proceedings.⁵²

38. IG Demokratie (IGD) observed that despite the adoption of the Transparency Act, Austria continued to lack a culture of transparency, particularly in relation to corruption. IGD recommended that Austria amend the Transparency Act to enhance its effectiveness, particularly at the provincial level, and increase accountability.⁵³

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

39. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) noted the continued use of defamation laws against journalists.⁵⁴ The OSCE/ODIHR and AFI recommended that Austria decriminalize defamation.⁵⁵

40. Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI) stated that there appeared to be an emerging pattern of indirect pressure from the State on cultural institutions, leading to censorship of politically sensitive content and intimidation of artists and cultural workers addressing, among others, gender identity, sexual orientation and LGBTQ+ visibility. It recommended that Austria establish oversight to prevent censorship and political interference. It also recommended that Austria provide public education about gender diversity and sexual orientation, while fostering a culture of tolerance and respect for marginalized communities.⁵⁶

41. AI observed that provisions in the Austrian Penal Code criminalized forms of expression that did not meet the threshold of incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence. It noted that journalists, media outlets, and activists increasingly faced criminal proceedings or threats under these laws, while also being exposed to an increase of Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPP). AI recommended that Austria review legislation restricting freedom of expression to ensure compliance with international human rights standards and the Rabat Plan of Action, and enact broad anti-SLAPP legislation to protect individuals from abusive legal actions by state and non-state actors.⁵⁷

42. AI also noted the adoption of legislation enabling the use of highly invasive spyware to monitor encrypted communications, which may violate the right to privacy and pose serious risks to the work of human rights defenders. AI recommended banning highly invasive spyware and refraining from its use until robust human rights safeguards are in place.⁵⁸

43. Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI-IFOR) noted the discriminatory duration of alternative civilian service, restrictive eligibility criteria for conscientious objector status, and the lack of procedures for release from military service on grounds of conscience. It recommended that Austria align the duration of alternative service with military service.⁵⁹ CPTI-IFOR and Connection e.V (Connection) recommended that Austria remove arbitrary disqualifications, abolish time limits for applications for conscientious

objector status and allow serving members of the armed forces to apply for release in order to access alternative civilian service.⁶⁰ Connection also recommended that Austria raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the military to 18 years of age.⁶¹

Right to marriage and family life

44. JS1 stated that parents with disabilities are often separated from their children instead of being supported in their parenting role and recommended that Austria implement inclusive models of supported parenthood for parents with disabilities.⁶²

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

45. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) noted ongoing challenges in identification of victims of human trafficking. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) also noted the low number of victims of human trafficking identified annually in Austria, despite higher estimates of modern slavery, and the declining number of convictions despite existing police units and mandatory training. JS2 recommended that Austria adopt civil society organisations as partners in victim identification, focus on the protection needs of victims of trafficking to offer support and protection, regardless of cooperation with criminal prosecution, implement residence permits for trafficking survivors who are not eligible for asylum, and establish a national shelter for the care and restoration of child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. It recommended that Austria strengthen prosecution efforts and provide support to victims, including those seeking to exit prostitution.⁶³ GRETA recommended that Austria establish a multidisciplinary National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings, allocate adequate resources for labour inspections of migrant workers' conditions, and introduce early identification procedures for victims of human trafficking among asylum seekers.⁶⁴

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

46. JS1 reported that Austria had one of the highest gender pay gaps in Europe.⁶⁵ Three stakeholders recommended that Austria launch more initiatives aimed at reducing the gender pay gap in equal-value work.⁶⁶ Two stakeholders recommended that Austria invest in childcare infrastructures.⁶⁷ The Momentum Institut recommended that Austria enforce pay transparency with accountability and introduce binding quotas.⁶⁸

47. JS1 indicated that the labour force participation rate of persons with disabilities remained significantly lower than that of persons without disabilities, and that persons with disabilities were disproportionately affected by unemployment. It recommended that Austria align political strategies and measures to promote the participation of all persons with disabilities in an inclusive labour market.⁶⁹

Right to an adequate standard of living

48. JS1 noted the presence of discriminatory provisions in the Non-Profit Housing Act, which restricted access to subsidized housing for non-Austrian citizens. It noted that access to subsidized housing and rental assistance was also partially discriminatory at the provincial level, and that individuals affected by other forms of discrimination faced additional barriers to affordable, permanent and inclusive housing. JS1 recommended that Austria effectively regulate rent levels to ensure affordable housing for all, including marginalised groups; remove discriminatory provisions based on nationality in the Non-Profit Housing Act; and take measures to ensure non-discriminatory access to non-profit housing.⁷⁰

49. AI recommended that Austria adopt a national housing strategy that effectively addressed structural causes of homelessness and envisaged adequate measures to end homelessness.⁷¹

50. JS3 recommended that Austria promote the transformation towards sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems through Austria's national development cooperation by significantly increasing public investment in sustainable agricultural practices, with a special emphasis on supporting smallholder farmers in the Global South.⁷²

Right to health

51. JS1 stated that referrals to women's shelters remained limited while the health sector represented a key point of contact for women affected by violence. It recommended that Austria provide comprehensive training and awareness campaigns in the health sector on violence against women and domestic violence, improved care for women with mental health conditions and those affected by violence, and nationwide access to psychosocial and psychotherapeutic support for victims on the basis of a health insurance certificate.⁷³

52. AI indicated that pregnant persons continued to face barriers in accessing affordable and safe abortion care services. It recommended that Austria ensure full access to affordable, timely and safe abortion and post-abortion care for all pregnant persons. It further recommended that Austria remove all barriers to access to abortion, including the full decriminalization of abortion in the Penal Code and the provision of comprehensive abortion care services to all who need it without discrimination.⁷⁴

Right to education

53. JS1 and the Stichting Broken Chalk (Broken Chalk) noted insufficient protection against discrimination in the education system, particularly affecting children from migrant backgrounds, low-income families, and those with linguistic differences.⁷⁵ JS1 also noted setbacks in the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education.

54. JS1 recommended that Austria integrate human rights and children's rights education across all school curricula and levels, establish and fund tailored support systems for children with disabilities, increase school-wide support staff, and ensure a comprehensively inclusive school system. It further recommended that Austria promote bilingual education in spoken and sign language, redirecting funding from segregated facilities to inclusive, community-based education, and integrating non-German-speaking children into mainstream classes.⁷⁶

55. Broken Chalk recommended that Austria improve its language support policy by promoting the early inclusion of newly arrived migrant and minority students into regular classrooms and providing in-class language assistance tailored to their needs. It also recommended that Austria expand access to high-quality early childhood education and care for children from underprivileged families and implement training in inclusive teaching approaches for educators.⁷⁷

56. While welcoming that Austria had achieved a well-funded education system, Broken Chalk indicated that the Austrian education system had been facing a significant teacher shortage in schools. It recommended that Austria create a favourable working environment for teachers by minimising burnout, lowering administrative workloads, encouraging collaborative leadership and offering mental health support.⁷⁸

57. JS1 noted that school curricula insufficiently addressed issues of consent in the context of relationships and gender-based violence, with a special attention paid to girls with disabilities. It recommended that Austria expand curricula on the topics of consent, respect and forms of violence, implement violence prevention programmes in cooperation with specialised institutions, and address gender stereotypes in education, including those affecting girls with disabilities.⁷⁹ ADF International recommended that Austria ensure that sex education programs were geared towards promoting responsible sexual behaviour and healthy relationships.⁸⁰

Development, the environment and business and human rights

58. The Momentum Institut stated that recent reductions in public spending limited the ability of fiscal policy to address inequality. It further warned that such measures could undermine the coherence of Austria's debt management with its human rights obligations. It recommended that Austria adopt a human rights-based approach to budgeting, safeguard family-related services, and ensure the protection of social welfare benefits.⁸¹

59. JS1 regretted that, although Austria had increased its funding for development cooperation since 2020, its Official Development Assistance (ODA) ratio remained at 0.34 percent and a significant share of ODA was allocated to domestic expenditure, while least developed countries (LDCs) received only a small proportion.⁸² JS1 and JS3 recommended

that Austria develop a strategy to progressively achieve the 0.7 percent Gross National Income (GNI) target for Austrian ODA, including clearly defined annual targets.⁸³

60. AI indicated that Austria failed to adopt a binding climate protection act that included binding measures and responsibilities for achieving emission reduction targets and ensuring a just transition based on human rights.⁸⁴ AI and JS1 recommended that Austria adopt a human rights-based climate protection act including binding measures.⁸⁵

61. JS1 recommended that Austria develop specific National Action Plans on business and human rights.⁸⁶

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

62. While noting the approval in July 2025 of the development of a national action plan to combat violence against women, AI raised concerns about the high number of femicides in Austria and the lack of sufficient places in women's shelters throughout the country.⁸⁷ JS1 also raised concerns about the high number of domestic and sexualised violence against women.⁸⁸

63. Two stakeholders recommended that Austria guarantee accessible and adequate emergency shelter accommodation for survivors of gender-based violence throughout Austria.⁸⁹ JS1 further recommended that Austria support access to long-term housing solutions for women affected by domestic violence.⁹⁰ GREVIO recommended that Austria provide sustained funding for specialist support services beyond domestic violence prevention centres and establish additional sexual violence referral centres with broad geographic coverage.⁹¹

64. JS1 recommended that Austria strengthen financial protection against female poverty, particularly for single mothers and women with disabilities.⁹²

Children

65. JS1 was concerned about the absence of a strategy for the protection and prevention of violence against children. It recommended that Austria develop a strategy and implementation plan for the prevention and protection of children from violence. It further recommended that joint custody not be granted in cases involving violence.⁹³

Persons with disabilities

66. JS1 noted with appreciation the adoption of the 2022–2030 National Action Plan on Disability and recommended its rapid and full implementation. It further recommended that Austria develop a comprehensive and mandatory de-institutionalisation strategy for children with disabilities that included needs-based family support and personal assistance services.⁹⁴

67. JS1 indicated that persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, continue to face numerous barriers that prevent them from fully exercising their fundamental freedoms and human rights. It recommended that Austria systematically consider and implement accessibility in all its dimensions—physical, communicative, social, intellectual, economic, and structural—in all future developments.⁹⁵

Minorities

68. JS1 noted the insufficient use of recognised minority languages by public authorities and in the media, and the reduction of bilingual education at secondary level and limited access in urban areas. It recommended that Austria increase the use of minority language in public services, expand bilingual education at secondary level, and increase and valorise the promotion of the national minorities.⁹⁶

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

69. AI expressed concern about the suspension of asylum procedures for Syrian nationals since December 2024. It recommended that Austria immediately revoke the suspension of

asylum procedures for Syrian asylum seekers and the effective and timely assessment of all asylum claims in line with international law.⁹⁷

70. IAPD noted the Austrian government's plans to sign agreements to work on the deportation of refugees and asylum seekers to a third country. It recommended that Austria stop any government plans related to the deportation of refugees and asylum seekers to a third country.⁹⁸

71. JS1 noted the disappearance of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children during the asylum procedure and recommended that Austria establish a nationwide protection centre for children victims of trafficking. It also recommended that Austria grant to unaccompanied and accompanied refugee minors equal access to services, including psychosocial care, on par with Austrian and European Union youth.⁹⁹

72. AI noted the absence of a system of custody for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from the beginning of their stay in Austria.¹⁰⁰ It noted cases where children abandoned their asylum proceedings, with their whereabouts subsequently unknown, demonstrating a failure to sufficiently protect refugee children.¹⁰¹ Two stakeholders recommended that Austria ensure a system of legal guardianship for unaccompanied children immediately upon arrival.¹⁰²

73. IAPD noted the existence of significant challenges regarding the speed and efficiency of asylum processes, indicating that this delay kept asylum seekers in legally unstable conditions for extended periods, limiting their access to education, employment and healthcare, and exacerbating their social and economic vulnerability. IAPD recommended that Austria expedite the processing of asylum applications, reducing long waiting periods and ensuring that asylum seekers have access to essential rights such as education, healthcare and employment without discrimination.¹⁰³

74. JS3 noted the insufficient support to disclose vulnerability, the potential use of biased or stereotyped questioning, and a perceived atmosphere of mistrust during asylum interviews. It also raised concerns about the limited independence of legal advice following its transfer to a company under corporate control of the Ministry of the Interior. JS3 recommended that Austria establish a clearing centre for the identification of vulnerable persons in asylum procedure. It also recommended the training of officials and judges in the identification of vulnerable persons, the improved consideration of the impact of trauma on asylum seekers in communication, and the guarantee of independent, free legal advice.¹⁰⁴

75. Three stakeholders expressed concern about the blanket suspension of family reunification without individual case assessments and recommended the cancellation of such suspension.¹⁰⁵ AI also recommended that Austria reinstate humanitarian admission programmes in cooperation with UNHCR.¹⁰⁶ JS1 recommended that Austria grant independent residence permits to women under family reunification, including in cases of separation.¹⁰⁷

Notes

¹ A/HRC/47/12, A/HRC/47/12/Add.1 and A/HRC/47/2.

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:

CPTI-IFOR	Conscience and Peace Tax International, Grand Lancy (Switzerland);
A.F.I.	Artistic Freedom Initiative, Brooklyn, New York (United States of America);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);

Connection	Connection e.V., Offenbach (Germany);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
IAPD ORG	International Alliance for Peace and Development, Geneva (Switzerland);
IGD	IG Demokratie, Feldkirch (Austria);
JS-LIGA	Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte, Vienna (Austria);
Momentum Institut	Momentum Institut, Vienna (Austria).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte, Vienna (Austria) which coordinated 300 Austrian NGOs either directly or represented by their umbrella organisations;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: World Evangelical Alliance, Geneva (Switzerland); Evangelische Allianz Österreich (EAÖ); Herzwirk - Initiative for people in prostitution; European Evangelical Alliance (EEA);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: AG Globale Verantwortung Vienna (Austria); Global Responsibility - Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid; Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar / DKA Austria; Light for the World International.
<i>National human rights institution:</i>	
AOB	Austrian Ombudsman Board, Vienna (Austria).
<i>Regional intergovernmental organization(s):</i>	
CoE	Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France);
OSCE/ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

³ AOB, paras. 17 and 37.

⁴ AOB, para. 1.

⁵ AOB, para. 35.

⁶ AOB, para.33.

⁷ AOB, para. 4.

⁸ AOB, para. 5.

⁹ AOB, paras. 13 and 14.

¹⁰ AOB, para. 7.

¹¹ AOB, para. 12.

¹² AOB, para. 16.

¹³ AOB, para. 10.

¹⁴ AOB, para. 34.

¹⁵ AOB, para. 18.

¹⁶ AOB, para. 19.

¹⁷ AOB, paras. 26 and 27.

¹⁸ AOB, para. 25.

¹⁹ AOB, para. 29.

²⁰ AOB, para. 32.

²¹ AOB, para. 20, 21 and 22.

²² IAPD, page 4.

²³ AI, para. 32 and JS3, page 16.

²⁴ AI, paras. 32 and 33.

²⁵ JS3, page 12.

²⁶ JS1, page 2.

²⁷ AI, paras. 3, 5, 10 and 36 and IAPD, page 4.

²⁸ AI, paras. 3 and 5, JS1, page 3 and JS3, page 19.

²⁹ AI, para. 31, JS1, page 3, LIGA, para. 3 and JS3, page 9.

³⁰ JS1, page 4.

³¹ AI, para. 8.

³² AI, para. 34

³³ Annex to the CoE submission, page 2: Resolution CM/ResCMN(2023)14 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Austria (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 December 2023 at the 1484th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies).

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ JS1, page 3.

- ³⁶ JS1, page 6.
- ³⁷ AI, paras. 3 and 21, and JS1, page 5.
- ³⁸ JS1, page 5.
- ³⁹ JS1, page 5.
- ⁴⁰ JS1, page 5 and AI, para. 49.
- ⁴¹ IAPD, pages 1, 2 and 4.
- ⁴² AI, paras. 24 and 52.
- ⁴³ AI, paras. 24 and 51.
- ⁴⁴ CoE, para. 10.
- ⁴⁵ JS1, para. 5.
- ⁴⁶ JS1, page 6.
- ⁴⁷ JS1, page 6.
- ⁴⁸ Amnesty International, paras. 26 and 54.
- ⁴⁹ European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, para. 11.
- ⁵⁰ JS1, page 6.
- ⁵¹ JS1, page 6.
- ⁵² JS1, page 6.
- ⁵³ IGD, page 3.
- ⁵⁴ OSCE/ODIHR, para. 16.
- ⁵⁵ AFI, page 7 and OSCE/ODIHR, para. 16.
- ⁵⁶ AFI, pages 5, 7 and 8.
- ⁵⁷ AI, paras. 28, 56 and 57.
- ⁵⁸ AI, paras. 29 and 59.
- ⁵⁹ CPTI-IFOR, paras. 3 and 32.
- ⁶⁰ Connection, para. 33 and CPTI-IFOR, paras. 33, 34 and 35.
- ⁶¹ Connection, para. 33.
- ⁶² JS1, page 7.
- ⁶³ ECLJ, paras. 16, 17 and 25.
- ⁶⁴ CoE, paras. 18.
- ⁶⁵ JS1, page 4.
- ⁶⁶ Momentum Institut, page 2, IAPD, page 4 and JS1, page 4.
- ⁶⁷ JS1, page 8 and Momentum Institut, page 2.
- ⁶⁸ Momentum Institut, page 2.
- ⁶⁹ JS1, para. 11.
- ⁷⁰ JS1, page 8.
- ⁷¹ AI, para. 47.
- ⁷² JS3, page 18.
- ⁷³ JS1, page 9.
- ⁷⁴ AI, paras. 12 and 38.
- ⁷⁵ Broken Chalk, paras. 13, 14, 15 and 16, and JS1 pages 9 and 10.
- ⁷⁶ JS1, page 10.
- ⁷⁷ Broken Chalk, paras. 18, 20 and 21.
- ⁷⁸ Broken Chalk, paras. 17 and 22.
- ⁷⁹ JS1, page 10.
- ⁸⁰ ADF International, para. 27.
- ⁸¹ Momentum Institut, para. 7 and 8.
- ⁸² JS1, page 14.
- ⁸³ JS3, page 7 et JS1, page 14.
- ⁸⁴ AI, para. 9.
- ⁸⁵ AI, para. 35.
- ⁸⁶ JS1, page 3.
- ⁸⁷ AI, para. 11.
- ⁸⁸ JS1, page 4.
- ⁸⁹ JS1, page 4 and AI, para. 37.
- ⁹⁰ JS1, page 8.
- ⁹¹ CoE, page 5.
- ⁹² JS1, page 8.
- ⁹³ JS1, page 5.
- ⁹⁴ JS1, pages 10 and 11.
- ⁹⁵ JS1, page 11.
- ⁹⁶ JS1, pages 11 and 12.

⁹⁷ AI, paras. 16 and 44.

⁹⁸ IAPD, pages 4 and 5.

⁹⁹ JS1, pages 12 and 13.

¹⁰⁰ AI, para. 14.

¹⁰¹ AI, para. 14.

¹⁰² AI, para. 40, JS3 page 17.

¹⁰³ IAPD, pages 3, 4 and 5.

¹⁰⁴ JS1, page 13.

¹⁰⁵ JS1, pages 12 and 13, AI, paras. 18 and 42 and IAPD, pages 4 and 5.

¹⁰⁶ AI, para. 41.

¹⁰⁷ JS1, page 8.
