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I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kuwait accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.² The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Kuwait consider acceding to those two instruments.³

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kuwait ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto.⁴

4. The Human Rights Committee advised the Government to consider acceding to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which established an individual complaint mechanism.⁵

5. The same Committee also recommended that Kuwait take concrete steps with the aim of withdrawing its interpretative declarations on articles 2 (1), 3 and 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and its reservation to article 25 (b), with a view to ensuring the full and effective application of the Covenant.⁶

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

6. The Human Rights Committee called upon the Government to promptly enact amendments to the Criminal Code to ensure that all acts of torture, as contained in the internationally accepted human rights definition of torture, were prohibited and to stipulate sanctions that were commensurate with the gravity of such offences.⁷



7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kuwait amend article 29 of the Constitution to apply the provision of equality and non-discrimination not only to citizens, but also to non-citizens.⁸

8. The same Committee urged the Government to amend the Domestic Violence Act to extend its application to domestic violence perpetrated by non-family members, as well as to migrant domestic workers, and prohibit the “disciplining” of spouses.⁹

9. The same Committee urged the Government to repeal article 153 of the Criminal Code, raise awareness among the general public, religious leaders and legal and health professionals about the criminal nature of acts of gender-based violence against women committed in the name of so-called honour and ensure that notions of so-called honour could not be invoked to justify or condone such acts.¹⁰

10. The same Committee recommended repealing article 182 of the Criminal Code to remove the criminal liability exemption for rapists and bride kidnappers who married their victims, conducting awareness-raising campaigns to destigmatize victims of rape and kidnapping and to dismantle patriarchal notions of so-called honour and providing accessible reporting channels for women and girls seeking protection from forced marriage.¹¹

11. The same Committee also recommended amending article 186 of the Criminal Code to align the definition of rape with international standards, basing it on the lack of freely given consent rather than use of force, threat or deception, and ensure that it took into consideration coercive circumstances.¹²

12. The same Committee urged the Government to ensure that the Private Sector Labour Act prohibited direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds set forth in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), including sex-based discrimination, with respect to all aspects relating to employment.¹³

13. The same Committee recommended removing discriminatory provisions in the Private Sector Labour Act concerning women’s employment during evening hours and in occupations considered dangerous and adopting the necessary measures, including through the possibilities offered by modern technology, to protect women, including women migrant workers, from dangerous working conditions.¹⁴

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Government to repeal or amend all legal provisions, including article 6 of the Child Rights Act and article 29 of the Criminal Code, so that they could not be interpreted as a justification for the use of corporal punishment.¹⁵

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

15. The Human Rights Committee encouraged the Government to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), as a matter of priority, and ensure that it had adequate financial and human resources.¹⁶

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

1. Equality and non-discrimination

16. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Kuwait ensure that all acts of violence against persons owing to their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity were promptly and effectively investigated, that perpetrators were brought to justice and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims were provided with adequate remedies and effective access to legal, medical, financial and psychological assistance.¹⁷

17. The same Committee urged the Government to prevent, publicly condemn and combat hate speech, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination against vulnerable groups, including migrant workers and other foreigners, by, inter alia, increasing training for public officials, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and members of the judiciary and conducting awareness-raising campaigns promoting sensitivity and respect for diversity in the public and private sectors, including among social media companies, and the general public.¹⁸

18. The same Committee advised Kuwait to ensure that all cases of hate crime and hate speech, including online hate speech, were systematically, effectively and promptly investigated, that perpetrators were held accountable, with penalties commensurate with the crime, and that victims had access to full reparation.¹⁹

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the Government to adopt temporary special measures, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men in all fields where women were underrepresented or disadvantaged.²⁰

20. The same Committee recommended taking measures, including capacity-building and awareness-raising, to promote understanding among State officials and the general public of the non-discriminatory nature and importance of temporary special measures.²¹

21. The same Committee also recommended that the Government amend the Nationality Act to recognize the right of Kuwaiti women to transmit their nationality to non-Kuwaiti spouses and children on equal terms with Kuwaiti men. It further recommended that Kuwait immediately discontinue the practice of placing children born out of wedlock or because of rape in orphanages and ensure that their mothers were not subject to criminal prosecution or deportation.²²

22. Similarly, the Committee on the Rights of the Child advised the Government to repeal all laws and eliminate all practices that were discriminatory, paying special attention to the situation of girls, children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless, with a view to ensuring that all children could enjoy their rights, on an equal basis, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.²³

23. The same Committee recommended mobilizing communities and the public at large by undertaking systematic efforts, in collaboration with the mass media, social networks and community and religious leaders, to change discriminatory attitudes and practices towards girls, children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless.²⁴

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

24. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Government take all measures necessary to safeguard the full independence and impartiality of members of the judiciary, whether they were nationals of Kuwait or foreigners, and prosecutors, and guarantee that they were free to operate without any type of undue pressure or interference. The Committee also recommended that, in so doing, the Government ensure that the procedures for the selection, appointment, suspension, transfer, removal and disciplining of judges and prosecutors complied with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and relevant international standards, including the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.²⁵

25. The same Committee urged Kuwait to increase its delivery of training programmes and implementation of awareness-raising campaigns relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international human rights law, and their domestic applicability, among judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement officials, public officials and the general public.²⁶

26. The same Committee recommended strengthening efforts to provide law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, prosecutors and prison staff with effective training courses that integrated international standards, such as the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information-Gathering (the Méndez Principles).²⁷

27. The same Committee also recommended that the Government promptly, independently and impartially investigate and prosecute all cases of corruption, including those related to public procurement, and, if a person was convicted, apply penalties commensurate with the seriousness of the offence.²⁸

28. The same Committee advised the Government to conduct a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the alleged falsification of documents by the central system for the remedy of the situation of illegal residents, as well as into the human rights violations perpetrated against human rights defenders and activists working on the human rights of Bidoon people; prosecute perpetrators and punish them with appropriate sanctions, if they were convicted; and provide victims with effective remedies.²⁹

29. The same Committee urged the Government to investigate promptly, effectively and thoroughly all cases of violence against women and girls, including marital rape, prosecute perpetrators and, if the perpetrators were convicted, impose commensurate penalties.³⁰

30. The same Committee urged the Government to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, in line with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), ensuring that perpetrators were prosecuted, and, if they were convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that victims received adequate reparations.³¹

31. The same Committee recommended providing law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary, prosecutors and other relevant stakeholders with training on how to detect, investigate and handle such cases in a gender-sensitive manner.³²

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kuwait provide systematic capacity-building for the judiciary, hold judicial colloquiums on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee's general recommendations and include education on the Convention in the curriculum for law students.³³

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

33. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that freedom of expression and freedom of the press were guaranteed under articles 36 and 37 of the Constitution of 1962, "in accordance with the requirements and conditions established by law".³⁴

34. UNESCO observed that, although the Printing and Publications Act (No. 3 of 2006) established, in article 8, that newspapers were not to be subject to any censorship before publication, under article 7, publications from abroad could be circulated only after being licensed by the competent ministry.³⁵

35. UNESCO noted that article 19 of the Printing and Publications Act prohibited the publication of material deemed to be insulting to Islam; that article 20 of the Act prohibited criticism of the Amir of Kuwait and required special permission from the Amiri Diwan (the Office of the Amir) to attribute any statement to the Amir; and that article 21 of the Act prohibited contempt for or defamation of the Constitution.³⁶

36. UNESCO encouraged the Government to revise existing legislation of relevance to the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to information, including Act No. 3 of 2006, which could restrict the exercise of freedom of expression in ways that were incompatible with international human rights law.³⁷

37. UNESCO also encouraged the Government to establish an independent oversight institution with the capacity to implement the access to information law; decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards; and assess the system of supervision of the broadcasting sector to ensure that it was transparent and independent.³⁸

38. The Human Rights Committee urged the Government to ensure that Bidoon people and activists working for their human rights could operate safely and exercise their freedom of expression and assembly without fear of being persecuted, intimidated or detained.³⁹

4. Right to privacy

39. The Human Rights Committee urged the Government to amend or repeal Act No. 31 of 2008 to ensure that it fully complied with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular article 17 thereof.⁴⁰

5. Right to marriage and family life

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Kuwait enact legislative amendments to ensure that divorce took place only in court and in the presence of both parties and that registration of the divorce was required in all cases.⁴¹

41. The same Committee urged Kuwait to abolish provisions granting unequal rights to women in the guardianship of children; and to remove obstacles for women to bequeath their real estate assets to their children, including when the latter were non-nationals.⁴²

42. The same Committee recommended restricting polygamy with a view to abolishing it, while ensuring that women currently in polygamous marriages had access to all of their rights; and removing all practical obstacles for women to gain access to inheritance, including by taking awareness-raising measures to ensure that they were not intimidated.⁴³

43. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended strengthening the support provided to single mothers and unmarried parents, to assist them to care for their children, including financial support and vocational training opportunities.⁴⁴

44. The same Committee also recommended prioritizing family-based care for all children who could not stay with their families, with a view to ending the institutionalization of children; and ensuring adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the best interests of the child, for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care.⁴⁵

45. The same Committee further recommended that the Government ensure the right of all children, without exception, to be registered at birth and acquire a nationality, establishing, as a priority, the situation of stateless children born outside health facilities.⁴⁶

46. The same Committee recommended setting a clear time frame to review the Nationality Act to remove discriminatory provisions, with a view to ensuring that revisions were in line with the best interests of the child; and ensuring that the best interests of the child were a primary consideration in all administrative and judicial proceedings involving the children of migrants, including expulsion proceedings.⁴⁷

47. The same Committee also recommended reviewing the draft legislation on nationality and citizenship presented by the Speaker of the National Assembly to facilitate the acquisition of nationality for children who would otherwise be stateless, regardless of their parents' citizenship, residence, or legal or marital status, with particular attention given to children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless, ensuring that it was in line with international human rights law.⁴⁸

6. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women observed that, under Act No. 91, slavery was criminalized only under the condition of movement of the person. However, the maintenance of a person in a condition of enslavement remained outside the scope of the law.⁴⁹

49. The same Committee noted that online platforms were used by traffickers with impunity to sell and buy domestic workers for prices ranging between 500 and 1,500 Kuwaiti dinars.⁵⁰

50. The same Committee urged the Government to ensure that all forms of trafficking in persons were explicitly criminalized and ensure the prosecution and sentencing of perpetrators, including in cases of victims being sold online.⁵¹

51. The same Committee advised Kuwait to update the 2019 national strategy to include prosecution as a key focus area, allocate adequate resources, ensure inter-agency coordination between government entities for the investigation and effective prosecution and

punishment of traffickers and include data on the number of prosecutions and convictions and on the sentences imposed on traffickers in the next periodic report.⁵²

52. The same Committee recommended that the Government provide capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials, border police, healthcare providers and other first responders to ensure the early identification of victims of trafficking and their referral to appropriate protection and support services.⁵³

53. The Human Rights Committee urged the Government to repeal the *kafalah* sponsorship system, replace it with residence permits for domestic workers and facilitate their ability to change employers without risk to or penalty for the worker, particularly in cases of an abusive employer; introduce background checks on employers; and ensure that domestic workers were provided with paid leave and received their wages on time.⁵⁴

54. The same Committee called upon Kuwait to investigate allegations of abuse, prosecute abusive employers, sponsors and recruitment companies and, if they were convicted, impose adequate sanctions, and provide reparation to victims.⁵⁵

7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

55. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the Government to abolish the *kafalah* sponsorship system and the possibility of deporting an “absconding” migrant domestic worker and ensure that the law provided for labour rights, in particular social protections for domestic workers, including women migrant domestic workers.⁵⁶

56. The same Committee called upon the Government to ensure that women migrant domestic workers had effective access to reporting mechanisms and mobile legal aid units and that they enjoyed freedom of movement, in particular so that they did not run the risk of being penalized for absconding when leaving the domestic household to submit a complaint, and to remove any obstacles for them to gain access to shelters, including refusal of admission if they were charged with “absconding”.⁵⁷

57. The Human Rights Committee advised the Government to promote good governance, transparency and accountability in public procurement; and carry out effective training and awareness-raising campaigns to inform public officials, politicians, the business community and the general public about the economic and social costs of corruption.⁵⁸

8. Right to health

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Kuwait ensure effective access to the public healthcare system for all children resident in Kuwait by removing the requirement for children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless to pay a service fee; and strengthen measures to reduce, among the non-national and stateless population, the rates of mortality among infants and children under 5 years of age resulting from preventable causes.⁵⁹

59. The same Committee welcomed the 1,000+ Days initiative, focusing on the well-being of children from infancy to 4 years of age.⁶⁰

60. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the Government, in addition to the current three grounds for legal abortion, to legalize abortion at least also in case of rape and incest and decriminalize it in all other cases, recognizing that the criminalization of abortion was a form of gender-based violence against women, in line with general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19; to ensure that women and adolescent girls had adequate access to safe abortion and post-abortion services; and to remove the requirements of consent by the father and approval by a medical committee.⁶¹

61. The same Committee recommended that the Government ensure that women who were non-nationals had adequate access to affordable health services in Kuwait.⁶²

9. Right to education

62. UNESCO advised the Government to consider enshrining the right to education for all, and not only for citizens, within the Constitution and legislation; to proscribe discrimination in education within legislation; and to introduce legislation to make pre-primary education free and compulsory for at least one year.⁶³

63. UNESCO urged the Government to legally guarantee the right to education of pregnant and parenting girls; and strengthen efforts to increase the percentage of boys in tertiary education.⁶⁴

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the Government to abolish child marriage and repeal the administrative instruction to place married women and girls in evening schools, so as to ensure their continued access to quality mainstream education.⁶⁵

65. The same Committee called upon the Government to maintain an exchange of views between girls and boys and women and men, with a particular focus on universities, to ensure that girls and women benefited from networks, collaboration, communication, debate and critical thinking, which constituted key aims of education.⁶⁶

66. The same Committee recommended that the Government allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to provide full access to inclusive education for women and girls with disabilities.⁶⁷

10. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

67. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women advised the Government to collect data on the impacts of climate change faced by different groups of women and review its climate change and disaster response strategies, taking into account the negative effects of climate change on the livelihoods of women, especially women in poverty, Bidoon women, women with disabilities, migrant women, refugee and asylum-seeking women and women living in poverty.⁶⁸

68. The same Committee urged Kuwait to promote climate literacy among women and men to equip them with knowledge on climate change and empower them to participate equally in decision-making on the development and incorporation of gender perspectives in climate change and disaster risk reduction legislation and policies, climate financing and climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes, including the green economy, renewable energy and clean technology, in order to help all women and girls in Kuwait to adapt effectively to climate change and disasters.⁶⁹

69. The same Committee advised the Government to strengthen gender budgeting for climate financing and climate change adaptation activities to ensure that such initiatives were fully inclusive of women, promote women's empowerment and support the climate change agenda, in order to help women and girls to adapt effectively to climate change and disasters.⁷⁰

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

70. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Government adopt a national action plan on women and peace and security, integrating the four pillars of the Security Council's women and peace and security agenda, notably the participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the peace and security sphere, the incorporation of a gender perspective into conflict prevention initiatives, the full protection of the rights of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.⁷¹

71. The Human Rights Committee recommended adopting legislation that explicitly criminalized marital rape; and encouraging the reporting of cases of violence against women

and girls, including by informing women and girls of their rights and available protection, assistance and redress, in an accessible language.⁷²

72. The same Committee also recommended ensuring that victims had adequate access to effective remedies and means of protection, including shelters and medical, psychosocial, legal and rehabilitative support services; and collecting and publishing disaggregated data on violence against women.⁷³

73. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women advised the Government to strengthen and institutionalize legal aid and public defence systems that were accessible, affordable and, if necessary, free of charge and responsive to the needs of women and ensure that such services were provided in a timely and effective manner in courts.⁷⁴

74. The same Committee urged Kuwait to repeal the requirement for women to present two male witnesses under the Domestic Violence Act; and to take measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for all justice system personnel and law students, to eliminate gender stereotyping and judicial gender bias.⁷⁵

75. The same Committee advised the Government to adopt and regularly update a national strategy on women's rights, with a corresponding action plan that included clear targets towards achieving substantive equality between women and men and that included the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data, in order to identify, measure and redress gender inequalities.⁷⁶

76. The same Committee recommended integrating systematic gender-responsive budgeting into all chapters of the State budget and providing for effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms.⁷⁷

77. The same Committee also recommended that Kuwait increase its target for the representation of women in decision-making from 30 to 50 per cent and that it implement a comprehensive strategy on parity, as a priority, in order to sustainably overcome barriers to, and reach equal and inclusive representation for, women in decision-making positions in political and public life. It further recommended adopting temporary special measures, such as a zipper system, to ensure equal ranks for women and men candidates on the electoral lists of political parties, targeted campaign financing for women candidates and preferential recruitment of women to public service positions and international bodies, with a view to reaching parity.⁷⁸

78. The same Committee recommended conducting education and awareness-raising campaigns targeting young women to promote the registration of women as voters.⁷⁹

2. Children

79. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended adopting a minimum age for marriage of 18, without any exceptions.⁸⁰

80. UNESCO recommended amending legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years.⁸¹

81. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the unified data-gathering mechanism for children developed by the Central Statistical Bureau in coordination with relevant ministries.⁸²

82. The same Committee recommended that Kuwait continue strengthening its unified data-collection system and ensure that data collected on children's rights covered all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and were disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, in particular those in situations of vulnerability, including girls, children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless (Bidoon), and children with disabilities.⁸³

83. The same Committee urged the Government to undertake a multi-indicator cluster survey, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners.⁸⁴

84. The same Committee recommended that the Government strengthen awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, in cooperation with civil society

organizations, to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto were widely known by the public, including parents and children themselves.⁸⁵

85. The same Committee also recommended that the Government establish, implement and monitor regulations to ensure that the business sector, including the oil and gas industry, complied with international standards in the areas of human and children's rights, health, labour and the environment, by sanctioning perpetrators and providing remedies when violations occurred.⁸⁶

86. The same Committee further recommended requiring companies to undertake assessments of, consultations on and full public disclosure of the environmental, health-related and children's rights impacts of their business activities and their plans to address such impacts.⁸⁷

87. The same Committee called upon the Government to finalize and adopt the protocol being developed by the High Committee for the Protection of Children on the management of cases of the ill-treatment, neglect and exploitation of children, ensuring that it was inclusive of the special needs of children who were in situations of vulnerability, such as girls, children who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless, and children with disabilities.⁸⁸

88. The same Committee urged the Government to establish mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure and promote mandatory reporting and multi-agency intervention in all cases of violence against children and strengthen education and training for health professionals on preventing, detecting and addressing different forms of violence.⁸⁹

89. The same Committee recommended operationalizing the shelters provided for in the Anti-Domestic Violence Act, ensuring that children who were victims of such violence were provided with access to age- and gender-sensitive and victim-centred support and reintegration programmes.⁹⁰

90. The same Committee also recommended ensuring that children were informed of and encouraged to gain access to child-friendly complaint mechanisms for the confidential reporting of all forms of violence and abuse and to the assistance and protection services available to them.⁹¹

91. The same Committee urged the Government to ensure that cases of violence against children were promptly reported and investigated, applying a child-friendly and multisectoral approach to avoid revictimization of the child, that psychosocial and therapeutic support, as well as reparations, were provided to children who were victims of such violence and that perpetrators were prosecuted, duly sanctioned and deterred from having contact with children, in particular in their professional capacity.⁹²

3. Persons with disabilities

92. The Committee on the Rights of the Child took note of the provision of a monthly allowance for children with disabilities, but expressed concern that children with disabilities who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless were not included as beneficiaries of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (No. 8 of 2010).⁹³

93. The same Committee called upon the Government to enable all children with disabilities, including children with disabilities who did not possess Kuwaiti nationality and those who were stateless, to claim and have access to their rights without discrimination, in accordance with the human rights-based approach to disability, and protect them from all forms of disability-based discrimination.⁹⁴

94. The same Committee advised Kuwait to develop a comprehensive national education strategy that expanded inclusive education, in order for all children with disabilities to benefit from a high-quality and inclusive education system, irrespective of their different capacities.⁹⁵

95. The same Committee recommended strengthening the system for early detection and intervention, including for children with autism and developmental disorders, in order to facilitate access for children with all types of disabilities to education, healthcare, social

protection and support services; and ensuring that children were not placed in institutions as a result of their disability and strengthening family and community-based care.⁹⁶

4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

96. The Human Rights Committee advised the Government to adopt specific measures, including the provision of training and awareness-raising programmes for the police, members of the judiciary and prosecutors, to prevent acts of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, including arbitrary arrests, and any campaign against symbols and slogans that supported lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.⁹⁷

97. The same Committee urged Kuwait to consider decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations between adults; and to take steps to combat stereotypes about and negative attitudes towards persons on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.⁹⁸

5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

98. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Government intensify its efforts to ensure the strict enforcement of legislation and regulations protecting migrant workers, including domestic workers, from the practice of passport retention by employers and other abuse; and increase the frequency of labour inspections.⁹⁹

99. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women advised the Government to adopt a specific gender-responsive legal framework to protect the rights of refugee and asylum-seeking women.¹⁰⁰

6. Stateless persons

100. The Human Rights Committee called upon the Government to speed up the process of ensuring that no person became or remained stateless, by granting citizenship or by issuing identity documents to Bidoon and other stateless people, where appropriate; guarantee the right of every child to acquire a nationality; and develop effective mechanisms to address the situation of Bidoon and stateless persons.¹⁰¹

101. The same Committee advised Kuwait to refrain from requesting Bidoon people to accept another nationality; and ensure non-discriminatory access to justice, work, health, education and social services.¹⁰²

102. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Kuwait to regularize the situation of members of the Bidoon community, to ensure their full enjoyment of fundamental rights, freedom from discrimination and equal access to opportunities, including social services, healthcare, including maternal healthcare, education, decision-making systems and employment.¹⁰³

Notes

¹ [A/HRC/44/17](#), [A/HRC/44/17/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/44/2](#).

² [CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6](#), para. 46 (b).

³ [CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4](#), para. 13 (e); and [CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6](#), para. 22 (f).

⁴ [CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6](#), para. 62 (b).

⁵ [CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4](#), para. 5 (c).

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 5 (a).

⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 27 (a).

⁸ [CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6](#), para. 16.

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (a).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (d).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (e).

¹² *Ibid.*, para. 36 (f).

¹³ *Ibid.*, para. 50 (a).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 50 (c).

¹⁵ [CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6](#), para. 25 (a).

¹⁶ [CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4](#), para. 7.

- 17 Ibid., para. 15 (c).
- 18 Ibid., para. 17 (a).
- 19 Ibid., para. 17 (b).
- 20 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 32.
- 21 Ibid., para. 32.
- 22 Ibid., para. 44.
- 23 CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6, para. 18 (a).
- 24 Ibid., para. 18 (b).
- 25 CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4, para. 37.
- 26 Ibid., para. 9.
- 27 Ibid., para. 27 (c).
- 28 Ibid., para. 11 (a).
- 29 Ibid., para. 13 (c).
- 30 Ibid., para. 21 (c).
- 31 Ibid., para. 27 (b).
- 32 Ibid., para. 21 (d).
- 33 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 12 (a).
- 34 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Kuwait, para. 8.
- 35 Ibid., para. 9.
- 36 Ibid., para. 9.
- 37 Ibid., para. 18.
- 38 Ibid., paras. 19–21.
- 39 CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4, para. 13 (d).
- 40 Ibid., para. 39.
- 41 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 64 (a).
- 42 Ibid., para. 64 (b) and (c).
- 43 Ibid., para. 64 (e) and (f).
- 44 CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6, para. 30 (c).
- 45 Ibid., para. 31 (a) and (b).
- 46 Ibid., para. 22 (a).
- 47 Ibid., para. 22 (b) and (c).
- 48 Ibid., para. 22 (d).
- 49 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 37 (b).
- 50 Ibid., para. 37 (c).
- 51 Ibid., para. 38 (b).
- 52 Ibid., para. 38 (c).
- 53 Ibid., para. 38 (d).
- 54 CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4, para. 31 (b).
- 55 Ibid., para. 31 (d).
- 56 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 52 (b).
- 57 Ibid., para. 36 (b).
- 58 CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4, para. 11 (b) and (c).
- 59 CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6, para. 34 (a) and (b).
- 60 Ibid., para. 34.
- 61 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 54 (a).
- 62 Ibid., para. 54 (b).
- 63 UNESCO submission, para. 17 (i)–(iii).
- 64 Ibid., para. 17 (v) and (vi).
- 65 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 48 (a).
- 66 Ibid., para. 48 (b).
- 67 Ibid., para. 48 (c).
- 68 Ibid., para. 60 (a).
- 69 Ibid., para. 60 (b).
- 70 Ibid., para. 60 (c).
- 71 Ibid., para. 26.
- 72 CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4, para. 21 (a) and (b).
- 73 Ibid., para. 21 (e) and (f).
- 74 CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6, para. 22 (a).
- 75 Ibid., para. 22 (b) and (c).
- 76 Ibid., para. 28 (a).
- 77 Ibid., para. 28 (b).
- 78 Ibid., para. 42.
- 79 Ibid., para. 42 (b).

- ⁸⁰ Ibid., para. 64 (d).
⁸¹ UNESCO submission, para. 17 (iv).
⁸² [CRC/C/KWT/CO/3-6](#), para. 11.
⁸³ Ibid., para. 11 (a).
⁸⁴ Ibid., para. 11 (c).
⁸⁵ Ibid., para. 13 (a).
⁸⁶ Ibid., para. 15 (a).
⁸⁷ Ibid., para. 15 (b).
⁸⁸ Ibid., para. 27 (a).
⁸⁹ Ibid., para. 27 (b).
⁹⁰ Ibid., para. 27 (c).
⁹¹ Ibid., para. 27 (d).
⁹² Ibid., para. 27 (e).
⁹³ Ibid., para. 33.
⁹⁴ Ibid., para. 33 (a).
⁹⁵ Ibid., para. 33 (b).
⁹⁶ Ibid., para. 33 (c) and (d).
⁹⁷ [CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4](#), para. 15 (d).
⁹⁸ Ibid., para. 15 (a) and (b).
⁹⁹ Ibid., para. 31 (a).
¹⁰⁰ [CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6](#), para. 62 (a).
¹⁰¹ [CCPR/C/KWT/CO/4](#), para. 13 (a).
¹⁰² Ibid., para. 13 (b).
¹⁰³ [CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/6](#), para. 46 (a).
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