



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

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on North Macedonia*

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.¹ It is a summary of 16 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations³ and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) regretted that the Republic of North Macedonia has not shown support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by consistently voting against an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon states to sign, ratify or accede to the treaty, and regrets that it shows support of the potential use of nuclear weapons. ICAN urged the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.⁴

B. National human rights framework

3. Joint Submission 4 (JS4) stated that four recommendations received in the Third UPR Cycle referred to amending the Law on the Ombudsperson in line with the Paris Principles. However, these amendments are yet to be drafted and adopted.⁵

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



4. JS4 recommended that the Parliament promptly appoints five deputy ombudspersons to prevent compromise in effectively enforcing human rights following the Law on Ombudsperson and international mechanisms.⁶

5. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) informed that the National Action Plan is based on three main pillars, the first one being the alignment of the legislation with articles from the Convention (Goal 1), the second one is establishing specialized services for women victims of violence and domestic violence (Goal 2) and the third one is prevention (Goal 3).

Constitutional and legislative framework

6. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) recommended to amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a clear and comprehensive definition of hate speech that explicitly includes sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics as protected grounds, aligning it with international human rights standards.⁷

7. JS1 urged relevant authorities to adopt all bylaws/protocols/programs of the 2021 Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ensuring designated funding sufficient for successful implementation. It also called for the harmonization of the Law for Social Protection with the articles of the 2021 Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in order to secure full implementation and improvement of the system for support of women and children victims of violence.⁸

8. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) recommended to clearly define which expressions of hate speech are subject to criminal liability to ensure legal certainty and to prevent the risk of unjustified use of criminal liability and ensure effective legal protection against hate speech under civil and administrative law, especially general misdemeanor law, anti-discrimination law, and administrative misdemeanor law. MHC also requested to introduce effective legislation to prevent and combat online hate speech.⁹

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

9. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) recommended to elect new members of the Commission for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination and amend the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination to clearly and unambiguously allow the Commission and other entities with a legal interest to intervene in ongoing proceedings for protection against discrimination, regardless of the type of proceeding involved.¹⁰

10. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) reported that a completely new version of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, now called the Law on Gender Equality, is currently in the works for 2023. Although the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy established a working group including a MHC representative to draft the law in 2020, the draft text was made public and open for discussion in 2022. The need to adopt the new law arose from the limited effectiveness of the previous one, particularly at the local level, which was pointed out in the last recommendations of the CEDAW Committee.¹¹

11. JS2 recommended to actively address discrimination cases, enforce provisions for combating discrimination, and impose fines within sectoral laws to enhance protection against discrimination. JS2 also encouraged the government to launch awareness campaigns, hotlines, and support mechanisms to promote reporting of discrimination incidents to combat underreporting effectively, aligning with international human rights principles.¹²

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

12. OSCE-ODIHR condemned any form of discrimination and hate crime and recommended to abstain from any statement or action that exacerbates vulnerabilities and respond swiftly to hate crimes, including those motivated by gender or sex, to record and investigate them so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice and adequate penalties imposed.

13. OSCE-ODIHR requested to support victims of hate crimes as they report their experiences, and ensure the availability of all necessary psychological, social and legal support for victims, including through close co-operation with civil society. Relevant authorities should also publicly condemn any such acts and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and ensure that the consequences of the economic crisis, do not affect states' capacities to provide support to victims of hate including through appropriate funding to non-state actors and civil society organizations.¹³

14. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) recommended to the courts to put on record reasons in cases of bias-motivated crime and ensure prompt and effective investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. MHC stressed to maintain cooperation between public authorities and civil society organizations on various aspects of hate crime work, such as training, victim support and increasing reporting to ensure that victims of hate crime are supported and protected.¹⁴

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

15. The Institute for Human Rights (IHR) referred to the Strategy for Judicial Reform (2017–2022) as the key policy for phased overcoming of the mapped weaknesses in the judiciary. The implementation of the strategy made moderate progress in the judiciary by addressing the recommendations made by the Venice Commission and the Senior Experts' Group on systemic rule of law issues. The general conclusion was that the pace at which human resources strategies were being implemented in the judiciary and prosecution sectors requires acceleration.¹⁵

16. The Law on the Management of the Movement of Cases in Courts, adopted in 2020, provides for strengthened mechanisms for automatic distribution of cases in courts. A system for electronic distribution of cases in the Public Prosecutor's Office became operational in January 2023. However, the automation on the side of the prosecution should be further strengthened. The system allows for electronic filing and/or scanning of documents but it can be further developed. The implementation of the Law on the Judicial Budget in the part of ensuring the legally stipulated minimum of 0.8% still represents a serious problem that has direct consequences on the independence of the judiciary.¹⁶

17. OSCE-ODIHR recommended to build law enforcement and justice sector capacities to recognize and effectively investigate hate crimes.¹⁷

18. The Helsinki Committee (MHC) acknowledged that, besides the efforts to eliminate existing torture and inhuman treatment from the police officers and the prison police still, there are numerous challenges on this field. The most pressing problems are access to health care, educational process, the process of resocialization of convicted persons, untrained management and professional staff in penitentiary institutions, and ineffective internal and external mechanisms for reporting and prosecuting cases of torture and inhumane treatment of convicted persons. Overcrowding is still one of the most pressing problems.¹⁸

19. Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) recommended to establish functional external oversight mechanism over the work of the police and the prison police, as prescribed with law with involvement and active participation of the non-governmental sector. The government should develop programmes in prisons of rehabilitative activities with a view to improving the quality of life of convicts, as well as resocialization programmes preparing convicts for more independent living and/or return to their families. The government should establish functional legal aid system for person deprived from liberty, especially for marginalized group and to guarantee them access to free of charge lawyer when detention is during night.¹⁹

20. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) reported that for the first time in 2023 a “state of crisis” was declared. This decision aimed at preventing security threats and strengthening the institution’s security. The state of crisis lasted for 30 days, being interrupted for 2 days and redeclared on 7 July. During the crisis declaration, members of the Ministry of Interior and the Army were deployed to secure the prison due to the lack of guards. One of the main problems faced by “Idrizovo” was the shortage of staff. The number of employees in the prison police remained insufficient to meet daily needs. The government approved the employment of 100 new prison police officers and 40 million euros were allocated for the reconstruction and construction of a new building.²⁰

21. However, while the new building is being constructed, convicted individuals would still be housed in inhumane and substandard conditions. On 27 July 2023, the Parliament unanimously approved the extension of the state of crisis. It is important that the state of crisis does not continue indefinitely, especially considering that structural deficiencies in penitentiary institutions have existed for a long time.²¹

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

22. JS2 recommended to ensure prompt investigation and prosecution of attacks on human rights defenders, aligning with international law, to safeguard their crucial role in upholding rights and fostering a just society.²²

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

23. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) reported that North Macedonia was a country of origin, transit and destination of victims of trafficking in human beings. Sixty-eight victims of human trafficking were recorded from 2019-September 2022 and a total of 149 potential victims from 2019–2022 of human trafficking were identified. Unfortunately, the number of victims identified drastically decreased from 124 in 2019 to only six in 2020. This decline was due to lack of funding for mobile teams who were identifying potential victims.²³

24. While North Macedonia should be commended for codifying a protection from prosecution for victims of human trafficking and training the judiciary in this specific area of victim protection, it should also be commended for working with other countries and organizations and countries to combat human trafficking, which it should continue to do.²⁴

25. However, North Macedonia should take greater steps in implementing and enforcing the anti-trafficking infrastructure already in place, as well as develop more effective strategies to reduce trafficking in persons. This includes prosecuting and convicting more human traffickers, increasing sentences for offenders beyond the minimum, and ensuring that the victim compensation structure is working effectively. North Macedonia must also provide the necessary resources for its anti-trafficking programs to function properly.²⁵

Right to an adequate standard of living

26. Joint submission 6 (JS6) reported that in North Macedonia, the quality and safety of drinking water in schools has improved steadily in recent years, but several schools lack facilities for health and hygiene. In addition, there is no access to water and sanitation in religious facilities. The data shows that in 74 schools, the toilets were not renovated for 15 years, and 64 schools were not renovated for 10 to 15 years, which speaks volumes about access to sanitation. Women also increasingly face a problem in accessing health management products, and women workers who work outdoors do not have any access to sanitation. Shockingly, there are still no public toilets in Skopje.²⁶

Right to health

27. The Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) recommended to adopt a plan for universal health coverage with primary health care, especially for Roma and rural population with proper budget allocation and increase the number of Gynaecologists and Paediatricians on primary health care level with even geographical distribution with proper budget allocation.²⁷

28. Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) also advised to enhance health education and health promotion, including sexual and reproductive health, healthy pregnancy, child health especially in rural and Roma communities and increase the budget for Program for cervical cancer screening and enhance the mechanisms for its implementation and monitoring with participation of the citizens. ESE encouraged to strengthen the home visiting (patronage) nurse service through increased number of nurses and adequate equipment, especially for provision of services in Roma and rural communities, with proper budget allocation.²⁸

29. JS6 promoted public awareness campaigns, targeting young people and adults, to raise awareness about the importance of comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health information with the aim to reduce stigma and misconceptions.²⁹

30. JS1 recommended to start the coordination process for changing the Law for Health Care and the Law on Patient Protection in order to ensure standardized care paths for victims of violence against women in the health sector that include the identification of victims, screening, diagnosis, treatment, documentation of injuries, and referral to appropriate specialist support services and ensure that amendments of these laws secure adequate and free of charge health care for women and children victims.³⁰

31. JS1 suggested organizing mandatory and continuous trainings for health workers at all levels of healthcare, to fully sensitize them to the specifics and dynamics of violence against women and domestic violence, forms of violence, consequences to victims.³¹ Joint Submission 5 (JS5) recommended to create a Gender-based Violence Task Force that will monitor and prosecute the perpetrators of gender-based violence before, during and after political campaigns.³²

Right to education

32. The Health Education and Research Association (HERA) reported that the Roma population recorded the lowest rate of coverage with the education process, and on the other hand, the largest tendency of dropping out from school, challenges in achieving the standards and underachievement in learning, as a result from poverty and discrimination. Discrimination against Roma children in education is still widespread. In 2022, the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination established the existence of indirect discrimination in the education system in two separate cases in primary schools, which have resulted in segregation of pupils who are members of the Roma ethnic community, when enrolled Roma pupils were assigned to “ethnically clean classes”, and one case of direct discrimination in a high school against a student member of the Roma community.³³

33. HERA recommended to improve the mechanisms for eliminating the systemic discrimination of Roma people in education system and ensure their unobstructed inclusion in the education system.³⁴

Business and human rights

34. GRECO (Groupe d’Etats contre la corruption) welcomed the adoption of the new Code of ethics which establishes principles and rules of conduct for all prosecutors in North Macedonia. It is a comprehensive set of integrity rules and provides guidance *inter alia* on conflicts of interest, gifts, ancillary activities and the applicability of certain integrity rules in respect of close family members.³⁵

35. OSCE-ODHIR recommended to providing the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the State Audit Office with adequate human and financial resources to effectively carry out their mandates.³⁶

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

36. The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia (MHC) informed that the Law on Prevention and Protection against violence against women

and domestic violence adopted on 6 May 2021 has made a significant improvement in the country's legislation in accordance with the Istanbul Convention when it comes to gender equality and protection of women against all forms of violence.³⁷

37. Amendments of the Criminal Code were made in February 2023 aligning with the Istanbul Convention where sexual harassment (harassment with electronic means of communication included) and stalking were introduced as new crimes. With the amendments, gender-based violence was recognized and defined, the definition of domestic violence was supplemented with psychological and economic violence, the lack of clearly expressed will as a key feature in rape crimes were introduced. In addition, femicide, the most serious form of gender-based violence against a woman for being a woman, is not yet recognized as a separate crime in the Criminal Code, a more serious form of murder when committed during domestic violence.³⁸

38. MHC recommended to relevant institutions to provide safe access to protection and justice for victims at all levels, including reporting and institutional response to violence, through adequate implementation and conduct of the laws and the appropriate sanctioning of the perpetrators of gender-based violence.³⁹

39. The National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence conducted a gender analysis of the legislation related to the health care of the victims of gender-based violence concluding that the Law on Healthcare does not have gender-sensitive terminology and victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence are not recognized nor treated as special category needing specific treatment, handling and further referral. Only victims of sexual violence are represented in the Programme for Active Protection of Mothers and Children, and those who will be users of the Referral Centres for victims of sexual violence. Additionally, health facilities in North Macedonia do not offer a comprehensive system of services for the treatment of victims, including psychological care, which means that victims must pay for all additional services other than the health services they received immediately when the violence was committed.⁴⁰

Children

40. Joint Submission 3 (JS3) advised to effectively and comprehensively implement the amended Law on Civil Registry to ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth regardless of the status or identity of their parents, including by removing any practical barriers to birth registration and addressing discriminatory practices by the authorities.⁴¹

41. JS4 recommended to establish a fund in the state budget related to implementing the Law on Justice for Children. JS4 requested to urgently address the non-compliance with the Law on Justice for Children concerning municipal prevention councils, allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the formation and active functioning of these councils in all municipalities, and implement measures to encourage the proactive engagement of local communities in preventing child delinquency.⁴²

42. Broken Chalk stated that there was a disproportionately high level of juvenile depression affecting girls, Broken Chalk recommended courses to combat gender stereotypes and deconstruct misconceptions about genders.⁴³

Persons with disabilities

43. The Institute for Human Rights (IHR) recommended to enhance the representation of persons with disabilities in the electoral bodies in accordance with the principle of adequate and fair representation from the Electoral Code and provide adapted technical, spatial, and other working conditions of the electoral bodies to encourage participation of people with disabilities in these bodies. The State Election Commission should undertake activities to ensure that their website is accessible to persons with disabilities.⁴⁴

44. The Institute for Human Rights (IHR) encouraged to introduce adequate and suitable format for submitting lawsuits and objections for violations committed in the electoral process for people with disabilities and provide sufficient information regarding the protection of rights resulting from the electoral process in an accessible and adapted manner for people with disabilities.⁴⁵

Minorities

45. OSCE-ODHIR recommended to implement measures to promote and protect human rights while actively countering racism and discrimination against Roma people and ensure that Roma communities have equal access to socio-economic rights.⁴⁶

46. The Health Education and Research Association (HERA) referred to the situation of the Roma people as one of the most marginalized communities in the country. HERA reported the barriers faced by Roma women in accessing equal employment opportunities, in realising their reproductive rights and the systemic discrimination of Roma women and men.⁴⁷

47. JS4 reported a slight progression of the efforts to integrate the Roma population into healthcare, education, housing, and employment. However, there has not been a notable improvement in the quality of life for the Roma community.⁴⁸

48. Roma people face high levels of non-registration, primarily due to the requirement to provide a residence address or a notary-certified statement indicating the use of an address. Consequently, many individuals residing in informal settlements lack identity documentation, leading to the non-registration of their new-borns in the birth registry. Roma, without documentation, have no access to all other services, including health, education, employment, and housing.⁴⁹

49. JS4 informed that in June 2023, a young Roma man unable to obtain a personal identity card tragically lost his life due to lack of access to health care. At age twenty, he passed away from untreated type 1 diabetes. This case underscores general institutional negligence toward Roma individuals without proper identification and lack of legal compliance by the State.⁵⁰

50. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention urged the authorities to increase efforts to prevent human rights violations against persons belonging to national minorities by the police. Furthermore, they should ensure that the oversight mechanisms within the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor's Office and in the Ombudsperson's Office are effective and that alleged cases of police misconduct are investigated and adequately sanctioned.⁵¹

51. The Advisory Committee called on the authorities to improve the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages through increasing considerably their investment in the training and recruitment of translators and interpreters and to continuously evaluate its impact. The law's provisions on the language rights of numerically smaller national minorities should be clarified.⁵²

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

52. MHC informed that beside the fact that some steps towards increasing the protection of the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community are taken, they are still at risk of hate motivated harm, particularly during and after the annual Pride parade. However, a shift in the society is noticeable, considering that LGBTIQ+ people are encouraged to contact the civil society organizations offering free legal aid and to ask for protection by the relevant institutions. The court decision to sentence a perpetrator for hate crime on the grounds of sexual orientation is a significant starting point for change. Bias motivated crimes are not properly registered or investigated by the police and prosecutor's offices. Very few efforts have been made to introduce preventive measures, including education about human rights and raising awareness, especially among high school students and young people, bearing in mind, the majority of victims and significant number of perpetrators are juveniles or young adults.⁵³

53. In 2023, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the authorities regarding the draft amendments to the Law on Civil Registry concerning legal gender recognition (no. 08-3221/1). She stated that the draft amendments provide a significant opportunity for members of the Macedonian parliament to protect the human rights of transgender people.⁵⁴

54. She encouraged to further strengthen the Draft Law by removing the condition that the person asking for legal gender recognition be unmarried. This condition could result in

imposing unwanted divorce, which may have a disproportionate effect on the right to respect for family life. She also insisted on the important role of parliamentarians in promoting inclusive societies that are respectful of diversity, combating existing prejudices and intolerance against LGBTIQ+ people.⁵⁵

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

55. MYLA (Macedonian Young Lawyers Association) reported that deportations were also detected all along North Macedonia's borders. These informal deportations are not in accordance with the official legal procedures and readmission agreements for return of third country nationals. Since almost all of these returns are conducted outside of the legal procedure there is extremely high risk for the people to be subject of human rights violations. From April 2023, FRONTEX is operating on the south border with Greece, but only the screening processes are improved; the informal deportations remain.⁵⁶

56. Another problem is the access to free legal aid according to the Law on Free Legal Aid (LFLA). Even though there are provisions in the law providing the right to free legal aid for asylum seekers, they are not implemented in practice and the system has not yet fully started to function. On the other side, foreigners that are detained as witnesses in criminal procedures don't have effective access to legal aid, nor information on their rights, and can't submit asylum request until they give a statement before the court in the procedures against the smugglers.⁵⁷

57. MYLA informed that refugees and migrants are still present at both Macedonian transit centres (TCs), Tabanovce and Vinojug. The transit centres do not have legal status, so as the people accommodated inside. Also, the procedure for reception and referral are not defined, thus the whole process is not regulated and depends from the arbitrary conduct of the police.

58. JS4 informed that asylum seekers encounter significant barriers to entering the labour market. The existing Law on asylum and temporary protection prohibits asylum seekers from working except within the premises of the Center for Asylum Seekers, which does not have that possibility. The prolonged legal procedures, lasting up to three years per case, leave asylum seekers financially unsupported and dependent on limited services, impeding their ability to access the open market. The non-ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers further compounds obstacles to employment.⁵⁸

59. JS4 reiterated that group pushbacks towards neighbouring countries, amounting to mass expulsions, violate the principles of the 1951 Refugee Convention (Articles 3 and 32). Victims of organized crime groups involved in smuggling operations do not receive reparations, contrary to the rights guaranteed by the Criminal Code.⁵⁹

Stateless persons

60. JS3 recommended to amend the Law on Citizenship to implement a full safeguard to ensure that all children born in North Macedonia who would otherwise be stateless acquire nationality automatically or as soon as possible after birth, regardless of the status or identity of their parents.⁶⁰

61. The government must ensure that all stateless people on the territory, including members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, have access to fundamental rights in law and in practice without any discrimination, irrespective of documentation or citizenship status, including primary and secondary education, healthcare (including reproductive rights and maternity care for women), work, accommodation, and freedom from violations of rights such as child and early marriage.⁶¹

62. JS3 urged to continue the effective implementation of the amended Law on Civil Registry and continue to strengthen measures to register persons with unregulated civil status and provide them with civil documentation and a facilitated route to confirmation or acquisition of nationality. This includes introducing facilitated procedures for the registration of people who were not identified in the Government-led public call.⁶²

63. JS3 requested to improve the collection and monitoring of disaggregated quantitative data on stateless persons in the Republic of North Macedonia and build the capacity of

officials to accurately identify and record statelessness across government agencies at all administrative levels.⁶³

64. JS3 finally recommended to establish a national statelessness determination procedure and protection status in law and in line with good practice to give full effect to the rights enshrined in the 1954 Convention to stateless people in North Macedonia, including residence rights.⁶⁴

Notes

¹ A/HRC/41/11, A/HRC/41/11/Add.1 and A/HRC/41/2.

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: 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, The, Strasbourg (France);
ESE	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women, Skopje (North Macedonia);
HERA	HERA – Health Education and Research Association, Skopje (North Macedonia);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
IHR Skopje	Institute for Human Rights Skopje, Skopje (North Macedonia);
MHC	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje (North Macedonia);
MYLA	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Skopje (North Macedonia).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis (United States of America); The Advocates for Human Rights National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Coalition sexual and health rights of marginalised communities Margins, Skopje (North Macedonia); Coalition sexual and health rights of marginalised communities Margins and TransFormA;
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: European Network on Statelessness, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)European Network on Statelessness (ENS);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: European Policy Institute-Skopje, Skopje 1000 (North Macedonia); Center for European Citizen Initiative, Double Hope, Legis, Multikultura, National Network to end violence against women and domestic violence, Romaversitas, and Queer Center;
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: HERA – Health Education and Research Association, Skopje (North Macedonia); Reactor-Research in Action;
JS6	Joint submission 6 submitted by: The Sexual Rights Initiative, Ottawa (Canada); Journalists for Human Rights – Sexual Rights Initiative.

Regional intergovernmental organizations:

CoE	Council of Europe, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex (France);
OSCE-ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

³ *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

⁴ ICAN submission.

⁵ Joint Submission 4 (JS4), para. 1.

⁶ Joint Submission 4 (JS4).

⁷ Joint Submission 2 (JS2).

⁸ Joint Submission 1 (JS1).

⁹ MHC submission, p. 4.

¹⁰ MHC submission, p. 6.

¹¹ MHC submission, p. 2.

¹² Joint submission 2 (JS2).

¹³ OSCE-ODIHR submission, para. 22.

¹⁴ MHC submission, p. 4.

¹⁵ IHR submission, para. 2.

¹⁶ IHR submission, para. 3.

¹⁷ OSCE-ODHIR submission, para. 24.

¹⁸ MHC submission, p. 5.

¹⁹ MYLA submission, p. 8.

²⁰ MHC submission, p. 13.

²¹ MHC submission, p. 13.

²² Joint submission 2 (JS2).

²³ ECLJ submission, para. 21.

²⁴ ECLJ submission, para. 29.

²⁵ ECLJ submission, para. 29.

²⁶ Joint Submission 6 (JS6), para. 23.

²⁷ ESE submission, p. 3.

²⁸ ESE submission, p. 3.

²⁹ Joint Submission 6 (JS6).

³⁰ Joint Submission 1 (JS1), p. 7.

³¹ Joint Submission 1 (JS1), p. 7.

³² Joint Submission 5 (JS5), p. 12.

³³ HERA submission, paras. 21–22.

³⁴ HERA submission, p. 8.

³⁵ CoE submission, p. 5.

³⁶ OSCE-ODHIR submission, para. 14.

³⁷ MHC submission, p. 2.

- 38 MHC submission, p. 2.
 - 39 MHC submission, p. 3.
 - 40 Joint Submission 1 (JS1), para. 25.
 - 41 Joint Submission 3 (JS3), para. 45.
 - 42 Joint Submission 4 (JS4).
 - 43 Broken Chalk, para. 24,
 - 44 IHR submission, para. 22,
 - 45 IHR submission, para. 30.
 - 46 OSCE-ODHIR submission, para. 25.
 - 47 HERA submission, p. 1.
 - 48 Joint Submission 4 (JS4), para. 30.
 - 49 Joint Submission 4 (JS4), para. 31.
 - 50 Joint Submission 4 (JS4), para. 32.
 - 51 CoE submission, p. 3.
 - 52 CoE submission, p. 3.
 - 53 MHC submission, p. 4.
 - 54 CoE submission, p. 2.
 - 55 CoE submission, p. 2.
 - 56 MYLA submission, para. 11.
 - 57 MYLA submission, para. 12.
 - 58 Joint Submission 4 (JS4), para. 48.
 - 59 Joint Submission 4 (JS 4), para. 49.
 - 60 Joint Submission 3 (JS3), para. 45.
 - 61 idem.
 - 62 idem.
 - 63 idem.
 - 64 idem.
-