



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 August 2025

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fiftieth session
Geneva, 3–14 November 2025

Libya

Compilation of information prepared by 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 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 United Nations country team and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, recommended that Libya consider ratifying all the core international human rights treaties, and in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.²

3. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended removing all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.³

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Libya ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.⁴

5. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, and developing and adopting national refugee legislation aligned with the international human rights obligations of Libya and with the country's interim Constitutional Declaration of 2017.⁵



6. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended that Libya become a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V).⁶
7. UNESCO recommended that Libya endorse the Safe Schools Declaration.⁷
8. The United Nations country team urged Libya to meet its reporting obligations under the human rights treaties, ensuring timely submission of reports.⁸
9. UNESCO recommended that Libya regularly submit comprehensive national reports for periodic consultations on the UNESCO education-related standard-setting instruments, notably on the Convention against Discrimination in Education.⁹
10. UNESCO also recommended that Libya submit a national report to the second consultation on the implementation of the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers, in line with the circular letter by the Director-General of UNESCO (CL/4448 of 28 November 2024) and the guidelines contained therein.¹⁰
11. UNHCR recommended that Libya strengthen and formalize its cooperation with UNHCR, facilitating the work of UNHCR in Libya on behalf of all refugees and asylum-seekers, without regard to nationality.¹¹

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

12. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya adopt the pending draft law on ending violence against women as a matter of priority, ensuring that it was preceded by a comprehensive campaign to familiarize wider society with its objectives.¹²
13. The same Special Rapporteur also recommended that Libya take urgent steps to amend the Penal Code and other relevant legislation to encompass all forms of violence against women, and to bring those laws into line with general recommendations No. 19 (1992) and No. 35 (2017) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and that it revise the decree regulating the work of non-governmental organizations.¹³
14. The same Special Rapporteur further recommended that Libya develop a favourable legal framework that would allow for regularization of the legal status of asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as their stay in safety and dignity.¹⁴
15. The United Nations country team urged Libya to adopt anti-trafficking legislation in accordance with Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) to address the nexus of conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking.¹⁵
16. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya ensure that Libyan mothers who had children with foreign-born fathers had access to identity documents, in line with the new decree on Law No. 24 of 2010 on provisions of Libyan nationality.¹⁶
17. The United Nations country team urged the Government to recognize the nationality of children of Libyan women married to foreigners by amending legislation to allow Libyan women to pass on their nationality to their children, and to guarantee access to birth registration for all children born in the country.¹⁷
18. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended that Libya adopt the amendment to the legislation to increase the minimum age of recruitment into the armed forces and security forces from 17 to 18 years.¹⁸

19. UNESCO recommended amending the legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years, without exception.¹⁹

20. UNHCR recommended the Libya decriminalize irregular entry, stay and exit for refugees, asylum-seekers and victims of trafficking.²⁰

21. UNESCO recommended introducing legislation to make pre-primary education compulsory for at least one year.²¹

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

22. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government take on the responsibility for protecting the mandate of the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights and ensuring its independence in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).²²

23. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended that Libya endorse the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, the Safe Schools Declaration and the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.²³

24. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya adopt a comprehensive national action plan on empowerment and ending violence against women that incorporated: (a) a robust inter-institutional mechanism for its implementation; (b) clear roles and responsibilities for relevant line ministries; (c) the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations; (d) the allocation of adequate financial and human resources; and (e) a timeline and measurable targets requiring authorities to implement relevant laws to ensure the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.²⁴

25. The same Special Rapporteur also recommended that Libya adopt a national strategic plan to address entrenched patriarchal attitudes, gender stereotypes and harmful practices, with the aim of promoting equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men and the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres.²⁵

26. The same Special Rapporteur further recommended that Libya establish a mechanism to collect comparable data on violence against women, and gender-related killings of women, or femicide, as well as cases of suicides of women, by setting up a system charged with collecting data, to include data on the relationship between victim and perpetrator.²⁶

27. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended that Libya adopt a handover protocol for children in detention or allegedly associated with armed forces and armed groups to be handed over to civilian child protection actors, in cooperation with the United Nations.²⁷

28. UNESCO recommended that Libya put in place an independent regulatory system for the media sector, including broadcasting, in accordance with international standards.²⁸

29. UNESCO also recommended that Libya incorporate an equality and inclusion framework in its education law, ensuring both non-discrimination and proactive measures to support marginalized groups (e.g. ethnic minorities, refugees and persons with disabilities).²⁹

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

30. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya strengthen measures to ensure equality and the prohibition of discrimination based on any grounds, including sex, sexual orientation, gender, disability, race and religion, among others, and decriminalize consensual same-sex relations.³⁰

31. The same Special Rapporteur received information that anyone associated with promoting equality between men and women, including women human rights defenders, was villainized and targeted with hate speech as a means of delegitimizing and silencing them.³¹

32. The International Labour Organization (ILO) called upon the Government to protect migrant workers from ethnic and racial discrimination and forced labour, promote equal employment opportunities for all, take action to address racial and ethnic discrimination, especially against sub-Saharan migrant workers, including women, and conduct surveys to assess the situation of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers.³²

33. The United Nations country team stated that the application of discriminatory legislation on cybercrime and “witchcraft” had further curtailed women’s participation in public spaces, including online,³³ and that in 2024, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) had verified 22 cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated against 20 female migrants and asylum-seekers and two Libyan girls.³⁴

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

34. The United Nations country team stated that, despite the progress made by Libya in ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights still reported that Libya had continued to practise arbitrary detention and physical abuse in prisons.³⁵

35. The United Nations country team cited videos depicting torture scenes in a detention facility in the east under the control of the Libyan National Army that had been leaked on social media, leading to widespread condemnation.³⁶

36. The United Nations country team stated that arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as deaths in custody by law enforcement agencies and security actors, remained an ongoing concern across Libya.³⁷

37. The United Nations country team recommended that Libya incorporate the provisions of the Convention against Torture into national legislation, respect international obligations to enhance human rights in places of detention – including the rights to defence, to communicate with one’s family and to due process, including fair trial – and establish a national mechanism with an adequate mandate to protect detainees from torture and sexual violence.³⁸

38. The United Nations country team noted that the issue of missing persons remained one of the most critical humanitarian and societal concerns in Libya.³⁹

39. The United Nations country team stated that the issue of missing persons was linked to arbitrary detention and that, while challenges persisted – such as the impact of ongoing conflict, militia violence, trafficking in persons and disasters such as the 2023 Derna floods – there was increasing recognition of the need for coordinated action.⁴⁰

40. The United Nations country team recommended that Libya establish legal reforms to criminalize enforced disappearance, improve access to justice and the protection of affected families, establish preventive mechanisms to end enforced disappearance and establish a fully independent judicial mechanism to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of war crimes and other human rights violations.⁴¹

3. International humanitarian law

41. The United Nations country team stated that insecurity, illicit arms proliferation, economic hardship, persistent divisions among Libyan political actors and governance deficits created an environment in which conflict-related sexual violence was perpetrated with impunity.⁴²

42. UNSMIL expressed its deep concern about the continued and widespread violations of international law, including international human rights law, by security actors across Libya, which was coupled with the persistent lack of accountability. The release and return to Libya of Osama Elmasry Njeem, the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for war crimes and crimes against humanity, highlighted the challenges in pursuing justice for serious human rights violations. UNSMIL reiterated its call to end impunity for serious international crimes.⁴³

43. UNSMIL also expressed its grave concern about violations against persons deprived of their liberty, in particular individuals arbitrarily detained for prolonged periods without access to justice. UNSMIL urged the Libyan authorities to strengthen due process in the criminal justice system and to ensure that all detainees were promptly informed of charges, had access to legal representation and were brought before a judge within a reasonable time frame.⁴⁴

44. UNSMIL reported that as part of the efforts to enhance outreach in eastern Libya, it had organized four workshops in Benghazi, hosted by the Military Academy for Strategic and Security Sciences affiliated with the Libyan National Army, to train military judges, prosecutors, military police officers and military intelligence staff on international human rights standards and mechanisms in areas such as the treatment of prisoners and transitional justice. Overall, the training had reached 82 practitioners, including six women.⁴⁵

45. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict recommended developing and adopting concrete and practical measures to end and prevent grave violations against children, in cooperation with the United Nations, following the commitment made by the Government of National Unity to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.⁴⁶

46. The same Office recommended that Libya immediately end child detention, including for children detained for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh, pursue alternatives to detention, provide children with safe family-based care, and facilitate access by the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to all places of detention.⁴⁷

47. The same Office recommended that Libya facilitate the voluntary repatriation of children allegedly associated with Da'esh, in line with the principles of non-refoulement, family unity and the best interests of the child, with the support of countries of origin.⁴⁸

48. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government ensure that all allegations of sexual violence were investigated and prosecuted and that survivors were provided with protection, reparations, and healthcare and psychosocial support.⁴⁹

49. The United Nations country team recommended that Libya end the arbitrary detention of women and children who were allegedly associated with Da'esh.⁵⁰

4. Human rights and counter-terrorism

50. UNSMIL welcomed recent efforts by military and security actors from eastern and western Libya to enhance coordination and communication on matters of national security, such as border security and counter-terrorism. UNSMIL noted that further steps needed to be taken by the Libyan authorities, including the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, to fully implement the ceasefire agreement and promote the reunification of military and security institutions.⁵¹

51. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya move, as a matter of urgency, women and children who were believed to be affiliated with Da'esh to a women's prison under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, in which they could obtain the protection, care and services that they needed, in line with international standards; or release them if they were being held without a legal or factual basis.⁵²

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

52. UNSMIL reported on the training provided to 31 judicial police officials from western Libya, including 16 female officers, on international standards for the treatment of prisoners and women prisoners as well as on non-custodial measures for women offenders in the Libyan correctional system, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice.⁵³

53. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya strengthen the judiciary to bring to justice the perpetrators of violations or abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law.⁵⁴

54. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government encourage women to report incidents of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, by tackling the rampant impunity for cases of violence against women, particularly femicide and domestic violence, and ensure that all cases of gender-based violence against women were investigated effectively and that the perpetrators were prosecuted and adequately punished.⁵⁵

55. UNHCR recommended that Libya ensure that all refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants detained following interception or rescue at sea, or detained under any other circumstances, were afforded fundamental due process rights.⁵⁶

56. ILO requested that Libya: (a) undertake in-depth investigations into allegations of forced labour; (b) prosecute alleged perpetrators, including State actors and members of armed groups; and (c) ensure the imposition of sufficiently dissuasive sanctions.⁵⁷

57. ILO noted continuing concerns over discrimination against migrant workers, including lack of access to justice for fear of detention.⁵⁸

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

58. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya ensure the protection of women candidates and politicians, women activists and women municipal councillors from all forms of violence, including online, and ensure a secure environment in which they could freely express their views and participate in political and public life without fear of reprisals.⁵⁹

59. The same Special Rapporteur expressed concerns that women in Libya continued to be underrepresented in political and public life, particularly in decision-making positions within the executive branch, in the diplomatic corps and in the public service. According to a study by Democracy Reporting International Libya and the Jusoor Center for Studies and Development, nearly 60 per cent of respondents indicated that women were discouraged from engaging in public life due to targeted attacks. These included bullying, threats, defamation, hate campaigns, enforced disappearances, murder and other forms of violence used to intimidate women, punish them for speaking out and ultimately prevent their participation in the public sphere.⁶⁰

60. ILO expressed concern that provisions of the Anti-Cybercrime Law allowed for imprisonment involving compulsory labour in cases where individuals used the Internet to publish information deemed to threaten public security or order. ILO noted that the vague and broad nature of those provisions could lead to them being used against individuals simply for expressing dissenting opinions.⁶¹

61. ILO noted continuing barriers to women's participation in public life, including underrepresentation in senior roles, and concerns related to violence and threats against women in public roles.⁶²

62. UNESCO encouraged the Government to continue investigating unresolved cases of killed journalists and to voluntarily report on the status of the judicial follow-up to UNESCO and to the monitoring processes for indicator 16.10.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁶³

63. The United Nations country team stated that, in 2023, UNSMIL had issued a démarche on civic space, with high-level meetings convened in Tripoli with Member States. The meeting focused on how the shrinking of civil space posed an existential threat to the country's democratic transition, including the holding of peaceful elections and national

reconciliation. Furthermore, the United Nations had advocated the adoption of a unified draft law on the regulation of civil society organizations, which had been developed by civil society organizations in Libya.⁶⁴

64. The United Nations country team recommended that Libya consider adopting legislation to regulate the work of civil society, particularly the unified draft law on the regulation of civil society organizations that had been developed by civil society organizations in Libya in 2024, and amend articles 37 and 41 of the draft Constitution of July 2017 to guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.⁶⁵

65. The United Nations country team also recommended that Libya safeguard freedom of association and freedom of expression by reminding Libyan authorities of their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review in 2020, protect civil society actors from all forms of violence, including online threats, and ensure a safe environment where they could participate in political and public life without fear of reprisals.⁶⁶

7. Right to marriage and family life

66. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls noted that Law No. 24 of 2010 on Libyan nationality discriminated against women by allowing mothers to confer nationality on their children only under limited circumstances – such as when the father was unknown or stateless or did not establish filiation – resulting in unequal treatment compared with men and denying women and their children equal access to civil, political and economic rights, including the right to a legal identity.⁶⁷

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

67. The United Nations country team stated that Libyan law did not prohibit all forms of trafficking in persons; however, some articles of the Libyan Penal Code prohibited trafficking in women for prostitution and sexual exploitation, slavery, and trafficking in children for sexual exploitation.⁶⁸

68. The United Nations country team recommended that Libya put in place stronger mechanisms to prevent trafficking in persons and support the victims of trafficking and accelerate measures against smugglers, traffickers and slavers to end the sale of human beings into slavery and forced labour.⁶⁹

69. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to prevent and eliminate trafficking in women and girls regardless of their nationality, develop guidance on the various punishable elements under Libyan law and establish a national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking along with witness protection schemes for women who were victims of trafficking so as to encourage them to testify against their traffickers.⁷⁰

70. ILO expressed its concerns over persistent reports from United Nations sources indicating widespread trafficking in persons, including of children, and the lack of accountability for armed groups allegedly involved.⁷¹

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

71. ILO requested that the Government consider raising the minimum age for admission to employment or work to 16 years.⁷²

72. ILO pointed out the lack of statistical data on the number of women and men employed in the public and private sectors and their distribution across wage levels and grades and the absence of statistics on the wages and occupational grades of non-nationals, disaggregated by gender.⁷³

73. ILO expressed trust that the new Labour Code and the new Law on Trade Unions would be adopted soon and would guarantee the right to freedom of association for self-employed workers and those in the informal economy, and would clarify how workers without a residence permit would be afforded the rights guaranteed under the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).⁷⁴

10. Right to social security

74. ILO recalled that Council of Ministers Decision No. 1 of 2021 had initiated a study to assess the possibility of increasing benefit levels to 800 Libyan dinars per month for low-income families. ILO strongly encouraged the Government to seek ILO technical assistance to support those efforts.⁷⁵

11. Right to an adequate standard of living

75. The United Nations country team noted that, in June 2023, on the basis of documentation of the UNSMIL human rights service, seven special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, had sent a communication to eastern authorities regarding the ongoing forced evictions and their impact on internally displaced persons.⁷⁶

76. ILO pointed out that minimum wages had not been adjusted since 2011 and that the Consultative Council for Wages, provided for under section 19 of the Labour Relations Act (Law No. 12 of 2010), had not yet been established.⁷⁷

12. Right to health

77. The United Nations country team noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) had deployed mobile medical teams across the hardest-to-reach areas of the country. In 2023, WHO had provided essential health services and medical supplies to approximately 45,000 people displaced by Tropical Storm Daniel. In 2022, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had managed to include migrants in the national coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign. Approximately 25 per cent of the cases of tuberculosis notified in Libya were migrants. During the previous four years, WHO had provided anti-tuberculosis drugs to all patients in Libya, including migrants.⁷⁸

13. Right to education

78. UNESCO recommended ensuring the monitoring of the education system and making the information available on a systematic basis for better monitoring and transparency.⁷⁹

79. UNESCO also recommended that Libya share with UNESCO any relevant information to update its country profile on the Observatory on the Right to Education and on HerAtlas.⁸⁰

80. UNESCO further recommended that Libya – when implementing measures to guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to information and the right to education – ensure the freedoms indispensable for scientific research, as well as access to scientific education at all levels.⁸¹

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

81. The United Nations country team noted that UNICEF and the Government of Libya had collaborated to amplify the voices of children and youth in local and global climate discussions, providing young climate advocates with opportunities to share their perspectives in local and international forums to influence climate policies in Libya.⁸²

82. UNSMIL reported that economic instability had persisted, despite increased oil production and some efforts by the Central Bank to implement measures to stabilize the financial situation. Furthermore, liquidity problems had delayed the payment of public sector salaries.⁸³

B. Rights of specific persons or groups**1. Women**

83. The United Nations country team noted that the General Authority for Endowments and Islamic Affairs had issued a decree establishing a programme entitled “Guardians of

Virtue”, creating national and local commissions to monitor and track what were described as “destructive beliefs and intellectual and moral deviations” and “to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of moral deviations”. The country team stated that UNSMIL had shared relevant information with relevant United Nations special procedures concerning the movement restrictions on Libyan women and girls travelling without a *mahram*, or male companion.⁸⁴

84. The United Nations country team observed that women’s human rights defenders and politically active women were targeted with sexualized hate speech, by the public exposure of private photos and with incitement to violence in a context marked by enforced disappearances of women human rights defenders, journalists and activists.⁸⁵

85. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that the Government ensure that women and girls were protected from sexual violence, hold to account perpetrators of sexual violence and remove legal impediments preventing survivors from reporting incidents.⁸⁶

86. The same Special Rapporteur also recommended that Libya hold to account perpetrators of killings and enforced disappearances of women and ensure protection for women human rights defenders and activists.⁸⁷

87. The same Special Rapporteur further recommended that Libya ensure the immediate transfer of women detainees to facilities with sufficient female guards and other trained personnel, establish gender-appropriate healthcare and other services for women and accompanying children in detention and protect women detainees from torture, sexual abuse and exploitation.⁸⁸

88. The same Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the existence of government-run social rehabilitation centres for the mandatory detention of women and girls who had been raped, subjected to domestic violence or abandoned by their families, supposedly for their own protection.⁸⁹

89. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that Libya develop a campaign to counter disinformation surrounding the objectives of international treaties ratified by Libya, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁹⁰

90. The United Nations country team called upon the Government to ensure women’s full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in the economic, human rights, political and elections, and security tracks of the Berlin process.⁹¹

91. The United Nations country team reiterated its call for the 30 per cent quota for women in public and political life, agreed to in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, and to ensure that that was continued and strengthened in ongoing political processes.⁹²

2. Children

92. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya strengthen the national child protection system, with the support of relevant United Nations agencies and civil society organizations and in conjunction with relevant ministries and institutions, including the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Higher Council for Childhood.⁹³

93. The same Special Rapporteur also recommended that Libya immediately end the arbitrary detention of all children in Libya, including girls, and release from detention and facilitate, to the extent possible, the voluntary return of women and children allegedly associated with Da’esh.⁹⁴ ILO expressed its deep concern about the ongoing arrest and detention of children on the grounds of alleged association with and recruitment to armed groups.⁹⁵

94. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that Libya effectively implement the prohibition of child marriage, including the de facto tolerance of religious marriages, and strengthen awareness-raising efforts regarding the harmful effects of child marriage on the health and development of girls, in line with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices.⁹⁶

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

95. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls stated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons suffered from societal and official discrimination justified in part by religious dogma and that incidents of beatings and rape of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons had been reported.⁹⁷

96. The same Special Rapporteur noted that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community was therefore forced to live in hiding, as its members were not protected against gender-based violence and attacks on their lives, or discrimination, and that articles 407 and 408 of the Penal Code had been amended in 1973 to criminalize consensual sex and indecent acts regardless of the gender or the sexual orientation of the persons involved.⁹⁸

97. The same Special Rapporteur was deeply worried that the officials of the Government of National Unity whom she met stated that there were no lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons in Libya.⁹⁹

4. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

98. The United Nations country team stated that national laws governed the prosecution of foreigners for immigration-related offences, which could entail deprivation of liberty, the imposition of fines and detention for violations of migration regulations.¹⁰⁰

99. The United Nations country team stated that public concern had grown dramatically about migrant resettlement in Libya, with consequences such as hate speech, incitement to violence and the targeting of international non-governmental organizations and their staff, who provided vital services to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.¹⁰¹

100. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government halt illegal interceptions at sea and halt forcible returns to Libya following rescue or interception operations at sea, as Libya could not be considered a safe port for disembarkation.¹⁰²

101. The United Nations country team urged the Government to conclude a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR and repeal legal restrictions in terms of the nationalities potentially eligible for refugee status.¹⁰³

102. UNHCR noted that, currently, Libyan law classified asylum-seekers and refugees as “illegal migrants”. As a result, arbitrary arrest and detention in life-threatening conditions remained widespread, with frequent reports of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.¹⁰⁴

103. UNHCR recommended that Libya ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees were protected against refoulement, enjoyed freedom of movement, and had access to basic rights and services, including birth registration and other civil status documentation, healthcare and education.¹⁰⁵

104. UNHCR recommended that Libya release all refugees and asylum-seekers detained due to irregular entry, stay or exit and prioritize the release of those particularly vulnerable, including women and children.¹⁰⁶

105. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls recommended that the authorities of Libya take immediate steps to protect the human rights of women migrants in Libya, including by decriminalizing irregular entry, stay and exit in Libya and ensuring non-discrimination based on nationality or migration status; carry out search and rescue operations with the objective of saving lives and delivering rescued persons to a place of safety; refrain from dangerous interception practices and the forcible return of migrants to Libya; immediately end arbitrary detention and release all arbitrarily detained women and girl migrants in Libya; ensure that migrant women and girls in Libya had access to health, housing, decent work and other rights without discrimination; and investigate and ensure accountability, including access to justice and effective remedy, for all human rights violations and abuses perpetrated against migrants.¹⁰⁷

106. The same Special Rapporteur also recommended that Libya facilitate uninterrupted access, in line with universal periodic review recommendations, for international non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies, to detention centres run by the Department for Combating Illegal Migration and other centres in which potential asylum-seekers and refugees were held, and that it protect women and girl detainees from violence, exploitation and abuse by smugglers and hold accountable those responsible for such acts.¹⁰⁸

107. The same Special Rapporteur further recommended that Libya expand safe and regular pathways for admission to and stays in European Union member States for women refugees and migrants currently in Libya, based on grounds of international human rights protection, as well as compassionate, humanitarian or other considerations.¹⁰⁹

108. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that Libya ensure safe and regular pathways for voluntary return for migrant women and girls who wished to return to their home countries and for whom it would be safe to do so.¹¹⁰

109. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict stated that the United Nations had routinely been denied sustained access to prisons, detention centres and migrant disembarkation points.¹¹¹

110. ILO deplored the ongoing situation in which migrant workers and refugees were intercepted, arbitrarily detained and subjected to forced labour practices, including trafficking and sexual slavery, and expressed concern about the severity and the systemic nature of those abuses.¹¹²

111. ILO expressed deep concern about reports indicating the complicity and active collusion of State officials and institutions with traffickers and militia groups in the arbitrary detention, enslavement and forced labour of migrant workers.¹¹³

112. ILO noted the Government's statement that undocumented migrant workers were seeking to regularize their status out of fear of deportation and in the hope of reaching Europe.¹¹⁴

5. Internally displaced persons

113. UNHCR recommended implementing durable solutions for internally displaced persons in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and the international community and developing a road map that outlined concrete measures and specific deadlines for ending displacement.¹¹⁵

114. UNHCR expressed its concern that, despite some progress, certain internally displaced communities – including those from Tawergha and Murzuq, and individuals displaced from the east and the west due to various conflicts and (real or perceived) political affiliations – remained at a heightened risk of not achieving durable solutions. UNHCR emphasized the need for targeted support and assistance for those communities, including options for local integration where appropriate.¹¹⁶

115. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls welcomed efforts to advance durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including the finalization for a national strategy for durable solutions in line with international frameworks and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Libya for the period 2023–2025.¹¹⁷

116. The same Special Rapporteur stated that the women among the more than 132,000 internally displaced persons in the country often lacked access to sexual and reproductive health services, violence prevention and response services, and access to the justice system.¹¹⁸

Notes

¹ [A/HRC/46/17](#), [A/HRC/46/17/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/46/2](#).

² United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Libya, p. 3; and [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (a).

³ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (a).

- ⁴ UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Libya, paras. 24 and 26 (v).
- ⁵ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Libya, p. 5.
- ⁶ Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of Libya, p. 2.
- ⁷ UNESCO submission, para. 20 (vi).
- ⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- ⁹ UNESCO submission, para. 20 (viii).
- ¹⁰ Ibid., para. 26 (i).
- ¹¹ UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- ¹² [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (b).
- ¹³ Ibid., para. 76 (h).
- ¹⁴ Ibid., para. 77 (b).
- ¹⁵ United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
- ¹⁶ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (r).
- ¹⁷ United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- ¹⁸ Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, p. 2.
- ¹⁹ UNESCO submission, para. 20 (iv).
- ²⁰ UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- ²¹ UNESCO submission, para. 20 (ii).
- ²² United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ²³ Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, p. 2.
- ²⁴ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (c).
- ²⁵ Ibid., para. 76 (e).
- ²⁶ Ibid., para. 76 (j).
- ²⁷ Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, p. 2.
- ²⁸ UNESCO submission, para. 22.
- ²⁹ Ibid., para. 20 (i).
- ³⁰ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (m).
- ³¹ Ibid., para. 56.
- ³² ILO submission for the universal periodic review of Libya, p. 5.
- ³³ See [S/2024/591](#).
- ³⁴ United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- ³⁵ Ibid., p. 5.
- ³⁶ Ibid.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Ibid., p. 6.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
- ⁴¹ Ibid.
- ⁴² Ibid., p. 9.
- ⁴³ [S/2025/223](#), para. 79.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid., para. 80.
- ⁴⁵ [S/2024/895](#), para. 49.
- ⁴⁶ Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, p. 2.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid.
- ⁴⁹ United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 11.
- ⁵¹ [S/2025/223](#), para. 78.
- ⁵² [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 77 (e).
- ⁵³ [S/2024/895](#), para. 50.
- ⁵⁴ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (g).
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 76 (i).
- ⁵⁶ UNHCR submission, p. 6.
- ⁵⁷ ILO submission, p. 3.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 6.
- ⁵⁹ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (d).
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 49.
- ⁶¹ ILO submission, p. 4.

- 62 Ibid., p. 6.
 63 UNESCO submission, para. 23.
 64 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
 65 Ibid.
 66 Ibid.
 67 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 58.
 68 United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
 69 Ibid.
 70 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (o).
 71 ILO submission, p. 5.
 72 Ibid.
 73 Ibid., p. 6.
 74 Ibid.
 75 Ibid., p. 8.
 76 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
 77 ILO submission, p. 8.
 78 United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
 79 UNESCO submission, para. 20 (vii).
 80 Ibid., para. 20 (ix).
 81 Ibid., para. 26 (iii).
 82 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
 83 [S/2025/223](#), para. 27.
 84 United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
 85 Ibid.
 86 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (k).
 87 Ibid., para. 76 (l).
 88 Ibid., para. 76 (n).
 89 Ibid., para. 29.
 90 Ibid., para. 76 (f).
 91 United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
 92 Ibid.
 93 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (p).
 94 Ibid., para. 76 (q).
 95 ILO submission, p. 5.
 96 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 76 (s).
 97 Ibid., para. 57.
 98 Ibid.
 99 Ibid.
 100 United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
 101 Ibid.
 102 Ibid., p. 12.
 103 Ibid.
 104 UNHCR submission, p. 1.
 105 Ibid., p. 5.
 106 Ibid., p. 6.
 107 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 77 (a).
 108 Ibid., para. 77 (d).
 109 Ibid., para. 77 (g).
 110 Ibid., para. 77 (h).
 111 Submission by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, p. 3.
 112 ILO submission, p. 3.
 113 Ibid.
 114 Ibid., p. 7.
 115 UNHCR submission, p. 6.
 116 Ibid., p. 3.
 117 [A/HRC/53/36/Add.2](#), para. 53.
 118 Ibid., para. 54.