



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

TÜRKIYE

Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

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PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL REPORT

**H.E. Mr. Mehmet KEMAL BOZAY, Ambassador, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Director for European Affairs of Türkiye**

Composed of **high-level representatives from five ministries** and the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, the delegation of Türkiye is a testimony to the importance the country places on dialogue and cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms. The significance of these mechanisms, including the UPR, may be higher today than ever before, especially as we live through times of discernible erosion of international order and gross violations of human rights.

Türkiye has carried out a **comprehensive preparation process** for its fourth UPR review. In addition to all relevant public and human rights institutions, namely the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye and the Ombudsman, civil society presented their contribution for the national report. Türkiye also came together with representatives of the civil society to listen to their views. The national report was translated into Turkish and published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The leading platform for implementation and follow-up of human rights reforms in Türkiye is the **Reform Action Group**. It consists of representatives from the relevant ministries and institutions. This mechanism proved very effective in aligning the national legislation with international standards and ensuring the effective implementation of the reforms. The recommendations supported during the third cycle were taken as guidelines in a variety of human rights policies implemented since then. All reforms were prepared and implemented through **extensive consultations** held in a spirit of transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders including civil society representatives, professional organisations, academics, media as well as international organisations.

It is not possible to paint a complete picture of the period under review without mentioning the unique and tremendous challenges Türkiye has encountered. In the past five years, geopolitical circumstances around Türkiye have worsened due to multiple wars and conflicts in its neighbourhood leading to **serious threats against the security** of the country. Türkiye had to pursue a simultaneous fight against multiple terrorist organisations, namely PKK, PYD-YPG, DHK-PJ, Daesh and FETÖ. Türkiye's fight against terrorism protects first and foremost the right to life of its citizens and guarantees the enjoyment of their fundamental rights. Türkiye has concurrently continued to face the **biggest influx of human displacement in the world** in modern times. Millions have run to Türkiye for shelter. In an era where racism, xenophobia, anti-Islam hatred and discrimination have increased to alarming levels, Türkiye has upheld its international obligations as well as the human rights and dignity of the people it is hosting.

Furthermore, on 6 February 2023, Türkiye experienced the **most devastating natural disaster of the century**. A series of powerful earthquakes struck 11 provinces with a combined population of around 14 million. All necessary measures were immediately taken to rescue those struck by disaster, repair the resulting damage and ensure effective delivery of public services. Türkiye has then focused on swift measures to contribute to the recovery of the affected provinces and a return to normal life. The road to recovery is long, but considerable progress has been made. Türkiye is not just rebuilding what was lost, it is building back better. The high-level delegation of Türkiye expresses its gratitude for the exemplary international solidarity that it has received from the first day on.

Despite all these challenges, Türkiye has stood firm to pursue reforms in line with its human-centred governance policy. Any shortcomings identified in the legislation or implementation are remedied through reforms with a view to further protect and promote human rights to the highest extent for all. Following the Third Judicial Reform Strategy of 2019, the **Human Rights Action Plan** covering 2021-2023 was made public by President Erdogan in March 2021 with the Free Individual, Strong Society, More Democratic Türkiye Vision. The implementation process of this action plan, together with the Third Judicial Reform Strategy, was successfully concluded as of the end of 2023.

This process has been marked by the adoption of a series of legislative and administrative measures that further protect human rights, enhance access to justice, and strengthen the judiciary's independence and impartiality. The **Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy** covering 2025-2029 was made public by President Erdogan on 23 January 2025. The two main objectives of this strategy concern complementing previous reforms and addressing new needs to ensure a justice system based on the rule of law and human rights.



In line with our strong will for further reform, Türkiye is currently preparing the **new Human Rights Action Plan**. Since the last UPR cycle, Türkiye has also adopted and implemented various action plans and strategy documents on women's empowerment as well as on the rights of children, persons with disabilities, and aged people. All these works have focused on ensuring the equal and effective participation of these persons in vulnerable situations in all spheres of life through advancing their rights, promoting their access to employment, education, and public services, as well as strengthening protective and preventive services for them.

With regard to advance questions by Belgium and Canada, violence against women is a global problem that no country can ignore. This issue requires comprehensive policies and decisive measures. **Combating violence against women is a high-priority** policy for Türkiye's Government. The decision to **withdraw from the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention**, which is a subject of debate in other Council of Europe member states as well, is not a step back. Offering a holistic response with the principle of zero tolerance, Türkiye has achieved an exemplary track record with an extensive legal framework as well as effective preventive and protective measures.

In reply to the advance questions by Panama, the inclusion of children in education, especially girls, continues to be one of our priorities. The 12-year compulsory education and preschool education for children aged 48 to 66 months in Türkiye is **free of charge in public schools**. Furthermore, a number of measures have been introduced to increase access to education. Strategic documents and national action plans on women's empowerment and combating early and forced marriages have also been pivotal in increasing girls' school attendance rates.

In reply to advance questions by Slovenia, the **Ageing Vision** announced in 2023 outlines comprehensive goals for strengthening the rights of aged people and eliminating age discrimination under six main policy areas such as active and healthy ageing, participation in social life, age-friendly and accessible environments for all, disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

Concerning advance questions by Canada and Germany, with almost **3.5 million refugees and asylum seekers**, Türkiye is home to one of the largest refugee populations in the world. For the last 14 years, Türkiye has mobilised its financial and human resources to address the plight of those persons without any discrimination. Türkiye continues to improve their living conditions. Foreigners under international protection enjoy their fundamental rights, including the right of access to healthcare, education services and labour market. Other services provided to them also serve as a benchmark for many countries.

In reply to advance questions by Canada, Germany and Sweden on **discrimination**, the delegation emphasises that the constitutional system of Türkiye is based on the equality of all individuals before the law, without discrimination on any ground. This implies that all individuals enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations without discrimination. Persons claiming to have faced discrimination can lodge an application before our human rights institutions in addition to seeking remedies before the judiciary.



With regard to advance questions by Belgium, Canada, Germany and the UK on **local democracy, freedoms of assembly, expression and media**, mainly in relation to recent developments in the country, Türkiye is a democratic state governed by the rule of law, hence no one is above the law. No profession or title including journalism and being locally elected grants immunity from prosecution if there is a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed. Independent courts decide on the merits of each case.

It is also important to remember that freedoms of expression and assembly are not absolute rights. They can be subjected to restrictions as prescribed by law. These restrictions are implemented in Türkiye only to the extent necessary. Türkiye's priority is to strike a proper balance between protecting fundamental freedoms and maintaining public order. Terrorist propaganda, incitement to violence or targeting judicial investigations to disrupt public security are nowhere protected by freedoms of expression and assembly. Yet, if there are any violations, they are remedied by monitoring and appeal mechanisms of the Turkish legal system as well as the Constitutional Court.

Concerning advance questions by Costa Rica on the **environment**, Türkiye's **Green Deal Action Plan** was published in July 2021. It outlines a detailed roadmap consisting of a series of objectives for adaptation to the green transition. Türkiye's ratification of the Paris Agreement and the announcement of the net zero emission target by 2053 provided further impetus to the implementation of the action plan. Furthermore, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and action plans for the period of 2024 and 2030 were adopted to tackle climate change.

With regard to advance questions posed by Belgium, Türkiye is proud to be party to 16 of the UN human rights conventions and protocols thereto. Although Türkiye is not party to certain treaties, its national legislation and policies are in compliance with their substance. Türkiye seriously engages with UN treaty bodies and regularly reviews its treaty reservations. In reply to advance question by the UK, as a founding member, Türkiye has a long-standing cooperation with the Council of Europe and its mechanisms, including the European Court of Human Rights. The percentage of execution of the Court's judgments by Türkiye stands at 90%. This is well above the average rate 79% of all Council of Europe member states.

Türkiye has demonstrated a strong political will to continue to raise the bar for human rights, the rule of law and democracy despite the challenges of these times.

OBSERVATIONS AND REPLIES BY THE DELEGATION OF TÜRKIYE

Minority Issues

Concerning the **minorities in Türkiye**, Turkish citizens belonging to minorities as defined by the Lausanne Peace Treaty of 1923 have the same rights as the rest of the population. Additionally, they benefit from the minority status in accordance with the Lausanne Peace Treaty. They have their own schools, places of worship, foundations, hospitals, and media organisations. Non-Muslim places of worship are administered by their own associations or foundations. They have their own schools and they have their rights. The **Halki seminary** was closed as a result of the decision of the Constitutional Court in 1971 which deflated the closure of all private education institutions at undergraduate level in Türkiye. Therefore, the decision did not specifically target Halki seminary. Turkish relevant legislation requires all higher education institutions to be under



the auspices of the Council of Higher Education without exception. It should also be noted that the proposals of the Turkish authorities in the past, such as the opening of Halki seminary as a part of a university in Türkiye, were not accepted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch. The so-called ecumenicity of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch is a matter of theological and doctrinal debate within the Orthodox Church. Türkiye does not interfere with the use of this title and does not have the obligation to use it. Türkiye's policy is in line with the opinion of the Venice Commission published in 2010.

Northern Cyprus

Issues such as property of missing persons, cultural heritage, and freedom of religion in Cyprus fall completely within the competence of the **Turkish Cypriot authorities** which are taking necessary measures on all these issues.

Judicial Reforms

The representative of the Strategy Department of the Ministry of Justice of Türkiye provides the Council with information regarding judicial reforms other related activities in this regard. In the time period between the third and the fourth UPR, Türkiye focused on the implementation of the Third Judicial Package which focused on the violations identified by the European Court of Human Rights. One of the main criteria for the **promotion of judges and public prosecutors** has been determined with respect to their reference to the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in their own judgments. Judges and public prosecutors have also received significant training regarding various freedoms.

The judicial reform packages in this period focused on the **anti-terror law** and also **freedom of expression** which falls within the limits of criticism. There was a legal change which was introduced to widen the scope of expressions of freedom in this regard and with respect to judgments regarding freedom of assembly, appeal procedures have been implemented to safeguard judicial review. With respect to the **access to the internet**, the access is not limited completely but is focused only on specific aspects of sites.

Detention and Custody in Remand

The Ministry of Justice is conducting various activities in this regard. In the past, maximum periods of detention were determined for the investigation period and it was stated that the detention would come to an end if the investigation did not turn into a prosecution. This period is much shorter for children. On the notion of **strong suspicion**, there have been developments with respect to having some concrete evidence that leads to strong suspicion. With respect to decisions of detention, recent judgments must now be taken into account. The situation of persons who are arrested in the evening or on weekends is also being reviewed. They can be released provided that they come to court when called. There have also been significant developments with respect to vertical implementation.

Legal Training and Clinics

With respect to awareness and education, legal clinics are being implemented. **Legal clinics** provide support to members of society in need of legal aid, so that access to justice is improved. Students who are working in legal clinics are also learning a lot. The delegation stresses the



importance of raising awareness by making use of such legal clinics. Improving the **quality of legal education** is another area on which the Ministry has been focussing on. The number of judges for 100,000 persons in Türkiye are in line with relevant recommendations.

International Cooperation

The representative of the Human Rights Department within the Ministry of Justice stresses that the State of Türkiye respects the **rule of law** and a democratic state as stated in article 2 of its Constitution. According to article 90 of its Constitution, international agreements have superseded national legislation in the event of conflicts between the two. Türkiye is aware of its international obligations and takes necessary measures as prescribed by law and democracy and actively pursues its responsibilities in this regard.

Türkiye is focussing on the activities of the UNHRC as well as other international organisations. Türkiye translates their decisions and shares them with the relevant parties. Türkiye's action in the field of international human rights is carried out in a decisive manner. During the reporting period, Türkiye announced the second Human Rights Action Plan to the public, the Turkish Human Rights and Equality Institution has been granted **B status** with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institution (GANHRI). The Turkish human rights report is prepared each year and is shared with the public.

Türkiye is also focussing on enhancing quality in the judiciary. Therefore, the criteria for the **promotion and monitoring of judges and public prosecutors** have been revised. Judges and prosecutors are now required to include **reasoned judgments** and abide by the timelines introduced. There are also opportunities for judges and prosecutors to benefit from a stage at the Constitutional Court. The Ministry of Justice, the EU and the Council of Europe have also implemented joint projects for the strengthening of the criminal justice system to prevent violations. These **capacity -building projects** focussed on various aspects such as procedural safeguards in detention, the admissibility of evidence and digital procedures. Manuals have been prepared and distributed to the judiciary. The Turkish Justice Academy in this respect trained almost 2,000 judges and prosecutors on several areas of criminal justice. In order to further enhance human rights implementation, Türkiye is focussing on the **new Human Rights Action Plan** and related activities in contact with academia, lawyers and international organisations. Türkiye aims to complete its activities in the shortest time possible so as to share with the public its new Human Rights Action Plan.

The judgments of high and international courts have been examined. Committee and Working Groups have been established with the United Nations bodies and work has been carried out with the European Court of Human Rights and other international organisations. Türkiye's focus is on the human being, and it is focussing on further enhancing fundamental rights and freedoms with the aim of developing an even stronger human rights framework to ensure that Turkish citizens can enjoy even broader freedoms.

Lastly, on **implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights**, the **90% compliance rate** is really important as stated by the Minister. Looking at the number of leading cases before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the number of cases pending there, Türkiye has implemented the highest number of leading cases and has been very successful in this regard.



Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking

The Ministry of Interior and the Department of Security have established a project called KADES, an application whereby women who fear violence have access by the touch of a single button to help. In terms of accessibility, the KADES application provides services in 11 languages including Turkish, Arabic, Farsi, French, English, Russian, Kurdish, German, Uzbek, Kurdish and Spanish. Thanks to this system, **989,000 possible cases of violence have been prevented**. Türkiye has provided training to more than 180,000 staff targeted at preventing potential cases of violence. With regard to the fight against human trafficking, **368 traffickers have been arrested** between 2024 and 2025.

Freedom of Assembly and Connected Issues

With regard to freedom of assembly, there have been more than 336,000 assemblies and community events. The intervention rate is very low, the use of force has been used sparingly, and staff received **training on the use of force**. From 19 March through 24 April in Istanbul and in other cities there have been more than 1,800 events which have been organised with an attendance of more than 1.5 million people. Some security officers have been injured and investigations are effectively ongoing. LGBT persons organised 103 events between 2020 and 2024 and no one was detained.

77 administrative investigations have been conducted on cases of **allegations of torture**. Cases of **excessive use of force** have also been reviewed and 362 administrative investigations and other judicial investigations have been conducted. 242,000 staff have received training on human rights and on the proportionate use of force. Other staff have been trained on **hate crimes** and the police between 2020 and 2025 have conducted trainings to 492,000 staff. This staff has received at least one hour of human rights training either face-to-face or remotely. Police academies also provide two hours of **human rights classes** each week for 15 weeks which include the history of human rights, the human rights protection and mechanisms in Türkiye. The police also have 4,246 detention spaces all equipped with video surveillance.

Responsibilities of the Gendarme

The Gendarme within the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for providing public order and also fulfils judicial activities and responsibilities whilst respecting and giving priority to human rights. For these reasons, there are requirements to become a member of the Gendarme. Individuals will have to be trained on human rights and related institutions; violence against women and the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the last five years, the Gendarme has trained more than 3,285 officers and 53,000 members of Gendarme and 20,000 other staff. As the General Command of the Gendarme, the focus is each year on at least 12 cities and in the last five years, 60 cities have been covered with **human rights training** for the Gendarme's staff and 980 detention centres. Up to 2,109 detention centres have been monitored and audited.

There are also auto control systems in the cities in which Gendarme detention centres are located. Such centres are monitored by the officers of the Gendarme and also by prosecutors. All 2,109 gendarme detention centres are in line with the international standards on places of detention. These areas are equipped with video surveillance whose records are kept for one year.



In the last five years, the General Command of the Gendarme focussed on **human traffickers and migrant smuggling**. 674 events have taken place and more than 397,000 irregular migrants have been identified. The Gendarme has apprehended more than 20,000 traffickers and smugglers in the last five years. The Gendarme has intervened in more than 58,000 incidents regarding Law 6284 on the prevention of violence against women and the protection of the family.

Refugees, Migration and Human Trafficking

The representative of the Department of Migration within the Ministry of Internal Affairs stresses that for many years Türkiye has been hosting millions of asylum seekers and refugees. Law 6458 on migration is the domestic law regulating all activities in this area. The General Directorate for Migration Management as a specialised department is also responsible for border management. The promotion of regular migration to combat irregular migration is ongoing through international collaborations. The country is equipped with necessary surveillance systems like thermal cameras and staff at borders to ensure the implementation of these activities.

With respect to temporary protection and international protection, the **principle of non-refoulement** is respected in all areas relating to migration. The Department counts with specialised staff in 81 provinces and regional decision-making systems in order to enhance the process of international protection. The Department continues to focus on these areas, including the protection of the high benefits of the child. Appeal mechanisms are available for both administrative and judicial procedures.

Currently, **2,750,039 Syrians** are benefiting from temporary protection. Starting from December 2024, more than 200,000 Syrians have returned voluntarily to Syria. From 1st January until 1st July 2025, Türkiye will be implementing another model where it will plan for future returns, whereby Türkiye will allow them to go back to Syria three times before they decide to return to Syria. Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, visited the Hatay-Cilvegözü border gate in January and has stated that the implementation of the model allowing individuals under temporary protection to return three times to their home country. The High Commissioner qualified it as a very good model that could be implemented elsewhere. This is an entirely voluntary process, without any forceful return, monitored by UNHCR. Türkiye provides social activities, education, access to legal services, social support in these areas for individuals under temporary protection.

Türkiye is a state party to the 1951 Geneva Convention governing the status of the refugees which states the importance of international support and burden-sharing, especially with respect to countries facing migration. In this regard, the Third National Action Plan approved on 29th January 2025 increased the national capacity in terms of shelters. The number of **shelters providing services to victims** has been increased from two to four and their capacity will increase from 50 to 100.

Prison and Detention Centres

The representative of the Department of Prison and Detention Centres within the Ministry of Justice explains its fundamental principle is to implement enforcement rules without any discrimination on the ground of belief, birth, race, social roots or other political views of individuals, whilst ensuring that no cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment takes place.



Türkiye's prisons and detention centres are subject to international monitoring. In this respect, the Committee on the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe and the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture are some of the mechanisms Türkiye adheres to. With respect to **national monitoring and auditing**, the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Petition Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Ombudsman Office, the Turkish Equality Institution and other inspection bodies carry out inspections in detention centres and prisons. All decisions are subject to appeals and objections. They are therefore subject to judicial review and can also be taken to a higher penal court. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice has focussed on a number of activities, also with the support of the EU Pre-Accession Financial Instrument as well as Erasmus+ programmes. It has ongoing collaborations with the Council of Europe and UNICEF. For instance, activities covering vulnerable groups focus on health projects, disciplinary measures and rewarding systems.

There is also the ACEP project on the **integration of smart technologies in prisons** and detention centres which include video conferencing, communications with the Ministry as well as doctor's appointments. The goal of this project is to ensure that people in prisons and detention houses can benefit from electronic mechanisms in order to ensure a transparent administrative system. This project is further going to cover online payment, online orders, electronic posts, mails and other library activities. Thanks to this project, convicted persons in prisons have been able to have video conferencing with their families. This is particularly important for relatives who reside in a city other than the province where the convicted person is kept in prison. These kinds of activities are also very important in that small children can also have access to meetings with their parents without having to travel to the prison or the detention centre. This has been a method by which the high interest of the child has also been protected. Many of the projects have also received awards. For example, the ACEP project and other projects have also been recognised in 2022 by the International Rehabilitation and Prison Houses Association (ICPA) The project received the Excellence Award with respect to the implementation. There is also an online psychosocial support project which has also received the Excellence Award at the ICPA Annual Meeting in Singapore in 2024.

As regards **staff training**, there are pre-service and in-service training activities. These training activities are focused on continuous regular trainings for staff working in prisons and detention centres. The aim of these trainings is to ensure a modern understanding of management of prisons and detention houses and to ensure the effective implementation of international standards. They also focus on proficiency of the staff working in prisons and detention centres. In this respect, there are on-site and online training activities which are being conducted to fill the gap with respect to training needs. This enhances the implementation of human rights principles in prisons and detention centres.

Women's Rights

The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs is focussing on activities regarding the prevention of violence against women. In the Turkish Penal Code, amendments were introduced in 2021 and 2022 to more effectively **punish crimes of violence against women**. Law 6284 on the protection of the family also foresees a number of precautionary measures to prevent violence against women. There is also a regulation enacted in 2021 to ensure the follow-up of these measures.



Furthermore, the legal infrastructure was strengthened with the enforcement of the Presidential Circular in 2023. As the Fourth National Action Plan covering the years 2021 and 2025 is nearing the end of its term, the Ministry is in the process of preparing the new plan which will cover 2026 and 2030. This **Fifth National Action Plan** for the prevention of violence against women will adopt an innovative and proactive approach. The national coordination mechanism for the Action Plan is a coordination body which is convened within the auspices of the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs and the structure of this coordination mechanism has been revised to render it more effective. In this respect, there are also **violence monitoring mechanisms and centres** called *Şenims* in short which play an important role in ensuring the provision of support and monitoring services. There are 84 *Şenims* at the moment. The Ministry aims to open more of these centres.

Women guesthouses provide support services and psychosocial support. The Ministry wants to make sure that it continues to provide services as effectively as possible but it also would like to ensure greater accessibility of services. Therefore, it also utilises district level social support centres. There is also hotline 183, which is a 24/7 service hotline to prevent violence against women. Since 2020, we have prioritized the reporting of violence by providing access to this hotline through some online platforms as well. The Ministry has also ensured electronic data integration between various public sector institutions which provide services regarding combating violence against women. In addition to having issued a circular on the prioritization of the victims of violence, significant steps have been taken to set in place end-to-end holistic support system for victims of violence.

To combat violence against women, other activities are also being implemented. In 2021, **seminars on violence against women** have been initiated in all cities and provinces. Work focussing on the profiles of aggressors has also been carried out in order to develop some risk models and address the needs in this area. With respect to strengthening women, a number of activities ranging from education to health to all avenues of life where the Ministry tries to ensure that women can justly benefit from opportunities as they arise. In this regard, a circular was issued to establish a national coordination mechanism whereby activities are aimed to be broadened to the local level.

Children's Rights

Türkiye has been intensively working towards strengthening the rights of the child. Significant steps have been taken to improve the legal and institutional framework for protecting and promoting the rights of the child. The most important one of them is the strategy document and the Action Plan on the Rights of the Child 2023-2028. It introduces comprehensive strategies to ensure a more inclusive society for children and strengthen **protective and preventive services** for them. Approximately 40% of the activities are already fulfilled and the efforts towards complete fulfilment of the Action Plan are ongoing. As one of the best practises across Europe and world, Provincial Child Rights Committees and Child Advisory Board have been established to promote children's participation in family, social and public life. These Committees aim to raise awareness about children's rights, involve them in **decision-making processes** at various levels. Efforts have also been made to **educate children about their rights** through the creation of accessible publications. Türkiye pays particular attention to the rights of the girl and takes comprehensive measures aimed at ending early and forced marriages as well as increasing girls' education rate in line with the strategy document and national action plan on combating early



and forced marriages. The national legal framework provides significant **guarantees against child labour** such as compulsory education, minimum age for work and working conditions, in line with the national programme and action plan for combating child labour.

The Ministry of Family and Social Services is the responsible authority for determining **the best interests and protection needs of child**, including unaccompanied children, and for providing the necessary services for their protection such as accommodation, psychosocial assistance and rehabilitation.

Child services are being carried out with a **family-orientated approach** and strategy. In this context, policies are developed and implemented with prioritising the child rights and the best interests of the child in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Services for children are structured in three stages. First, children are provided social and economic support within their families. If it is not possible to support children within their families, children are regularly united with their families studying through foster care or adoption. Institutional care is considered as a last alternative. With this approach, the proportion of children benefiting from family-orientated services has increased from 39% to 93% for the last 25 years. Moreover, projects towards **strengthening foster care system** and developing temporary foster care system is already in place. In order to raise healthier generations, the Ministry of Family and Social Services has made fundamental changes in child care services over the years towards homely child care. There are 119 child homes complexes and 1,800 child homes across the country.

With the recent regulations, 58 specialised child homes complexes were put into service where **rehabilitation services** are also provided for children and victims of crime. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, teams are set up in all provinces to identify children at risk through fieldwork, household visits and visits to educational institutions and to refer these children and their families to the appropriate social services. **Child protection mobile teams** continue their activities to provide protective and preventing services to children against all risks, especially school absenteeism.

To enable care services for all children in early childhood, **complementary care services** is implemented in accordance with legislation in the light of the principle of equal opportunity. Along with complementary care services, 3% of the total capacity in all private kindergartens and daily care centres is reserved for children in need.

Right to Education

The representative of the Ministry of National Education stresses the importance Türkiye's attaches to education a fundamental and inclusive human right for every individual. This is clearly guaranteed by article 42 of the Constitution, which states no one shall be excluded from the right to education and learning. Likewise, in accordance with article 10 of the Constitution, no individual shall be subjected to discrimination in education on the basis of language, race, colour, gender, religion, sect, disability or any difference. Furthermore, articles 4 and 8 of the Basic Law of National Education uphold the principle of equal opportunity in education and guarantee access to education for everyone. This entire legal framework demonstrates that Türkiye's education policies are shaped with a human rights-centred approach.

In the last five years, despite challenges, Türkiye has undergone significant transformation, achieving deep-rooted reforms and remarkable progress and lasting improvements in many



areas, including education. In this context, Türkiye has made significant strides in improving **access to education for girls**. The enrolment rate for the 6 to 13 age group is above 98%. This success has been made sustainable through guidance services, social support mechanisms and family awareness initiatives.

In terms of access to education for **individuals with disabilities**, Türkiye has expanded individualised education programmes, inclusive education practises and accessible infrastructure investments. Nearly 500,000 students with special needs have been included in the education system and 65 of them continue their education alongside with their peers. The right to education of **minority communities** are guaranteed by the law. There are currently 56 minority schools operating in Türkiye, which benefit from exemptions from licence-free textbook distribution and the right of development of their own religious and cultural curricula. The exemption procedures for religious, cultural and moral knowledge courses have been simplified and exam systems have been adapted to accommodate students' respective religious content.

Türkiye's **pluralistic and multilingual structure** is also reflected in its education system. Within the scope of this elective course, living languages and dialects implemented in primary education, **eight different languages**, including Kurdish, have been offered to the students. In the previous academic year, 25,000 students chose Kurdish and 50,000 textbooks were distributed free of charge. Regarding the education of **refugee and migrant children**, Türkiye, as the country hosting the largest refugee population in the world, has integrated over 1 million foreign national students into its education system. The current enrolment rate stands at 78.8%. Through adaptation programmes and psychological support services implemented in cooperation with international organisations, school attendance and the social integration of these children are being supported.

Compensatory mechanisms are also in place to ensure that no child is left behind. In the **post-earthquake reconstruction** period, approximately 3,100 new classrooms have been built and 45,000 classrooms have been renovated across 11 provinces. Millions of free books, items and technological equipment have been provided to the students and the teachers. More than 1 million individual psychological counselling sessions conducted by the guidance counsellors have supported both the educational and social recovery process.

Finally, Türkiye remains committed to implementing its education reforms in line with national priorities, international human rights standards, and its New Vision of building an **inclusive and equitable education system** responsive to the needs of time. Türkiye's education model developed with this Vision was presented as an example to the OECD and represents a value-based approach grounded in universal principles and equal opportunity for all children.

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE DELEGATION OF TÜRKIYE

In closing, **H.E. Mr. Mehmet KEMAL BOZAY, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for European Affairs of Türkiye** states that today's discussions will allow Türkiye to make a well-rounded analysis and to draw a more accurate roadmap for the future. Regarding the statements made by some representatives, the position of Türkiye has been clearly expressed in previous interventions. The Chief of the delegation requests that the rejection of issues regarding Cyprus and minorities in Türkiye - as defined in the Lausanne Peace Treaty - be clearly reflected in the report of the Working Group.



MEASURES APPRECIATED BY STATE DELEGATIONS

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** commends the implementation of the Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and strategic documents on the rights of the child.

Djibouti appreciates the adoption and implementation of the Judicial Reform Strategy of 2019 and the announcement of the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy 2025-2029, which will further contribute to improving justice and the rule of law.

Denmark welcomes Türkiye's commendable approach to Syrian nationals under international protection by allowing visits to Syria before deciding whether to return.

The **Dominican Republic** highlights initiatives such as the Plan of Action for the Empowerment of Women 2024-2028 and the Barrier-Free Vision 2030.

Ecuador highlights the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women 2021-2025.

Equatorial Guinea recognises the strategies and measures to strengthen the security and protection of its citizens. The Action Plan on Human Rights, which was successfully concluded in April 2023, was characterised by the adoption of various legislative and administrative measures that contribute to better protection and promotion of human rights.

Eritrea recognises the ambitious goals set out in the 12th National Development Plan, particularly the focus on advancing women's rights and gender equality across society. It also positively notes Türkiye's role as a host to nearly 3.5 million refugees and asylum seekers; the adoption of the 2022 strategy document on migration; and the 2023-2025 Action Plan on Disability Rights and its emphasis on legislative review, inclusive services, and awareness.

Estonia expresses appreciation for the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change and commends Türkiye's close cooperation with the UN Women, anticipating the establishment of UN Women's Country Office in Ankara in the near future.

Gabon welcomes the National Programme to Combat Child Labour, 2017-2023 and Strategic Document to Combat Early Enforced Marriage 2018-2023.

The **Gambia** commends the 2021-2023 Judicial Reform Strategy and Human Rights Action Plan, which enhance judicial independence, access to justice and rights-based governance, and welcomes the 2024 increase in women's representation in Parliament and at the provincial level.

Georgia welcomes the progress in combating child labour as well as the adoption of the Regulation on Alternative Measures to Administrative Detention, and further recognises Türkiye's efforts to improve conditions of detention and alleviate overcrowding.

Ghana commends Türkiye for the successful implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan 2021-2023 and for the adoption of various legislative and administrative measures under the plan to further promote and protect human rights.

Guinea commends Türkiye for significant progress made, mainly by adopting the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy, drafting the new Human Rights Line of Action, as well as the efforts that have

been made to protect refugees and vulnerable populations, particularly after the February 2022 earthquake.

Honduras acknowledges progress in implementing the third Judicial Reform Strategy and the National Action Plan for Inclusive Education.

Hungary notes with appreciation Türkiye's continued cooperation with the UN human rights treaty bodies and UNHRC Special Procedures, and welcomes the 2024 agreement establishing a UN Women's Country Office in Ankara.

India appreciates the post-earthquake recovery efforts made by Türkiye and acknowledges its engagement with the European authorities.

Iran commends the implementation of the Fair Judicial Reform Strategy and Human Rights Action Plan, efforts which have enhanced access to justice and promoted legal safeguards.

Ireland recognizes progress in combating child labour.

Japan highly appreciates its measure to ensure the protection and promotion of the lives of refugees and other asylum seekers in the region, including from Syria, and further commends its effort to continue to engage in dialogue with different ethnic groups within its judiciary.

Kazakhstan commends progress in promoting and strengthening the role and participation of women in all spheres of life and in combating violence against women as reflected in the Fourth National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women 2021-2025 and the Strategic Document and Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women 2024-2028. It further recognises the measures taken by the state to improve the legal and institutional framework for protecting and promoting the rights of child to ensure full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in public and social life.

Kuwait commends efforts in improving women's rights and women's participation in all spheres of life.

The **Lao PDR** commends the significant progress in the promotion and protection of human rights since the last review, in particular the promotion of gender equality and the protection of children's rights.

Lebanon commends Türkiye's progress in economic and social rights, particularly in expanding access to health care, education and social protection, and also recognises Türkiye's continued investment in inclusive policies that protect vulnerable groups and promote equal opportunities for all.

Libya commends the implementation of the legal reform strategy that aims to achieve the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

Lithuania acknowledges Türkiye's considerable efforts to host almost 3.5 million refugees and asylum seekers and to provide them with access to healthcare, education, and other essential services.



Malawi commends Türkiye for the progress made in the protection and promotion of human rights and the continued efforts aimed at complying with international principles and standards both in law and practise.

Malaysia commends Türkiye's continued efforts to promote and protect human rights through legal reforms and transparent process involving various stakeholders.

The **Maldives** appreciates the significant progress made in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and welcome the adoption of the Strategy Document and Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women 2024-2028, which aims to strengthen women's role and ensure their equal participation across all spheres of society.

Mali commends Türkiye for the elaboration of a new Strategic Document and Plan of Action for Women's Empowerment for 2024-2028, defining several objectives, strategies and activities and follow-up indicators, evaluation indicators, in spheres of development which are key to women, education, health, economy, access of women to leadership roles, and our participation in decision-making processes and environment and climate change activities.

Malta stresses various initiatives undertaken by Türkiye notably on women's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities, and commends Türkiye for its ratification record of international human rights conventions.

Mauritania commends the ongoing efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework to protect fundamental rights and freedoms as well as the implementation of the Judicial Reform Strategy 2019-2023. It is with satisfaction that Mauritania notes the specific tangible impact of this reform, which has seen the independence and authority of the judicial branch increased and access to justice as well.

Mauritius expresses its deepest sympathies to the families hit by the earthquake in Türkiye in 2023.

Mexico recognises the efforts made towards women's empowerment, particularly in the sphere of work.

Mongolia commends Türkiye for the significant steps taken in areas such as access to education, health care, and the protection of persons in vulnerable situations. It further takes positive note of Türkiye's continued efforts to review its legislation and practise in line with its international human rights commitments.

Montenegro welcomes policy measures to advance women's rights, such as the 2024-2028 Strategy Document and Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women and the 12th National Development Plan.

Qatar commends efforts undertaken to implement the Human Rights Action Plan, which has contributed to strengthening fundamental freedoms in the country, as well as efforts deployed to work with the UN human rights mechanisms. It further congratulates Türkiye on its Strategic Plan for Children, strengthening the normative and institutional framework to protect children.

Namibia commends Türkiye for taking significant measures to improve effectiveness of the judiciary and enhance access to justice.



Nepal takes good note of the steps taken towards enhancing access to justice, including through legal aid mechanisms.

Luxembourg welcomes some positive developments, including the adoption of the judicial reform strategy.

New Zealand welcomes the increase in female political representation during the review period and recent progress towards the disarmament of and end to violence by the Kurdistan Workers' Party. It further commends Türkiye for its generous hosting of 3.5 million refugees.

North Macedonia acknowledges the significant steps taken to enhance access to education, healthcare, as well as efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

Oman commends the efforts deployed to protect the rights of the child through the National Action Plan 2023-2028 and creating the Judiciary Child Centres to ensure child-friendly and responsive judgments.

Pakistan commends Türkiye's continued focus to enhance the legislative, institutional and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, especially through the National Human Rights Action Plan, the Action Plan on the Rights of the Child, and work on ensuring accessibility of public infrastructure. Pakistan further notes with appreciation Türkiye's achievements in ensuring full and effective participation of women in leadership positions.

Paraguay welcomes the implementation of the Human Rights 2021-2023 Plan of Action as well as the new Strategy and Plan of Action to Empower Women 2024-2028.

The **Philippines** commends the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2021 and Türkiye's committed efforts to fulfil humanitarian obligations in the face of a refugee crisis.

Portugal welcomes the steps taken to involve children in decision-making processes, namely the establishment of provincial children's rights committees and the creation of accessible publications in partnership with UNICEF.

Morocco commends efforts to strengthen human rights protection and promote social development despite difficult regional geopolitical circumstances.

The **Republic of Korea** takes note of efforts to enhance effectiveness, accessibility and independence of the judiciary through the implementation of the judicial reform strategies, and welcomes Türkiye's commitment to upholding the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified returns of refugees as well as non-refoulement.

The **Republic of Moldova** appreciates the progress made in combating child labour, including through the creation of responsible units in all provinces. It acknowledges the efforts in responding to the refugee crisis.

The **Russian Federation** positively notes the review of legislation for a more effective implementation of international treaties in domestic legal system; the protection measures for the rights and freedoms of vulnerable groups, children, women, people with disabilities and older persons; and the increased effectiveness of the judicial system and broader access to justice.



Rwanda commends Türkiye for the significant advancements in promoting and protecting human rights since its previous review.

Samoa welcomes Türkiye's ratification of the Paris Agreement and counts on their commitment to foster ambitious climate action with an aim to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It further commends Türkiye's strategies and action plans relating to the empowerment of women, the rights of the child and inclusive education.

Saudi Arabia commends efforts in promoting human rights and the progress made in supporting persons with disabilities.

Senegal welcomes Türkiye's cooperation with UN human rights treaty bodies.

Sierra Leone commends Türkiye for its provision of free pre-primary and secondary education, and notes the country's continued commitment to humanitarian assistance as evidenced by its hosting of over 3.5 million refugees. It commends Türkiye for its constitutional commitment to religious freedom and cultural pluralism which oppose the right of citizens to freely manifest and practise their religion.

Singapore commends the strides made to improve the schooling rates of girls at all levels of education and the continued prioritisation of the inclusion of all children in education and the steps taken to promote and protect the rights of the child, especially children with special needs.

Slovenia notes with appreciation Türkiye's engagement with the UPR mechanism, notes and encourages Türkiye's efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework on gender equality.

South Africa recognises Türkiye's commitment to continue to advance human rights as demonstrated through the pledges made on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UDHR to empower and strengthen the rights of women and girls as well as to reinstate its voluntary financial contributions to OHCHR.

South Sudan commends Türkiye for standing firm to promote and protect human rights amidst difficult geopolitical circumstances and significant natural disasters.

Spain congratulates Türkiye on progress made in combating child labour and the efforts that they have made to improve the access of refugees to the educational and health services.

Sri Lanka commends measures to provide all necessary support to children who have difficulty in pursuing education due to financial or geographic constraints.

The **State of Palestine** highly values Türkiye's strong commitment to human rights and justice, as demonstrated by its intervention in the South Africa case before ICJ, and its continued support for Palestinian institutions and humanitarian assistance efforts.

Sudan welcomes the legislative and institutional reforms such as the Fourth Judicial Review Strategy, the Strategy to promote greater women's empowerment, the Strategy for children, the second Development Plan, and human rights mainstreaming into criminal justice.

Suriname recognises considerable efforts deployed in responding to the refugee crisis in the region and welcomes the adoption of the Regulation on Alternative Measures to Administrative



Detention. It further welcomes the continuous efforts to improve the condition of detention and of crowding in penitentiary institutions.

Sweden recognises Türkiye's efforts and engagement on human rights, including in international human rights systems.

The **Syrian Arab Republic** praises the legislative, economic and social measures undertaken in promoting human rights and cooperating with the UN and civil society in a constructive way.

Thailand commends Türkiye's efforts to promote inclusive health and education services as well as to rebuild infrastructure in the earthquake-affected regions.

Togo appreciates the key measures taken to make the legal system more efficient while improving access to justice and the administration thereof.

Tunisia welcomes Türkiye's cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms; the steps taken to strengthen the national commitment to international standards; and the raft of institutional and judicial reform measures.

Turkmenistan positively notes the significant progress made in improving the judicial system and strengthening the national human rights institution.

Uganda commends Türkiye for the key role they play in the region, especially their continued generosity in hosting large numbers of refugees amid its declining international support.

Ukraine commends the efforts to strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in line with the principle of separation of powers.

The **United Republic of Tanzania** acknowledges Türkiye's dedication as demonstrated by submission of reports on the key human rights instruments, including the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Uruguay welcomes the efforts made by the country in protecting and promoting human rights, including the National Human Rights Plan.

Uzbekistan commends the adoption of the Strategy Document and Action Plan for the Improvement of Women, the National Development Plan, the Strategy Document and Action Plan on the Rights of the Children and others; as well as Türkiye's well-established cooperation with international human rights institutions, including active collaboration with OHCHR, treaty bodies and UN Special Procedures.

Vanuatu welcomes the National Development Plan 2024-2028, stipulating ambitious goals in the field of the rights of women.

Venezuela emphasises the progress made in the sphere of promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development, taking into account in particular the political will of the state to guarantee civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights with no distinction at all.

Viet Nam welcomes Türkiye's adoption and implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan for 2021-2023 and acknowledges its policy to combat violence against women and enhance the participation of women in all spheres of life.



Zimbabwe commends the country for the legal reforms and the measures it has taken to improve the effectiveness of its judicial. It further recognises efforts towards strengthening the rights of children and combating violence against women.

Albania welcomes the significant progress to implement the recommendations formulated during the last UPR, despite the geopolitical challenges, the refugee crisis, and major natural disasters such as the 2023 earthquake. It further welcomes progress accomplished to promote the rights of women, and note progress made in combating discrimination. Albania notes Türkiye's efforts to strengthen the independence and efficiency of the judicial authorities.

Australia welcomes Türkiye's hosting of over three million refugees.

Azerbaijan commends the adoption of a series of measures that contribute to improving effectiveness of the judiciary, enhancing access to and administration of justice, and strengthening the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. Azerbaijan congratulates Türkiye on the successful conclusion of the Third Judicial Reform Strategy and wish every success with the implementation of the Fourth Justice Reform Strategy. It further appreciates Türkiye's commitment to the goals of improving the rights of women, ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and strengthening their status in society. Azerbaijan also welcomes the measures taken to ensure full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in public and social life.

Bangladesh praises the on the protection of human rights, notably by the re-examination of legislation and national practises and by the strengthening of institutional capacities.

Belarus notes the efforts to protect human rights in difficult conditions, including combating terrorism and overcoming the impacts of devastating natural disasters, and welcomes reform measures on the legal system and access to justice.

Belgium welcomes progress in certain areas, especially the fight against child labour.

Bolivia welcomes the drafting of a strategy and an action plan for the autonomization of women in 2024-2028.

Botswana congratulates Türkiye on all the legislative and regulatory measures adopted to improve the efficiency of the health service and to strengthen independence and impartiality in respect of the principle of separation of powers.

Brazil recognises the efforts to reform the judicial system, as well as the role of national institutions such as the Institute of Equal Rights and the Mediator.

Brunei Darussalam appreciates the achievements of Türkiye in terms of protection and promotion since the previous cycle, in particular thanks to the introduction of the Fourth Strategy and the Action Plan on Human Rights.

Bulgaria recognizes significant efforts to implement the national Action Plan on Human Rights.

Burkina Faso appreciates the strengthening of judicial power and the improvement of access to justice and its administration, as well as the good cooperation of the country with international bodies and mechanisms to pursue human rights.



Burundi appreciates measures to increase girls' literacy and to put an end to forced marriages; the actions taken in solidarity against violence against women, including the creation of specialised units for services, repression and telephone lines of assistance.

Cambodia welcomes the positive reforms undertaken during the reporting period, particularly in the areas of child labour and the rights of persons with disabilities, which reflect a strong commitment to advancing human rights.

Cameroon appreciates the implementation of national strategies to combat inequality and poverty, thus reinforcing the socio-economic rights of the population.

Canada commends Türkiye for hosting over 3 million refugees.

China salutes the efforts in adapting the infrastructure to the needs of disabled people.

Colombia congratulates Türkiye for adopting the alternative measures to administrative detention.

Congo appreciates the significant results of Türkiye's efforts in many areas of human rights, most notably in the fight against child labour, the promotion of the rights of the elderly and the increase of enrolment rates and the schooling of girls.

Cote d'Ivoire congratulates the Turkish Government for the progress made in the fight against child labour and for the remarkable efforts made in the face of the refugee crisis through the adoption of the strategic document on immigration.

Croatia welcomes the implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan 2024-2028.

334 RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THEME

Ratification of International Instruments

- Re-accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention (Cyprus, France, Malta, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, Austria).
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland).
- Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (DRC, Gambia, Iraq, Malta, Mongolia, Namibia, Paraguay, Portugal, Samoa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Ukraine, Cote d'Ivoire, Colombia, Chile).
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (DRC, Ecuador, Portugal, Suriname).
- Ratify the UNESCO Against Discrimination in Education (DRC, Malawi, Congo).
- Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Panama).
- Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and participate as an observer in the meetings of states parties (Samoa).
- Ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Slovenia).



- Remove all obstacles for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty (Croatia).
- Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 of 2011 on Domestic Workers (Cote d'Ivoire).
- Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Cote d'Ivoire).

International Cooperation and Human Rights Obligations

- Implement the judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights (Czechia, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Belgium).
- Uphold the rule of law on independent and impartial judiciary and ensure respect for separation of powers (Austria).
- Implement ECtHR judgments on inheritance and property rights, including of descendants of members of the Greek minority who are not Turkish nationals (Greece).
- Guarantee the full implementation of the decisions of international bodies, especially in the event of a violation that affects a large number of individuals (Croatia).
- Bring counter-terrorism legislation into full compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensure such legislation is not misused to target journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organisations (Ireland).
- Strengthen the rule of law at all levels, making effort to adhere to international standards set by relevant UN and other international conventions (Italy).
- Continue upholding the principle of non-refoulement (Lebanon).
- Continue cooperating with UN human rights mechanisms (Libya, Malawi).
- Continue reviewing and bringing national legislation into line with international human rights standards (Russian Federation, Singapore).
- Finalise the new Action Plan on Human Rights (South Africa).
- Bring the child justice system entirely in line with the CRC and other relevant international standards (Togo).
- Strengthen cooperation with the international community to fight terrorism, to protect the rights of the population and maintain peace and stability (China).

Situation of Human Rights in Northern Cyprus

- Implement all judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) concerning human rights violations in occupied Cyprus and restore the right of the displaced persons to their home and property (Cyprus).
- Investigate the fate of the missing persons and provide to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus unhindered access to all areas and information (Cyprus).
- Respect the rights and freedoms of all Cypriots in the occupied areas, including of the enclaved Greek Cypriots and by providing unrestricted access to Christian and religious sites (Cyprus).
- Implement ECtHR judgments on human rights violations in the areas of Cyprus under Turkish occupation (Greece).

The Judiciary and National Human Rights Institutions

- Enable democratically elected representatives to carry out their mandates and end the practise of replacing them with appointed administrators (Czechia).



- Ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Czechia, India, Japan, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Portugal, Bulgaria, Belgium), by guaranteeing the full independence of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors from the Executive (Denmark, Switzerland, Canada).
- Strengthens judicial independence by amending constitutional provisions for appointing members of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors, ensuring peer election and preventing executive interference (United Kingdom).
- Reform the judicial system to uphold the rule of law, guarantee the integrity of the system, address impunity, and ensure independent and impartial investigation, prosecution, and trial (Finland).
- Ensure judicial independence and restructure the Council of Judges and Prosecutors in alignment with international standards (Norway).
- Guarantee the full implementation of the decisions of the Constitutional Court (France).
- Guarantee the independence of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors by, inter alia, changing the nomination conditions for members (France).
- Continue strengthening the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy as a guarantee to a justice system founded on the rule of law and respect for human rights (Rwanda).
- Strengthen the independence and operational capacity of the Human Rights and Equality Institution to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles (Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Montenegro, Pakistan).
- Strengthen the work of the Human Rights and Equality Institution and provide it with the necessary human and financial means in order to consider the opening of other regional offices (Morocco).
- Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judicial system in bringing anti-terrorism, defamation and disinformation legislation in line with the ICCPR (Germany).
- Improve accessibility and responsiveness of national human rights institutions across all regions (Iran).
- Consider setting up a national standing mechanism for the implementation and reporting on human rights in order to receive cooperation in this area (Paraguay).
- Continue ongoing efforts aimed at improving the legal system (Turkmenistan).

Civil and Political Rights

- Implement the legal provisions prohibiting corporal punishments in all settings (Namibia).
- Strengthen measures to prevent torture and ill-treatment and ensure effective and independent investigations of alleged cases (Moldova).
- Continue efforts to improve conditions of detention in line with international standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (South Africa).
- Cease the excessive use of pre-trial detention and ensure all defendants are guaranteed due legal process, including by independent judiciary (Australia).
- Amend vague legislation, including on anti-terrorism and dissemination of untrue information, ensuring definitions of offences are sufficiently precise to prevent arbitrary detention (Australia).
- Continue to strengthen measures to fight against discrimination and hate crimes (South Africa).



- Adopt complete legislation against all forms of discrimination (Albania, Bolivia).
- Facilitate favourable conditions for lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate professional duties (Lithuania).
- Ensure the proportionate use of laws in order to ensure that human rights defenders and journalists have an enabling environment, favourable environment, free from threats, reprisals, violence or other types of harassment as they carry out their professional responsibility (Switzerland).
- Continue efforts to ensure the safety and freedom of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society actors (North Macedonia).
- Create a safe environment for the work of the activists and human rights defenders (Oman).
- Protect independent journalism and freedom of expression, ensure effective investigations into threats and attacks against human rights defenders (Slovenia).
- Ensure all existing and future legislation does not interfere with the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as peaceful assembly and association (Canada).
- Drop criminal charges and release all human rights defenders, politicians, artists and journalists imprisoned for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression as protected under international law (Canada).
- Ensure that administrative or judicial measures are not applied as a means to put undue pressure on elected officials or other public figures (Sweden).
- Adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination in both the public and private sectors and on all grounds prohibited under the ICCPR (Namibia).
- Take further measures to combat all forms of discrimination and to enhance enforcement and accountability mechanisms (Thailand).
- Guarantee freedom of religion for all (Croatia).
- Guarantee human rights defenders the freedom of their activities (Colombia).

Freedoms of Assembly and Expression, including Media Freedom

- Ensure the full exercise of freedom of speech and promote the free and independent functioning of media (Czechia).
- Ensure freedom of expression (Italy) and media freedom online and offline, particularly by refraining from blocking online content without judicial oversight (Estonia).
- Eliminate restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, ensuring no undue interference and allows independent media to operate freely without fear of censorship (United Kingdom).
- Ensure the right to freedom of expression, to enable the media, journalists and human rights defenders to carry out their work independently and without fear of reprisals (Austria).
- Review the law on the fight against terrorism, so that the right to freedom of assembly can be carried out (Costa Rica).
- Ensure full respect for freedom of expression, press freedom and peaceful assembly (Netherlands, Spain) and avoid indiscriminate use of anti-terrorist legislation (Spain).
- Protect all people's freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly and association (Australia).
- Amend article 217-A of the Turkish Penal Code to ensure protection of freedom of expression in line with Article 19 of the ICCPR and the recommendations by the Venice Commission (Denmark).



- Ensure the right of peaceful assembly and that any legal restrictions comply with the ICCPR (Liechtenstein, Lithuania).
- Consider revisions of domestic laws in order to protect freedom of expression and to promote an open media landscape (Sweden).
- Guarantee the right to freedom of assembly, including by ensuring that restrictions provided by law are not applied in an extensive manner (Austria).
- Prevent the use of anti-terrorist law for arbitrary detention of citizens, including journalists, activists, men and women (Colombia).
- Ensure that freedom of assembly, expression, and association legislation is in line with international human rights obligations and is fully implemented (Finland).
- Amend the law against terrorism to align it with the international human rights obligations (France, Belgium), particularly with regard to freedom of expression, of the press and of assembly (France).
- Strengthen measures to protect freedom of expression, including amending the anti-terror law to ensure that journalists, lawyers and civil society are not unjustly targeted (New Zealand).
- Strengthen the efforts to guarantee the rights and freedoms of meetings by raising the restrictions to peaceful meetings, especially for people and LGBTQI+ (Belgium).
- Ensure the full exercise of freedom of assembly and foster the unrestricted functioning of civil society (Czechia).
- Ensure free and safe space for civil society and political participation (Finland).
- Ensure a safe environment for journalists and civil society without fear of reprisals (Greece, India).
- Adopt measures to protect the freedoms of expression, assembly and association and ensure a safe environment for civil society, human rights defenders and journalists, thereby ensuring that any restriction on such liberties respect international standards (Chile).
- Ensure and promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression and assembly by paying due consideration to relevant international human rights standards (Japan).
- Take measures aimed at protecting freedom of expression, in particular the freedom of the press, the work of journalists and human rights defenders, thus guaranteeing a safe environment for them to carry out their activities without retaliation (Costa Rica).
- Allow the holding of legitimate demonstrations, thus guaranteeing a safe environment for civil society (Costa Rica).
- Ensure an inclusive political environment for all societal actors to participate in without fear and ensure that protesters can legitimately exercise their rights to freedom of expression (Liechtenstein).
- Make sure that detentions and criminal proceedings are not used to target politicians, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and the LGBTQI community for the sole reason that they exercise their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly (Luxembourg).
- Take steps to address structural barriers to freedom of association and assembly, including ensuring that authorities are not arbitrary in planning protests for assemblies of constituencies (New Zealand).



- Respect the right to freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of assembly and peaceful association, and repeal the law of amendments to the press law and certain laws (North Macedonia).

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Pursue efforts to have access to modern health services for the regions affected by earthquakes in far remote regions (Guinea, Viet Nam) and for refugees (Guinea).
- Guarantee universal and affordable sexual and reproductive health services for all persons throughout the country (Iceland).
- Further strengthen access to quality health services, and ensure equitable access to education in remote and earthquake-affected areas (Indonesia).
- Ensure the continued accessibility of reproductive health commodities at the primary health care level (Sri Lanka).
- Increase access to and resilience of health services, particularly in vulnerable situations (Thailand).
- Increase financial coverage and services for the universal health service in public and private institutions, focussing on the health of mothers and children (Bolivia).
- Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality, inclusive education and health care (Turkmenistan).
- Intensify efforts to improve equal access to education for all, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, minorities and children (Vanuatu).
- Continue to promote education and lifelong learning of all people, including persons with disabilities (Bangladesh).
- Strengthen the range of offers in education and its quality, in particular in areas where there is a high concentration of refugees (Mali).
- Continue policies to improve quality education and to facilitate access to it (Sudan, Syria).
- Expand socioeconomic programmes, benefiting vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Iran).
- Expand the provision of legal support to all vulnerable groups (Montenegro).
- Reinforce labour inspection to detect and prosecute work-related accidents (Sri Lanka).
- Protect workers' rights by enhancing legal frameworks for trade unions, prevents harassment and intimidation and guarantees the right to union activities without reprisals (United Kingdom).

Women's Rights

- Pursue policies to empower women (Dominican Republic, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Viet Nam) and uphold gender equality (New Zealand, Morocco).
- Continue fostering women's participation in decision-making (Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia) and in the labour market (Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Libya, Malaysia) and in all spheres of life without discrimination (Nepal, North Macedonia, Albania).
- Continue efforts to economically empower women and increase their participation in decision-making, their access to key jobs, to provide true positions and parliamentary representation (Suriname).



- Strengthen efforts to combat and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (Czechia, Djibouti, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay, Burkina Faso).
- Continue to work on an effective implementation of the legal framework relating to violence against women and girls (Austria).
- Criminalize all forms of violence against women (Gambia), including domestic violence (Ukraine), and ensure effective protection and support for victims of violence against women (Gambia, Malawi, Philippines, Bangladesh).
- Develop services for victims of sexual violence, especially in prevention and surveillance centres, and improve access to emergency care and legal examination, with multilingual assistance (Brazil).
- Ensure that shelters have sufficient capacity to welcome survivors of gender-based violence within 24 hours (Switzerland).
- Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence (Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, Uruguay, Croatia, Bangladesh) and feminicide (India, Malawi), and bring perpetrators to account (Republic of Korea).
- Criminalize feminicide (Mexico, Ukraine) and strengthen of the network of shelters for victims of GBV, in particular in rural areas (Mexico).
- Take concrete measures and measures of policy to prevent and fight against gender-based violence, intrafamilial and femicide crime and to guarantee effective investigations, prosecutions and the protection of victims (Belgium).
- Conduct sensitisation campaigns in favour of the abandonment of sexual violence (Costa Rica).
- Take further steps to combat domestic violence, including by raising awareness and ensuring the effective implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan to combat violence against women (Moldova).
- Step up efforts towards legislative initiatives in order to create a violence against women and girls observatory mandated to prevent femicides, to introduce measures to reduce the sentences for femicides committed on honour crime (Panama).
- Remove honour crimes from Article 29 of the Criminal Code and to effectively criminalise gender-based violence and femicide (Spain).
- Introduce effective legislation that protects women and girls from gender-based violence and from child marriage (Sweden).
- Continue strengthening efforts to support female entrepreneurship, including through the implementation of the latest Strategy and Action Plan for the Empowerment of Women (Georgia).
- Continue promoting women's access to education, leadership roles, and entrepreneurship opportunities (Kazakhstan, Philippines).
- Redouble efforts to prevent and end violence against women, including femicide and honour crimes, to guarantee the protection of victims, access to justice, and the operation of shelters throughout the country (Paraguay).
- Continue to implement the Strategy Document and Action Plan on women's rights (Uzbekistan, Belarus).
- Continue to implement the Action Plan for Strengthening the Family (Finland, Vanuatu).



- Continue to promote women's autonomy in various sectors, in particular education, economy and health (Brunei Darussalam).

Children's Rights

- Continue to implement the Strategy and Plan of Action on the Rights of the Child 2023-2028 (Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Bulgaria, Belarus).
- Continue to foster inclusive and equitable access to education (United Arab Emirates), particularly girls (Cuba, Mauritius), children with disabilities (Cuba, Mauritania), foreign children under protection (Cuba), and children in remote or rural areas, those facing poverty and other barriers (Thailand).
- Continue efforts to improve the education system, in particular thanks to social assistance and access to education in rural areas (Brunei Darussalam).
- Guarantee equal access to education to children (Dominican Republic, Senegal) with a focus on rural regions (Honduras, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan), guarantee (at least) 12 years of free education (Guinea, Kuwait, Malta).
- Enshrine the right to education in all relevant legislation (Malta, State of Palestine).
- Take measures to guarantee free education from primary to secondary levels (Dominican Republic).
- Strengthen access for all children to high quality education, in particular for vulnerable children (Qatar).
- Adopt policies to provide free and accessible pre-primary education for all children and consider sharing best practises and experiences in providing sustainable free pre-primary and secondary education to strengthen global efforts to achieve inclusive and equitable quality education (Sierra Leone).
- Increase girls' school attendance rate, especially in rural areas (Kazakhstan, Oman).
- Integrate comprehensive sexuality education in and out school settings (Iceland).
- Maintain support programmes like mobile classrooms and conditional cash transfers to prevent school dropout (Rwanda).
- Step up efforts aimed to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children and adolescents (Ecuador).
- Enhance diverse measures and alternatives to imprisonment for children (Montenegro).
- Strengthen measures to end violence against children, including by implementing the pledges made at the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Gambia).
- Continue to strengthen domestic legislation and institutional frameworks to prevent and address sexual exploitation of children, including online sexual abuse, and improve access to education for women and girls (Malaysia).
- Continuing efforts to implement the provisions of the Act on Children's Protection, as well as to strengthen control and oversight to protect children from all forms of exploitation (Bahrain).
- Strengthen measures to combat child labour (Malta, Rwanda, State of Palestine, Bangladesh) by ensuring the coordination of child labour prevention units across all provinces (Rwanda, Cambodia).
- Continue integrating child labourers into the education system and the training system (Tunisia).



- Strengthen the social protection system to better respond the needs of children (Gabon).
- Continue efforts to improve awareness of the rights of the child and to circulate child-friendly publications (Kuwait).
- Amend legislation to prohibit marriage below 18 years without any exception (Mexico, Portugal, Chile).
- Strengthen measures to address early and child marriages (Oman, Sweden).
- Continue developing and broadening judicial mechanisms tailored to the requirements of children, including youth justice centres and tailored interview rooms (Venezuela).
- Extend the scope of the population health services to further reduce the rate of infant mortality and children under 5 years of age (Burundi).
- Continue to work on a more inclusive environment for children and to improve the protection services for children (Bulgaria).

Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons

- Improve the protection and protection of older persons through inclusive policies and economic protection (Dominican Republic).
- Strengthen the implementation of the Plan of Action on Persons with Disabilities (Syria), including actions in rural areas (Dominican Republic), and improve accessibility in education, employment, and infrastructure (Eritrea).
- Continue advancing the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities with the focus on accessibility to health and education for children (Georgia).
- Ensure that all children with disabilities have full access to health care services (Maldives, South Sudan) and inclusive quality education (South Sudan, Cameroon).
- Enhance access to sufficient services and assist the children with disabilities, in particular in rural and remote areas (Hungary).
- Continue efforts ensuring full participation by persons with disabilities in public and social life (United Arab Emirates).
- Reinforce integration policies in the world of work in favour of people with disabilities (Equatorial Guinea).
- Increase inclusivity and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia).
- Increase awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatisation and prejudice against children with disability and ensure the protection of their rights (Ghana).
- Continue to take measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including enabling their accessibility to public facilities and transport means (Uganda).
- Continue renovating court and public buildings to meet updated accessibility standards (Pakistan).
- Strengthen training programmes for health personnel and social workforce who are serving older persons and persons with disabilities (Malaysia).
- Strengthen accessibility of public spaces (Sri Lanka, Burkina Faso) and services to the disabled (Sri Lanka).
- Adopt adequate strategies taking into account disabled people in a situation of disaster (China).
- Ensure the wide availability of sign language interpretation and virtual hearing options in judicial proceedings (Cameroon).



- Continue advancing the implementation of the 2030 Barrier-Free Vision to promote full inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities (Cambodia).

Refugees, Migration and Human Trafficking

- Take measures to promote the integration of refugees and their social life and their access to educational and health services (Ecuador).
- Strengthen the institutional capacity to ensure equitable access to education, health care, and legal assistance for all migrants and asylum seekers (Eritrea).
- Continue efforts to ensure the voluntary safe, dignified repatriation or resettlement of refugees while protecting their rights and ensuring access to basic services (Indonesia).
- Guarantee effective access without discrimination to basic services for children, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants (Honduras).
- Take measures to facilitate access to justice for all migrant workers including by removing all obstacles preventing them from filing complaints for abuses and violations (South Sudan).
- Ensure the full implementation of national mechanisms for the protection of the fundamental rights of illegal migrants (Senegal).
- Continue efforts to prevent illegal migration to effectively combat human trafficking (Hungary, Belarus).
- Continue to strengthen its institutional framework on migration to ensure protection of women, minors, and children (Zimbabwe).
- Strengthen the integration policies of refugees and migrants, in particular by creating centres that will undergo linguistic training and focus on education and employment (Brazil).
- Strengthen mechanisms and institutions to combat human trafficking, focussing in particular on prevention and protection of victims, in particular women and children, and allocating human and financial resources which are sufficient (Djibouti).
- Enhance awareness nationally on human trafficking and its various forms of exploitation aligned with the SDGs (Maldives).
- Strengthen measures taken towards the effective management of human mobility (Nepal).
- Adopt measures to seek due diligence in the area of human rights in order to combat trafficking in persons and labour exploitation in business operations and at the supply chains (Panama).
- Adopt comprehensive legislation against trafficking in persons, including effective mechanisms, reparation mechanisms, and sanctions for those responsible (Paraguay).
- Redouble efforts to combat human trafficking (Congo, Moldova), including by expediting the adoption of the Third National Action Plan (Moldova).
- Strengthen national efforts to confront trafficking in human beings by capacity-building of the law enforcement officers (Bahrain).
- Ensure that cases of trafficking in persons are investigated promptly and effectively (Ukraine).
- Continue to take measures to combat trafficking in persons in cooperation with source, transit and destination countries (Bangladesh).

Minority Rights

- Adopt concrete measures to tackle hate speech and discrimination against religious minorities, including in the media (Ghana).



- Ensure freedom of religion, including by granting the Ecumenical Patriarchate legal personality, reopening the Halki Seminary, and allowing non-Muslim communities to elect their leadership and manage their foundations (Greece).
- Respect the cultural rights of the Greek Orthodox minority, including by preserving world heritage sites such as the Aya Sofya and the Monastery of Hora as intercultural spaces (Greece).
- Combat all forms of discrimination or violence against minority groups, including the Kurdish community, and take measures to stop enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention (India).
- Enhance measures to combat discrimination and to promote the rights of women and minority groups, ensuring their equal participation in all spheres of public life (North Macedonia).
- Redouble efforts to strengthen the rights of minorities, especially ensuring their fundamental rights and freedoms (Zimbabwe).

LGBTQI Persons

- Address discrimination, violence against women and LGBTQI persons and ensure the protection of minorities (Greece).
- Revive the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and include sexual orientation and gender identity in it (Finland).
- Condemn violence and hate speech and gender-based hate speech and to promote initiatives of the LGTBI population (France).
- Adopt anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany).
- Amend Article 40 of the Civil Code to ensure transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition, free from intrusive requirements (Iceland).
- Amend Article 122 of the Penal Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for discrimination (Ireland).
- Guarantee the equal rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and take steps to prevent and combat hate crimes and violence against LGBTIQ+ persons (Netherlands).
- Combat generalised impunity for perpetrators of hate crimes, in particular violence based on gender and sexual orientation, basing itself on international standards in the human rights sphere (Luxembourg).
- Amend Article 122 of the Criminal Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the list of motivations for hate crime, and adopt measures to combat hate speech against LGBTI individuals by those in politics, civil servants, and in the media (Mexico).
- Ensure the rights of LGBT+ persons and include sexual orientation and gender identity as motive for hate crimes in the penal code (Norway).
- Amend Article 122 of its Penal Code to include gender identity and sexual orientation as hate motives (Australia).
- Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination in line with international standards, including sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds (Chile).



- Strengthen the legislative framework to combat discrimination, broadening the definition of sexual orientation and gender identity, including legal recognition for trans persons and guarantees for their medical treatments (Uruguay).
- Amend non-discrimination provisions in domestic laws, including the Penal Code and the Human Rights and Equality Institution Law, to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (Canada).

Environment and Development

- Step up efforts to climate change mitigation and adaptation (Nepal).
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction measures and emergency and preparedness response, including enhancing awareness and the resilience of high-risk communities (Samoa).
- Continue to put in place policies that prioritise the right to development for all (Uganda).

121 RECOMMENDING STATES

Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Qatar, Namibia, Nepal, Luxembourg, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia.