



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-seventh session
18–29 January 2021

Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Lebanon*

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. It is a summary of 56 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations² and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies³

2. MRG noted that Lebanon was party to six international human rights treaties.⁴

3. LUPD and others recommended Lebanon to ratify, among others, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Labor Organization Convention No. 189 (2011) on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and the Convention on Migrant Workers No. 97 (1994); the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its protocols; and the 1954 Convention related to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁵

4. HRW recommended Lebanon to ratify, among others, the Rome Statute and align national legislation with the Statute.⁶

5. Alkarama recommended Lebanon to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the first and second Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and make a declaration under Article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).⁷

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



6. JS17 recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 87.⁸

7. JS15 urged Lebanon to lift the reservation on Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁹

B. National human rights framework¹⁰

8. NHRCLB noted that during the second UPR review, Lebanon accepted nineteen recommendations to speed up the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, which included the establishment of a permanent national committee to prevent torture, in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It informed that, in accordance with Law No. 62 of 2016, the National Human Rights Commission was established and its Presidential Decree No. 3267 was promulgated in 2018. It includes 10 members, five of whom were also appointed to act as members of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture by the presidential Decree No. 5147 of 2019.¹¹

9. JS5 urged Lebanon to provide the National Human Rights Commission with sufficient resources to carry out its mandate effectively and independently, including the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and to act as a bridge between government and civil society to empower individuals to claim their economic and social rights and to encourage their participation in policy making.¹²

10. JS1 also urged to fully fund and operationalize the National Human Rights Institution and the National Preventative Mechanism against Torture.¹³

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

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination¹⁴

11. MRG noted that while Article 7 of the Lebanese Constitution guarantees the right to equality and non-discrimination to all Lebanese citizens, it did not extend this right to non-nationals. Furthermore, several groups covered by this constitutional provision still experienced discrimination and inequality in Lebanon.¹⁵

12. JS16 called for the enactment of a civil personal status law that regulates marriage, kinship, divorce, guardianship, inheritance and all personal status matters and that is equally applied to all citizens and persons residing in the country, without discrimination including on the basis of sex.¹⁶

13. ABAAD stated that adopting a civil personal status law on equality between the sexes would help address discriminatory and unjust practices of violence against women under current laws, including laws on marriage, divorce, guardianship and inheritance laws.¹⁷

14. JS27 noted that the Lebanese system lacked any provision preventing or sanctioning harassment, and the Lebanese Penal Code is limited to general articles dealing with exposure to public morals and ethics. JS 27 recommended enacting clear and specific provisions related to sexual harassment, both within and outside the work.¹⁸

15. Proud Lebanon noted that during its second cycle review, Lebanon received 10 recommendations on sexual orientation and gender identity and ‘noted’ them all.¹⁹

16. Proud Lebanon urged the government to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and ensure that LGBTIQ+ individuals are afforded both in law and in practice adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination.²⁰

17. LUPD and Helem Lebanon advised the government to repeal articles 534, 521, 526, 531, 532, and 533 of the Lebanese penal code that criminalize same sex relations and non-conforming gender identity and expression.²¹

18. Helem Lebanon further recommended that Lebanon acquit all ongoing trials involving any of the above articles in the penal code and expunge all previous criminal records that were convicted under these articles; prohibit all forms of physical and verbal violence against LGBTIQ+ persons in detention facilities, police stations, and prisons; and refrain from the arbitrary arrest and detention of trans and gender non-conforming individuals, especially refugees, migrant workers, and other further marginalized groups.²²

*Development, the environment, and business and human rights*²³

19. JS9 noted that, despite significant plans in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2015 and 2019 for integrated solid-waste management, waste-to-energy and decentralization, a dichotomy persisted at the national level between the monopoly in Beirut and Mount Lebanon and its hinterlands, where all international aid finances Mechanical-Biological Treatment plants with commingled waste collection, achieving low diversion rates from landfills and dumps.²⁴ HRW called on the government to monitor compliance with the solid waste management law and ensure that violators are appropriately penalized.²⁵

20. JS9 recommended, among others, to revise the National Water Sector Strategy according to a new baseline assessment of the national water balance, groundwater resources, snowmelt and rainfall, and other missing information.²⁶

21. JAI noted the disproportionate effects of climate change on poor, refugees, and stateless persons and urged the government to adopt a comprehensive human rights-based approach with respect to climate change and implement it as one pillar of the country's human rights regime.²⁷

2. Civil and political rights

*Right to life, liberty and security of person*²⁸

22. JS1 and Maharat observed that Lebanon had a *de facto* moratorium on executions, but the death penalty remained a potential punishment for several offenses, some of which did not require the defendant to have committed an intentional killing.²⁹ Alkarama recommended establishing a *de jure* moratorium on the death penalty aimed at its complete abolition.³⁰

23. Alkarama also recommended that Lebanon introduce in domestic legislation an absolute prohibition of torture in accordance with article 1 of the CAT and criminalize all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in compliance with article 16 of the Convention against Torture.³¹

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*³²

24. ICJ urged the Lebanese authorities to end the control of the executive over the judiciary, including by divesting the Ministry of Justice of any role in the selection, appointment, promotion, transfer, secondment or any other aspects of the management of the career of judges. It also called on the government to ensure that the High Judicial Council is independent from the executive, including by amending its composition to ensure that the majority of members are judges elected by their peers, and that it is pluralistic, and gender and minority representative.³³

25. JS8 recommended Lebanon to enshrine the principle of the election of at least the majority of judges in the judicial bodies vested with managing the proper administration of justice and ensuring the judiciary's independence.³⁴

26. Restart Center recommended adopting relevant legislation and amend article 47 of the Criminal Procedure Code to effectively guarantee continued access to a lawyer and legal representation during all stages of the criminal investigation and a prompt medical examination in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol.³⁵

27. HRW positively noted that in 2018, parliament passed Law 105/2018 which established an independent national commission to investigate and determine the fate of more than 17,000 disappeared individuals during the Lebanese Civil War. The Justice Ministry nominated the commission's members in August 2019 by the Ministry of Justice, but Cabinet has not yet approved the nominations. It called on the government to implement existing legislation and facilitate the work of the Independent National Commission.³⁶

28. TBA called on the government to apply the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; provide adequate health care in prisons under the supervision of the Ministry of Health - rather than the Internal Security Forces; transfer the prison administration from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice; and allow NGOs and lawyers to access all detention centres and prisons.³⁷

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*³⁸

29. CLDH and JS17 stated that Lebanon's third-UPR cycle might take place amidst a massive wave of unprecedented nationwide protests that started on 17 October 2019. These protests were motivated by the direct repercussions of the economic and monetary crisis on the Lebanese population, whose grievances are rooted in economic and social rights violations inherent in a structurally flawed economic and political system of sectarianism and corruption embraced by decades of successive governments since Lebanon's independence. Since the protests began, the Lebanese security forces, Internal Security Forces and the Lebanese Armed Forces, at a higher rate, have used excessive force to disperse protests, including the use of expired tear gas, beating of demonstrators, or inappropriate use of rubber bullets fired at close distance.³⁹

30. CLDH noted that Lebanon was arbitrarily arresting and detaining protesters as retribution for protesting. According to CLDH's data, 226 protesters were arrested from 17 October 2019 until the end of November 2019.⁴⁰

31. FTLB reported that, during the protests, the State resorted to military courts, detention by police, and alleged abuse of protestors in detention centers, as intimidation tactics.⁴¹

32. KRC recommended the government to form a judicial commission to investigate all violations that accompanied the demonstration since 17 October 2019, and establish a democratic election law based on relativity and outside the sectarian restriction.⁴²

33. JS11 urged the government to conduct impartial, transparent, and timely investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment, and intimidation of journalists and media workers and hold those responsible to account.⁴³

34. JS29 urged the government to guarantee the freedom of expression and opinion online as well as offline; revise the new election law to prevent data-sharing between citizens; and amend article 5 of the Access to Information Law.⁴⁴

35. Maharat called on the government to enforce and implement the access to information law (Law No. 28/2017) and establish an independent "National Anti-Corruption Commission" that deals with complaints, particularly over rejection of requests for information.⁴⁵

36. JS29 urged the government to revise the new election law to prevent data-sharing between citizens; and amend article 5 of the Access to Information Law.⁴⁶

37. ADF International called on Lebanon to repeal or amend articles 473 and 474 of the Criminal Code pertaining to blasphemy and defamation of religion; end criminal punishments for expression that does not constitute incitement to violence; and take measures to further promote interreligious dialogue.⁴⁷

38. SEEDS recommended Lebanon to decriminalize defamation and insults and classify them as civil offenses that do not carry any prison sentences, and recognize the public's legal right to criticize and oppose public figures and authorities.⁴⁸

39. JS7 recommended Lebanon to abolish criminal responsibility for organising and participating in the activities of non-registered organisations and reinstate all CSOs that have been arbitrarily sanctioned.⁴⁹ JS4 urged Lebanon to ensure there is a fixed period for registering associations under the 1909 law.⁵⁰

40. The EAJW requested the government to legally register Jehovah's Witnesses as a Christian religion, allowing them the right to worship freely as guaranteed by Lebanon's Constitution.⁵¹

41. JS12 recommended enhancing political participation by amending the Lebanese Constitution to reduce the age of voting to 18 years, clearly specify the parliament's term; and ensure improved representation and equality among voters and candidates.⁵²

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*⁵³

42. JS20 noted that while the Lebanese Parliament adopted Law No.164 in 2011 to combat human trafficking, which improved legal protection for victims of trafficking, the Law had yet to stipulate that victims of trafficking, usually women, must not be treated as criminals and should not be required to provide evidence of their innocence.⁵⁴

43. JS20 urged the government to reform Law 184/2011 to protect victims of human trafficking from neighbouring countries, especially women and children, in line with international standards, and issue specific laws to ensure protection and support for victims of human trafficking, especially children.⁵⁵

44. JS14 raised serious concerns over allegations of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. JS14 also noted that the crisis in a third country exacerbated the problem and that women and girls from this third country were in fact particularly exposed to sexual exploitation practiced by human trafficking networks for sexual purposes. In 2016, Lebanese police dismantled several trafficking networks.⁵⁶

45. JS31 stated that, as a minimum, to criminalize domestic servitude, set a salary threshold not lower than the minimum national salary, guarantee the right to keep identification documents, and abolish any live-in requirements.⁵⁷

*Right to family life*⁵⁸

46. FTLB noted that the state had failed to legislate a personal status law and thus forced those who wished to obtain a civil marriage to travel abroad. The absence of civil marriage law gives them no choice but going through religious marriages to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Civil marriage was allowed for a short period between 2008 and 2011.⁵⁹

47. ABAAD, ECLJ, JS15 and JS30 advised to comprehensively amend the nationality law to allow Lebanese women to transfer their nationality to their children and spouses on an equal basis with men without delay.⁶⁰

48. MRG stated that women continued in particular to be negatively affected by the plurality of personal status rules and by the absence of a civil personal status law – especially in relation to matters of marriage, divorce, child custody, property and inheritance rights. Women systematically encounter obstacles when asserting their rights, stemming both from the current personal status laws and their application by the religious courts. Religious courts have a high level of discretion, there is little judicial oversight over their proceedings and judgements, and women face difficulties accessing legal and financial support.⁶¹

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*⁶²

49. JS5 recommended Lebanon to address the structural causes of unemployment, including jobless economic growth, by supporting productive sectors at national level for sustainable job generation.⁶³

50. JS5 urged the government to adopt a fair tax system that stimulates local productivity; and ensure employment with remuneration that enables workers and their families to enjoy an adequate standard of living as stipulated in articles 7(a)(ii) and 11 of ICESCR and article 46 of the Labour Law.⁶⁴

51. JS4 urged Lebanon to abolish article 7 of the Labor Law and ensure equality between workers across sectors.⁶⁵

52. JS21 called on the government to lift its restrictions on refugees' access to employment and protect the rights of private-sector workers.⁶⁶

53. JS26 recommended that Lebanon develop a national law and action plan to prevent sexual harassment both within and outside of the workplace.⁶⁷ JS5 urged the government to amend the Labor Law to deter and penalize sexual harassment and gender-based exploitation and discrimination against working women, and establish a corresponding workplace monitor mechanism in both public and the private sector.⁶⁸

54. JS4 noted that public sector employees, who are subjected to the 1959 Public Sector Staff Regulation and not the labour law, were banned from unionizing. Article 15 of the Public Sector Staff Regulation states that government employees can neither go on strike nor create unions, which violates ILO convention C087 of 1948.⁶⁹

55. J4 stated that migrant domestic workers, who were subjected to the controversial *kafala* System, have also been deprived from the right to unionize. Article 7 of the Lebanese Labor Law excludes domestic workers from all of the law's stipulations. Moreover, article 92 the same law prohibits all foreign workers from running or even voting in union board elections. In 2015, a group of 300 migrant domestic workers challenged this reality and announced the creation of the Domestic Workers' Union under the umbrella of the National Federation of Workers' and Employees' Union in Lebanon (FENASOL). However, the successive ministers of labor have refused to acknowledge the union, with articles 7 and 92 of the Labor Law being used as justifications.⁷⁰

Right to an adequate standard of living⁷¹

56. NHRCLB stated that the country's worsening economic situation has sent the currency into a sharp decline in foreign exchange, and that the government's failure to stop the black market as an alternative solution to exchange dollars was a severe violation of human rights and raised the challenges faced by middle and low-paid workers.⁷²

57. JS5 noted that the increase in poverty and the decrease in the general standard of living have been partially caused by the depreciation of the national currency, which has plummeted to the lowest exchange rates ever recorded in Lebanon.⁷³

58. JS5 observed that the loss in currency value was primarily caused by a shortage in foreign currency liquidity in the Lebanese economy, caused by a deep imbalance in the current-account deficit. The arbitrary and illegal capital control measures and withdrawal restrictions imposed by the banks since autumn 2019, as well as the policies of the central bank in response to the crisis, have exacerbated the depreciation.⁷⁴

59. JS14 noted that figures published in 2018 indicated that 28.5 percent of Lebanese lived below the poverty line and 470,000 children were affected. The economic and social impact of the crisis in a third country had repercussions on Lebanon and its people. Since the start of this crisis, it is estimated that around 200,000 Lebanese fell below the poverty line and that around 300,000 Lebanese became unemployed.⁷⁵

60. JS32 urged the government to adopt legislation affirming the human right to adequate housing as the foundation for a mandatory comprehensive housing policy following an inclusive, participatory, systematic and multidisciplinary approach.⁷⁶

61. JS32 also recommended suspending the Rent Law (2014/2017) and amending the rent law (1992) to enact one universal rent law that prioritizes the human right to housing, controls rents and links rent prices to the minimum wage and inflation.⁷⁷

*Right to health*⁷⁸

62. HRW called on the government to make every effort to use the resources at its disposal to meet its minimum obligations under international law and reverse the erosion of Lebanese peoples' access to adequate health services.⁷⁹

63. JS13 noted that the law regulating the hospitalization in public hospitals (Decree 16662 of 1964) states in article 1, that the Ministry provides treatment, tests and health care in its health care centers to Lebanese and non-Lebanese in need who are living in Lebanon on condition of reciprocity. It also noted that the same law states in article 2 that any person who is a victim of an emergency or a disease that requires an immediate treatment should be admitted and treated at the cost of the government, and that Law 288 dated 22/2/1994 states that doctors should treat any patient, regardless of their race, nationality or political opinions. Nevertheless, JS13 stated that in practice, stateless persons were not being admitted to public hospitals or at the cost of the Ministry of Public Health.⁸⁰

64. JS21 called on Lebanon to integrate refugees residing in Lebanon in its healthcare plans and ensure medical care for all without exception or discrimination based on origin or nationality.⁸¹

*Right to education*⁸²

65. OIEC recommended Lebanon to provide a more equitable distribution of national, material and human resources in education with a view to serving all children equally, whether in public or private schools.⁸³

66. OIEC also called on the government to combat corruption and favouritism in education by establishing higher standards of transparency and accountability.⁸⁴

67. JS2 observed that a majority of students were enrolled in private schools in Lebanon. As of 2018–2019, only 31 percent of students were enrolled in public schools. The main reason for this, according to JS2, was the quality of education provided by the public sector, which was characterized by relatively poor infrastructure, under-qualified, overcrowded classrooms, and a lower success rate in intermediary exams.⁸⁵

68. MASAR observed that public schools and educational facilities faced chronic neglect and some lacked even the most basic services, such as heating or hygiene. Classrooms suffered from crowding and neglected infrastructure. Educational resources, especially modern technology, were lacking and the educational staff, especially in public schools, was not well trained, negatively impacting student performance.⁸⁶

69. JS17 urged Lebanon to adopt concrete measures to ensure that free education is effectively guaranteed; and provide for a three-year national plan for the development of school premises, both public and private, and allocate sufficient financial resources to it to welcome and include children with specific needs.⁸⁷

70. JS26 observed that gross enrolment rates stood at 93.17 percent for males and 85.08 percent for females for primary education in 2016, while for secondary and tertiary education, the rates dropped significantly (to 59.86 percent for males and 60.14 percent for females and 39.6 percent for males and 45.85 percent for females respectively).⁸⁸

71. MASAR noted that among refugees, secondary school had the lowest enrolment rate among all school levels averaging at 61.2 percent. Some of the reasons behind this drop could be attributed to the fact that refugees were not admitted into public schools unless there remained a "place for them", noting that many could not afford private school tuition, on one hand, and that UNRWA schools (especially secondary level) were not available in all areas.⁸⁹

4. Rights of specific persons or groups*Women*⁹⁰

72. JS31 observed that, during the UPR second cycle, Lebanon received 56 recommendations which pertained specifically to women's rights, including 34 concerning the Personal Status Laws and 13 relating to refugee women.⁹¹

73. JS16 recommended Lebanon to undertake a comprehensive review of its legal framework to amend the laws and regulations that discriminate against women, by undertaking a national consultation with civil society, legal experts, and all stakeholders.⁹²

74. JS31 recommended introducing quotas of at least 40 percent for women candidates on electoral lists, in the parliament and within the Council of Ministers.⁹³

75. JS15 welcomed the repeal of article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code in 2017, which stops prosecution or execution of a penalty when the perpetrator of a rape, kidnapping, or statutory rape marries the person he has raped or kidnapped, but reiterated that other provisions including articles 505, 518 and 519 still allowed for discrimination against, and abuse of, minors.⁹⁴

76. JS24 recommended the government to criminalize marital rape and abolish the exemption of spouses from rape crimes, by amending articles 503 and 504 of the Lebanese Penal Code; amend also articles 505 and 518 to repeal the text exempting the perpetrator from punishment if he marries his victim; and pass a law to criminalize sexual harassment.⁹⁵

77. JS27 recommended enforcing the law approved by the Council of Ministers on 3 August 2017 regarding the Protection of Women and Family Members Against Domestic Violence.⁹⁶

78. JS31 recommended, among others, to adopt a law on violence against women, including violence in the context of political and public life, to criminalize any act of violence against women.⁹⁷

*Children*⁹⁸

79. JS3 stated that although Lebanon passed a domestic violence law in 2014, which criminalized some forms of child abuse, provisions in Lebanese law continued to excuse some forms of corporal punishment, including “non-harmful disciplinary beating” within “what is culturally acceptable”. Article 186 of the Lebanese Penal Code also states: “The law permits the types of discipline inflicted on children by their parents and teachers as sanctioned by general custom.”⁹⁹

80. GIEACPC noted that corporal punishment in Lebanon was prohibited in penal institutions and as a sentence for a crime but it was still lawful in the home, in alternative care, in day care settings and in schools. It urged Lebanon to adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, and to repeal article 186(1) of the Penal Code and article 25(2) of Law 422 for the Protection of Juvenile Delinquents and Endangered Juveniles 2002.¹⁰⁰

81. JS6 called on Lebanon to amend Article 22 of the Labor Law in order to consider child labor under the age of 13 as a form of violence and take punitive measures against the violators (including parents and guardians);¹⁰¹ and to amend the Penal Code with regard to time prescription in relation to crimes of sexual violence against children, and thereby drop all statutory deadlines.¹⁰²

82. JS14 urged Lebanon to, among others, adopt a National Action Plan specific to the sexual exploitation of children; revise the National Action Plan for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in Lebanon, which ended in 2019; and adopt a national strategy or policy on cyber security, and a national strategy on forced and early marriage of children.¹⁰³

83. JS17 also recommended, among others, the creation of a support system for girls who are victims of violence, early marriage, and cyberbullying.¹⁰⁴

84. JS10 noted that the age of legal responsibility was 7 years old, which raised concerns regarding the capacity of the child at this age to bear the psychological and social repercussions of the criminal responsibility.¹⁰⁵

85. JS3 urged the government to raise the age of criminal liability to 18, ensure that juveniles are always detained separately from adults, and eliminate the use of pre-trial detention for juveniles.¹⁰⁶

86. JS10 noted that the main law that sponsored the protection of children and juveniles, in Lebanon was the Lebanese Law No. 422/2002 'Protection of Juveniles in conflict with the Law or Exposed to Danger'. However, the law remained without comprehensive executive decrees that clarify its executive procedures.¹⁰⁷

*Persons with disabilities*¹⁰⁸

87. JS19 stated that successive Lebanese governments in the past two decades failed to work towards a national plan to implement Law 220/2000 on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was passed by the government in 2007. Projects with limited impact, duration, and funding provided by the ministries from time to time are localized in time and place and provide partial remedies to the symptoms, neglecting the root causes and lacking any real effect.¹⁰⁹

88. JS19 urged the government to establish a detailed national legal strategy to implement the relevant laws, especially the CRPD and Law 220/2000 on labour rights, education, health, non-discrimination (physical accessibility and political rights), and the rights of Palestinian and Syrian refugees.¹¹⁰

89. JS2 urged Lebanon to ensure that a national education strategy is developed to educate children with disabilities, focusing on adapting schools to educate children with disabilities, training more special educational needs of teachers, and revising the curriculum to facilitate inclusive learning.¹¹¹

*Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*¹¹²

90. GDP noted that Lebanon boasted the highest per-capita concentration of refugees in the world, with more than 1.5 million Syrians and Palestinians living inside its borders. The vast majority live below the poverty line and reside amongst the population in makeshift accommodation.¹¹³

91. JS14 noted that of Lebanon's population of 6.86 million, Lebanon also included a large number of refugees. According to the government and various independent sources, no less than 1.5 million Syrian refugees - 78 percent of whom are women and children - have found refuge in Lebanon since the outbreak of hostilities in 2011.¹¹⁴

92. JS23 noted that, despite having been in Lebanon for 72 years, Lebanese legislation still did not clearly define Palestinian Refugees' legal status.¹¹⁵ JS23 urged Lebanon to adopt the recommendations related to the definition of Palestinian Refugees and resettlement mentioned in the "Unified Lebanese Vision for the PR Affairs in Lebanon".¹¹⁶

93. JS23 provided that Palestinian Refugees were administratively divided into three categories, and a fourth category was added because of the Syrian Civil War which forced Palestinian Refugees to flee from Syria to Lebanon (PRS). The four categories suffer from many forms of human rights violations.¹¹⁷

94. GDP stated that in 2015, the authorities introduced restrictive visa regulations, which left most refugees from neighboring countries unable to enter Lebanon legally. Additional residency fees were introduced for those wishing to remain in the country, including for those registered with UNHCR and those with a Lebanese sponsor.¹¹⁸

95. JS17 urged the government to allow all refugee children born before 2011 in Lebanon to be administratively registered, without the need for a court decision.¹¹⁹

96. CLDH stated that Lebanon disregarded international law by violating non-refoulement (and thus article 3 of CAT) and by discriminating against refugees in violation of article 26 of the ICCPR.¹²⁰

97. CLDH provided that, in April 2019, the Supreme Defense Council allowed the forcible deportation of refugees by handing them over to the authority of their country of origin, and that between May and August, 2,447 refugees were deported to such countries. The deportation orders were executed summarily by the General Security without verification of the risks upon return and without granting the refugees the right of defense and the right to resort to the judiciary.¹²¹

98. JS22 stated that the fate of Syrian nationals who were being deported remain unknown. The deportation policy seems one of several measures that increased pressure on Syrian refugees to return, including forced demolition of refugee shelters and more rigid applications of the Labor Law.¹²²

99. JS24 urged Lebanon to abolish the *kafala* system and include domestic workers, women, and men, to the Labor Law by amending or removing article 7 thereof; stop the practice of the administrative detention of women domestic workers victims of violence and exploitation; monitor employment agencies; and conduct serious investigations in cases involving the death of domestic workers and prosecute all violators.¹²³

100. Similarly, JS31 called on the government to abolish the *kafala* system and develop a specific legislation for the protection of migrant domestic workers' rights in line with international human rights standards, enforce it and monitor its implementation.¹²⁴

101. GDP recommended Lebanon to provide information on where non-nationals were detained for immigration or deportation procedures as well as immigration violations.¹²⁵ It also recommended Lebanon to only employ immigration detention when it is reasonable, necessary and proportionate, and that it is reassessed over time; develop child-appropriate reception procedures for migrant and refugee children and avoid placing them in detention as per the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; and cease deportations without due process and the detention of migrant domestic workers who flee their employers or seek to change employment.¹²⁶

102. JS28 called on Lebanon to put a stop to acts of torture and mistreatment of Syrian refugees during detention, allow human rights organizations access to places of arrest and detention, and investigate the treatment of detainees held by various Lebanese authorities.¹²⁷

103. JS22 warned that there was a growing hostility between refugees and host communities as a result of the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon. Since the start of the Syria crisis, it is estimated that 200,000 Lebanese have been pushed into poverty, adding to 1 million of their fellow citizens already in poverty.¹²⁸

*Stateless persons*¹²⁹

104. JS18 noted that, while the exact number of stateless persons was not known, it was estimated that many thousands lived in the country.¹³⁰

105. JS6 called on the government to take measures towards reducing and preventing statelessness by setting an action plan and establishing a specialized body composed of experts in partnership with civil society and with the assistance of relevant UN Agencies.¹³¹

106. JS25 recommended that Lebanon adopt a modern, computerized, universal birth registration system that applies on all children born in Lebanon regardless of the nationality and legal status of the parents;¹³² and conduct a nationwide awareness raising campaign to inform of their right to register and access civil documents for themselves and their children.¹³³

Notes

¹ 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:

ABAAD	ABAAD - Resource Centre for Gender Equality Beirut (Lebanon);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
Alkarama	Alkarama, Geneva (Switzerland);
CLDH	Centre Libanais des droits humains, Daoura (Lebanon);
EAJW	European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses 1950, Kraainem

	(Belgium);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
FTLB	Freethought Lebanon Beirut (Lebanon);
GDP	Global Detention Project, Geneva (Switzerland);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children London, (UK);
HelemLebanon	Helem Lebanon, Beirut (Lebanon);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., San Francisco (United States of America);
KRC	Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of torture Beirut (Lebanon);
LUPD	Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities Beirut (Lebanon);
Maharat	Maharat Foundation, Maten (Lebanon);
MASAR	Masar Association, Beirut (Lebanon);
MRG	Minority Rights Group International, London (UK);
OIEC	Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique, Rome (Italy);
Proud	Proud Lebanon, Beirut (Lebanon);
Restart Center	Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Tripoli (Lebanon);
SEEDS	SEEDS for Legal Initiatives, Beirut (Lebanon);
TBA	Tripoli Bar Association, Tripoli (Lebanon).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: The Advocates for Human Rights and The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty Minneapolis (USA);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: ALEF Education, (which includes ALEF, Nabaa and Manara), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: ALEF Coalition (ALEF act for human rights (ALEF); Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH); Association for Justice and Mercy (AJEM) Proud Lebanon, Restart Center for rehabilitation of victims of violence and torture), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: ALEF Pax (ALEF Act for human rights; Pax), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: Arab NGO Network for Development; Lebanon Support; Housing and Land Rights Network; Lebanese Observatory for Workers and Employees Rights, Beirut (Lebanon);
JS6	Joint submission 6 submitted by: Civil Rights and Liberties (which include Alef act for Human Rights; Arab NGO Network for Development; Frontiers Ruwad; Lebanese Center for Human Rights – CLDH; Legal Agenda; Proud Lebanon; Restart; Together Against the Death Penalty – ECPM), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS7	Joint submission 7 submitted by: CIVICUS (which includes CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC ; Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR); International Media Support (IMS) & Social Media Exchange (SMEX)), Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS8	Joint submission 8 submitted by: Coalition on Access to Justice in Lebanon (which includes The Legal Agenda; Arab NGO Network for Development), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS9	Joint submission 9 submitted by: Coalition Environment (which includes Waste Management Coalition and Save the Bisri Valley Campaign), Beirut Lebanon);
JS10	Joint submission 10 submitted by: Juvenile Justice System in Lebanon (which includes The Arab NGO Network for

- Development ; Mouvement Social; and Himaya), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS11 **Joint submission 11 submitted by:** Committee to Protect Journalists and Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS12 **Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Coalition on Political Rights and Freedoms (CPRF) (which includes ALEF – Act for human rights; Lebanese Association for Democratic Election – LADE; Lebanese Transparency Association; Arab NGO Network for Development –ANND, Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS13 **Joint submission 13 submitted by:** Coalition for Stateless Persons Access to Socio Economic Rights (which includes Arabic NGO Network for Development), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS14 **Joint submission 14 submitted by:** EPCAT International (which includes Dar al-Amal and ECPAT International), Bangkok (Thailand);
- JS15 **Joint submission 15 submitted by:** Equality Now (which includes Equality Now, the Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Woman (LECORVAW), the Committee for the Follow-Up on Women’s Issues (CFUWI), and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights), Nairobi (Kenya);
- JS16 **Joint submission 16 submitted by:** Coalition Gender Discrimination Nationality Lebanon (which includes Ruwad al Houkhouk FR and Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS17 **Joint submission 17 submitted by:** Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (which includes Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA); International Volunteerism Organisation for Women, Education, Development (VIDES International); Office International de l’Enseignement Catholique (OIEC); Secrétariat Général des Ecoles Catholiques au Liban (SGEC-L)), Veyrier (Switzerland);
- JS18 **Joint submission 18 submitted by:** Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (which includes Collective for Research & Training on Development- Action; My Nationality is a Right for Me and my Family (Campaign); Ruwad al Houkhouk Frontiers Rights; Salam for Democracy and Human Rights; Equality Now; Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights; Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS19 **Joint submission 19 submitted by:** Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (which includes Ruwad al Houkhouk Frontiers Rights; Salam for Democracy and Human Rights; Equality Now; Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights; Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS20 **Joint submission 20 submitted by:** Naba’a (drafted by Development Action without Borders/Naba’a and supported by ANND – Arab NGOs Network for Development), Sidon (Lebanon);
- JS21 **Joint submission 21 submitted by:** Coalition on the Rights of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (which includes Najdeh Association, Development Action Without Borders (Naba’a), Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO), The Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD), Tadamon Association, Palestinian Students Fund, Center for Refugee Rights/Aidoun (CRR), al-Ghad Association, Social Communications Center, Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness), Human Development Center, Thabit Organization for the Right of Return, Hana Association for Development - al Houleh, Association 302 to Defend Refugees Rights, Women's Charitable Association, and the endorsement of the Arab NGO Network for Development

- endorses this submission), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS22 **Joint submission 22 submitted by:** Coalition of NGOs for UPR-Lebanon (Syrian Refugees) (which includes ALEF – act for Human Rights; Basmeh and Zeitouneh; Nabaa; Abaar; House of Peace; Sawa; Urda; PAX for Peace; 11.11.11; Upinion; WG PASC (Working Group for the Persons Affected by the Syrian Crisis); Refugee Protection Watch (RPW); Manara Network), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS23 **Joint submission 23 submitted by:** Palestinian Human Rights Organisation (which includes EuroMed Rights; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS); Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering 9rdfl); Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH); Refugee Rights Center (Returnees); Women Charitable Association, Development Action Without Borders Association (Nab'a); Brothers Association for Social Cultural Work, Galilee Association for Development; Youth Association for Development, Churches Complex for Social Service, Development Center for Strategic Studies and Human Resource Development), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS24 **Joint submission 24 submitted by:** Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (which includes Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering, Dar al-Amal, Najdeh Association, Naba'a, Kafa, ABAAD), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS25 **Joint submission 25 submitted by:** Ruwad al Houkoku FR; and SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights, Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS26 **Joint submission 26 submitted by:** Coalition Stateless Access to Justice Lebanon (which includes Ruwad al Houkoku FR and Legal Agenda), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS27 **Joint submission 27 submitted by:** The Lebanese Association for Family Health (SALAMA), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS28 **Joint submission 28 submitted by:** Coalition of NGOs for UPR-Lebanon (which includes Syrian Center for Policy Research; Syrian League for Citizenship; Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs; Violation Documentation Center in Syria; International Humanitarian Relief; Access Center for Human Rights; Refugees = Partners; Basmeh & Zeitouneh Relief & Development), Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS29 **Joint submission 29 submitted by:** Small Media, SMEX and Access Now, Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS30 **Joint submission 30 submitted by:** World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Geneva (Switzerland);
- JS31 **Joint submission 31 submitted by:** Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); Lebanese Committee for Peace and Freedom (LCPF); Permanent Peace Movement (PPM); and Centre for Defending Civil Rights and Liberties (CDCRL); Beirut (Lebanon);
- JS32 **Joint submission 32 submitted by:** Yemeni Network for UPR (which includes Public Works Studio and Habitat International Coalition –Housing and Land Rights Network, Cairo (Egypt);

National human rights institution:

NHRCLB National Human Rights Commission, Beirut (Lebanon).

² 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.

³ For the relevant recommendations, see paras. 132.1, 132.17, 132.28, 132.62, 132.16, 132.20, 132.2, 132.3, 132.4, 132.56, 132.15, 132.25, 132.21, 132.22, 132.23, 132.5, 132.18, 132.24, 132.19, 132.11, 132.12, 132.13, 132.14, 132.26, and 132.27.

⁴ MRG, para. 2.

⁵ LUPD, p. 1. See also JS19, p. 7 and JS17, p. 2.

⁶ HRW, para. 38.

⁷ Alkarama, para. 9.

⁸ JS17, p. 2.

⁹ JS15, p. 6. See also JS17, p. 2.

¹⁰ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1 paras. 132.35, 132.62, 132.16, 132.56, 132.36, 132.113, 132.117, 132.60, 132.42, 132.43, 132.48, 132.49, 132.50, 132.51, 132.52, 132.53, 132.54, 132.57, 132.114, 132.66, 132.152, 132.183, 132.65, and 132.135.

¹¹ NHRCLB, para. 2.

¹² JS5, para. 12.

¹³ JS1, para. 33.

¹⁴ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1 paras. 132.41, 132.144, 132.79, 132.82, 132.85, 133.1, 132.83, 132.144, 132.148, 132.79, 132.82, 132.83, 132.148.

¹⁵ MRG, para. 6.

¹⁶ JS16, p. 10.

¹⁷ Abaad, p. 2.

¹⁸ JS27, para 15.

¹⁹ Proud Lebanon, para 1.

²⁰ Proud Lebanon, paras. 1 and 7.

²¹ LUPD, p. 3 and Helem Lebanon, p. 4.

²² Helem Lebanon, p. 4.

²³ For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.64, 132.63, and 132.83.

²⁴ JS9, para. 4.

²⁵ HRW, para. 36.

²⁶ JS, para. 58.

²⁷ JAI, paras. 29 and 28.

²⁸ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.116, 132.120, 132.122, 132.121, 132.112, 132.114, 132.115, 132.119, 132.15, and 132.111.

²⁹ JS1, para. 7 and Maharat, p. 5.

³⁰ Alkarama, para. 21.

³¹ Alkarama, para. 11.

³² For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras.132.34, 132.115, 132.116, 132.120, 132.119, 132.150, 132.16, and 132.23.

³³ ICJ, para. 20.

³⁴ JS8, p. 11.

³⁵ Restart, paras. 13-14.

³⁶ HRW, paras. 37-38.

- 37 TBA, para. 20.
- 38 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, para. 132.159, 132.85, 132.18, and 132.160–132.161.
- 39 CLDH, p. 2 and JS17, p. 1.
- 40 CLDH, p. 2.
- 41 FTLB, p. 2.
- 42 KRC, p. 4.
- 43 JS11, p. 11.
- 44 JS29, para. 39.
- 45 Maharat, p. 5.
- 46 JS29, para. 39.
- 47 ADF, para. 20.
- 48 SEEDS, p. 5.
- 49 JS7, para. 6.4.
- 50 JS4, p. 12.
- 51 EAJW, para. 17.
- 52 JS12, paras. 23-24.
- 53 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.147, 132.143, 132.145, 132.146, 132.144 and 132.148.
- 54 JS20, para. 4.5.
- 55 JS20, para. 4.6.
- 56 JS14, paras. 10-11.
- 57 JS31, para. 36.
- 58 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, para.132.33.
- 59 FTLB, p. 3.
- 60 Abaad, p. 2; ECLJ, para. 16; JS15, p. 6; and JS30, p. 3.
- 61 MRG, para. 9.
- 62 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.166, 132.165, and 132.184.
- 63 JS5, paras. 60-61.
- 64 JS5, paras. 60-61.
- 65 JS4, p. 12.
- 66 JS21, p. 13.
- 67 JS26, para. 15.
- 68 JS5, para. 62.
- 69 JS4, para. 53.
- 70 JS4, para. 47.
- 71 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.170–132.171.
- 72 NHRCLB, para. 27.
- 73 JS5, para. 24.
- 74 JS5, para. 24.
- 75 JS14, para. 5.
- 76 JS32, para. 1.
- 77 JS32, paras. 2-3.
- 78 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.172, 132.178, 132.185, 132.190, and 132.86.
- 79 HRW, para. 36.
- 80 JS13, paras. 25-27 and 29-31.
- 81 JS21, p. 12.
- 82 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.69, 132.173, 132.174, 132.175, 132.176, 132.177, 132.179, 132.180, 132.181, 132.182, 132.187, 132.191, 132.192, 132.193, and 132.139.
- 83 OIEC, p. 10.
- 84 OIEC, p. 10.
- 85 JS2, p. 2.
- 86 Masar, p. 2.
- 87 JS17, para. 20.
- 88 JS26, para. 23.
- 89 Masar, p. 2.
- 90 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.79, 132.82, 132.85, 132.87, 132.84, 132.204, 132.126, and 132.129.
- 91 JS31, para. 1.
- 92 JS16, p. 10.

- ⁹³ JS31, para. 1.
⁹⁴ JS15, para. 13.
⁹⁵ JS24, p. 3.
⁹⁶ JS27, para 9.
⁹⁷ JS31, para. 18.
⁹⁸ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.136, 132.141, 132.142, 132.133, 132.134, and 132.140.
⁹⁹ JS3, para. 25.
¹⁰⁰ GIEACPC, p. 2.
¹⁰¹ JS6, para. 82.
¹⁰² JS6, para. 81.
¹⁰³ JS14, para. 29.
¹⁰⁴ JS17, para. 37.
¹⁰⁵ JS10, para. 4.
¹⁰⁶ JS3, para. 44.
¹⁰⁷ JS10, para. 3.
¹⁰⁸ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.187, 132.188, 132.189, 132.185, and 132.190.
¹⁰⁹ JS19, p. 1.
¹¹⁰ JS19, para. 8.
¹¹¹ JS2, p. 6.
¹¹² For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, paras. 132.198, 132.199, 132.205, 132.195, 132.207, 132.74, 132.17, and 32.20.
¹¹³ GDP, para. 1.1.
¹¹⁴ JS14, para. 4. See also CLDH, p. 3.
¹¹⁵ JS23, para. 2.
¹¹⁶ JS23, para. 9.7.
¹¹⁷ JS23, para. 2.
¹¹⁸ GDP, para. 1.1.
¹¹⁹ JS17, para. 29.
¹²⁰ CLDH, p. 3.
¹²¹ CLDH, p. 3.
¹²² JS22, paras. 18-22.
¹²³ JS24, p. 5.
¹²⁴ JS31, para 36.
¹²⁵ GDP, para. 3.5.
¹²⁶ GDP, para. 3.5.
¹²⁷ JS28, p. 4.
¹²⁸ JS22, paras. 1-3.
¹²⁹ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/31/5/Add.1, para 132.215.
¹³⁰ JS18, para. 12.
¹³¹ JS6, para. 45.
¹³² JS25, para. 68. See also JS6, para. 43.
¹³³ JS25, para. 71.
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