



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-ninth session
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Grenada*

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 5 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 Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) recommend that Grenada ratify the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.⁴

3. Broken Chalk (Broken Chalk) noted that Grenada had not yet ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education and recommended to complete its ratification process.⁵

4. The CGNK noted that Grenada had never made peer recommendations using the universal periodic review for human rights and was rarely present at the Human Rights Council. It added that Grenada was late on human rights reporting and had not extended a standing invitation to the special procedures mechanisms.⁶

5. The International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (ICAAD) noted that despite Grenada's commitments during the third UPR cycle, progress on critical human rights issues remained limited.⁷

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



B. National human rights framework

6. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) recommended that Grenada establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, providing independent oversight of and receiving complaints about human rights violations perpetrated by State and non-State actors, including violations perpetrated on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics.⁸

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

7. JS1 observed the absence of laws in Grenada that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics in employment, housing, education, or health care.⁹ ICAAD noted that the lack of anti-discrimination laws, combined with persistent societal stigma, created a hostile environment for LGBTIQ+ individuals, making it difficult for them to access justice or protection.¹⁰ JS1 recommended that Grenada devote resources to assessing and combatting the problems faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals, including discrimination, social stigma, and violence.¹¹

8. JS1 recommended to immediately repeal sections 430 and 431 of the Criminal Code which criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults.¹²

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

9. CGNK commended Grenada for abolishing capital punishment but noted that death penalty was still recognized in the Constitution. It recommended that Grenada change the Constitution to enhance life and its full value therein.¹³

10. JS1 indicated that there were reports of non-State actors that had killed, threatened both online and in person, and verbally abused LGBTIQ+ individuals.¹⁴ JS1 added that instances of violence and the prevailing stigma by State and non-State actors against LGBTIQ+ individuals made it difficult to gain in-depth information about the situation in Grenada, as LGBTIQ+ individuals feared for their safety if their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristic (SOGIESC) status was revealed.¹⁵

11. JS1 recommended that Grenada take measures to prevent law enforcement from arbitrarily arresting individuals based on their sexual orientation, and train law enforcement on issues related to sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression and how to properly investigate allegations of abuse and violence directed at LGBTIQ+ individuals.¹⁶

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

12. ICAAD recommended that Grenada expand funding for Legal Aid and Counseling Clinics across the country to ensure all vulnerable populations have access to justice.¹⁷

13. ICCAD stated that judicial institutions of Grenada lacked sufficient protections for survivors of gender based violence whom often faced re-traumatization due to the design of court facilities and the lack of special measures to protect their privacy and safety during court proceedings.¹⁸ It recommended that Grenada establish Specialized Family and Sexual Offense Courts staffed with trained personnel and equipped with links to support services, creating a comprehensive system for gender based violence survivors.¹⁹

14. ICAAD recommended that Grenada ensure continuing legal education for judges, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and prosecutors on gender-based violence, the psychological impacts on survivors, and the elimination of stereotypes within the institutions responsible for addressing gender-based violence.²⁰

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

15. Broken Chalk noted that Grenada still faced some challenges in meeting international child labour law standards. It further indicated that the current legislation was yet to determine the minimum age for hazardous work.²¹

16. Broken Chalk noted that the salaries of hundreds of teachers with temporary status had been delayed and that some other teachers had not received their monthly salaries.²² It recommended the government of Grenada to address the issues of delayed salaries.²³

Right to health

17. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) noted that abortion was strictly prohibited except in cases to preserve the health and life of the mother.²⁴ ICAAD recommended amending the Criminal Code to provide abortion access for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring reproductive healthcare rights.²⁵

18. CGNK noted that the penal law of Grenada allowed courts to punish persons attempting suicide to up to two years of imprisonment, to pay a fine or both. It added that Grenada had not yet established a national official mental health or suicide helpline. CGNK recommended the decriminalization of suicide to attain better suicide prevention.²⁶

19. ICAAD noted that medical professionals were often the first point of contact for survivors of sexual violence, offering vital care and evidence collection. While recent training programs had improved the skills of some physicians in evidence collection, significant gaps remained. ICAAD indicated that clinicians often failed to properly document injuries, use rape kits or to have them analyzed, leading to poor case outcomes in court.²⁷ ICAAD recommended to partner with international organizations and universities to provide specialized training for medical staff on the use of rape kits, DNA testing, and forensic processes for better accountability in sexual violence cases.²⁸

20. ICAAD also recommended implementing systems to track wait times at health centers and hospitals and improve the documentation of medical records, especially for forensic and court-related processes.²⁹

21. ICAAD noted that while some steps had been taken to provide healthcare access for people living with HIV/AIDS, discrimination in healthcare settings remained an issue. It stated that individuals with HIV/AIDS still faced stigma, particularly in rural areas, which impacted their ability to receive timely and adequate care.³⁰

22. ICAAD added that persons living with HIV/ AIDs and the LGBTQ+ community faced additional barriers as survivors who engage with health services as in some instances clinicians in the health care sector had refused care to members of both communities.³¹

Right to education

23. Broken Chalk noted that the weak economic situation of Grenada had affected the right to education of Grenadian children.³²

24. Broken Chalk noted that only 49 per cent of children began learning one year before primary school and that early childhood education needed more adequate support.³³ It recommended that Grenada make efforts to increase the number of students enrolled in early childhood education by providing financial support to families, conducting awareness campaigns about early childhood education, investing in early childhood education, and training early childhood educators.³⁴

25. Broken Chalk noted that despite supporting the recommendation made in the previous universal periodic review, the comprehensive sex education had not yet become part of the school curriculum in Grenada.³⁵ It recommended Grenada to gradually introduced comprehensive Sexuality Education and promote awareness about the necessity of the curriculum which will ensure the right to education and the right to health.³⁶ ICAAD recommended to allocate resources for public education campaigns focusing on gender equality, sexual rights, and consent, and targeting harmful GBV-related norms.³⁷

26. Broken Chalk noted that some Grenada schools experienced overcrowding which had negatively impacted the learning environment, harming both teachers and students. It emphasized that the large classroom sizes lead to less attention and support for students from teachers, which undermined the goal of providing access to quality education for students.³⁸ Broken Chalk recommended to create a policy to address the issued of overcrowding in schools and ensure that quality of education in Grenada remained high.³⁹

27. Broken Chalk stated that the covid-19 pandemic had exposed wide differences in access to digital resources in Grenada and that the lack of access to technology had impacted educational outcomes by limiting teachers' and students' engagement with digital learning tools. It added that despite the "Jump Project" initiative which aimed to provide internet access to vulnerable families, there were still challenges regarding uneven Internet coverage across schools, which limited the utility of the Internet in classrooms.⁴⁰ It recommended the government of Grenada to create more initiatives like the "Jump Project" in the country and to ensure that schools have equal access to the internet and that it is used effectively in schools.⁴¹

28. Broken Chalk stated that children with disabilities faced considerable challenges in accessing education as they often remain confined to their homes due to the lack of available placements in schools.⁴² ICAAD recommended that Grenada prioritise access to education for children with disabilities and expand funding for resources and assistance for students with special needs.⁴³

29. ICAAD recommended that Grenada ban corporal punishment in all settings, including schools and juvenile facilities.⁴⁴

30. Broken Chalk noted that only 53 per cent of teachers had completed training for teaching certification. It added that the prohibitive costs associated with tertiary education did not benefit the situation and made it more difficult for teachers to access additional education. Broken Chalk recommended that Grenada address the issues related to the lack of access to training, and lack of career and professional development opportunities and commit to increase the number of certified teachers in collaboration with the teachers' union.⁴⁵

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

31. ICAAD noted that despite ongoing efforts by the government of Grenada and civil society to raise awareness and reduce violence, the prevalence of domestic violence, sexual violence, and other forms of GBV continued to strain the justice system's capacity to respond effectively.⁴⁶

32. ICAAD further noted that domestic violence cases had taken an average of 2 to 3 years to adjudicate, while sexual violence cases can take 4 to 5 years, with some extending up to a decade and that the extensive backlog had been exacerbated by the fact that 50 to 60 per cent of criminal matters at the High Court were related to sexual offenses. Moreover, only one day a month was dedicated to addressing all domestic violence matters in the country.⁴⁷

33. ICAAD noted that the requirement for third-party corroboration in sexual violence cases remained a barrier to justice for survivors that perpetuated myths about false allegations and prevented many survivors from reporting crimes.⁴⁸ It recommended that Grenada abolish the requirement for third-party corroboration in sexual violence cases to ensure survivors' testimonies are sufficient to secure justice.⁴⁹

34. ICAAD noted that data collection on Gender Based Violence remained limited or incomplete across police, judicial, health sector and ministry. It added that the limited digitization even at the High Court and that Magistrate Courts still relied on handwritten notes. ICAAD recommended Grenada to digitalize all case law related to domestic and sexual violence and make them publicly accessible to improve transparency and judicial consistency in GBV cases and implement a standardized, digitized data collection system to track GBV cases, judicial outcomes, and medical reports to improve data accuracy and inform policy reforms.⁵⁰

35. ICAAD recommended that Grenada revise the Married Women's Property Act 1896 to ensure equal inheritance and property rights for common law and customary spouses, addressing gender equality under international norms.⁵¹

Children

36. ICAAD noted that child abuse, trafficking, and sexual exploitation remained prevalent issues in Grenada, particularly in rural areas where access to social services was limited. It further stated that in 2022, there were reports of 604 cases of children being abused that received assistance from the Child Protection Authority (CPA) which included 152 children's victims of sexual abuse. ICAAD noted the resource limitations of the CPA to adequately address the growing crisis.⁵²

37. ICAAD recommended that Grenada develop data collection systems to track child abuse cases and trends, allowing for improved interventions and support.⁵³

38. ICCAD noted that the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) in Grenada allowed minors to be incarcerated for non-criminal behaviors, known as status offenses and that children, showing "deviant" behavior, were placed in juvenile facilities which resulted in both criminal offenders and minors requiring care being sometimes housed together.⁵⁴

39. ICAAD recommended that Grenada ensure children removed from homes due to violence are prioritized in school placements and provide them with safe residential facilities.⁵⁵

40. ICAAD noted that children's victims of gender-based violence were forced to testify in courts without adequate protection and that special measures, such as video testimony or separation from the accused, were rarely, if ever used and that in some cases, child survivors were left without counseling or follow-up due to gaps in the Child Protection Authority's internal systems.⁵⁶

Persons with disabilities

41. ICAAD recommended to amend the Criminal Code to eliminate outdated terms like "imbecile" and replace them with inclusive, modern language that aligns with human rights standards.⁵⁷

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

42. JS1 reported that LGBTQ+ individuals in Grenada continued to face systemic discrimination, with reports of deaths, threats and verbal abuse against LGBTIQ+ individuals including reports of being mocked by police officers when attempting to report harassment, the use of dehumanizing language towards LGBTQ+ persons and breaching confidentiality by outing LGBTQ+ survivors.⁵⁸ ICAAD stated that the pervasive mistreatment underscored the lack of institutional accountability and legal frameworks to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination or violence.⁵⁹

43. JS1 reported that although the Domestic Violence Act in Grenada used gender-neutral terms and could conceivably apply to LGBTIQ+ victims of domestic violence, the Act did not permit a person in a same-gender relationship to apply for a protective order from a violent partner. It recommended that Grenada revise the Domestic Violence Act to permit individuals in LGBTIQ+ relationships to apply for a protective order.⁶⁰

44. ICAAD recommended to amend the Domestic Violence Act to include protections for same-sex relationships, decriminalize same-sex relations and introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws to ensure legal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from bias and mistreatment in legal, medical, and social spheres.⁶¹

Notes

¹ A/HRC/44/13, A/HRC/44/13/Add.1 and A/HRC/45/2.

- 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	Broken Chalk (The Netherlands);
CGNK	Center for Global Nonkilling (Switzerland);
ECLJ	European Center for Law and Justice (France);
ICAAD	The International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (United States of America).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: The Advocates for Human Rights and GrenCHAP, Minneapolis (United States of America).
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- 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 CGNK, pp. 4 and 5.

⁵ Broken Chalk, pp.4 and 6.

⁶ CGNK, p. 3.

⁷ ICCAD, p. 1.

⁸ JS1, p. 4.

⁹ JS1, p. 2. See also ICAAD, p. 4 and Broken Chalk, p. 3.

¹⁰ ICAAD, p.4.

¹¹ JS1, p. 4.

¹² JS1, p. 3.

¹³ CGNK, p. 4.

¹⁴ JS1, pp. 2–3.

¹⁵ JS1, p. 3.

¹⁶ JS1, p. 4.

¹⁷ ICAAD, p. 6.

¹⁸ ICAAD, p. 3.

¹⁹ ICAAD, p. 6.

²⁰ ICAAD, p. 6. See also JS1, p.4

²¹ Broken Chalk, p. 3.

²² Broken Chalk, p. 4.

²³ Broken Chalk, p. 6.

- 24 ECLJ, p. 1.
25 ICAAD, p. 6.
26 CGNK, pp. 6–7.
27 ICAAD, p. 3.
28 ICAAD, p. 5.
29 ICAAD, p. 6.
30 ICAAD, p. 5.
31 ICAAD, p. 5.
32 Broken Chalk, p. 3.
33 Broken Chalk, p. 5.
34 Broken Chalk, p. 5.
35 Broken Chalk, p. 4.
36 Broken Chalk, p. 6.
37 ICAAD, p. 6.
38 Broken Chalk, pp. 4–5.
39 Broken Chalk, p. 6.
40 Broken Chalk, p. 5.
41 Broken Chalk, p. 6.
42 Broken Chalk, p. 5.
43 ICAAD, pp. 4–6. See also Broken Chalk, p. 6.
44 ICAAD, p. 6.
45 Broken Chalk, pp. 4 and 6.
46 ICAAD, p. 2.
47 ICAAD, p. 2.
48 ICAAD, p. 3.
49 ICAAD, p. 6.
50 ICAAD, pp. 1, 2 and 6.
51 ICAAD, p. 5.
52 ICAAD, p. 3.
53 ICAAD, p. 5.
54 ICAAD, p. 4.
55 ICAAD, p. 6.
56 ICAAD, p. 3.
57 ICCAD, p. 5.
58 JS1, p. 1. See also ICAAD, p. 4.
59 ICAAD, p. 4.
60 JS1, pp. 3 and 4.
61 ICAAD, p. 5 and 6.
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