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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-sixth session**  
29 April–10 May 2024

## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Uruguay\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 26 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

#### **II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

2. The National Human Rights Institution and Office of the Ombudsperson (NHRI) indicated that the law 19.822 assigned the search of disappeared people while in detention by the State during the period 1968–1973 to the NHRI.<sup>3</sup> It highlighted that the major obstacle in the search of disappeared people while in detention was the refusal of high-ranking former military officers to provide information on the cases and their control over lower-ranking military personnel to maintain silence. Other obstacles highlighted were the slow and difficult transfer of files from the Ministry of Defence to the NHRI and the lack of progress to provide comprehensive reparations to the victims despite the recommendations from the NHRI.<sup>4</sup>

3. The NHRI underlined the inequality between people of African descent and the rest of the population with regard to employment, social security, education and housing. It highlighted the lack of implementation of the National Strategy of Policies for People of African-Descent 2030 and the lack of an entity to implement it.<sup>5</sup>

4. The NHRI expressed concern about the passing of the Law of Urgent Consideration (19.889) as it contained several articles that weaken the protection of human rights and the prevention of torture. That Law also created new types of crimes, increased penalties and included procedural modifications that constituted a regression in comparison to the previous legislation.<sup>6</sup>

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



5. The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) of the NHRI detected a steady increase in the population deprived of liberty that negatively affected the conditions of detention due to overcrowding in many penitentiary centres, the deterioration of the living and health conditions of inmates and the increase in conflicts and violence among them.<sup>7</sup> The NHRI underlined the particular increase of women deprived of liberty due to, inter alia, the adoption of the Law 19.889 that increased the prison sentences and the time in detention for micro trafficking of drugs.<sup>8</sup> The NHRI indicated that the conditions of detention of pregnant women and women with children should be improved and the legal framework should be revised to expand the possibility of house arrest.<sup>9</sup>

6. In detention facilities of the police, the NPM verified the noncompliance with the obligation to notify an arrest to family members or close friends, to access a medical examination, to access legal assistance and to receive information on the rights of the detained person.<sup>10</sup>

7. The NHRI underlined that the bad conditions of habitability, hygiene and personal safety constituted risk situations that affected the rights to life, integrity and dignity of the persons interned in mental health institutions.<sup>11</sup>

8. The NHRI stressed the need to revise the existing legislation on equal political participation; on women deprived of liberty and assisted house arrest; co-responsibility in parenting; legal protection against media violence and gender stereotypes; maternity, paternity and parental leave.<sup>12</sup> It also highlighted the insufficient resources assigned to Ministry of Interior, Public Ministry and the Judiciary responsible for addressing violence against women as well as the non-increase in the number of prosecutor's offices and specialized courts or free legal assistance to address this issue.<sup>13</sup>

9. The NHRI stressed the persistence of the wage gap between men and women fuelled by the non-remunerated nature of care work performed by women.<sup>14</sup>

10. The NHRI indicated that the institutional response to detect, address and punish cases of sexual exploitation of children was weak.<sup>15</sup>

11. The NHRI recommended implementing the First Integration Plan for Migrants and Refugees adopted by the National Migration Board in August 2022.<sup>16</sup>

12. The NHRI indicated that Uruguay had not criminalized torture in accordance with the provisions of CAT.<sup>17</sup>

### **III. Information provided by other stakeholders**

#### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>18</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

13. Conacha recommended ratifying the ILO convention 169.<sup>19</sup>

#### **B. National human rights framework**

##### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

14. Several contributions expressed concern about the adoption in 2020 of the Law of Urgent Consideration (19.889) with limited parliamentary discussion. It represented a significant setback in the protection of civil rights.<sup>20</sup> That law repealed the application of the conditional suspension of the prosecution, restricted the application of the regime of partial deprivation of liberty increased the maximum duration of the custodial sentence from five to ten years for crimes of highly aggravated homicide, rape and aggravated sexual abuse, increased the maximum time of precautionary deprivation of liberty to 150 days, established a minimum penalty of two years of effective deprivation of liberty for some crimes, and increased the time of retention of records once the age of majority is reached to four years for very serious crimes and to two years for serious crimes.<sup>21</sup> JS8 recommended harmonizing national regulations to adapt them to current international principles and regulations,

reviewing the regressive reforms carried out by Law 19.889.<sup>22</sup> Familias Presentes recommended amending the articles of the Law 19.889 that worsen the critical situation of the penitentiary system.<sup>23</sup>

## 2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

15. Amnesty International (AI) stated that the election of the new Board of Directors of the NHRI for the period 2022–2027 did not follow the legal procedures required by Law 18.446. This prevented civil society organizations from participating in the process and conflicted with the autonomy that the members of the Board of Directors should have. AI expressed concern regarding the safeguarding of both formal and functional independence of the institution, which could lead to a weakening of its mandate.<sup>24</sup>

16. AI highlighted a weakening of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up due to lack of dialogue with civil society.<sup>25</sup>

## C. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

17. Broken Chalk underlined that Afro-Uruguayans continued to face discrimination.<sup>26</sup> JS10 recommended determining the prohibition of direct and indirect forms of discrimination and strengthening the capacity of the State to respond to situations of discrimination.<sup>27</sup> JS10 also recommended effectively implementing the National Plan against Discrimination.<sup>28</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

18. AI stated that prison conditions deteriorated since the last review due to overcrowding and insanitary conditions that negatively impacted on the quality of life of persons deprived of liberty.<sup>29</sup> Several contributions underlined the increase in women deprived of liberty for micro-trafficking of drugs as a result of Law 19.889.<sup>30</sup> JS9 recommended eliminating the articles in that Law that increased the penalties for non-violent crimes linked to micro-trafficking and promoting alternative measures to deprivation of liberty.<sup>31</sup> Familias Presentes recommended developing policies and programmes to reduce the use of imprisonment and strengthening the use of alternative measures.<sup>32</sup> JS2 recommended the Parliament to urgently find a solution to allow for the release of women imprisoned for micro-trafficking when the crime is not serious.<sup>33</sup>

19. JS8 highlighted that the Law 19.889 repealed the conditional suspension of criminal proceedings against adolescents and incorporated the abbreviated proceedings for them. This resulted in an increase in the incorporation of adolescents in criminal processes and an almost disappearance of alternative conflict resolution mechanisms.<sup>34</sup> JS8 recommended adapting the adolescent criminal processes by reinstating the possibility of replacing them with restorative justice agreements as an alternative to criminal sanctions. JS8 also recommended adopting socioeconomic measures throughout the country for adolescents not to serve their sentences in a different department of their residence.<sup>35</sup>

20. JS8 recommended reducing to the minimum the time adolescents are deprived of liberty and discarding deprivation of liberty as a precautionary measure.<sup>36</sup> JS7 recommended strengthening the Public Defender's Office for adolescents by making the corresponding budget allocations.<sup>37</sup> JS7 recommended reinstating the conditional suspension of the sentence or enabling other alternative means to the judicialization of the cases in processes related to violations of the criminal law committed by adolescents.<sup>38</sup>

21. JS8 underlined the lack of detailed information provided to children on the reasons for their arrest and the limited information provided on their rights. In addition, the public defender was often presented to his/her client shortly before the hearing.<sup>39</sup> JS7 and JS8 recommended adopting policies to prevent institutional violence, which include a clear communication about current rules and regulations on detention, due process guarantees,

human rights, children and adolescents, as well as, at the time of the arrest, comply with the notification of the reasons for the arrest and the applicable rights, access to the defence from the first moments of the arrest and the performance of a medical examination; and investigate and punish acts of abuse and mistreatment by public officials.<sup>40</sup>

22. AI and Familias Presentes recommended taking appropriate measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons and to ensure access to rehabilitation and integration opportunities for those deprived of liberty.<sup>41</sup> Familias Presentes and JS2 recommended enacting a modern criminal enforcement law based on human rights principles and in particular the Mandela and the Bangkok Rules and an organic law for the National Institute for Rehabilitation oriented towards the rehabilitation of persons deprived of liberty.<sup>42</sup>

23. Familia Presentes recommended training on human rights, gender perspective and diversity for all penitentiary personnel.<sup>43</sup> JS8 made a similar recommendation for criminal processes involving children.<sup>44</sup>

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

24. JS12 stated that Uruguay had not undertaken a comprehensive exercise to clarify and reconstruct truth on the human rights violations occurred between 1968 and 1985.<sup>45</sup> AI indicated that, in 2022, fourteen convictions were established to active or retired members of the military and police on torture, kidnapping and killing under the civil-military regime in the 1970s and 1980s. However, no substantive progress had been made in the search for victims of enforced disappearances during that time since no new evidence had been found at the excavation zones and suspects had not provided new information.<sup>46</sup> JS12 stated that Uruguay had a historical debt to investigate and sanction the perpetrators of arbitrary detentions, torture, extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances committed between 1968 and 1985 in order to combat impunity.<sup>47</sup> In this regard, JS12 recalled the two sentences of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that were still pending implementation and recommended to fully comply with them.<sup>48</sup> JS12 recommended adopting and implementing a public policy on search of detained and disappeared persons that connects all authorities and institutions.<sup>49</sup> It also recommended investigating and sanctioning cases of theft or destruction of files or documents as well as the delays or obstruction to requests for information or the provision of inaccurate information.<sup>50</sup>

25. JS12 recommended seeking the cooperation of other States to search for missing persons during the “Condor operations”.<sup>51</sup> JS12 recommended ensuring that all cases of enforced disappearances that may have taken place before the entry into force of the Law 18.026 and that have not ceased after it, can be substantiated on the basis of the crime of enforced disappearance.<sup>52</sup>

26. Regarding the proposed bill to grant house arrest to defendants or convicted persons over 65 years of age, AI denounced that, although the draft bill excluded those who were sentenced for crimes against humanity, this exclusion would be applicable only to those convicted for having committed crimes against humanity after 2006. Therefore, the law would benefit more than 20 persons convicted for crimes against humanity before that time.<sup>53</sup> JS12 expressed a similar concern.<sup>54</sup> AI recommended to bring to justice all those suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes under international law, including crimes against humanity, regardless of when they were committed.<sup>55</sup> AI recommended ensuring that all legal initiatives comply with international standards on crimes against humanity as these crimes under international law are imprescriptible and any form of statutory limitation should not apply to those convicted for such crimes regardless of when they were prosecuted.<sup>56</sup>

27. In the context of the human rights violations committed between 1968 and 1985 and despite the Law 18.596 that granted a group of victims a “one-time reparation” under the concept of reparation and the right to receive free medical care, victims must choose between accepting the reparation or the right to a pension as workers, without considering their status of victims. In addition, this law did not include children and adolescents.<sup>57</sup> JS12 recommended modifying the Law 18.596 to ensure reparations are victim-centred in cases of human rights violations.<sup>58</sup> It also recommended providing adequate resources to ensure the right to the comprehensive reparation for victims.<sup>59</sup> MEL recommended recognizing as

victims the persons that were children or adolescents during the “State sponsored terrorism” period (1968–1985).<sup>60</sup>

28. JS12 considered that the extreme slowness of investigations and trials was due to a deficient legal framework, the existing amnesty law and a and interpretation of the law by the judiciary that was not in accordance with international law therefore maintaining a pattern of impunity.<sup>61</sup> JS12 recommended ensuring access to justice to victims of human rights violations or their families and investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning those responsible.<sup>62</sup>

29. JS3 expressed concern regarding the lack of access to justice for persons with disabilities.<sup>63</sup> JS3 and JS4 recommended accelerating the implementation of the National Plan of Access to Justice and Legal Protection of Persons with Disabilities and adopting legal, administrative, and judicial measures to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities.<sup>64</sup>

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

30. AI stressed the deterioration of the freedom of expression in Uruguay with public officials, ministers and senators continuing to use stigmatizing language against journalists and media.<sup>65</sup> AI recommended guaranteeing the effective exercise of freedom of expression without discrimination, and protecting individuals against violations of this right by any entity as well as ensuring that journalists can exercise their right to freedom of press without any restrictions and that the free exercise of journalism is respected.<sup>66</sup>

31. Despite the existing Law on Access to Public Information, AI highlighted non-compliance with response deadlines, incomplete responses, or positive silence on behalf of the obligated subjects as the main obstacles to access to public information even in public agencies.<sup>67</sup> AI recommended establishing procedures for effective and timely access to information, and to proactively provide information of public interest.<sup>68</sup> JS4 recommended ensuring access to public information for persons with disabilities.<sup>69</sup>

32. JS2 underlined the low representation and political participation of women in hierarchical and political decision-making positions and the violent resistance from some legislators to achieve gender parity for positions of political representation. It recommended the Parliament to urgently adopt a Parity Law that ensured the participation of women in positions of political representation under equal conditions and the Executive to ensure parity in decision-making and management positions in all its institutional mechanisms.<sup>70</sup> JS2 also recommended giving the rank of Ministry to INMUJERES and provide it with resources from the public budget.<sup>71</sup>

33. Casavalle de Pie recommended establishing a permanent dialogue with civil society to encourage its participation in the planning and implementation of human rights activities.<sup>72</sup>

#### *Right to marriage and family life*

34. JS9 underlined that Uruguay continued to fail to protect children and adolescents against forced marriage and had not yet raised the age of marriage to 18 years of age.<sup>73</sup> AI made a similar remark.<sup>74</sup> AI and JS9 recommended raising the minimum age of marriage from 16 to 18 years old.<sup>75</sup>

#### *Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

35. ECLJ stressed that Uruguay did not meet minimum international standards for addressing human trafficking. Uruguay is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking, primarily for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It disproportionately affected impoverished young women often exploited by Uruguayan traffickers.<sup>76</sup> JS9 stressed that, after the previous UPR review, Uruguay adopted the Law 19.643 on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons although that law did not include a budget or public policies for its implementation and the 2018–2020 National Plan of Action never had a budget for its implementation.<sup>77</sup> JS9 recommended providing resources to implement Law 19.643.<sup>78</sup> ECLJ recommended improving victims’ identification systems, prioritizing the dismantling of trafficking networks, increasing access to long-term victim support outside

urban areas and implementing a reporting system that will provide a panoramic understanding of the issue.<sup>79</sup>

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

36. JS3 highlighted the high level of unemployment among persons with disabilities.<sup>80</sup> JS3 and JS4 recommended implementing the Laws 18.651 and 19.691 to employ persons with disabilities and ensuring stricter controls and sanctions in cases of non-compliance.<sup>81</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

37. JS8 stated that there was a setback in state policies for social protection, an increase in inequality and in poverty despite an economic growth.<sup>82</sup> JS2 underlined feminisation of poverty and the growth of children living in poverty with aggravated challenges for Afro-descendant women.<sup>83</sup> JS2 recommended implementing public policies with a gender perspective and ethnic-racial dimension with public budget resources to close inequality gaps, strengthening control systems for the registration of female workers in social security and strengthening the National Care System.<sup>84</sup>

38. JS6 made references to the over-indebtedness of people and recommending promoting financial education to empower them.<sup>85</sup> In the long term, JS6 recommended strengthening institutions and public systems to reduce economic risks, reduce financial costs for particularly vulnerable populations and establishing a Guarantee Fund to restructure their debt.<sup>86</sup>

39. JS2 reported that the quality of water in Montevideo worsened in 2023 due to the lack of rain and the pumping of water from the Rio de la Plata which generated a higher concentration of salt and chlorine in drinking water. This impacted the most vulnerable populations, particularly affecting households headed by women with dependent children.<sup>87</sup> JS11 denounced the privatization of water and sanitation services and the tendering of the project Neptuno-Arazatí.<sup>88</sup> JS11 recommended suspending the tender of the Neptuno-Arazatí project, ensuring the right to water for the whole population and prioritizing the use of water for human consumption.<sup>89</sup>

*Right to health*

40. AI highlighted that, public policies regarding adolescent pregnancy in children under the age of 15, remained unchanged since the last review. Many of these pregnancies were a result of sexual violence. Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programs were not implemented on a mandatory basis, and authorities did not present a plan to change the curricula either in primary, nor in secondary schools, public or private, religious or secular.<sup>90</sup> AI recommended taking all necessary steps to empower adolescents to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights with the view to reduce adolescent pregnancy through provision of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, contraceptives, information and education, and adequate protection from sexual violence and abuse.<sup>91</sup> AI also recommended ensuring the effective implementation of the Law on the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy throughout the country by providing adequate material and human resources in all health centres in Uruguay.<sup>92</sup> ECLJ expressed an opposite view.<sup>93</sup> JS2 recommended regulating the conscientious objection for doctors.<sup>94</sup>

41. JS2 highlighted that foreign citizens who could not prove habitual residence in Uruguay for a period of at least one year, were denied access to the voluntary termination of pregnancy.<sup>95</sup> It recommended eliminating that requirement.<sup>96</sup>

42. AI indicated that access to mental health services and prevention policies had deteriorated, and suicide rates had increased since the last review. The Mental Health Law passed in 2018 had yet to be implemented.<sup>97</sup> JS1 reported that the National Commission for the Comptroller of Mental Health foreseen in that law did not have a specific budget line for its functioning and was not an autonomous body.<sup>98</sup> AI recommended developing and implementing mental health policies and practices in line with appropriate international standards and ensuring the adequate allocation of resources to comply with the process of deinstitutionalisation and the improvement of the quality of care for people who are still confined in asylum and monovalent institutions.<sup>99</sup> JS1 recommended decentralizing access

to mental health services outside of the capital.<sup>100</sup> JS1 recommended continuing to implement the National Strategy to Prevent Suicides 2021–2025.<sup>101</sup>

43. JS1 underlined the establishment of National Mental Health Plan 2020–2027 although most of its funds was assigned to mental health institutions.<sup>102</sup> JS14 recommended implementing the Plan immediately and throughout the territory.<sup>103</sup>

44. JS1 highlighted the shortages in the promotion of the mental health of adolescents.<sup>104</sup> JS14 also recommended promoting the training of educators, families and other referral adults in prevention and detection of situations that could jeopardize the health of adolescents.<sup>105</sup>

45. JS2 reported that the “Educational Transformation” policy maintained a comprehensive sex education as cross-sectoral theme except in primary school. It recommended integrating it at all levels of the National Education System.<sup>106</sup>

#### *Right to education*

46. Broken Chalk highlighted that education was accessible at all levels in Uruguay, the gross enrolment in primary school was slightly higher than the world average and significantly higher in secondary education. However, dropout rates in secondary education of students with the lowest socio-economic status were a prominent issue, especially among Afro-Uruguayans.<sup>107</sup> Broken Chalk recommended addressing educational needs adequately and ensuring equal opportunities for all children by allocating extra financial and other support to disadvantaged regions. It also suggested encouraging regular school attendance and preventing dropouts by educating the public on the importance of education.<sup>108</sup> JS7 recommended establishing a policy that is coordinated among institutions to ensure the right to education.<sup>109</sup> JS1 recommended establishing control mechanisms to ensure a follow-up to school attendance and dropouts in mid education.<sup>110</sup> JS14 recommended establishing a system of scholarships to prevent school dropouts.<sup>111</sup>

47. JS14 stated that the school restaurants functioned in primary education but not in secondary. JS14 highlighted the violation to the right to food and access to mental health for adolescents linked to the formal education system and the impact this violation had on the school dropouts.<sup>112</sup> JS14 recommended extending the school restaurants to secondary education.<sup>113</sup>

48. Broken Chalk and JS2 highlighted socioeconomic inequalities and discrimination in education based on ethnicity and in particular against children of African descent.<sup>114</sup> JS2 indicated that the gap for Afro-descendant population accessing the right to education had increased significantly.<sup>115</sup> Afro-Uruguayan children were less likely to complete secondary school than their non-Afro peers and girls of African descent were also more likely than average to be forced to drop out of school due to early pregnancy.<sup>116</sup> JS2 recommended adopting special temporary measures to reverse the educational expulsion of Afro-descendant students.<sup>117</sup> JS8 recommended applying comprehensive policies to address inequalities among adolescents based on gender, ethnicity and socio-economic conditions.<sup>118</sup>

49. JS10 recommended incorporating a comprehensive sexual education into the educational system.<sup>119</sup> JS10 recommended ensuring the right to education to LGBTINBA+ persons without discrimination.<sup>120</sup>

## **2. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### *Women*

50. JS9 reported a regression in gender-based violence (GBV) since the previous UPR cycle.<sup>121</sup> Several contributions recommended allocating the necessary budget for the effective implementation of the measures contained in the Law on Gender-Based Violence (19.580), especially in relation to providing counselling, shelter and assistance to victims; as well as to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all acts of gender-based violence, in compliance with GBV and femicides being declared a national state of emergency in 2019.<sup>122</sup> The lack of budget to comply with Law on Gender-based Violence resulted into only a single specialised

court, insufficient care services, limited in their capacity to respond to complaints filed, and the absence of resources to support women to leave situations of gender-based violence.<sup>123</sup>

51. JS9 recommended guaranteeing the rights of women victims of violence to immediate access to justice and to protection when reporting situations of GBV.<sup>124</sup> JS2 recommended strengthening the Observatory on Gender-Based Violence against Women.<sup>125</sup> JS9 recommended creating specialised prosecutors' offices for sexual violence, domestic violence and gender-based violence in the interior of the country, and strengthen the existing ones in the capital.<sup>126</sup> JS9 also recommended guaranteeing effective access to electronic anklets as a protection mechanism for victims, as well as police custody for the aggressors and not for the victims and adequate support for families who are direct victims of femicide, limiting their re-victimisation and ensuring effective access to psychological treatment and reparation.<sup>127</sup>

52. JS9 indicated that, despite having incorporated femicide as an aggravating circumstance of homicide in the Penal Code, there were difficulties for these crimes to be typified as such, and for a gender perspective being applied in judicial sentencing.<sup>128</sup> JS9 highlighted the lack of systematic and exhaustive records of GBV.<sup>129</sup> JS9 recommended developing a comprehensive system of information on GBV and to publish official data on femicides.<sup>130</sup>

53. Broken Chalk highlighted gender inequalities in access to education, decision-making positions, health care, and the job market, where women faced disadvantages or discrimination.<sup>131</sup>

#### *Children*

54. JS9 indicated that the risks to children and adolescents living with their mothers and that are exposed to gender-based violence was worrying. JS9 recommended guaranteeing the accessibility of services and care mechanisms throughout the national territory and providing protection to children and adolescents victims of violence.<sup>132</sup> JS9 recommended ensuring protection for all children exposed to situations of gender-based violence against their mothers or caregivers.<sup>133</sup> JS9 recommended strengthening the resources of the justice system, courts, technical teams and public defenders to ensure an effective access to justice for children victims of violence.<sup>134</sup>

55. JS9 alerted on the increase in the number of cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents recorded in the period 2019–2022 as well as the increased use of children and adolescents in pornography.<sup>135</sup> JS9 added that the institutional response to this issue was inadequate due to deficiencies in training in gender, children's rights and understanding of sexual violence as well as lack of homes or centres specialized in sexual abuse and exploitation of victims.<sup>136</sup> JS9 recommended establishing procedures to allow for the early detection of situations of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and specialized intervention mechanisms in protection centres to improve the detection and accompaniment of complex situations of sexual exploitation and trafficking.<sup>137</sup>

56. JS9 indicated that Uruguay lacked an integrated information system to make visible the various situations of institutional violence against children and adolescents in mental health institutions.<sup>138</sup> JS9 recommended allocating a budget for the effective coordination of the system of protection, information and reporting of institutional violence and to close centres where practices of torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment took place. It also recommended investigating situations of torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment in 24-hour protection centres, immediately removing suspected officials and establishing protection measures for children and adolescents who have been abused.<sup>139</sup>

57. JS8 recommended implementing the Law 19.133 on Youth Employment to promote both the employment and education of adolescents and to discourage the informal work and crime.<sup>140</sup>

58. JS13 highlighted the situation of homeless children and adolescents. It recommended implementing the Strategic Plan "Uruguay Pioneer Country 2020–2030" with the relevant state actors.<sup>141</sup> It also recommended updating quantitative data on homeless children and adolescents to implement that Plan.<sup>142</sup>



59. JS9 highlighted the deterioration of the rights of children and adolescents with the passing of Law 20.141 on Co-responsibility in Parenting as it represented a concrete threat to the life and protection of children who suffer situations of violence. It recommended repealing that Law.<sup>143</sup>

*Persons with disabilities*

60. JS4 stressed the situation of discrimination against persons with disabilities and the persistence of stereotypes. It recommended removing derogatory and outdated language found in national regulations, legislation, academic documents, and in undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It also recommended providing the National Institute for Disabilities (INADIS) with the adequate personnel and financial resources.<sup>144</sup> JS4 recommended ensuring the availability of clear methods to denounce discrimination.<sup>145</sup>

61. JS4 reported that, the Government adopted the “Protocol to ensure the right to an inclusive education for persons with disabilities” in 2022 but the training of teachers, accessibility, the availability of sign language interpreters, and educational materials had not been established yet.<sup>146</sup> JS4 recommended ensuring that all people with disabilities have access to inclusive education relevant to their personal condition and at all levels of the educational system. It also recommended providing sign language interpreters in education centres with students in need.<sup>147</sup> AISOS recommended adopting an Accompanied Graduation Law for young adults and in particular for young persons with disabilities.<sup>148</sup>

62. JS4 stressed the lack of accessibility to transportation for persons with disabilities and recommended ensuring 100% accessibility in transportation throughout the country with the necessary control systems and punishment in case of non-compliance.<sup>149</sup>

*Indigenous Peoples and minorities*

63. Conacha indicated that there was a significant increase in the use of self-determination as Indigenous Person in Uruguay although there was no sociodemographic study on Indigenous People.<sup>150</sup> Conacha recommended gathering and publishing statistical data about the demographic composition of the indigenous population on the basis of the 2023 census.<sup>151</sup>

64. Conacha recommended adopting concrete measures to eradicate stereotypes and prejudices against Indigenous People through awareness and information campaigns and include their contribution to the national identity in the educational system.<sup>152</sup> Conacha recommended harmonizing the teaching of the Indigenous historical legacy with the current population of indigenous people in Uruguay.<sup>153</sup>

65. Conacha highlighted the lack of policies with a particular focus on the needs of Indigenous Peoples. It recommended adopting measures for Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in public affairs and ensuring their appointment in decision-making positions in public institutions.<sup>154</sup> Conacha recommended to regulate the Law 18.589 on the Day of the Charrúa Nation and Indigenous Identity and to assign the relevant budget for its effective implementation.<sup>155</sup> Conacha also recommended resuming the preparation of the national plan to fight against all forms of discrimination, to include Indigenous Peoples, and to ensure their full participation in the preparation and implementation of the Plan.<sup>156</sup>

66. Conacha underlined the lack of consultation with Indigenous Peoples on the establishment of industrial projects that have an impact on their territories and sacred places. Conacha recommended ensuring consultations with Indigenous Peoples before implementing projects that may affect them.<sup>157</sup>

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

67. JS10 indicated that, despite advances in the legal framework in education and labour, LGBTINBA+ persons continued to suffer marginalization and faced obstacles in accessing basic rights.<sup>158</sup> JS10 also denounced the discrimination and violence against LGBTINBA+.<sup>159</sup> JS10 recommended ensuring the physical integrity of LGBTINBA+ persons and adopting urgent measures to prevent, combat and punish violence against them.<sup>160</sup> JS10 recommended implementing the quotas established in the anti-discrimination legislation, encouraging the

hiring of Trans persons in the private sector and encouraging safe working spaces to eradicate discrimination against LGBTINB+ persons both in the public and private sectors.<sup>161</sup>

68. JS10 recommended investigating threats against activists and LGBTINBA+ persons by public officials and to renew a strategy to design and implement a new National Plan for Sexual Diversity.<sup>162</sup>

#### *Stateless persons*

69. STU reported that Uruguay discriminated against naturalized citizens based on nationality, origin, and ethnicity, denying Uruguayan nationality to all naturalized citizens, preventing children who otherwise have no nationality from obtaining one, and denying those deemed stateless in Uruguay any means to obtain nationality, increasing the risk of statelessness. This arbitrary denial of nationality, and the arbitrary revocation of effective nationality granted prior to 1994, placed some Uruguayan naturalized citizens at risk of detention and physical or family danger when travelling with Uruguayan passports.<sup>163</sup> STU called on the Government to proactively seek a solution and correctly issue passports of naturalized Uruguayan citizens to allow them to exercise their right to travel as Uruguayans without documentary challenges, and with the full consular protection this implies.<sup>164</sup> STU also called on the Government to fully meet the spirit and letter of its commitments to ending statelessness by 2024.<sup>165</sup> STU underlined that the Constitution did not differentiate between citizenships nor created second class citizens.<sup>166</sup>

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/48/1, A/HRC/41/8/Add.1 and A/HRC/41/2.

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

#### *Civil society*

##### *Individual submissions:*

AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
AISOS	Uruguay Aldeas Infantiles SOS Uruguay, Montevideo (Uruguay);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CDP-UY	Casavalle de Pie, Casavalle, Montevideo. (Uruguay);
CONACHA	Consejo de la Nación Charrúa, Montevideo (Uruguay);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
Familias Presentes	Asociación civil familias presentes, Montevideo (Uruguay);
Gurises Unidos	Asociación Civil Gurises Unidos, Montevideo (Uruguay);
MEL	Memoria en Libertad, Montevideo. (Uruguay);
RPC	RED PRO CUIDADOS, Montevideo (Uruguay);
STU	Somos Todos Uruguayos, Montevideo (Uruguay).

##### *Joint submissions:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, Veyrier (Switzerland); IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice; VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development; Instituto Hermanas Hijas de María Auxiliadora – Uruguay;
JS2	<b>Joint submission 2 submitted by:</b> Comité de América Latina y Caribe de Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres Uruguay, MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay); Comité de América Latina y Caribe de defensa de derechos de las mujeres; CLADEM Colectiva Mujeres Iniciativas Sanitarias Instituto Afrodescendiente Uruguay de estudio y desarrollo;
JS3	<b>Joint submission 3 submitted by:</b> DITEC Uruguay, Montevideo (Uruguay); DITEC y Mesa Permanente de la Discapacidad;
JS4	<b>Joint submission 4 submitted by:</b> Asociación de Mujeres Uruguayas con Discapacidad et Al., Montevideo (Uruguay);

- Asociación de Mujeres Uruguayas con Discapacidad – AMUD  
Centro Educativo para personas con autismo; CENTEA  
Permanente de Discapacidad del PIT-CNT;
- JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Red Sitios de Memoria Uruguay, Montevideo (Uruguay); Comisión del Sitio de Memoria “300 Carlos”; Comisión por la Memoria de los Fusilados de Soca, Sitio de Memoria; Comisión del Sitio de Memoria Caserío de los Negros;
- JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** AEBU – IPRU, Montevideo (Uruguay); Instituto de Promoción Económico y Social del Uruguay. IPRU Asociación de Bancarios del Uruguay AEBU;
- JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** Coalición de Organizaciones Sociales para la prevención de Abuso Policial para el EPU Uruguay 2024, Montevideo (Uruguay); PROCLADE; Casa Bertolt Brecht; Melo Diverso; Asociación Civil El Paso;
- JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by:** Coalición de organizaciones sociales sobre sistema penal juvenil para EPU Uruguay 2024, Montevideo (Uruguay); Coalición conformada por las organizaciones sociales Casa Bertolt Brecht, PROCLADE Uruguay, Asociación Civil El Paso y Colectivo Catalejo;
- JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** Asociación Civil El Paso, Montevideo (Uruguay); Asociación Civil El Paso (ACEP) Red Uruguaya Contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual (RUCVDS);
- JS10 **Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Akahata-Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Géneros, Buenos Aires (Argentina); Colectivo Ovejas Negras Akahatá A.C.Sexual Rights Initiative Unión Rochense LGBTQ+ Coordinadora por la Diversidad – Salto Colectivo Binacional LGBTQ+ D.I.V.A.S Chuy – Chuí – S.V.P. Colectivo Diverso Las Piedras Colectivo LGBTH+ Gente de Diversidad Bella Unión Colectivo Riversidad – ATRU Rivera Colectivo Selim Tejos – Masculinidades, personas no binaries y más Durazno Diverso Manos Púrpura Trans Boys Uruguay (TBU), niñez, adolescencia y familia Unión Trans y Disidentes de Maldonado;
- JS11 **Joint submission 11 submitted by:** Comisión Nacional en Defensa del Agua y la Vida, Montevideo (Uruguay).
- JS12 **Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Coalición de ONGs FAMIDESA y IELSUR para EPU Uruguay, Montevideo (Uruguay);
- JS13 **Joint submission 13 submitted by:** Alianza Gurises Unidos – Rescatando Sonrisas, Montevideo (Uruguay);
- JS14 **Joint submission 14 submitted by:** Edmund Rice International, Geneva (Switzerland); Fundación Marista por la Solidaridad Internacional (FMSI) and Defensoría Edmund Rice (DER).

*National human rights institution:*

NHRI

National Human Rights Institution and Ombudperson’s Office, Montevideo (Uruguay)).

<sup>3</sup> NHRI para. 6.

<sup>4</sup> NHRI paras. 29–32. See also AI para. 10; JS12 paras. 14, 15 and 17.

<sup>5</sup> NHRI paras. 12 and 14.

<sup>6</sup> NHRI para. 16. See also Familias Presentes paras. 4, 8.

<sup>7</sup> NHRI paras. 18 and 19.

<sup>8</sup> NHRI paras. 21 and 22.

<sup>9</sup> NHRI para. 23. See also Gurises Unidos para. 14.

<sup>10</sup> NHRI para. 24.

<sup>11</sup> NHRI para. 26.

- <sup>12</sup> NHRI para. 33.
- <sup>13</sup> NHRI paras. 35 and 42.
- <sup>14</sup> NHRI paras. 38 and 39. See also RPC p. 6, and the recommendation from Broken Chalk para. 53.
- <sup>15</sup> NHRI para. 44.
- <sup>16</sup> NHRI para. 53.
- <sup>17</sup> NHRI para. 17.
- <sup>18</sup> *The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:*
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| ICERD      | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination                             |
| ICESCR     | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  |
| OP-ICESCR  | Optional Protocol to ICESCR   |
| ICCPR      | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR  |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty                               |
| CEDAW      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women                                    |
| OP-CEDAW   | Optional Protocol to CEDAW  |
| CAT        | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment                      |
| OP-CAT     | Optional Protocol to CAT  |
| CRC        | Convention on the Rights of the Child   |
| OP-CRC-AC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict                                     |
| OP-CRC-SC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography                    |
| OP-CRC-IC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure  |
| ICRMW      | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD       | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities   |
| OP-CRPD    | Optional Protocol to CRPD   |
| ICPPED     | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance                        |
- <sup>19</sup> Conacha para. 19.
- <sup>20</sup> NHRI para. 46; JS8 para. 7; Familias Presentes paras. 4 and 8; JS9 paras. 58–60; JS2 p. 2; JS10 para. 7.
- <sup>21</sup> JS8 para. 9.
- <sup>22</sup> JS8 para. 10. See also JS7 para. 39.
- <sup>23</sup> Familias Presentes para. 11.
- <sup>24</sup> AI paras. 2 and 3.
- <sup>25</sup> AI para. 5.
- <sup>26</sup> Broken Chalk para. 28.
- <sup>27</sup> JS10 paras. 60 and 61.
- <sup>28</sup> JS10 para. 62.
- <sup>29</sup> AI paras. 12 and 13. See also Familia Presentes paras. 12–14.
- <sup>30</sup> Familias Presentes para. 8; Gurises Unidos paras. 11 and 17–19; JS9 paras. 58–60; JS2 pp. 11–12.
- <sup>31</sup> JS9 p. 13.
- <sup>32</sup> Familia Presentes para. 15. See also JS8 para. 54 and JS7 para. 46.
- <sup>33</sup> JS2 p. 13.
- <sup>34</sup> JS8 para. 27.
- <sup>35</sup> JS8 paras. 34–35.
- <sup>36</sup> JS8 paras. 63 and 64.
- <sup>37</sup> JS7 para. 47.
- <sup>38</sup> JS7 para. 40.
- <sup>39</sup> JS8 paras. 12, 17 and 41.
- <sup>40</sup> JS8 paras. 24–26 and JS7 paras. 41, 43–45. See also JS9. p. 9.
- <sup>41</sup> AI para. 29 and Familia Presentes para. 15.
- <sup>42</sup> Familia Presentes para. 11 and JS2 p. 13.
- <sup>43</sup> Familia Presentes para. 15. See also Gurises Unidos para. 20.
- <sup>44</sup> JS8 paras. 60 and 62.
- <sup>45</sup> JS12 para. 9.

- 46 AI paras. 14 and 15. See also JS12 para. 30.
- 47 JS12 paras. 5 and 6.
- 48 JS12 paras. 8 and 17.
- 49 JS12 para. 17.
- 50 JS12 para. 17.
- 51 JS12 para. 17.
- 52 JS12 p. 6.
- 53 AI para. 16.
- 54 JS12 para. 31.
- 55 AI para. 30.
- 56 AI para. 31.
- 57 JS12 paras. 18–20. See also MEL para. 5.
- 58 JS12 para. 23.
- 59 JS12 para. 23.
- 60 MEL para. 19.
- 61 JS12 para. 24.
- 62 JS12 p. 6.
- 63 JS3 para. 12.
- 64 JS3 para 12 and JS4 para. 39.
- 65 AI para. 6.
- 66 AI paras. 26 and 27.
- 67 AI para. 10.
- 68 AI para. 28.
- 69 JS4 para. 29.
- 70 JS2 pp. 9–10.
- 71 JS2 p. 10.
- 72 Casavalle de Pie para. 22.
- 73 JS9 para. 23.
- 74 AI para. 22.
- 75 AI para. 37 and JS9 p. 6.
- 76 JS9 para. 20 and ECLJ paras. 11–14.
- 77 JS9 paras. 17 and 18. See also JS2 p. 8.
- 78 JS9 p. 4.
- 79 ECLJ para. 30. See also JS9 pp. 4–5.
- 80 JS3 paras. 7 and 8.
- 81 JS3 para. 10 and JS4 para. 32.
- 82 JS8 paras. 4–6. See also JS2 p. 3 and JS14 para. 12.
- 83 JS2 p. 15.
- 84 JS2 p. 16.
- 85 JS6 paras. 44–46 and 55.
- 86 JS6 paras. 53–54.
- 87 JS2 p. 3. See also JS11 para. 13.
- 88 JS11 paras. 6–21.
- 89 JS11 para. 22.
- 90 AI para. 21. See also JS2 p. 4.
- 91 AI para. 35.
- 92 AI para. 36.
- 93 ECLJ paras. 17 and 31.
- 94 JS2 p. 5.
- 95 JS2 p. 4.
- 96 JS2 p. 5.
- 97 AI paras. 17 and 18. See also Familia Presentes paras. 21–25; JS1 para. 17.
- 98 JS1 para. 8.
- 99 AI para. 32. See also JS1 para. 19.
- 100 JS1 para. 19.
- 101 JS1 para. 19.
- 102 JS1 para. 10.
- 103 JS14 para. 31. See also RPC p. 5; JS1 paras. 10 and 11.
- 104 JS1 para. 13.
- 105 JS14 para. 31.
- 106 JS2 pp. 4–5.
- 107 Broken Chalk paras. 1–10, 16, 26 and 50. See also JS1 para. 21.

- <sup>108</sup> Broken Chalk paras. 48 and 49. See also JS14 para. 26.  
<sup>109</sup> JS7 para. 52.  
<sup>110</sup> JS1 para. 35.  
<sup>111</sup> JS14 para. 26.  
<sup>112</sup> JS14 paras. 11, 15 and 16.  
<sup>113</sup> JS14 para. 26.  
<sup>114</sup> Broken Chalk paras. 1–10, 16, 26 and JS2 p. 14.  
<sup>115</sup> JS2. P. 14.  
<sup>116</sup> Broken Chalk para. 29. See also JS2 p. 14.  
<sup>117</sup> JS2 p. 15.  
<sup>118</sup> JS8 para. 58.  
<sup>119</sup> JS10 paras. 21–22 and 28.  
<sup>120</sup> JS10 para. 25.  
<sup>121</sup> JS9 para. 5.  
<sup>122</sup> AI paras. 20 and 33; JS9 paras. 6, 12 and p. 2; JS2 pp. 6 and 9.  
<sup>123</sup> JS9 paras. 11 and 13–16.  
<sup>124</sup> JS9 p. 13.  
<sup>125</sup> JS2 p. 9.  
<sup>126</sup> JS9 p. 13.  
<sup>127</sup> JS9 p. 3.  
<sup>128</sup> JS9 para. 13.  
<sup>129</sup> JS9 para. 8.  
<sup>130</sup> JS9 pp. 2 and 3. See also JS2 p. 9.  
<sup>131</sup> Broken Chalk para. 35.  
<sup>132</sup> JS9 paras. 32 and 33 and p. 7.  
<sup>133</sup> JS9 p. 13.  
<sup>134</sup> JS9 p. 13.  
<sup>135</sup> JS9 paras. 37 and 39.  
<sup>136</sup> JS9 paras. 40 and 41.  
<sup>137</sup> JS9 p. 9.  
<sup>138</sup> JS9 paras. 46–47.  
<sup>139</sup> JS9 pp. 10 and 11. See also JS7 para. 53.  
<sup>140</sup> JS8 paras. 52 and 53.  
<sup>141</sup> JS13 para. 13 and p. 3.  
<sup>142</sup> JS13 p. 4.  
<sup>143</sup> JS9 para. 24 and p. 6.  
<sup>144</sup> JS4 paras. 8 and 9.  
<sup>145</sup> JS4 para. 20.  
<sup>146</sup> JS4 paras. 12–13 and 16–17. See also JS3 para. 19; JS1 paras. 23 and 25.  
<sup>147</sup> JS4 para. 20.  
<sup>148</sup> AISOS paras. 4,10 and 14c) and d).  
<sup>149</sup> JS4 paras. 21 and 29.  
<sup>150</sup> Conacha paras. 5 and 9.  
<sup>151</sup> Conacha para. 13.  
<sup>152</sup> Conacha paras. 32 and 33.  
<sup>153</sup> Conacha para. 30.  
<sup>154</sup> Conacha paras. 38 and 42.  
<sup>155</sup> Conacha para. 26.  
<sup>156</sup> Conacha para. 23.  
<sup>157</sup> Conacha paras. 35 and 37.  
<sup>158</sup> JS10 paras. 31, 51 and 99.  
<sup>159</sup> JS10 paras. 46–48.  
<sup>160</sup> JS10 paras. 56–60.  
<sup>161</sup> JS10 paras. 39, 43 and 44.  
<sup>162</sup> JS10 paras. 15 and 18.  
<sup>163</sup> STU paras. 4 and 6 and p. 1.  
<sup>164</sup> STU p. 4.  
<sup>165</sup> STU p. 5.  
<sup>166</sup> STU para. 20.
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