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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 the Comoros\***

### **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 ten stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Information provided by stakeholders**

##### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>3</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

2. JS3, the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms (Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés (CNDHL)) and Human Rights Foundation (HRF) recommended that the Comoros ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>4</sup>

3. JS2 recommended that the Comoros formulate a strategy and develop a road map with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.<sup>5</sup> CNDHL and HRF made similar recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

4. HRF recommended that the Comoros ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.<sup>7</sup>

5. HRF and JS2 recommended ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment with a view to setting up a national preventive mechanism.<sup>8</sup>

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



6. JS4 recommended that the Comoros ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.<sup>9</sup>

7. JS1 recommended that the Comoros ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>10</sup>

8. JS4 recommended that the Comoros ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>11</sup>

9. JS3 noted that the country was behind schedule on a large number of reports to the treaty bodies, in particular the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the State had yet to submit a report. JS3 also noted that this delay was preventing civil society from submitting alternative reports on those issues and engaging with the mechanisms.<sup>12</sup>

10. JS3 recommended that the Comoros submit overdue reports to the treaty bodies and ensure that the Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-up was functional so that it could work, in collaboration with civil society, to submit overdue reports to the treaty bodies.<sup>13</sup>

11. JS1 recommended that the Comoros extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>

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

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

12. JS1, JS2 and JS4 recommended that the Comoros revise national legislation to introduce a more exhaustive definition of discrimination and its prohibition, in line with international law.<sup>15</sup>

### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

13. JS2 emphasized that the Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme et des Libertés has not been accredited with "A" status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. JS2 recommended that the Comoros take the measures necessary to guarantee the political, financial and functional independence of the Commission throughout the country in accordance with the Paris Principles, and that it support the Commission's awareness-raising and training activities on fundamental rights and its mission as the national human rights institution to ensure that all players understand the specific positioning and mandate of a national human rights institution.<sup>16</sup> JS3 recommended that the Commission seek accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.<sup>17</sup>

14. JS1 recommended that the Comoros develop human rights education programmes for all levels of education, from primary to university, to raise awareness of the conventions it has ratified among the various segments of society.<sup>18</sup>

15. JS1 recommended that the Comoros conduct a new census, with a particular focus on persons with disabilities in its territory, disaggregated by type of disability, and that it carry out specific studies on the social, political, economic and cultural needs of persons with disabilities.<sup>19</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*

16. JS1 and JS2 recommended that the Comoros develop awareness-raising programmes, especially at the community level, on the topic of combating discrimination in the national context.<sup>20</sup>

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

17. CNDHL noted that the death penalty remains applicable under Comorian law, although there has been a de facto moratorium on its enforcement since 1996.<sup>21</sup> CNDHL and JS2 recommended that the Comoros limit the legal basis for judges to impose the death penalty.<sup>22</sup>

18. HRF noted that political opponents had faced arbitrary arrests, detentions, and violations of due process, particularly since the 2018 constitutional referendum. It also noted that, according to the Special Rapporteur on torture, lengthy pretrial detention was notably “used to target political opponents and journalists”.<sup>23</sup>

19. JS1 and JS2 noted that there was little oversight of the lawfulness of detention, thus allowing for prolonged pretrial detention and the use of torture during pretrial detention and police custody.<sup>24</sup> HRF recommended ensuring that torture and ill-treatment are not used by law enforcement officials and prison authorities.<sup>25</sup>

20. JS2 regretted that there was no dedicated prison guard service and that security was ensured primarily by a private security firm.<sup>26</sup>

21. JS2 and CNDHL observed deplorable prison conditions in the Comoros, particularly in Moroni. Prisons were decrepit and overcrowded, lacked appropriate sanitation facilities and had structural problems.<sup>27</sup> HRF recommended improving conditions of detention nation-wide, committing the necessary funds to alleviate the difficult living conditions in detention facilities.<sup>29</sup>

22. JS2 recommended that the Comoros conduct an epidemiological survey of the country’s prisons to better meet needs in access to health care, health-care professionals and medical infrastructure and that it increase the budget of the Prison Administration Directorate, as well as the daily stipend given to the Directorate to cover prisoners’ food, hygiene and health needs.<sup>30</sup>

23. CNDHL recommended that the Comoros build appropriate short-stay prisons, reform the prison system and train officials in international standards.<sup>31</sup>

24. JS2 recommended that the Comoros prosecute pretrial detainees within the time frame established by law, investigate deaths in custody, develop a policy on alternatives to detention and on work opportunities for prisoners with a view to their reintegration and intensify efforts to provide access to education for prisoners, especially minors.<sup>32</sup>

25. JS2 noted that minors were very often held together with adults in Comorian prisons and that there were no long-term basic education or rehabilitation programmes.<sup>33</sup>

26. JS2 and JS4 recommended that the Comoros strictly ensure the separation of children from adults in prisons.<sup>34</sup> JS2 and JS4 also recommended that the State develop a policy on alternatives to detention and on work opportunities for prisoners with a view to their reintegration,<sup>35</sup> as well as adopt an education and reintegration policy aimed at promoting the economic integration of prisoners upon release.<sup>36</sup>

27. JS2 recommended that the Comoros set up a dedicated prison guard service, develop basic and in-service training for prison guards and conduct a comprehensive audit on the structure of penitentiary establishments in order to draw up a road map for their rehabilitation.<sup>37</sup>

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

28. JS1 noted that there were serious shortcomings in the Comorian judicial system, leading to recurring dysfunction, including corruption, impunity, denial of justice, slowness, lack of training and a perceived lack of independence from political power, which fed the population’s mistrust of the system and justice officials.<sup>38</sup>

29. JS1 noted that judges received very little training on basic legal safeguards.<sup>39</sup> JS2 recommended that the Comoros develop training for judges on fundamental legal safeguards to prevent judicial errors.<sup>40</sup>

30. CNDHL noted that the country had established the National Council of the Judiciary and that, despite the adoption of a new Criminal Code that covered various elements, the promulgation of the Code of Criminal Procedure remained delayed. The recent appointment of judges had not alleviated the shortage of specialists, particularly among sentence enforcement judges. CNDHL also noted that the judicial system faced major challenges, including difficulties in access, decrepit infrastructure, understaffing, logistical deficiencies, delays in the enforcement of court decisions and minimal enjoyment of the right to legal assistance from the time of arrest.<sup>41</sup>

31. CNDHL recommended that the State improve its judicial infrastructure, for instance by promoting the accessibility of the Mohéli short-stay prison, promote in-service training for legal trainees to ensure that the judicial system ran in a professional and efficient manner, set up a system for drafting decisions before deliberation and promulgate the Code of Criminal Procedure Act.<sup>42</sup>

32. JS2 recommended that the Comoros develop a handbook on access to justice procedures to help the public better understand and obtain access to the procedures.<sup>43</sup>

33. JS1 noted that electoral processes were particularly conducive to violations of the rights of media professionals and that corruption in certain institutions, along with impunity, remained a major problem.<sup>44</sup>

34. JS1 underscored that Comorian law did not yet include a law on legal aid in criminal cases involving the most marginalized defendants.<sup>45</sup>

35. JS1 and JS2 recommended that the Comoros formulate a road map containing goals for the appointment of judges specialized in specific key issues, adopt a law on legal aid in criminal proceedings to promote access to justice for all, and hold regular hearings of the criminal court to reduce the backlog of cases.<sup>46</sup>

36. JS1 recommended ensuring that court reception and referral offices took into account the specific accessibility needs of people with disabilities in order to facilitate their access to procedures and ensure the proper administration of justice.<sup>47</sup>

37. JS1 and JS2 recommended training sign language interpreters to provide effective access to justice for persons with disabilities and organizing specific training for those involved in the criminal justice system on the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure that their rights were effectively taken into account in terms of access to justice and respect for basic legal safeguards in proceedings.<sup>48</sup>

38. HRF recommended ensuring the right to due process for every accused person to a fair, speedy and public trial.<sup>49</sup>

39. JS4 underscored that the Comorian justice system did not always take into account the rights of minors.<sup>50</sup>

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

40. HRF noted that, despite the Constitution formally enshrining the right to freedom of expression, the State continued to severely restrict freedoms of the press and of expression and harassing and arbitrarily detaining journalists and bloggers reporting on issues of public interest. HRF highlighted that independent media outlets also faced a growing level of restriction and censorship.<sup>51</sup> JS1 noted that several journalists had been the victims of arbitrary arrest and detention.<sup>52</sup>

41. HRF noted that political opponents had faced arbitrary arrest, detention and violations of due process, particularly since the 2018 constitutional referendum, and that lengthy pretrial detention in the Comoros was used to target political opponents and journalists.<sup>53</sup> HRF also indicated that the constitutionally protected freedoms of assembly and association in the Comoros had significantly declined and that peaceful opposition activists risked arrest, detention and conviction.<sup>54</sup> It also noted that requirements on protest organizers often resulted in the arbitrary prohibition of peaceful opposition gatherings and in the risk of arrest, detention and conviction.<sup>55</sup>

42. According to JS4, corruption in certain institutions, as well as impunity, remained major challenges in the Comoros.<sup>56</sup>
43. JS3 regretted that assemblies and protests were subject to authorization.<sup>57</sup>
44. JS1 and JS2 recommended that the State respect the right to peaceful protest and adopt a specific law guaranteeing the protection of human rights defenders and associations.<sup>58</sup>
45. HRF recommended that the Comoros protect, respect and promote the rights of all individuals to the freedom of expression and of the press, ensuring that activists, journalists, opposition groups and all media operated freely, peacefully and safely in the Comoros.<sup>59</sup>
46. JS3 noted that, in a growing number of cases, human rights defenders were subjected to physical and verbal assault and to online harassment.<sup>60</sup>
47. JS3 noted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) regularly faced bureaucratic interference, for instance through the requirement to obtain permission from senior public servants in order to visit prisons.<sup>61</sup>
48. JS3 recommended that the Comoros: demonstrate publicly its support and acknowledgement of the legitimate work of human rights defenders through public statements by State officials; ensure that defenders know their rights and that the population is aware of the positive work of defenders; ensure that journalists can perform their functions in a safe and healthy environment in which they do not have to self-censor out of fear of reprisals; and draft and adopt specific laws and policies to recognize and protect the work of human rights defenders and give full effect to the Declaration on human rights defenders at the national level.<sup>62</sup>
49. JS3 recommended that the State: support the activities of civil society; respect international principles on freedom of association and assembly and replace the requirement to seek authorization from the authorities to hold a protest with the requirement to notify them; authorize lawful requests to protest, including requests by political opposition parties, in keeping with article 19 of the Constitution; make the NGO registration process less cumbersome so that civil society can be involved in the formulation and implementation of human rights strategies and measures in the country; and put an end to the stigmatization of women human rights defenders so that they may claim their rights in a safe environment.<sup>63</sup>
50. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) noted that the country's stated policy of religious liberty was insufficiently implemented. The prohibition on public practice had made it difficult for Christians to express their faith through online means and to openly display Christian symbols and had resulted in widespread censorship.<sup>64</sup>
51. According to ECLJ, those who converted to Christianity experienced pressure, harassment and ostracization, with instances of violence going unreported due to fear and stigma.<sup>65</sup> ECLJ recommended that the Comoros allow every religious group to freely and openly practice their faith without fear or fearing violence, etc.<sup>66</sup>

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

52. JS1 noted that trafficking in persons was a significant challenge in the Comoros.<sup>67</sup> According to ECLJ, despite some displays of progress and its international commitments, the Comoros still failed to meet minimum international standards for combating human trafficking, corruption was endemic in law enforcement and police officers were known to be colluding with criminal networks across a range of markets, actively facilitating criminal activities.<sup>68</sup>
53. ECLJ recommended that the Comoros continue to collaborate with international organizations to combat human trafficking, focus on developing efficient victim identification methods and support centres and improve enforcement coordination between each island.<sup>69</sup>

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

54. Broken-Chalk expressed concern at the persistence of poor working conditions and inadequate training for teachers in the Comoros. Insufficient infrastructure, low salaries,

limited professional development and a lack of resources were noted as obstacles affecting the quality of education.<sup>70</sup>

55. According to JS1, 41.3 per cent of persons with disabilities were employed, while 58.7 per cent were not. Most of the former were self-employed and worked in the informal private sector, especially in agriculture, production activities and trade.<sup>71</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

56. Broken-Chalk stated that the Comoros stood as one of the most economically disadvantaged and underdeveloped countries globally. The three islands contended with insufficient transportation connections, a youthful and swiftly growing population and a scarcity of natural resources.<sup>72</sup>

57. Broken-Chalk also noted that poverty remained a significant obstacle to the education of girls and that families facing economic hardships may prioritize sending boys to school over girls due to traditional beliefs about gender roles and limited resources.<sup>73</sup>

58. Broken-Chalk was concerned that sanitation and hygiene facilities in many schools were scarce or non-existent and that the absence of proper toilets and sanitation facilities not only affected the health and safety of students, but also negatively impacted school attendance, particularly among girls.<sup>74</sup>

*Right to health*

59. JS4 noted that, although mortality among young children had fallen, the health of children continued to be jeopardized by limited access to care owing to a lack of functional health-care facilities compounded by barriers to access. JS4 also noted that infant and child mortality remained intrinsically linked to serious malnutrition issues.<sup>75</sup>

60. JS4 recommended that the Comoros intensify its efforts to ensure that children have equal access to health care and medical professionals, as well as access to education, without discrimination.<sup>76</sup>

*Right to education*

61. Broken-Chalk stressed that the financial constraints was a significant factor affecting the right to education.<sup>77</sup>

62. Broken-Chalk noted school infrastructure challenges, including limited resources, geographical disparities, overcrowding, poor maintenance, inadequate sanitation and a lack of technological integration.<sup>78</sup>

63. Broken-Chalk recommended the Comoros to increase budget allocation for education, seek external funding, enhance school infrastructure, ensure learning resources availability, provide regular training to teachers, promote inclusive education, invest in digital learning, offer teacher incentives, strengthen higher education and encourage research and innovation.<sup>79</sup>

64. Broken-Chalk highlighted that dropout rates were very high. It recommended that the Comoros intensify its efforts to increase the school attendance rate and reduce the dropout rate, especially among girls, to prevent children under 15 years of age from working.<sup>80</sup>

65. JS4 noted that, while progress had been made in preschool enrolment, with a fairly even rate between girls and boys, substantial efforts were needed in basic education and access by the most marginalized groups, including children living in poverty and those with disabilities or albinism.<sup>81</sup>

66. Broken-Chalk recommended that the Comoros enhance measures to eradicate illiteracy and ensure universal and free access to quality education, particularly for the most marginalized and deprived populations.<sup>82</sup>

67. JS4 recommended that the Comoros step up its efforts to ensure children's access to education without discrimination.<sup>83</sup>

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

68. Concerning Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights noted that the Comoros had seen positive results in the priorities relating to the continent's financial and monetary institutions and the African Peace and Security Architecture. However, efforts were still needed for the implementation of most of the goals relating to the modernization of agriculture, the development of sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities, youth engagement and empowerment, civic education and a revolution driven by science, technology and innovation skills.<sup>84</sup>

69. Broken-Chalk indicated that the country's geographical layout posed a significant obstacle to developing a uniform school infrastructure. The islands were spread out, with varying levels of accessibility due to limited transportation and rugged terrains. This situation led to discrepancies in the quality and availability of educational facilities across different regions, disproportionately affecting students in remote areas.<sup>85</sup>

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

70. CNDHL noted that concerns remained, in particular with regard to early marriage and physical and sexual violence.<sup>86</sup>

71. JS1 noted that violence and discrimination against women remained a significant problem that Comorian civil society organizations and institutions were attempting to address.<sup>87</sup>

72. CNDHL recommended that the State take measures to disseminate the new Criminal code to protect women's rights, promote the active participation of women in decision-making and politics, introduce the concept of social and solidarity economy to support urban women, and regulate marriage and civil status to prevent early and forced marriage.<sup>88</sup>

73. JS4 recommended that the Comoros strengthen the mechanism to prevent violence against women and intensify efforts to raise awareness about how women and girl victims of violence can access justice in Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli.<sup>89</sup>

74. JS4 recommended that the Comoros: produce and disseminate precise, disaggregated statistical data on gender-based violence in the country; take specific measures to promote women's participation in political and public life at all levels of government and responsibility; take specific measures to promote the economic participation and empowerment of women, especially women living in rural areas and those with disabilities; and intensify efforts to raise awareness of gender-based violence among criminal justice officials, namely, the investigative police, judges and prison guards, in Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli and to provide them with training in those issues.<sup>90</sup>

75. JS4 recommended that the Government amend the Criminal Code to define marital rape as a stand-alone criminal offence.<sup>91</sup>

76. Broken-Chalk noted the gender disparity in education, and that girls faced particular challenges.<sup>92</sup> Traditional gender roles and societal norms in the Comoros often placed girls at a disadvantage, assigning them domestic responsibilities that may conflict with their educational pursuits. In addition, early marriage and gender-based violence continued to contribute to the gender gap in education.<sup>93</sup>

77. Broken-Chalk recommended the Comoros to promote gender equality by addressing cultural norms hindering access to education for girls and implement initiatives for girls' enrolment and retention in schools.<sup>94</sup>

*Children*

78. ECLJ noted that child marriage persisted in the Comoros despite a legal age of 18. It also noted the absence of public measures for enforcing minimum age laws and the lack of legal sanctions for those facilitating underage marriages. It also highlighted that this gap in

enforcement contributed to the widespread prevalence of child marriages, even arranged earlier than legal limits.<sup>95</sup>

79. ECLJ noted that child brides in the Comoros faced severe consequences, often marrying much older men and experiencing domestic abuse. Social norms discouraged reporting abuse, creating a taboo around such revelations. It highlighted that over half of Comorian child brides were unable to attend school, primarily due to early pregnancies, which carry higher risks for complications during childbirth. ECLJ added that adolescent pregnancy also led to economic vulnerability, as girls became financially dependent on their husbands.<sup>96</sup>

80. ECLJ recommended that the Comoros enforce its law on the minimum marriage age of 18 years and ban the practice of child marriage.<sup>97</sup> JS4 recommended that the State monitor the application of article 15 of the Family Code of 2015, which allows judges to derogate from the ban on marriage under the age of 18, with a view to reducing forced or early marriage among girls.<sup>98</sup>

81. JS4 recommended that the State conduct a thorough study on harmful traditional practices, such as forced or early marriage, to inform public and sectoral policies aimed at combating those practices.<sup>99</sup>

82. End Corporal Punishment (ECP) regretted that corporal punishment had not been absolutely prohibited in the Comoros, despite provisions in the Family Code, Child Protection Code of 2005 and the Constitution of 2018 emphasizing the right of children to be protected from violence.<sup>100</sup>

83. ECP stated that, despite the Government's reporting to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in May 2017 that the new Criminal Code, adopted in 2014, prohibited all corporal punishment, it had not been promulgated and therefore not been in force.<sup>101</sup>

84. According to ECP, corporal punishment was also lawful in alternative care settings and day-care facilities, aligned with parental authority to "admonish" as per the Family Code of 2005.<sup>102</sup>

85. ECP hoped that the issue of corporal punishment would be raised during the fourth universal periodic review and recommended that the Comoros intensify its efforts to enact a law to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children, however light, in every setting of their lives.<sup>103</sup>

86. JS1 noted that violence and discrimination against children remained a significant problem that Comorian civil society organizations and institutions were attempting to address.<sup>104</sup> JS4 recommended that the Comoros strengthen the mechanism for the prevention of violence against children.<sup>105</sup>

87. JS4 recommended that the Comoros step up efforts to guarantee an identity and legal personhood for every Comorian child, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. JS4 also recommended that the Comoros intensify its efforts to ensure that children have equal access to health care and medical professionals, as well as access to education, without discrimination.<sup>106</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

88. JS1 noted that, despite the efforts of national associations and the support of some international partners, the situation of persons with disabilities in the Comoros remained very concerning and required meaningful commitment on the part of the Government, as well as support from development partners and NGOs, to realize the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>107</sup>

89. Broken-Chalk was concerned at the disproportionately low enrolment rates and a higher likelihood of discontinuation among children and young people with disabilities.<sup>108</sup>

90. Broken-Chalk expressed concerns about inadequate infrastructure for persons with disabilities in the Comorian education system. While the Comoros had ratified international the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, challenges persisted to ensure the



right to education for persons with disabilities due, inter alia, to societal prejudice and discrimination. It noted, in particular, the historical challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing education.<sup>109</sup>

91. JS1 noted that there were no specific provisions, whether at the national or the local level, on access to political representation for persons with disabilities and that the equality of citizens without discrimination on the grounds of disability had not been sufficiently protected by the Constitution.<sup>110</sup>

92. JS1 noted that children with disabilities and their parents faced physical, informational and financial challenges in accessing education and health care, in violation of applicable legal provisions.<sup>111</sup>

93. JS1 recommended that the Comoros adopt a new national law on disability that was more in keeping with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly with regard to the definition and prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability and issues of legal personhood, collective and individual freedoms, and accessibility, and that included a requirement to collect data and produce statistics, in line with article 31 of the Convention.<sup>112</sup>

94. JS1 recommended that the Comoros: design measures to prevent and protect against violence, particularly violence against women and children with disabilities; put in place specific measures to promote access to free education for children with disabilities, irrespective of disability type; and take specific measures to promote access to health care and medical professionals for children with disabilities, irrespective of disability type.<sup>113</sup>

95. JS1 recommended that the State promote the economic autonomy and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities through the adoption of support measures and that it encourage their candidacy in elections by adopting provisional measures, such as representation quotas for political parties and the election authorities.<sup>114</sup>

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

96. JS1 and JS4 noted that homosexuality is prohibited under the law.<sup>115</sup>

97. JS3 noted that same-sex relations were illegal and carried the penalty of a fine and up to 5 years' imprisonment and that civil society organizations remained stymied in their efforts to raise awareness of those issues.<sup>116</sup>

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/41/12](#) and the [A/HRC/41/12/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:*

Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
ECP	End Corporal Punishment, Geneva (Switzerland);
H.R.F	Human Rights Foundation, New York (United States of America);
PRDH	Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme, Port-Vendres (France).

##### *Joint submissions:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> International Service for Human Rights, Geneva (Switzerland); Association Conseil de la Paix (CAP); Maison des Organisations de la Société Civile (MOSC);
JS2	<b>Joint submission 2 submitted by:</b> Coalition of NGO for UPR-Comoros, PORT-VENDRES (France); Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme; Observatoire des élections; Conseil de la Paix; Fondation comorienne pour les droits de l'Homme;

- Fédération des associations de personnes handicapées aux Comores;
- JS3 **Joint submission 3 submitted by:** Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme, Port-Vendres (France); Fédération des associations des personnes handicapées aux Comores (FAHAC); Fondation comorienne des droits de l'Homme;
- JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** La Confédération des Travailleuses et les Travailleurs des Comores (CTTC) (Comoros) ; Planète Réfugiés-Droits de l'Homme (PRDH) ; Croissant-Rouge comorien ; CARITAS Comores ; Fondation Comorienne des droits de l'Homme (FCDH) ; AfriYAN Comoros.

*National human rights institution:*

- CNDHL Commission Nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés, Moroni (Comoros).

*Regional intergovernmental organization:*

- AU-ACHPR African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Western Region P.O. Box 673 Banjul (Gambia).

<sup>3</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>4</sup> CNDHL, p. 5, para. 1; HRF, p. 15, para. 32e; see also: JS3, p. 4, para. 3.

<sup>5</sup> JS2, p. 7, para. 2.

<sup>6</sup> CNDHL, p. 5, para. 1; HRF, p.15, para. 32e; see also: JS1, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> HRF, p. 15, para. 32e.

<sup>8</sup> HRF, p. 15, para. 32e and JS2, p. 7, para. 2.

<sup>9</sup> JS4, p. 12, para. 4.

<sup>10</sup> JS1, p. 9, para. 3.

<sup>11</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 4.

<sup>12</sup> JS3, p. 3, para. 20.

<sup>13</sup> JS3, p. 4, para. 3.

<sup>14</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4.

<sup>15</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4; JS2, p. 7, para. 5 and PRDH, p. 4, para. 7.

<sup>16</sup> JS2, p. 12, para. 4.

<sup>17</sup> JS3, p. 4.

<sup>18</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4.

- 19 JS1, p. 9, para. 3 and p. 10, para. 1.  
 20 JS1, p. 4, para. 4 and JS2, p. 7, para. 5.  
 21 CNDHL, p. 4, para. 5.  
 22 CNDHL, p. 5, para. 7.  
 23 HRF, p. 12, para. 27.  
 24 JS1, p. 5, paras. 9 and JS2, p. 10, para. 26.  
 25 HRF, p. 15, para. 32c.  
 26 JS2, p. 10, para. 25.  
 27 JS2, p. 10, para. 26.  
 28 CNDHL, p. 7, para. 12.  
 29 HRF, p. 15, para. 32d.  
 30 JS2, p. 11, para. 2.  
 31 CNDHL, p. 7, para. 4.  
 32 JS2, p. 11, para. 2.  
 33 JS2, p. 10, para. 30.  
 34 PRDH, p. 12, para. 2 and JS2, p. 11, para. 2.  
 35 JS2, p. 11, para. 2.  
 36 PRDH, p. 12, para. 2.  
 37 JS2, p. 11, para. 2.  
 38 JS1, p. 5, para. 8.  
 39 JS1, p. 5, para. 9.  
 40 JS2, p. 7, para. 5.  
 41 CNDHL, p. 5, paras. 8 and 9.  
 42 CNDHL, p. 6, para. 1.  
 43 JS2, p. 9, para. 1.  
 44 JS1, p. 4, para. 6.  
 45 JS1, p. 8, para. 20.  
 46 JS1, p. 9, para. 1 and JS2, p. 9, para. 1.  
 47 JS1, p. 9, para. 3.  
 48 JS1, p. 9, para. 3 and JS2, p. 9, para. 1.  
 49 HRF, p. 15, para. 32b.  
 50 PRDH, p. 12, para. 37.  
 51 HRF, p. 8, para. 19 and p. 10, para. 22.  
 52 JS1, pp. 3 and 4, para. 3.  
 53 HRF, p. 12, para. 27.  
 54 HRF, p. 11, para. 25.  
 55 HRF, p. 10, para. 24.  
 56 JS4, p. 4, para. 5.  
 57 JS3, p. 2, para. 3.  
 58 JS2, p. 5, para. 1 and JS1, p. 5, para. 1.  
 59 HRF, p. 15, para. 32a.  
 60 JS3, p. 1, para. 1.  
 61 JS3, p. 2, para. 4.  
 62 JS3, p. 4, para. 3.  
 63 JS3, p. 4, para. 3.  
 64 ECLJ, p. 2, para. 4.  
 65 ECLJ, p. 4, para. 19.  
 66 ECLJ, p. 6, para. 32.  
 67 JS1, pp. 3 and 4, para. 3.  
 68 ECLJ, p. 5, para. 24.  
 69 ECLJ, p. 6, para. 32.  
 70 Broken-Chalk, p. 5, paras. 26–31.  
 71 JS1, p. 8, para. 24.  
 72 Broken-Chalk, p. 3, para. 3.  
 73 Broken-Chalk, p. 6, para. 38.  
 74 Broken-Chalk, p. 7, para. 48.  
 75 JS4, p. 11, para. 34.  
 76 JS4, p. 12, para. 1.  
 77 Broken-Chalk, p. 7, para. 43.  
 78 Broken-Chalk, p. 7, paras. 43–50.  
 79 Broken-Chalk, pp. 8 and 9, paras. 53–65 and 71.  
 80 Broken-Chalk, p. 4, paras. 17–20.  
 81 JS4, p. 10, para. 31.

- <sup>82</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 4, para. 13.  
<sup>83</sup> JS4, p. 12, para. 1.  
<sup>84</sup> AU.ACHPR, p. 4, paras. 2 and 3.  
<sup>85</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 7, para. 44.  
<sup>86</sup> CNDHL, p. 8, para. 14 and p. 9, para. 4.  
<sup>87</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4.  
<sup>88</sup> CNDHL, p. 9, para. 4.  
<sup>89</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 1.  
<sup>90</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 1.  
<sup>91</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 1.  
<sup>92</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 6, para. 36.  
<sup>93</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 6, paras. 36 and 40.  
<sup>94</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 9, para. 68.  
<sup>95</sup> ECLJ, p. 5, para. 28.  
<sup>96</sup> ECLJ, pp. 5 and 6, para. 29.  
<sup>97</sup> ECLJ, p. 6, para. 34.  
<sup>98</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 2.  
<sup>99</sup> JS4, p. 12, para. 1.  
<sup>100</sup> ECP, p. 4, paras. 2.6, and 2.7.  
<sup>101</sup> ECP, p. 3, para. 2.2.  
<sup>102</sup> ECP, p. 3, para. 2.3.  
<sup>103</sup> ECP, p. 2, para. 1.3.  
<sup>104</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4.  
<sup>105</sup> JS4, p. 9, para. 2.  
<sup>106</sup> JS4, p. 12, para. 1.  
<sup>107</sup> JS1, p. 7, para. 15.  
<sup>108</sup> Broken-Chalk, p. 5, para. 23.  
<sup>109</sup> Broken-Chalk, pp. 4 and 5, paras. 21 and 25.  
<sup>110</sup> JS1, p. 6, para. 13.  
<sup>111</sup> JS1, p. 9, para. 28.  
<sup>112</sup> JS1, p. 9, para. 3.  
<sup>113</sup> JS1, p. 9, para. 3.  
<sup>114</sup> JS1, p. 9, para. 3.  
<sup>115</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 4 and JS4, p. 4, para. 7.  
<sup>116</sup> JS3, p. 3, para. 13.
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