



Methodology

- 1) This report is an independent contribution by The Oman Human Rights Commission, reflecting the actual human rights situation as observed through the monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of the third cycle UPR recommendations of Sultanate of Oman. OHRC has adopted a broad consultative methodology during monitoring, data collection, and report preparation. OHRC contributed to the dissemination of the concluding observations and categorized them according to the authorities responsible for implementation. The Commission's views and observations were presented during the implementation phases through its membership in the Legal Committee for the Follow-up of UPR Recommendations affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as through its thematic and annual reports, and participation in forums and conferences related to various human rights topics. The Commission also held consultative meetings with several civil society institutions, partner institutions and stakeholders, including the Omani Women's Association in Muscat, the Omani Association for Persons with Disabilities, the Oman Journalists Association, the Children First Association, the General Federation of Oman Workers, the UNICEF office in Muscat, the regional office of the United Nations Population Fund for the Gulf region in Muscat, the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, and the Social Protection Fund.

First: International Obligations

- 2) The Sultanate of Oman acceded to the following conventions under Royal Decrees Nos. 44, 45, and 46/2020: The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
Despite the positive developments in implementing these agreements, particularly in areas relating to social welfare, and despite OHRC's efforts to raise national awareness of these international human rights treaties and their importance, the Commission recommends the government to intensify awareness-raising and education about these agreements among all segments of society and law enforcement authorities, enhance cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, and submit national reports within the deadlines set, as per Recommendation No. 48.
- 3) Furthermore, OHRC urges the government to expedite accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in accordance with recommendations previously supported by the government (Nos. 1–6, 7–25 & 27).
- 4) Regarding recommendations (Nos. 44–47) related to harmonizing national legislation with international human rights standards, OHRC commends the national momentum to improve laws and practices concerning the rights of persons with disabilities represented in the draft Law on Persons with Disabilities, to which the OHRC officially contributed through its observations. The Commission hence recommends to swift issuance of the new law and update the national plan for its implementation. It further recommends expediting the issuance of an updated Anti-Human Trafficking Law that aligns with international standards and conventions, as well as issuing the executive regulations of the new Media Law.



Second: International Cooperation and Strengthening the National Institution of Human Rights

- 5) Regarding Recommendations (Nos. 43, 51) and Voluntary Pledge No. 1: OHRC monitored the government's efforts to implement the treaties joined in 2020. These include forming inter-ministerial national committees to oversee treaty implementation, holding national consultations, preparing and submitting reports to the treaty bodies. As of the writing of this report, the government has submitted its initial report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, submitted its initial report on the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, and implemented several programs and activities related to the agreements. Accordingly, OHRC recommends expediting the submission of the initial report on the Convention Against Torture, and enhancing engagement with treaty bodies for agreements previously ratified by the Sultanate of Oman.
- 6) Regarding Recommendations (Nos. 49, 52, 53, 55), Royal Decree No. 57/2022¹ that reorganized Oman Human Rights Commission was issued. It granted OHRC full independence to carry out its functions related to the promotion and protection of human rights. It also regulated member representation, defined core competencies, and added new responsibilities reflecting increased trust and independence. Following this, OHRC submitted a reaccreditation request to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). In May 2024, SCA granted OHRC 18 months to implement legal and procedural amendments based on the SCA's recommendations and observation related to the legal aspects of The Oman Human Rights Commission and some practices.
- 7) The OHRC has developed an action plan to advocate for legal amendments and implement the recommendations, which includes, 1) reviewing the recommendations and drafting amendments to the Commission's founding law, 2) drawing on experiences of neighbouring A-status institutions, 3) participating in training workshops organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on accreditation process, 4) holding national consultations with decision-makers, 5) receiving technical support from the APF and OHCHR to align fully with the Paris Principles. Accordingly, OHRC recommends speedy adoption of the proposed legal amendments in line with the Paris Principles and SCA observations in order to implement Oman's international pledge to strengthen its national human rights institution in alignment with SDG 16 that calls for effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Third: Civil and Political Rights

1. Judicial Independence and the Right to Access Justice

- 8) Regarding Recommendations Nos. 77 and 79, OHRC has observed that the "Governance and Institutional Performance" pillar of Oman Vision 2040 (National long-term strategy)

¹ The Decree on the Reorganization of the Oman Human Rights Commission, issued by Royal Decree No. (57/2022)



prioritizes legislation, judiciary, and oversight mechanisms aimed at developing a participatory legislative system and an independent, specialized, and efficient judiciary, in line with the Basic Statute of the State. Additionally, the Supreme Judicial Council's Strategic Plan (2024–2040) was issued to uphold the rule of law, ensure swift and fair justice, enhance public trust in the judiciary, strengthen judicial capacity, integrate technology into judicial operations, promote women's roles in the judiciary, and support sustainable development goals (SDGs). It is worth mentioning that OHRC has submitted its remarks and observations during the consultations on the preparation of this strategic plan.

- 9) Additionally, The Oman Human Rights Commission monitored the issuance of a number of legislations that promote judicial independence, one is Royal Decree No. 35/2022 regarding the Governance of the Administration of Judicial Affairs, which stipulates for full independence. In this sense, the Commission monitored that public court hearings are a key principle of transparency, impartiality and independency. Article 80 of the Basic Statute of the State, Article 177 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and Article 68 of the Military Judiciary Law all guarantee the public nature of court sessions.
- 10) To strengthen the judicial system and its reliance on a human rights-based approach when addressing cases of various types, and in view of the positive legislative developments undertaken by the State to enhance the judicial system, The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends the following:
 - Enhance awareness, education and training programs for judges and judicial assistants on applying international human rights treaties.
 - Accelerate the issuance of litigation-related laws as stipulated in Royal Decree 35/2022 to uphold the Basic Statute's principles regarding judiciary independency and swift resolution of cases and other principles,
 - Incorporating a specific law on alternative penalties capable of achieving the purposes of punishment, both deterrence and rehabilitation, including: electronic bracelets and an open prison system under specific regulations and certain guarantees, in addition to establishing a legal authority that allows replacing fines with the remaining penalties restricting freedom.
 - Enhancing aftercare programs that ensure the follow-up and support of released convicts to guarantee their reintegration into society.
 - Conducting studies related to the effectiveness of rehabilitation and recovery programs for imprisoned drug addicts, examining their statistics and the rate of recidivism, and finding appropriate solutions.

2. Freedom of Association

- 11) Regarding recommendations numbers (91, 92, 93, 95, 102, 104, 105, 108, 110, 111), The Oman Human Rights Commission notes that despite the increase in the number of civil society organizations in the state, including professional and community associations, charitable institutions, and community clubs, they still face difficulties that limit their development and hinder their contribution to the decision-making as a third force in society, alongside the government and private sectors in development and planning. The Commission has monitored that the Council of Oman (Parliament) is currently studying the new draft law



on civil associations to align it with the best standards and practices.

- 12) The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends expediting the issuance of the new law on civil associations, reorganizing the establishment of associations and the exercise of their activities independently and in accordance with human rights standards. The Commission also recommends establishing rules and regulations for civil society organizations that support governance and ensure transparent and accountable structures, in addition to implementing empowerment and professional development programs for civil society organizations to enhance their role in institutional management and strengthen communication and dialogue skills. Furthermore, it recommends preparing programs to raise awareness about the importance and effectiveness of volunteer work in the development process.

3. Freedom of Opinion and Expression

- 13) As for recommendations numbers (86, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95), The Oman Human Rights Commission has observed the positive steps taken by the government to enhance in the laws and legislation related to the freedom of expression, including the provisions in Articles (35) and (37) of the Basic Statute of the State issued by Royal Decree No. (6/2021).

With regard to recommendations numbers (98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 107) and voluntary commitment No. (7), The Oman Human Rights Commission commends the issuance of the new Media Law pursuant to Royal Decree No. (58/2024), which generally strengthened the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Commission emphasizes the importance of the Ministry of Information expediting the preparation of the executive regulations for the law in a manner consistent with the freedoms and rights of journalists stipulated in the Media Law, and clarifying the procedures for practicing media activities in the Sultanate of Oman clearly and transparently. It is noted that The Oman Human Rights Commission contributed to preparing the executive regulations for the Media Law, which enhanced the guarantee of respecting human rights principles in the media sector.

Fourth: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

1. Labour Rights

- 14) Based on voluntary pledge No. (2) and recommendation numbers (125, 128-131, 222-227, 230, 231, 234-236, 241-251), The Oman Human Rights Commission monitored the issuance of the new Labour Law pursuant to Royal Decree No. (53/2023). The law includes numerous rights and responsibilities for both workers and employers to ensure the principles of justice, equality, and non-discrimination in the private sector. Regarding domestic workers, The Oman Human Rights Commission observed that the government is working on issuing new legislation regulating the work of domestic workers, and the Commission has provided its observations and suggestions on the rights that should be included in the regulations in alignment with national legislation, conventions, and international standards. In addition, The Oman Human Rights Commission has prepared a guide to the rights of the workforce in the private sector aimed at raising legal awareness among both workers and employers. Out of the keenness to reach the widest segment of expatriate and resident workers of various nationalities, the guide was issued in six main languages: Arabic, English, Urdu, Hindi, Bangladeshi, and Filipino. The guide also includes a set of official communication channels that enable workers and employers to communicate with relevant authorities. Mechanisms for receiving complaints and reports have been also developed on the Commission's website



to enhance accessibility, allowing complaints to be registered in writing in six languages and handled immediately, in addition to voice complaints being registered via a toll-free number in any language and followed up by specialists.

- 15) Nevertheless, the Commission would like to point out the following recommendations that would enhance the right to work and workers' rights in practice:
- Establishing an effective mechanism for inspecting recruitment offices for expatriate labour, verifying the contractual documents between the worker and the recruitment office on one side, and between the worker and the employer on the other, and ensuring that the domestic worker is informed of and understands the contract and its terms, in order to reduce violations by some recruitment offices of the laws and regulations in force in the state as well as the applicable international frameworks and standards.
 - Considering the proposal for an insurance system for recruited domestic workers in cases where they do not complete the duration of their employment contract, so that the insurance covers the payment of amounts due to the recruitment office and the employer.
 - Intensifying awareness and education campaigns for foreign workers about national protection mechanisms to ensure their knowledge of the procedures that enable them to claim their rights and protect them from abuse and discrimination.
 - Increasing awareness programs targeting society about the rights and responsibilities stipulated in employment contracts.

2. Combating Trafficking in Persons

- 16) Regarding recommendations (113 - 123), The Oman Human Rights Commission observed that the new Labour Law, issued under Royal Decree No. (53/2023), has positively contributed to efforts aimed at reducing the victimization of workers by human trafficking. The law provides enhanced protection for workers and imposes deterrent penalties on offenders. Furthermore, the Commission monitored that the government is in the process of reviewing and amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Law to strengthen legal protections for victims, thereby achieving general deterrence and curbing trafficking-related crimes within the Sultanate of Oman. These efforts are aligned with the international conventions to which the state is a party. The Commission also observed the issuance of the regulatory bylaws for temporary care shelters, pursuant to Ministerial Decision No. (392/2024) issued by the Ministry of Social Development. These bylaws govern the operation of the shelters and explicitly include victims of human trafficking among the beneficiary groups, detailing all procedures and services provided. Additionally, the Commission observed the establishment of a dedicated facility by the competent authorities for the reception and care of male victims of human trafficking.
- 17) Nevertheless, the Commission recommends that the government intensify awareness and education programs, including publications and printed materials in multiple languages, regarding the acts and forms of exploitation that migrant workers may be subjected to, and acts that could constitute human trafficking offenses. The Commission further recommends raising awareness about the various national mechanisms and channels available for reporting violations, strengthening the national referral system, and training relevant personnel to ensure prompt response, referral, and protection.



18) The Oman Human Rights Commission also recommends that the government intensify training programs for law enforcement authorities on the established mechanisms for victim identification, protection, investigation, and prosecution. In addition, the Commission calls for enhancing public awareness among judges regarding human trafficking crimes, particularly in areas outside the capital city, and for strengthening oversight of labour recruitment offices.

3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

19) Based on Voluntary pledge No. (3) and recommendations (69, 70, 71), The Oman Human Rights Commission has observed an improvement in the indicators related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those connected to human rights. This progress is attributed to the improved performance of numerous programs and initiatives implemented by the Sultanate of Oman to achieve the targets of Oman Vision 2040, which serves as a roadmap for advancing economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The overall SDG index in the Sultanate of Oman has reached approximately 82%.

20) With regard to recommendation No. (201), The Oman Human Rights Commission particularly commends the notable progress made in promoting child rights. The State has achieved the targeted goals in 12 indicators and has significantly expanded the provision of services, including universal access to birth registration, basic healthcare services, education, and achieving gender equality in education.

21) Nonetheless, The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends that the government continue its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those where performance remains at a moderate level, such as issues related to gender equality and climate change.

Fifth: Rights of Vulnerable Groups

1. Women's Rights:

Participation in Political Life

22) Based on Voluntary Pledge No. (4) regarding the promotion of a culture of political participation, and in reference to Recommendations No. (153, 159, 165, 180, 181, 183, 187, 190, 191, 193) concerning women's participation in political life, The Oman Human Rights Commission observed that legislation and laws do not discriminate between men and women in the right to run for office and vote, or to hold political, public, and judicial positions. However, the recent elections for the Tenth Term of the Shura Council (consultative council) (2023–2027) resulted in no female representation. It also worth noting that women's representation during the Ninth Term of the Shura Council (2019–2023) was also weak, with only two women elected out of a total of 86 members. According to official statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the number of female candidates for the Ninth Term elections was 40, compared to 597 male candidates. For the Tenth Term, the number of female candidates was 32, compared to 811 male candidates. These figures reveal a significant disparity between the number of male and female candidates, which has an impact on the final election outcomes. This disparity indicates a low rate of participation by Omani women in running for membership in the Shura Council, despite the legal guarantees of their right to candidacy. It also suggests the possible existence of other factors and considerations that warrant further research and study.



- 23) Accordingly, the Commission recommends the need to conduct studies and surveys to understand the reasons behind women's reluctance to run for elections compared to men, and to intensify awareness, training, and empowerment programs that encourage women to run for parliament and fully perform their political role. The Oman Human Rights Commission also recommends the adoption of temporary measures (such as allocating specific seats for women) to accelerate gender parity in representation within the Shura Council, in line with Articles (3, 4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in order to ensure the promotion of women's right to political and public life on an equal basis with men.

The Right of Women to Confer Nationality to Their Children

- 24) With regard to Recommendations No. (156, 162, 165, 185) concerning continued efforts to promote women's rights, The Oman Human Rights Commission monitored that the State has updated the Omani Nationality Law issued by Royal Decree No. (17/2025), which explicitly allows the Omani woman married to a non-Omani to confer Omani nationality to her husband, subject to specific conditions. The law also permits Omani women married to non-Omanis to confer their nationality to their children under certain conditions. In practice, many children of Omani women married to non-Omanis have indeed been granted Omani nationality in accordance with the legal requirements. Nevertheless, The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends establishing a mechanism to grant "permanent" residency to the non-Omani husband and to the children who have reached the age of 18, in order to ensure continued family stability in accordance with the Basic Statute of the State.

2. Child Rights:

- 25) With regard to Recommendations No. (177, 178, 179, 203, 204, 205, 206), The Oman Human Rights Commission has observed positive progress in the area of children's rights since the previous review. This includes the government's design and implementation of a comprehensive social protection fund programs that address the needs of children, including children with disabilities and vulnerable groups. The fund includes a childhood benefit that provides monthly financial support from birth until the age of 18.
- 26) With respect to strengthening national child protection systems, the Commission has noted the efforts to update the National Child Protection Manual to support coordination processes and referral mechanisms aimed at effectively preventing and responding to cases of child abuse and neglect. In this regard, the Commission would like to highlight and address the following issues to enhance the protection of children, including children with disabilities:
- Regarding child marriage, Article (10) of the Personal Status Law issued under Royal Decree No. (32/1997) states that: (No one under the age of eighteen shall be married except with the permission of a judge and after verifying the best interests.) Accordingly, The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends that the government reconsider the mentioned article in the Personal Status Law to fully prohibit and criminalize child marriage, in line with human rights principles and the protection of girls' rights.
 - Regarding emerging and urgent issues related to children's rights, the Commission recommends conducting a study on the reality of verbal, physical, and cyberbullying in the Omani society, and proposes the development of national anti-bullying policies. These should include public awareness programs about the risks of bullying,



methodologies to combat and address it, and strategies aimed at promoting positive parenting and creating safe environments for children. In addition, the Commission emphasizes the need to train teachers and social workers in schools on the dangers of bullying, how to identify and address cases, and to provide schools with psychological specialists to offer necessary treatment when needed. The Oman Human Rights Commission also provides awareness programs related to the protection and promotion of children's rights, the most recent of which was a national awareness program titled "Values and Belonging", which aimed to address some of the social challenges facing children, such as bullying, by offering preventive and remedial solutions.

27) Regarding Recommendations (151, 206, 145, 147, 148), the Commission notes good progress in basic educational services for children at all stages, as well as the inclusion of preschool education as a national priority. Accordingly, the Commission recommends continuing to support the expansion of early childhood education by conducting a feasibility study to establish integrated centers for early childhood development that provide comprehensive services in the fields of education, health, nutrition, and protection, aimed at developing children's cognitive skills.

3. Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

28) Based on the State's Voluntary Pledge No. (7) and Recommendations No. (209, 210, 211, 213, 219, 220), the Oman Human Rights Commission recommends accelerating the issuance of the new Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities to better align with the relevant international convention and related national laws.

29) Regarding Recommendations No. (216, 221), the government still faces challenges in ensuring "quality" education for persons with disabilities. The Oman Human Rights Commission recommends that the government conduct comprehensive surveys and evaluations on the adequacy and quality of educational services provided to persons with disabilities through inclusive programs and special education schools, as well as the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs offered at rehabilitation centres, especially concerning the preparation of children with disabilities for school enrolment and optimal social integration.

30) Concerning persons with autism, the Oman Human Rights Commission notes the Royal Orders issued in April 2025 approving an allocation of 7 million Omani riyals to establish the "Autism Spectrum Disorder Care and Rehabilitation Centre" in the Governorate of Muscat, as well as orders to study the needs of other governorates for such centres and to set a timeline for their establishment according to the number of cases in each governorate.

31) The Commission wishes to highlight the necessity of addressing challenges related to providing a sufficient number of specialists for early detection and diagnosis to contribute to improving rehabilitation and integration plans. Additionally, increasing awareness about the importance of community support for persons with autism is essential to ensure equal opportunities and full participation in society. Accordingly, the Oman Human Rights Commission recommends that the government conduct further research and studies in partnership with civil society organizations to understand the needs of persons with autism, develop mechanisms to ensure the provision of integrated and effective services, and encourage innovation in designing new programs and services that enhance the effective exercise of the rights of persons with autism in society.



32) In conclusion, the past four years have witnessed a series of positive developments in legislation, policies, and practices that have significantly contributed to the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of Oman in 2021, thereby enhancing and protecting human rights on the ground. However, some challenges remain for the government in implementing these recommendations, including issues related to the government's engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and committees in accordance with its international obligations; harmonizing national legislation with international treaties and conventions; challenges related to civil and political rights; economic and social rights; and the rights of certain vulnerable groups. Accordingly, the Oman Human Rights Commission has presented its recommendations on these matters to the government in this report².

² Annex (1) – Summary of the Recommendations of the Oman Human Rights Commission.