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Tajikistan

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 recommended that Tajikistan ratify outstanding international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[2]

3. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and establish a fair statelessness determination procedure.[3]

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Tajikistan ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[4]

5. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Tajikistan expedite the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[5]

6. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended that Tajikistan ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that the rights of trafficked persons with disabilities were protected and that effective access to justice was ensured for persons with disabilities through the provision of reasonable accommodations in all legal proceedings.[6]

7. The International Labour Organization stated that Tajikistan had 48 international labour conventions in force. Some notable gaps remained in the ratification of up-to-date

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international labour standards, including Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), and Labour Administration Convention, 1978 (No. 150).[7]

8. The United Nations country team urged the Government to ensure systematic follow-up to international human rights recommendations through national action plans with clear indicators, timelines and measurable results.[8]

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

9. The United Nations country team noted as an achievement that, in 2024, Tajikistan had amended the Law on the Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen its mandate and align it more closely with national non-discrimination legislation.

10. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan revise the Law on the Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and provide the Office of the Commissioner with adequate human and financial resources to carry out its mandate independently.[9]

11. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues recommended that Tajikistan re-examine the relevant legislation, including the Law on regulating traditions, celebrations and rituals, the Law on public associations, the Law on freedom of conscience and religious associations, the Law on parental responsibility, the Law on countering extremism of 2020 and the Law on combating terrorism of 2021, to ensure that they were was in full complies with the treaty obligations of Tajikistan.[10]

12. The United Nations country team called upon the Government to amend citizenship and civil registration laws to prevent childhood statelessness and ensure universal, simplified birth registration for all children, including refugees and undocumented families.[11]

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Tajikistan accelerate the adoption of the draft of the new Criminal Code and ensure that it covered all elements of article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and that it was effectively enforced, given that incitement to racial discrimination and acts of racially motivated violence were not yet criminalized.[12]

14. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief recommended that Tajikistan review the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations Act and the Act on Regulating Traditions, Celebrations and Rituals with a view to bringing them into compliance with international standards, in particular article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[13]

15. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief called upon the Government to provide viable options to religious or belief communities that, for whatever reason, did not have the status of a recognized religious community or did not wish to obtain that status, to enable them to obtain an alternative form of legal personality that would allow them to carry out their community activities.[14]

16. The same Special Rapporteur urged the Government to review the vague definitions of “extremism”, as the overly broad range of offences concerning religious activities had a negative impact on freedom of religion or belief, of expression and of assembly. The current definitions should be replaced by clear and narrow definitions.[15]

17. UNESCO recommended that Tajikistan guarantee in legislation at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education, introduce legislation to make pre-primary education compulsory for at least one year and amend legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years old without exception.[16]

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

18. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged the Government to take measures to bring the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights into full

compliance with the Paris Principles, including by further strengthening its independence and by providing it with adequate financial and human resources to effectively and independently carry out its mandate, including the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights.[17]

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Tajikistan to guarantee the full independence of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and to take all measures necessary to provide it with sufficient financial and human resources to fully discharge its mandate.[18]

20. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan create an independent national preventive mechanism with full access to all places of detention.[19]

21. The United Nations country team recommended establishing a comprehensive and enforceable national child protection framework, with standard operating procedures, and regular compliance reporting.[20]

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

22. The United Nations country team noted that, in 2022, Tajikistan had adopted the Law on equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination, establishing a comprehensive legal framework prohibiting direct, indirect and multiple discrimination and recognizing the right to remedies. The Law had introduced clear definitions and principles of equality, strengthening alignment with international standards.[21]

23. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan fully implement the 2022 Law by adopting regulations, establishing complaint and monitoring mechanisms and publishing data on discrimination cases.[22]

24. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon the Government to take steps to prohibit all forms of de jure and de facto discrimination and intersectional and structural forms of discrimination and to raise awareness among the general public, with specific outreach to women and girls, of anti-discrimination legislation and the remedies available to victims.[23]

25. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also called upon the Government to take concrete measures to ensure the effective implementation of its legislative and policy framework on gender equality and to guarantee the equal enjoyment by women and girls of economic, social and cultural rights, while eliminating gender stereotypes.[24]

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

26. The United Nations country team reported that the new Civil Code of Tajikistan, which entered into force in 2023, established civil liability for harm, including harm caused by torture and other ill-treatment. Tajikistan had also maintained a moratorium on the death penalty since 2004. The Code of Criminal Procedure formally invalidated confessions obtained through unlawful means, including torture.

27. The United Nations country team noted that torture and ill-treatment remained persistent and that, in practice, victims did not receive effective remedies or adequate compensation. It also noted that courts still lacked an established practice of excluding evidence or confessions obtained through torture, thereby undermining legal safeguards.[25]

28. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan establish an independent and effective mechanism to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment, ensure prompt, adequate and effective compensation and rehabilitation for victims of torture, improve detention conditions, including access to healthcare, and ensure effective judicial exclusion of evidence obtained through torture.[26]

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

29. The United Nations country team stated that Tajikistan had adopted its strategy for the prevention of extremism and terrorism 2026–2040, together with an action plan for the period 2026–2030. That had followed legal and policy reviews under the 2021–2025 national strategy, which were aimed at aligning national legislation and policies with international standards and recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review process.[27]

30. The United Nations country team noted that a deteriorating regional security environment had led to intensified security operations, while challenges persisted in border management, coordination, infrastructure, training capacity and prevention efforts in vulnerable border and migrant communities.[28]

31. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan strengthen rights-compliant counter-terrorism frameworks through improved training, oversight, coordination and community engagement and review counter-terrorism legislation to align with international standards, ensuring clear definitions, safeguards and the protection of fundamental freedoms.[29]

32. The United Nations country team advised expanding prevention and reintegration efforts by engaging with migrant communities, strengthening local coordination and ensuring the meaningful participation of women and young people.[30]

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

33. The United Nations country team stated that Tajikistan had strengthened the legal aid and justice system through the training of State legal aid lawyers and advocates, the development of criminal defence modules and a cost analysis of the legal aid system and that judicial capacity was enhanced through training on fair trial standards, gender equality and new legislation.[31]

34. The United Nations country team observed, however, that juvenile justice reform in Tajikistan remained incomplete, with legislative gaps and limited use of diversion and child-sensitive procedures.[32]

35. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government institutionalize continuous training for justice professionals on fair trial standards, gender equality, disability inclusion and juvenile justice, and adopt a comprehensive juvenile justice reform strategy and prioritize diversion, restorative and non-custodial measures, limiting detention to a measure of last resort.[33]

36. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Tajikistan ensure the full independence of the judiciary, including by granting independent status to the Qualification Commission of the Union of Lawyers and by ensuring appropriate legal guarantees.[34]

37. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders called upon Tajikistan to take legislative and practical measures to ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, free from political pressure and corruption, ensure that trials are conducted in a fair manner, with due process guarantees, and ensure that the principles of equality before the law and the presumption of innocence are upheld.[35]

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged the Government to carry out systematic capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials on the application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the justice system.[36]

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

39. The United Nations country team informed the Working Group that, in May 2025, Tajikistan had amended legislation to remove criminal penalties for "liking" social media content deemed extremist, partially reversing earlier provisions that had led to harsh sentences for online expression. Authorities maintained structured dialogue with civil society through annual national rule of law forums (2022–2025), engaging with more than 50 non-governmental organizations each year and generating recommendations submitted to State institutions.[37]

40. Despite those efforts, non-governmental organizations in Tajikistan continued to face significant administrative and regulatory burdens, including complex registration, reporting and oversight requirements that limited their ability to operate freely.[38]

41. In November 2023, the Minister of Justice announced that 700 non-governmental organizations in Tajikistan had been liquidated over an 18-month period. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders stated that the dissolution of human rights non-governmental organizations signalled a deteriorating environment for civil society and human rights defence in Tajikistan.[39]

42. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan ensure that the draft law on non-commercial organizations was developed through inclusive and transparent consultations with a broad range of stakeholders.[40]

43. The United Nations country team noted a significant deterioration in freedom of expression in Tajikistan, stating that, since 2022, around 20 independent journalists and bloggers had been imprisoned, often on terrorism- or extremism-related charges.[41]

44. The United Nations country team recommended protecting freedom of expression and media freedom by preventing the arbitrary prosecution of journalists, aligning extremism-related legislation with international standards, strengthening access to information and institutionalizing the meaningful participation of children and young people in public decision-making.[42]

45. UNESCO encouraged the Government to assess the system for supervision of broadcasting sector to ensure that the process was transparent and independent and to decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards.[43]

46. In the light of the reported climate of fear among religious communities and human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief called upon the Government to encourage open debate on the meaning of secularism to overcome the current restrictive interpretation and attitudes within the administration and law enforcement agencies.[44]

47. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders called upon the Government to engage in a constructive dialogue with all segments of society, including religious, political and social groups, including civil society and human rights defenders, in order to ensure the protection of human rights, to ensure that human rights defenders could carry out their work in a conducive legal and administrative framework and to promptly implement outstanding recommendations and decisions of international and regional human rights mechanisms.[45]

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

48. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, stated that significant progress had been made in Tajikistan with regard to the development of a comprehensive legislative framework to combat trafficking in persons and in the adoption of national action plans. However, the Special Rapporteur remained concerned about the limited implementation in practice of measures to ensure the human rights of trafficked persons and persons at risk of trafficking, in particular the limited provision of unconditional assistance and long-term protection to victims and survivors.[46]

49. The United Nations country team observed that Tajikistan had adopted national action plans on combating trafficking in persons for the periods 2022–2024 and 2025–2027 and was

upgraded to tier 2 in the Trafficking in Persons Report prepared by the United States Department of State. Victim identification increased significantly, from 47 cases in 2023 to 272 in 2024, supported by strengthened referral mechanisms, inter-agency coordination and cooperation with international partners.[47]

50. The United Nations country team noted the increased regional exposure of Tajikistan to transnational trafficking networks, which increasingly used digital tools and complex financial channels.[48]

51. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government strengthen investigation and prosecution capacities, by aligning legislation with international standards, enhancing border management and expanding digital and financial investigative tools, and expand practical training for law enforcement and prosecutors on trafficking prevention and victim identification.[49]

52. The United Nations country team also recommended improving victim protection by operationalizing the national referral mechanism, strengthening inter-agency coordination and supporting specialized services, witness protection and non-governmental organizations.[50]

53. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, advised the Government to ensure the implementation in practice of the principle of non-punishment of victims of trafficking, without discrimination, including in the context of forced criminality and in relation to the return of victims from situations of armed conflict.[51]

54. The same the Special Rapporteur called upon Tajikistan to ensure that a proactive approach to the identification of victims of trafficking be taken, in cooperation with civil society organizations, trade unions, healthcare professionals and child protection specialists, paying particular attention to the gender dimension of trafficking in persons and the identification of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans victims of trafficking, victims of internal trafficking and trafficked persons with disabilities.[52]

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

55. The United Nations country team advised the Government to ensure equal access to social protection, safe working conditions and affordable childcare and social care services, to support the participation of women in the labour force, and expand youth employment opportunities by strengthening green and digital programmes, improving access to finance for youth enterprises and institutionalizing internships, apprenticeships and business incubation.[53]

56. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Tajikistan create employment opportunities by restructuring its industries and the labour market, retain its professional labour force by raising salaries, reform its national system of technical and vocational education and training to ensure that qualifications and skills were aligned with the needs of the labour market and continue to take positive measures to assist the groups most affected by unemployment, particularly young people, women and persons with disabilities.[54]

57. Concerned about wage arrears concerning workers in a variety of sectors, including mining and manufacturing, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged the Government to ensure the effective monitoring of the payment of wages and provide for appropriate and dissuasive sanctions in case of violations.[55]

8. Right to social security

58. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called upon the Government to develop a social security system that ensured universal coverage and provided adequate benefits to all workers and to expand the coverage of the system to workers employed in the informal economy.[56]

59. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Tajikistan conduct an evaluation of the social insurance contributions system to determine its effectiveness and efficiency and improve coverage by increasing social insurance benefits

and establish a non-contributory social security system for those not in the labour market, such as older persons, persons with disabilities and others belonging to marginalized and disadvantaged groups.[57]

60. The United Nations country team advised the Government to strengthen the social protection of migrants through organized recruitment systems with standardized contracts, guaranteed social benefits and insurance coverage, improved portability of benefits and effective monitoring of labour conditions abroad.[58]

61. The United Nations country team urged the Government to expand and index child-sensitive social assistance, including shock responsive mechanisms and disability inclusive support, and ensure that social protection programmes addressed gaps affecting female-headed households, migrant women and women in informal employment.[59]

9. Right to an adequate standard of living

62. The United Nations country team noted as an achievement that child poverty in Tajikistan had declined, from 27.2 per cent in 2021 to 20.4 per cent in 2023. The 2023–2025 targeted social assistance reform had expanded child-sensitive benefits to around 419,000 children, while the national school feeding programme reached about 440,000 children.[60]

63. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan expand and index child benefits and strengthen shock-responsive social protection linked to nutrition and school feeding and increase investment in rural, gender- and disability-inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene, supported by costed multi-year plans, stronger governance and child budget tagging.[61]

10. Right to health

64. The United Nations country team stated that health spending in Tajikistan had remained low, at 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product, with over 65 per cent of the costs paid out of pocket, while rural facilities were under-resourced and referral systems weak. Only 62 per cent of women received four or more antenatal visits, 6 per cent of children remained unvaccinated and nutrition challenges persisted. Access to comprehensive care in remote border areas remained limited.[62]

65. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan increase public health financing to strengthen primary, neonatal and referral care, reduce out-of-pocket costs and improve digital health records, nutrition, immunization and adolescent-friendly services, including integrated mental health and psychosocial support.[63]

66. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government to ensure migrant-inclusive HIV prevention, testing and treatment, through stronger referral systems and continuity of care, and reform HIV-related legislation by removing criminal penalties and discriminatory restrictions and aligning laws with human rights and public health standards, particularly in rural areas.[64]

11. Right to education

67. The United Nations country team noted as an achievement that Tajikistan had maintained strong education access, with the primary and lower secondary completion rate above 98 per cent and compulsory schooling extended to 11 years. Education spending remained around 5.6 to 6 per cent of gross domestic product. Several national strategies to improve education have been enacted, such as the education development strategy, 2030, the inclusive education concept, 2045, and the digital transformation strategy, 2040, while teacher qualification levels have improved.[65]

68. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan expand inclusive early childhood and school education by modernizing teacher development, upgrading infrastructure with gender-responsive water, sanitation and hygiene and digital connectivity and strengthening institutional capacity for implementation of education reforms.[66]

69. UNESCO recommended that Tajikistan strengthen its efforts to increase the percentage of boys and girls in secondary and tertiary education, continue efforts to ensure the right to inclusive education for girls and persons with disabilities and continue efforts to ensure youth and adult education.[67]

70. UNESCO advised the Government to continue efforts to increase quality education, especially regarding teacher training and education infrastructure.[68]

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

71. The United Nations country team observed that Tajikistan remained highly vulnerable to climate risks, with children exposed to heat stress, floods, droughts, glacier melt, seismic hazards and air pollution, while many rural schools and health facilities lacked climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure.[69]

72. The United Nations country team welcomed that Tajikistan had strengthened its child-focused disaster risk reduction and climate action by integrating emergency training into schools, with over 1 million students participating in drills, and by adopting a national disaster risk reduction strategy. The country signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, supported youth engagement through national and local platforms and advanced water and sanitation policy through the water sector strategy, 2040, and updated legislation. Migration considerations had also been integrated into the national climate change adaptation strategy, 2025–2027, addressing the needs of migrant and displaced populations.[70]

73. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government strengthen climate-resilient and inclusive systems for children by scaling climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene in rural communities, schools and health facilities, upgrading social infrastructure, integrating child-, gender- and disability-related considerations into climate and disaster risk reduction legislation and linking early warning systems with shock-responsive social protection.[71]

74. The United Nations country team called upon the Government to institutionalize inclusive climate governance and financing by closing the water, sanitation and hygiene financing gap through a multi-year plan, introducing climate and child budget tagging with stronger monitoring systems and ensuring the participation of women, young people and persons with disabilities in climate and disaster risk reduction strategy planning.[72]

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

75. The United Nations country team noted that Tajikistan had introduced gender quotas of 30 to 40 per cent and preferential scoring in public service recruitment, to increase the representation of women, from about 23 per cent towards 35 to 40 per cent. Measures to address domestic violence were also advanced, including the Law on prevention of domestic violence being revised in June 2024 to extend protection orders and strengthen coordination and services, supported by a 24/7 national hotline, 22 victim support rooms and training for prosecutors and judges.[73]

76. The United Nations country team observed however that persistent patriarchal norms in Tajikistan continued to limit the participation of women in public and political life and contributed to labour market inequalities. Women remained overrepresented in informal and low-paid sectors and faced wage gaps and limited access to social protection, while unpaid care burdens and limited childcare and eldercare services restricted economic participation.[74]

77. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan ensure the consistent application of gender quotas and incentives across public institutions and introduce regular public reporting to track progress towards gender parity in leadership and promote the economic participation of women by expanding access to social protection, safe working conditions, affordable childcare and gender-disaggregated data systems.[75]

78. The United Nations country team also recommended integrating gender and gender-based violence considerations into migration and reintegration policies and strengthening support for women through expanded legal aid, justice sector participation and access to finance and markets. It further recommended adopting comprehensive reforms to the Criminal Code in line with general recommendation No. 35 (2017) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including the full criminalization of domestic violence and stronger survivor protection and services.[76]

79. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Tajikistan to prohibit and punish the arbitrary and extrajudicial arrest, detention, prosecution and unfair trial of women human rights defenders, journalists and other political dissenters, as well as the use of other means of dissuading or discouraging them from exercising their right to dissent, and to ensure that the right to free speech and information and freedom of expression for news agencies and non-governmental organizations, especially those headed by women.[77]

2. Children

80. The United Nations country team called upon the Government to establish an integrated child protection and justice system with standardized referrals, foster care, a trained workforce and diversion and non-custodial measures as the primary response, limiting detention to a last resort and expanding legal, psychosocial and rehabilitation services.[78]

81. The United Nations country team recommended strengthening prevention and enforcement of laws on violence against children, child labour and child marriage, including coordination among authorities.[79]

82. The United Nations country team also recommended expanding community-based prevention and reintegration programmes addressing the harmful norms and socioeconomic drivers of child marriage, promoting girls' retention in secondary education and strengthening monitoring through improved child protection services and disaggregated data.[80]

3. Persons with disabilities

83. The United Nations country team advised the Government to adopt a national disability inclusion strategy integrating disability across national policies with the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.[81]

84. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan strengthen disability and gender-sensitive services in the areas of health, education, social protection and justice, including accessible legal aid and professional training, and improve accessibility and inclusion through nationwide audits, the removal of physical barriers, the enforcement of employment quotas and strengthened community-based rehabilitation, supported by better disability-disaggregated data.[82]

4. Minorities

85. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues called upon the Government to immediately conduct a review of the action plan for the national strategy on human rights, 2023–2025, and incorporate into it a section on the actions to be taken in relation to the Mugat minority to address the widespread discrimination and denial of equality that they encounter daily in education, housing and public health, among other services, in order to comply with its human rights obligations and the calls of international bodies.[83]

86. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed serious concern about the tensions in the Kŭhistoni Badakhshon Autonomous Province, with reports of the use of lethal and excessive force against protesters in the region followed by prolonged Internet shutdowns and subsequent violent attacks and threats against and arbitrary detention and harassment of the members of the Pamiri minority.[84]

87. In April 2022, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues warned the Government that disregard of the grievances of the Pamiri minority by Tajik authorities and the securitization of the Kŭhistoni Badakhshon Autonomous Province where they lived could lead to violent

conflict if unaddressed. The Government had responded forcefully to growing tensions in November 2021 over the death of a Pamiri activist while in police custody, which had sparked widespread protests due to anger over the lack of an investigation. The Government sent in military reinforcements and implemented other measures, such as shutting down the Internet.[85]

88. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination advised the Government to undertake an impartial and transparent investigation into the events in the Kŭhistoni Badakhshon Autonomous Province since November 2021, in accordance with applicable international standards.[86]

89. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged the Government to take all measures necessary to prevent the further escalation of violence in the region, including by responding to the grievances of the Pamiri minority, to engage in a constructive and open dialogue with the Pamiri minority and to implement conflict-prevention measures that meet international human rights standards, including measures to protect the Pamiri minority.[87]

90. The same the Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government put in place an affirmative action programme to increase the proportion of minorities employed in the national and local civil service, particularly for the Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Pamiri minorities, so that they better reflect the diversity and makeup of Tajik society.[88]

91. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Tajikistan to take effective measures to ensure the preservation of minority languages, particularly the Pamiri and Yaghnobi languages, and to support the inclusion of the Pamiri languages in the education system and in television and radio broadcasts.[89]

92. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged the Government to ensure sufficient opportunities for children and young people from ethnic minorities to learn and be educated in their mother tongue, particularly during pre-primary and basic education, through the adequate provision of trained teachers and textbooks in minority languages.[90]

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

93. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called upon the Government to provide effective protection against all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, which hinders the enjoyment by victims of their economic, social and cultural rights.[91]

94. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended taking all measures necessary to combat stigmatization and discrimination affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including through awareness-raising campaigns.[92]

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

95. The United Nations country team stated that, as of 31 December 2025, Tajikistan had hosted 9,912 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Afghanistan, the largest refugee population in Central Asia, mostly residing near Dushanbe and in Jabbor Rasulov. The country maintained a national asylum framework reflecting key protection principles, and its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had strengthened its capacity.[93]

96. The United Nations country team observed however that, since August 2021, access to territory in Tajikistan had become increasingly restricted, with entry largely limited to visa holders, reducing access to asylum.[94]

97. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan ensure access to the territory of Tajikistan and fair asylum procedures by establishing border referral mechanisms, removing administrative barriers, aligning the Criminal Code with the Refugee Law and fully respecting the principle of non-refoulement and due process.[95]

98. The United Nations country team advised the Government that it should remove residence restrictions and ensure access for refugees to employment, social protection, naturalization, birth registration, healthcare, free legal aid and full school enrolment for

children, ensure quality refugee status determination, by including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as an observer to the process, and strengthen national coordination mechanisms.[96]

99. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called upon the Government to refrain from expelling, deporting, returning or extraditing any individuals, regardless of their status, in respect of the principle of non-refoulement, when there were substantial grounds for believing that the returnees would be at risk of irreparable harm upon their return, on account of torture, ill-treatment or other serious breaches of human rights, and guarantee that they were able to exercise their right to access to justice.[97]

100. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Government ensure that a gender-sensitive asylum policy and legislative framework were in place to guarantee the security and protection of refugee and asylum-seeking women, with particular attention given to Afghan women.[98]

7. Stateless persons

101. The United Nations country team noted as an achievement that Tajikistan had strengthened civil registration and efforts to address statelessness through a new Law on State Registration of Civil Status Acts, adopted in 2025, which removed time limits for birth registration and allowed for late registration.[99] Nonetheless, Tajikistan was not a Party to the statelessness conventions and lacked a formal statelessness determination procedure, leaving the number of stateless persons unknown.[100]

102. The United Nations country team recommended that Tajikistan strengthen mobile registration, legal aid and data systems to identify and support persons at risk of statelessness.[101]

103. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Government extend the validity of the Amnesty Law to enable stateless persons and foreigners to regularize their legal status.[102]

Notes

1 A/HRC/49/12 and A/HRC/49/12/Add.1 and A/HRC/49/2.
2 United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Tajikistan, p. 2.
3 Ibid., p. 18.
4 Submission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the universal periodic review of Tajikistan, p. 9.
5 CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 26.
6 A/HRC/50/33/Add.1, para. 85.
7 Submission of the International Labour Organization for the universal periodic review of Tajikistan, p. 1.
8 United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
9 Ibid., p. 3.
10 A/HRC/55/51/Add.2, para. 83.
11 United Nations country team submission, p. 18.
12 CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 11 and 12.
13 A/HRC/55/47/Add.1, para. 91.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Submission of UNESCO, p. 7.
17 E/C.12/TJK/CO/4, para. 9.
18 CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 10.
19 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
20 Ibid., p. 3.
21 Ibid., pp. 3 and 4.
22 Ibid., p. 4.
23 CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/7, para. 13.
24 E/C.12/TJK/CO/4, para. 29.
25 United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
26 Ibid., p. 7.

[27] Ibid., p. 5.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.
[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid., p. 6.
[32] Ibid.
[33] Ibid.
[34] E/C.12/TJK/CO/4, para. 7.
[35] A/HRC/55/50/Add.1, para. 107.
[36] CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/7, para. 11.
[37] United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
[38] Ibid., p. 8.
[39] See https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/tajikistan-un-expert-criticises-dissolution-700-ngos.
[40] United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Ibid.
[43] Submission of UNESCO, p. 7.
[44] A/HRC/55/47/Add.1, para. 91.
[45] A/HRC/55/50/Add.1, para. 107.
[46] A/HRC/50/33/Add.1, para. 84.
[47] United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Ibid.
[50] Ibid., p. 8 and 9.
[51] A/HRC/50/33/Add.1, para. 85.
[52] Ibid.
[53] United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
[54] E/C.12/TJK/CO/4, para. 33.
[55] Ibid., para. 33.
[56] Ibid., para. 43.
[57] Ibid., para. 43.
[58] United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
[59] Ibid.
[60] Ibid., p. 11.
[61] Ibid.
[62] Ibid., p. 12.
[63] Ibid.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid., p. 13.
[66] Ibid, p. 14.
[67] Submission of UNESCO, p. 7.
[68] Ibid., p. 7.
[69] United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
[70] Ibid.
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[77] CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/7, para. 21.
[78] United Nations country team submission, p. 15.
[79] Ibid.
[80] Ibid., p. 16.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Ibid.
[83] A/HRC/55/51/Add.2 para. 83.
[84] CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 13.
[85] A/HRC/55/51/Add.2, para. 65.
[86] A/HRC/55/51/Add.2, para. 83; and CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 14.
[87] Ibid.
[88] A/HRC/55/51/Add.2, para. 83.

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90 Ibid.
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93 United Nations country team submission, pp. 16 and 17.
94 Ibid., p. 17.
95 Ibid.
96 Ibid.
97 CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 24.
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99 United Nations country team submission, p. 17.
100 Ibid., p. 18.
101 Ibid.
102 CERD/C/TJK/CO/12-13, para. 26.