

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL / WORKING GROUP on the
Universal Periodic Review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Fourth cycle
25 January 2024
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

H.E Mr. Walid Khalid Abdullah Obeidat, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations in Geneva presented his country's report.

In the 3rd round of the UPR, Jordan had accepted 149 recommendations. Jordan informed the Council that 13 dialogue sessions were held with the participation of more than 1700 stakeholders to inform the drafting process of the country's national UPR report. This year, Jordan will receive the **Special Rapporteur on cultural rights** as well in 2025 the **Special Rapporteur on the right to food**.

In 2022, Jordan amended several articles of its constitution. It amended the title of Chapter 2 to **include "women and men"** to the word Jordanians. Article 6 of the constitution was amended to provide that the law promotes the participation and integration of disabled persons in various aspects of life. Two paragraphs were added to this article guaranteeing the empowerment of and support to women and the youth respectively. H.E. Mr. Obeidat also noted that **sexual harassment in the workplace** is now defined in labor law.

In 2021, a Royal Committee was formed with the goal to **modernize the political system** in Jordan and review legislations regarding political work and parliamentary mechanisms, also looking at the youth and women's political participation and empowerment. Jordan was widely praised for undertaking this process during the review. Based on the Committee's recommendations, , the law electoral law and political parties law were amended in 2022. Jordan also launched its **economic modernization plan** for the public sector.

The law on the **prevention of human trafficking** was amended in 2021 to ensure more protection for the victims, and tighten penalties against perpetrators. The system of shelters for victims and potential victims of human trafficking was expended.

The government has established human rights units in all governates, directly linked to the Ministry of Interior. It has also worked on strengthening the role of the institute of Sharia justice, involving **training for judges**, their assistants, law enforcement agencies with **specialized courses on human rights**, international conventions and the mechanism for preparing reports and dealing with recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms. This has been welcomed by the Council, especially countries of the same region.

The illegal occupation of Palestine was also brought up and the delegation called on the international community to deliver a coordinated humanitarian response in Gaza, reiterating their belief in the two-state solution.

H.E. Mr. Obeidat also highlighted that Jordan hosts nearly **4 million refugees of different nationalities** but faces increased challenges related to **water scarcity**. Jordan regretted that the international community has not committed to providing the necessary support for Jordan to shoulder the challenges related to migrations.

In response to some of the recommendations received, **Judge Dr. Mansour El Tawalbeh** of the Sharia Court stated that his country adopted a **manual of procedures** and prepare a training on issues depending on the Sharia prosecutor's office in order to adequately address matter **health, education, shelter, family environment and other issues for families and children**. Regarding recommendations related to the personal status law, he stressed that the law protects women in the areas of marriage, divorce and financial matters, drawing on principles of Islamic Sharia. Wishing to dissipate all ambiguity regarding discrimination in family law, he insisted on the complementary rights of spouses. In terms of opportunities and freedom, men and women are equal before the law.

Many States made recommendations regarding the **cybercrime law** adopted in 2023. **Mr. Muhib Nimrat**, Director of the Human Rights stated that the law protects confidentiality and protects society from hate speech, violence and insults to religion, with a relevant threshold to ensure criminal responsibility. He noted that the national human rights center has undertaken an assessment of the legislative impact of the law on cybercrime in order to make recommendations to the government.

The delegation of Jordan reiterated that the Kingdom is open to all **special procedures** and we has administrative and diplomatic arrangements in order to allow for successful at the right time and with regards to another matter.

The delegate representative of the ministry of labor underscored the amendments were made to the law in 2019 and 2023 to enhance **women's participation** based on equal wages and non-discrimination. The ministry launched an awareness raising initiative aim was to promote the rights of women workers and persons with disabilities. With regards to protecting the rights of workers, inspection visits are conducted to workplaces. The number of institutions inspected last year is above 29,000.

Recommendations

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

- Ratify the 2nd optional protocol to the international covenant on civil and political rights
- Ratify the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture
Spain, Switzerland, Chile, Estonia, France, Ghana, Romania
- Ratify the Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families
Sri Lanka, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Niger, Rwanda
- Ratify the Convention against Enforced Disappearance
Uruguay, Niger

JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW

- Restore moratorium on the death penalty or abolish the death penalty
Spain, Switzerland (on executions), Timor Leste, Ukraine, Australia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Finland, France, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Argentina

- Strengthen the role of administrations on the rule of law and the ministry of the interior.
Palestine, Iraq

- Promote safeguards of fair trial and as well as investigations in torture allegations.
Egypt, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Kazakhstan

- Criminalize torture in line with Article 1 of the convention against torture
Chile, Germany

Submissions from civil society organizations during the UPR process held that Article 208 of the penal code lacked a clear definition for torture as it was limited to the crime of extracting a confession under torture.

- Suspend or refrain from all forms of administrative detention
Australia, Canada, Iceland, United Kingdom

- Boost the role of the public prosecutors' offices and conduct specialized training for the Sharia prosecutors
Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Pursue efforts to ensure equality between men and women including in the workplace
Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Timor Leste, Tanzania, Argentina, Belarus, Colombia, Cyprus, Estonia, India, Italy, Kazakhstan

- Ensure protection against gender based violence
Sri Lanka, Argentina, Australia, Cabo Verde, Belarus, Cameroon, Colombia, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Slovenia

- Amend Article 10 of the personal status law
Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Panama

The minimum legal age for marriage in Jordan is 18 years old. However paragraph (b) of Article 10 of the personal status law No.15 of 2019 provides that a judge may permit girls and boys below 18 to marry if it is deemed to be in their best interest.

- Strengthen women's participation in the environment action and decision making
United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, China

- Support the participation of women in political life including in parties and parliamentary elections

Venezuela, Belarus, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Romania

- Pursue efforts and policies to prevent violence and harassment or discrimination against women in the workplace

Canada, Greece, Laos, Libya, Pakistan, Republic of Korea

- Withdraw all its reservations to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

Finland, Montenegro, Norway

MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

- Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against migrant workers and ensure their access to justice

Thailand, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines

- Reduce risk of statelessness by allowing all Jordanian women to pass citizenship to their children

USA, Chile, Costa Rica, Slovakia

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

- Ensure access to education for all children

- Strengthening the capacities of children and youth and supporting their participation in decision making processes on climate related issues

Thailand, UAE, Brunei Darussalam, Maldives

- Enhance the implementation of the child rights law to ensure provision of adequate standards of living in a secure environment

Uganda, Congo, Cuba

- Strengthen national capacity to monitor, analyze, and report child rights violations, and ensure access to justice

Ukraine, UAE, Colombia, Armenia, Kenya, Lithuania,

- Take measures to eradicate early sexual violence and early marriage

Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, Cyprus, Panama

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Pursue efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities by providing the necessary resources, including budgetary resources

Palestine, Sudan, Bangladesh, Greece, Libya, Lithuania, Nigeria, Pakistan

- Better access to persons with disabilities to public facilities including means of transportation

Tunisia, Uganda, Georgia, Montenegro, Morocco

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, CIVIL SOCIETY, MEDIA AND JOURNALISTS

- Ensure protection of freedom of expression including for journalists and other members of civil society

USA, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway

- Amend the cybercrime act to ensure freedom of expression.

Switzerland, USA, Canada, Chile, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Estonia, France

The cybercrime of 2023 has already raised concerns at the [OHCHR](#) and among human rights groups for its vague definitions of offences. The law also imposes restrictions on encryption and anonymity.

- Amend the antiterrorism act to ensure freedom of expression

Switzerland, Luxembourg

- Amend the media and publications law to ensure the right to freedom of expression

Spain, Switzerland

- Amend the associations act from 2008 so that NGOs can register and have unhindered access to foreign funding.

Switzerland, USA, Germany