

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	683
Land:	Somalia
Kilde:	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
Titel:	Human Rights and Democracy: the 2018 Foreign and Commonwealth Office report
Udgivet:	5. juni 2019
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	22. august 2019



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
 2. Human Rights and Democracy Report 2018 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2018>)
1. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>)

Corporate report

Human Rights and Democracy: the 2018 Foreign and Commonwealth Office report

Published 5 June 2019

Contents

Preface by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt

Foreword by Minister for Human Rights Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

Chapter 1: human rights and democracy priority themes

Chapter 2: human rights and the multilateral system

Chapter 3: human rights programme funds

Chapter 4: consular – human rights and assistance

Chapter 5: human rights priority countries

Somalia

The human rights situation in Somalia remained challenging in 2018 due to ongoing insecurity and political instability which have been further exacerbated by competing Middle Eastern interests, most notably the Gulf Dispute. There has been a continuation of violations of the right to life (including extrajudicial killing), gender-based violence, exclusion of women and members of minorities; recruitment of children into armed groups; and restrictions on media freedom. Overall, human rights protections and domestic mechanisms in the country remained extremely weak. Protracted humanitarian crises contributed to the displacement of over 2.6 million people, restricting many people's access to adequate food, housing, and security, and exacerbating gender-based violence.

Key developments included Somalia's election to the UN Human Rights Council and accession to the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities. The Federal Government at the Somalia Partnership Forum in July also strengthened its commitment to support the protection of human rights.

The UK played a major part in international efforts to strengthen security, stability, and the rule of law, necessary to underpin stronger human rights protections including through a fairer and more stable political settlement. There was agreement to establish universal suffrage for Somali citizens in national elections. However, poor relations between the Federal Government and Federal Member states as well as competing interests from the region continued to block progress on commitments to achieve a more inclusive and lasting political settlement.

The presidential election in South West State in late 2018 was marred by violence and unrest. The UN raised human rights-related concerns about the handling of the election.

The UK worked closely with the African Union Mission in Somalia and with the Somali security forces to raise awareness of human rights standards and ensure that the security forces were in a position to protect civilians from abuse. The UK delivered gender training in the security sector to improve protection for vulnerable women and girls. The UK is supporting the drafting of legislation and national policy, compliant with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, for processing former child combatants, including a process for effective screening and rehabilitation.

Accountability for the security forces remained crucial, and we reiterated calls made at the Human Rights Council for Somalia to move forward with full implementation of the independent Human Rights Commission.

Somalia retained the use of the death penalty. We continued to call on the Federal Government to introduce a moratorium on its use.

UK investment helped to counter the threat posed by radicalisation, terrorism, piracy, and unregulated migration, which was exacerbated by the large number of internally displaced people and large refugee populations in neighbouring states.

Child, early, and forced marriage continued to occur, but some evidence suggested that it might be declining. We continued to support the delivery of relevant legislative protection, such as the Sexual Offences Bill, pressing for it to provide clarity on the age of consent.

The UK welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to bring legislation on female genital mutilation (FGM) to parliament. It is important that any legislation or policy recognises that all forms of FGM constitute violence against women and girls.

Somalia continued to have one of the world's highest proportions of primary-age children out of school. The UK supported education programmes across Somalia, including the Girls' Education Challenge, helping almost 100,000 marginalised girls through improved access to education, better quality teaching, and life skills training.

At the Global Disability Summit⁵⁵ which the UK co-hosted in July, Somalia committed to establish a National Disability Agency and to introduce legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. This constituted a major step forward in a country where those with physical and mental disabilities, in spite of their relatively high numbers, continued to endure significant stigma.

Journalists continued to face considerable restrictions, arbitrary detention, and intimidation from the security forces, as they attempted to exercise their right to freedom of expression. The European Parliament passed a resolution on Somalia which called on the Somali government to respect the right to freedom of association, and recognise the leadership of the National Union of Somali Journalists.

In Somaliland, a new law has been drafted which will decriminalise most media offences and end the practice of journalists being jailed. The UK supported Somaliland's first ever Women's Journalism Prize to reward, acknowledge, and publicise journalism.

In 2019, the UK will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to support Somali-led efforts to strengthen protection of human rights for all Somalis. We will support the political settlement which is required to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law, and will contribute to building accountable and capable security forces which can offer civilians effective protection. We will urge respect for rule of law throughout electoral processes, and will raise concerns of violations against freedom of expression.