

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 62nd SESSION
**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls,
including its causes and consequences with country visit to Kuwait**

22 and 23 June 2026

In its resolution 59/20, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, as set out by the Council in its resolution 50/7, as set out in its resolution 50/7, for a period of three years.

Violence against mothers - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences - [A/HRC/62/49](#)

Visit to Kuwait - [A/HRC/62/49/Add.1](#)

The interactive dialogue opened with the presentation of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, **Ms. Reem Alsalem**, who introduced both her thematic report and the report on her country visit to Kuwait. The Special Rapporteur recalled that what unites us irrespective of race, religion and sex is the fact that we are all human and that we were all brought to this world by a mother. Despite the fundamental role and contributions of mothers, no UN organizations or mechanisms have produced a global standalone report on mothers as a distinct category of persons whose lives and experiences including experiences of violence are profoundly shaped by this intersection of being both female and mothers.

The first main conclusion of the report was that motherhood and mothers have been devalued in society. The reality is made worse by the onslaught against mother specific language in law and in practice, mirroring the erasure of female specific language we see in law and in practice today.

Hence it should not come as a surprise that the protections mothers enjoy in times of peace and war by virtue of being human, by virtue of being female and by virtue of being mothers has suffered a serious blow. This reality is particularly evident in times of conflicts where mothers are no longer the unintended casualty of wars but have become deliberately targeted, attacked, killed and subjected to violence including reproductive violence because they hold the promise of the future of an entire community or nation.

The second conclusion was that mothers not only experience multiple overlapping and intersecting forms of violence but also that there is a direct mutually reinforcing and proportional relationship between harm inflicted on the mother and harm inflicted on the child. In fact, the most painful form of violence, including psychological violence experienced by mothers, is when harm is inflicted on their children.

Finally, the third conclusion concerned the policies that some countries have adopted specifically to support mothers. These include in broad terms the explicit recognition of the protection of motherhoods in their constitutions, the mandating of special assistance for mothers, the payment of full salary compensation during maternity leave, the provision of enhanced support systems and in some cases the acknowledgement of historical crimes committed by forcibly removing newborn children from their mothers and placing them for adoption.

While positive, many of these policies remain standalone actions rather than part of deliberate comprehensive policies that place birth mothers, adoptive mothers and expectant mothers at the heart of the process. What she found particularly missing is work on addressing the perception of motherhood in societies. Women wishing to become mothers must not feel embarrassed, undervalued or alone for wanting to become mothers. Effective policies start with defining mothers in law, recognizing them as a distinct category of rightsholders with specific needs. The international community must preserve female specific and mother specific language and provide legal, social and economic protections for mothers, particularly those with abusive or violent partners or former partners and during child custody proceedings. The prevention of reproductive and obstetric violence must also be prioritized.

The Special Rapporteur recalling proverb by an Egyptian poet who famously said *a mother is a school when society invests in it and supports mothers, it builds a nation of noble character*, she presented before the council the report on her official visit to the state of **Kuwait**, conducted in September 2025.

Thanking the government of the state of Kuwait and its institutions for its solid cooperation and for the constructive exchanges we had during the visit, she observed important efforts by the state to address violence against women and girls including the adoption of the domestic violence prevention law, the establishment of shelters and the expansion of support services for survivors. The report concluded that violence against women and girls remains serious and often under-reported driven by stigma, fear and gaps in protection and accountability. While important foundations have been laid, challenges remain in the implementation of existing laws in access to justice and protection for women facing heightened risk of violence including migrant women, stateless women and women affected by withdrawal of nationality.

She called on the state of Kuwait to strengthen the implementation of its domestic violence framework and improve protection and support services, ensure effective investigations and prosecution of cases, enhance data collection and guarantee that all women and girls particularly those in vulnerable situations can access protection, justice and assistance. Remaining deeply concerned by the large-scale arbitrary withdrawal of nationality from the thousands of women and their dependents in Kuwait, she urged the authorities to suspend further withdrawals and revocations of nationality, put in place comprehensive independent and effective review process for all affected cases, and restore nationality to those that have been arbitrarily and retroactively deprived of it.

Kuwait (Concerned Country) noting the report of the Special Rapporteur, her remarks and recommendations, reaffirmed its willingness to continue constructive dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms in order to better exchange expertise and practices. The country pays high attention to the promotion and protection of women's rights.

The national committee for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 13/25 on women, peace and security was created in 2023 and promoted a host of legislative and institutional reforms, most notably the repeal of Article 153 of the penal code on honor crimes, and Article 182 on impunity for rape while increasing the marriage age to 18 years of age. Women were also integrated in the military service and the firefighter squad.

Kuwait reaffirmed that the principle of noninterference and state sovereignty must be respected in line with its national jurisdiction pursuant to the legal legislation in this respect. The reports by special procedures must reflect objectively and in a balanced manner the national efforts of each country while taking note of the specificities of countries.

Interactive Dialogue

Among the 47 Delegations that took the floor, the majority, including **Ghana, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Pakistan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania** shared an overview of the national policies. They stressed their commitment to protect mothers from all forms of violence and discrimination through legal frameworks, social protection systems, quality maternal healthcare, and adequately funded support services.

Italy affirmed that motherhood is not only a private experience, but also a social good. Supporting motherhood is essential to women's freedom and dignity. Only then can every woman be truly free to decide whether and when to have children. **Colombia (on behalf of interregional group of countries), Kenya (on behalf of the African Group), Mozambique, and Norway** added that mothers in all their diversity often face multiple intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as physical, psychological, economic violence, including SGBV. Violence against women may, in fact, escalate around the time of pregnancy and childbirth. **Ireland (on behalf of the EU Countries), Slovenia, and Japan** expressed its commitment to gender equality and women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. It underscored that pregnancy and parenthood must never be grounds for discrimination. It expressed concern about challenges raised in the report including for women in conflict and humanitarian settings who face heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence, severe malnutrition and maternal mortality.

Sudan (on behalf of Group of Arab States) believed that mothers due to their very important role in society as well as in families, should enjoy policies that protect them against all forms of violence. The status of mothers should be the foundation for the empowerment of women and not vice versa. It was seriously concerned in the face of the situation of mothers, especially in situations of conflict, for example, in Palestine, Sudan or Lebanon where mothers are facing high levels of insecurity, lack of access to basic goods and foodstuffs.

Bahrain (on behalf of cooperation council for the Arab states of the Gulf) attached great importance to motherhood and family by expanding healthcare services to children and mothers and providing health care developing policies in favor of the family. It informed the Council about investments in education and early childhood care. With regards to the report on Kuwait visit, welcoming Kuwait's cooperation, highly valued the efforts deployed by Kuwait lately in order to protect the rights of women and family and to develop relevant institutional and legislative frameworks.

Egypt (on behalf of a group of 72 countries) affirmed that family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society remains the primary source of care, protection and intergenerational support and is entitled to protection by society and the state. The family plays a central role in supporting mothers and promoting more supportive environments for motherhood. Motherhood often embodies significant emotional, social, economic, and caregiving responsibilities. Strong family support system can play an essential role in helping mothers navigate these challenges. It further stressed the importance of shared family responsibilities and the active role of fathers in supporting mothers, promoting more equitable distribution of caring responsibilities within the family can help alleviate the pressures associated with motherhood and strengthen the well-being of mothers.

For UNFPA and UN Women, this dialogue is a critical reminder that the rights of all women to decide whether and how to have children and to raise them safely are foundational to women's human rights and gender equality. Global progress on reproductive rights and justice rests on the dedication of feminist movements which face increasing pushback in tackling intimate partner violence, economic abuse and structural inequalities. States have an obligation to eliminate gender-

based discrimination and violence, including harmful norms that dictate reproductive labor. Governments must adopt progressive measures for safe, sustainable parenting such as universal education, healthcare, housing and equal pay for equal work and equal share of unpaid care work.

The United Arab Emirates was concerned about women's subjection to violence and discrimination and the effect of that on society and the family. Society cannot be prosperous and safe without providing support to mothers as partners in nurturing family and children and social solidarity. The 2020 law protects family from violence and provides integrated health services and social services for women including healthcare, social psychological support.

Across all **UNRWA's** fields of operations, Gaza, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, Palestine refugee women's motherhood is increasingly shaped by conflict, displacement, poverty, insecurity and barriers to healthcare. In the OPT and particularly in Gaza, pregnant women and new mothers have faced devastating conditions since October 2023. Repeated displacement, destruction of health infrastructure, lack of food and clean water, severe shortages of medicines and fuel, and the collapse of referral systems have placed maternal health at extreme risk. Despite these conditions, UNRWA health teams have continued to provide anti-natal and post-natal care, support for high-risk pregnancies, emergency referrals, vaccinations, nutrition and psychosocial services and mobile outreach to displaced communities.

Taking into account the matter of generational safety from the perspective of women's roles, mothers play an essential role in society from a point of view of education, particularly **Egypt** has committed dedicated policies and programs to mothers and we have also rolled out institutional efforts to strengthen the role of mothers and families. Women and mothers are an essential found of wisdom and knowledge and play a key role in society. Mothers in Palestine have been deprived of safety and health care and even of their children.

Lebanon saw merit in the recommendation that mothers be recognized as a distinct category requiring specific protection and underscored the importance of collecting disaggregated data and developing targeted responses to address their particular needs and vulnerabilities. Deliberate attacks on healthcare services inflict profound trauma and heightened serious risks for mothers and their children. Ongoing Israeli attacks continue to expose Lebanese mothers to intersecting forms of violence including the destruction of healthcare facilities, displacement, family separation and severe psychological distress. Safeguarding motherhood is therefore not only a matter of social policy but a fundamental imperative of peace and human rights so that mothers and their children may live in safety, dignity and hope.

State of Palestine highlighted the severe impact of Israel's military actions in Gaza on Palestinian mothers, particularly during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. It noted that the destruction of healthcare infrastructure, shortages of food and clean water, and ongoing violence have led to miscarriages, premature births, unsafe deliveries, and the loss of thousands of children. The delegate stressed that these violations have occurred with widespread impunity and called on States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen protections for mothers in conflict settings and ensure accountability for the atrocities committed against them.

Jordan reaffirmed the main tenet of the report that is violence against women is not exclusive to women but rather covers children and the society at large. This necessitates services that takes into consideration all phases of women. In this respect Jordan has implemented a multi-sector national plan to protect children, family and fight family violence and family and violence against women and girls in 2023. This plan aims at enhancing coordination between the stakeholders and promoting services to the most vulnerable groups.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) affirmed that the protection of women's dignity, security and human rights is deeply rooted in Islamic principles which recognize women as equal and entitled to protection from violence, abuse, coercion and discrimination. The commission remained concerned by persistent domestic violence, harmful practices, sexual violence in conflict situations, online abuse and socioeconomic discrimination affecting women and girls globally. It also stressed the importance of women's access to education, healthcare, economic participation and digital inclusion as essential tools for women's empowerment and prevention of violence.

Iran, through a representative of the other mothers whose children lost their lives in Minab, condemned the United States and Israel as the aggressors, standing on the side of justice and accountability for Minab children and their mothers.

Qatar categorically rejected all kinds of violence against women and girls because these are great violations of human rights and assault on human dignity. The effects of violence are not limited to women alone but extend to the family and society and undermine attempts to achieve equality and sustainable development. It expressed concern on women's suffering due to armed conflicts, particularly in Sudan and Palestine.

Morocco was deeply committed to eradicating all forms of violence against mothers recognizing that specific category of women faces compounded vulnerabilities that require targeted legal institutional social responses. It recognized the particular vulnerability of single mothers who continue to face structural barriers.

Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of having national frameworks to protect against all kinds of violence while reinforcing access to justice and redress and ensuring care in a way that protects dignity and takes into account needs. It highly values the efforts deployed by Kuwait in the last years in to enforce the protection of women and the family while developing the relevant legislative and institutional frameworks.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (47 country delegations):

Italy, Norway, Ireland, Sudan, Colombia, Kenya, Bahrain, Egypt, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ukraine, Holy See, Sudan, Slovenia, Uruguay, Malta, Montenegro, Mozambique, Kenya, Canada, North Macedonia, Dominican Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Guyana, Marshall Islands, Egypt, Guatemala, Georgia, Cuba, Lebanon, State of Palestine, Jordan, Ghana, Bulgaria, Mexico, Iran, Germany, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Qatar, Lesotho, Paraguay, Netherlands, Morocco, Saudi Arabia.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (15):

UNFPA, UNRWA, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (Burundi), Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Women's International Zionist Organization, Ingénieurs du Monde, AKAHATÁ Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidad y Géneros Asociación Civil, Christian Council International, The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., payamavaran hamyari (chatra), Make Mothers Matter, Society for Threatened Peoples.

To watch the full meeting refer to UN Web TV, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

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