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Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Türkiye

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 invited Türkiye to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.²

3. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye consider withdrawing its declarations concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the reservation to article 27 thereof.³

4. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to consider withdrawing all its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁴

5. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families encouraged Türkiye to take the steps necessary to withdraw the declarations and reservations made with respect to articles 15, 40, 45 and 46 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.⁵

6. The United Nations country team expressed regret at the withdrawal by Türkiye from the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.⁶

7. The International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that ratifying the ILO Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), could strengthen labour protection in Türkiye, particularly in seasonal agricultural sectors, where child labour was prevalent.⁷



8. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Türkiye ratify the ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).⁸

9. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁹

10. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Türkiye to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.¹⁰

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the open rejection of and failure to implement judgments of the European Court of Human Rights by Türkiye.¹¹

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

12. The Committee against Torture expressed concern that numerous decrees enacted to respond to the exceptional circumstances of the emergency declared by Türkiye had been made permanent through Law No. 7145.¹²

13. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to bring all legislation regarding freedom of opinion, expression, assembly and association into line with international instruments.¹³

14. The Committee against Torture reiterated its previous recommendation that Türkiye should align article 94 of the Criminal Code with the definition of torture enshrined in the Convention and its other obligations thereunder.¹⁴

15. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Türkiye adopt the legislative amendments necessary to specifically criminalize domestic violence and femicide.¹⁵

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

16. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye promptly implement the recommendations of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to ensure that the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye complied fully with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and was able to carry out its mandate effectively and independently.¹⁶

17. The Committee against Torture expressed concern that, in its work as the national preventive mechanism, the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye had allegedly been reticent to report on instances of torture and ill-treatment.¹⁷

18. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment recommended that Türkiye reorganize the institutional structure of the human rights institution in order to differentiate between the functions of its national human rights institution and its national preventive mechanism, and ensure that its national preventive mechanism was recognized as a key component in the country's system for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment.¹⁸

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

19. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about cases of hate speech and anti-immigrant propaganda, in particular against Syrians.¹⁹

20. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye ensure that all acts of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime were promptly and effectively investigated, that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims were provided with adequate remedies.²⁰

21. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, including intersectional discrimination and direct and indirect discrimination, in both the public and the private sectors and on all grounds prohibited under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.²¹

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

22. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about allegations that torture and ill-treatment continued to occur in a generalized manner, notably in detention centres, including allegations of beatings and sexual assault and harassment by law enforcement and intelligence officers and of the use of electric shocks and waterboarding in some cases. The Committee expressed particular concern about increases in allegations of torture and ill-treatment following the attempted coup in 2016, including in order to extract confessions, following earthquakes in the south-east of the country in 2023 and in the context of counter-terrorism operations.²²

23. The same Committee expressed concern that detainees were unable to have an independent medical examination by a doctor of their own choosing, medical examinations were in some instances cursory and failed to adequately document traces of torture and ill-treatment, and law enforcement officers were reported to be frequently present during medical examinations in cases in which their presence had not been requested by the examining doctor, violating doctor-patient confidentiality.²³

24. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye carry out prompt, impartial, thorough, efficient and independent investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement and intelligence officials and ensure that emergency-era legislation and administrative authorizations barring prosecution did not result in impunity.²⁴

25. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye adopt measures to ensure that all deaths in custody were investigated in a prompt and impartial manner by an independent body, including by means of forensic examinations, and, where appropriate, apply the corresponding sanctions.²⁵

26. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances expressed concern that, in the wake of the attempted coup, an entrenched culture of impunity had provided fertile ground for cases of enforced disappearance to increase.²⁶

27. The same Working Group noted that it was gravely concerned about what appeared to be a systematic practice of State-sponsored extraterritorial abductions and forced returns of Turkish nationals from numerous States to Türkiye.²⁷

28. The same Working Group expressed alarm about reprisals targeting lawyers and human rights defenders who represented families of disappeared persons, and stated that such reprisals should be investigated by the authorities as a matter of priority.²⁸

29. The Human Rights Committee noted that it remained concerned about prolonged pretrial detention, including about extended periods of detention without charge of political dissidents, judges, prosecutors, journalists, human rights defenders and those facing terrorism-related allegations.²⁹

30. The Committee against Torture recommended that Türkiye ensure that all fundamental legal safeguards were guaranteed, both in law and in practice, for all detained persons from the outset of their deprivation of liberty.³⁰

31. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that prisons continued to be overcrowded and, in particular, about reports of a lack of access to adequate healthcare, drinking water, food, heating, ventilation and lighting and about poor sanitary conditions. It also expressed concern about reports of prolonged solitary confinement and harsher conditions of detention for political prisoners.³¹

32. The Committee against Torture recommended that Türkiye continue its efforts to improve conditions of detention and alleviate overcrowding in penitentiary institutions, including through the application of non-custodial measures.³²

33. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye ensure that solitary confinement, including de facto solitary confinement, was not imposed for reasons related to a prisoner's sentence and that it was used only in exceptional cases as a last resort, for as short a time as possible, subject to independent review and only pursuant to the authorization of a competent authority.³³

34. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye ensure that female prisoners, in particular those who were pregnant or were in prison with babies, had access to adequate health, sanitation and hygiene facilities, were detained in gender-sensitive conditions and were never placed under restraint during labour, during childbirth or immediately after childbirth.³⁴

35. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Türkiye to enforce the implementation of legal provisions prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including in the home, schools, childcare institutions and alternative care settings.³⁵

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism

36. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye bring its counter-terrorism legislation, including Law No. 3713, Law No. 7262 and the relevant articles of the Criminal Code, into full compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the principles of legality and certainty, in particular by clarifying and narrowing definitions of terrorism-related offences and ensuring that those laws were not misused to target civil society organizations.³⁶

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

37. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye increase its efforts to prevent and eradicate corruption at all levels, including in the Government and the judiciary, and foreign bribery cases.³⁷

38. The same Committee noted the establishment of the Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures, to review and decide on complaints about measures taken under the state of emergency and related decree-laws. It expressed concern about reports indicating the lack of independence of the Commission. It noted that a large majority of the claims filed with the Commission had been rejected and reports indicating that many decisions had lacked justification or had been based on unlawful grounds.³⁸

39. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances observed that the entrenched culture of impunity for human rights violations perpetrated by State agents continued to be one of the main obstacles to holding officials accountable in Türkiye.³⁹

40. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports indicating that, following the adoption of Law No. 6524 in 2014 and the constitutional amendments of 2017, the control of the executive over the judiciary had dramatically increased.⁴⁰

41. The Committee against Torture stated that Türkiye should ensure the full independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary, including by guaranteeing the independence of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors and its conformity with relevant international standards.⁴¹

42. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye take all measures necessary to ensure the full independence of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors from the executive.⁴²

43. The same Committee expressed concern about the very high number of lawyers who had been investigated, arrested or remanded in custody, in particular during the state of emergency, on suspicion of membership of an armed terrorist organization under article 314 (2) of the Criminal Code, simply for exercising their legal profession.⁴³

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the failure of Türkiye to reinstate judges, including women, dismissed following the attempted coup, despite their acquittal of criminal charges.⁴⁴

45. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of the systematic denial of the right to a fair trial in terrorism-related cases, including cases involving government critics, human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and journalists.⁴⁵

46. The United Nations country team recommended that Türkiye consider increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 14, expand the provision and quality of legal support to all vulnerable groups and enhance diversion measures and alternatives to imprisonment for children.⁴⁶

47. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Türkiye to bring its child justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards.⁴⁷

48. The United Nations country team recommended that Türkiye introduce measures to prevent sentence reductions for femicides committed under the pretext of “honour”.⁴⁸

49. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Türkiye take measures to facilitate access to justice for all migrant workers, including by removing all obstacles preventing them from filing complaints for abuses and violations.⁴⁹

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

50. The Committee against Torture expressed concern that human rights defenders and journalists in Türkiye allegedly faced threats, physical harassment, arrest, prosecution, torture and ill-treatment as a result of their legitimate exercise of their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association and their right to promote and protect human rights.⁵⁰

51. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of persecution, harassment, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, Kurdish activists, environmental defenders, opposition politicians, academics and any member of civil society perceived as critical of the Government. It also expressed concern about the alleged use of arbitrary detentions and politically motivated prosecutions in order to suppress their activities.⁵¹

52. The Committee against Torture stated that Türkiye should ensure that all human rights defenders and journalists were able to carry out their legitimate work in an enabling environment, free from threats, reprisals, violence and other forms of harassment.⁵²

53. UNESCO recommended that Türkiye decriminalize defamation and insult, and place them within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards.⁵³

54. UNESCO encouraged Türkiye to revise existing legislation, including the Media Law and the Law on the Regulation of Publications on the Internet, particularly with regard to content removal and restrictions, which might restrict the exercise of freedom of expression in ways that were incompatible with international human rights law.⁵⁴

55. ILO stated that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had expressed concern about the arrest, detention and prosecution of union leaders, especially those from the Trade Union of Employees in Public Health and Social Services.⁵⁵

56. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye take concrete steps to facilitate the right of peaceful assembly and ensure that any restriction complied with the strict requirements of article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the principles of proportionality and necessity.⁵⁶

57. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye ensure that all allegations of the excessive use of force or arbitrary arrest or detention in the context of peaceful assemblies were investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that those responsible were brought to justice and, if found guilty, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims obtained full reparation.⁵⁷

58. The same Committee expressed concern about credible reports indicating that during the state of emergency, more than 1,700 associations and foundations, including trade unions, human rights organizations, lawyers' associations and educational institutions, had been permanently closed. Despite the authority of the Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures to reopen organizations and restore their assets, a large majority of organizations remained closed.⁵⁸

59. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye repeal or amend all legislation, policies and practices that discriminated against religious minorities, including the 1935 Law on Foundations, or impose restrictions regarding the places of worship and freedom of movement of foreign members of religious communities.⁵⁹

60. The same Committee noted that it continued to regret that Türkiye did not recognize the right to conscientious objection to compulsory military service, that there was no provision of alternatives to it and that conscientious objectors faced administrative and judicial fines and imprisonment.⁶⁰

61. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye take the measures necessary to ensure transparent, fair and free elections, to promote genuine political pluralism and debate, and to ensure the freedom to engage in political activity individually or through political parties and other organizations, in an environment free from intimidation and the fear of reprisals.⁶¹

6. Right to privacy

62. The same Committee expressed concern about the large-scale surveillance of mobile phone communications and about the requirement for mandatory SIM card registration, in the absence of adequate data protection legislation.⁶²

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that platforms for online education did not sufficiently protect and respect children's personal data and recommended that Türkiye develop and enforce comprehensive child data protection legislation.⁶³

7. Right to marriage and family life

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that, although the legal age of marriage was 18 under the Civil Code, exceptions were allowed for marriages at the age of 17 with the approval of the parents and, in exceptional circumstances, at the age of 16 with the approval of a judge.⁶⁴

65. The Committee on the Rights of the Child called upon Türkiye to amend its legislation to remove all exceptions that allowed marriage, including religious unions, for those under 18 years of age.⁶⁵

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

66. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that Türkiye had not yet adopted comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, even though it remained a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in women and girls, and that there was a lack of statistical data on the extent of trafficking and its root causes, including in humanitarian settings.⁶⁶

67. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that it was particularly concerned about the high proportion of children in Türkiye trafficked for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation and reports of official complicity.⁶⁷

68. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern that migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women were at a high risk of becoming victims of trafficking for purposes of sexual or labour exploitation.⁶⁸

69. The United Nations country team urged Türkiye to effectively implement and enforce the Criminal Code, which criminalized all forms of sexual exploitation, including child prostitution.⁶⁹

70. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Türkiye ensure that cases of trafficking in persons were promptly, thoroughly, effectively and impartially investigated, that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence and that victims received full reparation, including compensation.⁷⁰

71. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye provide victims with adequate protection and assistance, such as safe and specialized shelters, access to healthcare and legal protection, effective remedies, and rehabilitation and reintegration support services, throughout the country.⁷¹

72. The United Nations country team welcomed the progress made in combating child labour.⁷²

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

73. ILO stated that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had expressed concern over the mass dismissals of public sector workers, many of whom had been union members, following the attempted coup in 2016. Despite the expiry of the state of emergency, governors and ministries continued to use emergency powers to dismiss workers, including union members.⁷³

74. ILO stated that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had repeatedly requested that Türkiye amend its legislation to grant the right to organize to senior public employees, magistrates and prison staff, who were currently excluded from that right under national law.⁷⁴

75. ILO stated that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had highlighted concerns about inadequate numbers of labour inspectors to meet the demands of an expanding agricultural workforce.⁷⁵

76. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Türkiye increase unsolicited and unannounced visits of labour and other inspectors at the workplace, in particular in the sectors with the highest levels of informal employment, such as agriculture, construction, the textile industry and domestic work, and prosecute, punish and sanction persons or groups exploiting migrant workers, in particular children, or subjecting them to forced labour and labour exploitation.⁷⁶

10. Right to social security

77. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to increase social protection spending on children and families and strengthen the social protection system to be more child-sensitive and shock-responsive.⁷⁷

11. Right to an adequate standard of living

78. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to continue to measure child poverty and the material deprivation of children, and adopt more evidence-based targets and policies, and instruments for improving their poverty-mitigating impact.⁷⁸

79. The Committee on Migrant Workers noted that it remained concerned about the lack of long-term strategies to address the heightened poverty and vulnerability faced by migrant workers and their families, particularly those working in sectors with high rates of informal

employment, such as agriculture, and those living in earthquake-affected areas or residing in refugee households.⁷⁹

12. Right to health

80. The United Nations country team stated that the earthquake that had struck Türkiye in 2023 had heavily affected health infrastructure at all levels and had significantly disrupted programmes for immunization and for infant and young child feeding.⁸⁰

81. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to continue to implement efforts to strengthen access to and the availability of up-to-date health services for mothers and children in the earthquake-affected region in remote areas and among refugees, and to raise awareness of such health services among the target populations.⁸¹

82. The United Nations country team stated that more efforts were needed to improve child survival among the Syrian population in Türkiye.⁸²

83. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Türkiye take targeted measures to further reduce the infant and under-5 mortality rates, in the south-eastern, eastern and central provinces and among refugee communities, including by strengthening the supply of mother and child health services in rural and remote areas and disassociating healthcare delivery from migration status, to remove fear of being reported to the police when accessing health services.⁸³

84. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Türkiye continue to increase the number, geographical coverage and quality of health centres and their multilingual services and emergency medical care capacity, to ensure awareness of and access to healthcare services for all migrant workers and members of their families, irrespective of their status.⁸⁴

85. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its concern that access to sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraceptives, was very limited, especially for women belonging to ethnic minorities and rural women, resulting in a significant number of early and unwanted pregnancies.⁸⁵

86. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to ensure the continued accessibility of reproductive health commodities at the primary healthcare level.⁸⁶

13. Right to education

87. UNESCO encouraged Türkiye to enshrine the right to education for all in legislation and to guarantee in legislation at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education.⁸⁷

88. The Committee on Migrant Workers reiterated its concern that the minimum age for employment, set at 15 years, was lower than the age at which children normally completed compulsory education.⁸⁸

89. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye bring its legislation on the minimum age of employment into conformity with the age at which children normally completed compulsory education and with the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).⁸⁹

90. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the low rates of participation at the upper secondary level, due to the withdrawal of mostly boys for work outside the home, and girls for household work and preparation for marriage.⁹⁰

91. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern about the high illiteracy rates in parts of the south-east region of the country owing to poverty and linguistic barriers.⁹¹

92. The same Committee noted with concern that early pregnancy and school dropout rates among girls were relatively high, owing in part to child marriage.⁹²

93. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to ensure targeted support for school enrolment programmes and to strengthen systems for tracking attendance rates, preventing children from leaving school early and developing interventions to prevent children from

dropping out of school and investigate non-enrolment among children of primary-school age.⁹³

94. The United Nations country team stated that access to education had been compromised in the region affected by the earthquake in 2023. That region lacked adequate infrastructure and resources, widening the gap in terms of educational access and quality compared to other areas. The risk of child marriage had increased. In addition, inadequate support for children with special needs, coupled with limited non-formal and informal education opportunities, had further exacerbated barriers to quality education.⁹⁴

95. The Committee on Migrant Workers expressed concern about challenges that hindered access to education by children of migrant workers, including discrimination, xenophobia and language barriers.⁹⁵

96. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Türkiye develop a national anti-bullying policy to provide safe and inclusive educational environments free from discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence against women and girls.⁹⁶

14. Cultural rights

97. The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief stated that the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul should be maintained as an intercultural space, reflecting the diversity and complexity of Türkiye and Turkish history and preserving its outstanding universal value, which had resulted in its designation as a World Heritage Site. They encouraged Türkiye to engage in dialogue with all stakeholders in order to guarantee that the Hagia Sophia continued to be a space for the enjoyment of cultural rights by all, reflecting its diverse Christian, Muslim and secular heritage.⁹⁷

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

98. The United Nations country team recommended that Türkiye strengthen its implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and adopt a national action plan on business and human rights.⁹⁸

99. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to take measures to ensure human rights due diligence in order to combat trafficking in persons and labour exploitation in business operations and supply chains.⁹⁹

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

100. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences stated that domestic violence continued to pervade society in Türkiye. Incidences of domestic violence were still underreported, owing in part to the lack of public awareness about the problem, fear of retaliation and stigmatization, lack of trust in law enforcement agencies and the poor quality of existing services and protection mechanisms for victims of violence.¹⁰⁰

101. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the very high number of femicides and other killings in the context of domestic violence and in the context of so-called honour crimes, as well as about the lack of effective prevention, protection measures, effective investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators.¹⁰¹

102. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women noted the dire shortage of adequate shelters across the country offering safety for women and girls who had been victims of violence, in particular within migrant and Kurdish communities and in rural and remote areas.¹⁰²

103. The same Special Rapporteur recommended that Türkiye ensure effective implementation of protection orders for all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence.¹⁰³

104. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Türkiye ensure the availability of a dedicated multilingual hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for victims of domestic and sexual violence and expand the network of specialized, inclusive and accessible shelters for women and girls who were victims of gender-based violence.¹⁰⁴

105. The same Committee reiterated its recommendations that Türkiye strengthen its efforts to prosecute and adequately punish all crimes committed in the name of so-called honour, and amend the Criminal Code with a view to explicitly excluding crimes committed in the name of so-called honour from the application of article 29 of the Code.¹⁰⁵

106. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women stated that the persistence of entrenched patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes in Türkiye was compounded by declarations made by some public and religious figures concerning the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and in society.¹⁰⁶

107. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women note that it remained concerned about intersecting forms of discrimination against disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women in Türkiye, in particular Kurdish women, refugee and asylum-seeking women and women with disabilities.¹⁰⁷

108. The same Committee noted with concern the persistence of structural barriers to participation in political and public life, including discriminatory gender stereotypes, faced by women, and the prevalence of hate speech and harassment targeting women in political discourse.¹⁰⁸

109. The same Committee noted with concern the low workforce participation rate among women, the persistent gender pay gap and the lack of measures to address sexual harassment in the workplace.¹⁰⁹

2. Children

110. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that it was seriously concerned about the lack of due recognition, underreporting and insufficient investigation of violence against children, including corporal punishment and domestic violence.¹¹⁰

111. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to consider initiating a comprehensive legal reform on children's rights, particularly by enhancing the Child Protection Law in accordance with international standards.¹¹¹

112. The United Nations country team recommended that Türkiye accelerate the process of establishing emergency foster care and specialized foster care systems for children with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children and children in conflict with the law.¹¹²

113. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Türkiye adopt, without delay, a national cross-sectoral strategy and action plan for the deinstitutionalization and systemic transformation of the childcare, welfare and protection systems, enact an immediate moratorium on the institutionalization of children under 3 years of age and strengthen independent and periodic monitoring of the quality of alternative care, in particular in residential care institutions.¹¹³

114. The same Committee, noting the persistence of child marriage in the country, disproportionately experienced by Syrian refugee girls, recommended that Türkiye enforce a minimum age of marriage of 18 years without exception.¹¹⁴

3. Persons with disabilities

115. The United Nations country team stated that despite the existing legal framework, the accessibility of public spaces, transportation, information, healthcare and education to persons with disabilities remained limited.¹¹⁵

116. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Türkiye strengthen implementation of Law No. 5378, on persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to the accessibility of public spaces and services.¹¹⁶

117. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to review its policies and legal framework related to social services in order to fully recognize the right of persons with disabilities to live independently.¹¹⁷

118. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that children with disabilities did not benefit from sufficient services and assistance; an adequate allowance allotted by objective assessment criteria; early identification and treatment of developmental risks; and physical and transportation accessibility, in particular in rural and remote areas.¹¹⁸

119. The United Nations country team recommended that Türkiye ensure the accessibility of courthouses, police stations and transportation to persons with disabilities, and ensure that legal aid for persons with disabilities was accessible and affordable.¹¹⁹

120. The United Nations country team invited Türkiye to ensure that all children with disabilities had full access to healthcare services.¹²⁰

121. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Türkiye strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights holders.¹²¹

4. Minorities

122. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of discrimination and racially motivated violence against the Kurdish community.¹²²

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

123. The same Committee expressed concern about systematic discrimination and violence against LGBTQ individuals and associations, and about restrictions on their enjoyment of the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression.¹²³

124. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women persisted. Such violence was exacerbated by widespread impunity for perpetrators of hate crimes, including gender-based violence against and killings of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.¹²⁴

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

125. The Human Rights Committee, while welcoming the considerable efforts of Türkiye in responding to refugee crises in the region, expressed concern about reports of violations of the principle of non-refoulement and collective expulsions.¹²⁵

126. The Committee against Torture, while noting the considerable efforts of Türkiye in responding to refugee crises in the region, expressed concern about allegations regarding excessive use of force by border police against migrants and individuals seeking asylum at border crossings.¹²⁶

127. The same Committee stated that Türkiye should ensure that, in law and in practice, no one could be expelled, returned or extradited to another State where there were substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture and guarantee effective access to procedural safeguards, including the right to appeal adverse decisions, with automatic suspensive effect.¹²⁷

128. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Türkiye ensure that all returns of migrants were conducted voluntarily, with informed consent and without coercion, and establish independent monitoring mechanisms to investigate allegations of forced returns.¹²⁸

129. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the inhuman and degrading living conditions in detention centres for asylum-seekers.¹²⁹

130. The United Nations country team welcomed the adoption of the Regulation on Alternative Measures to Administrative Detention. It recommended that Türkiye avoid detaining migrants in vulnerable situations and apply immigration detention as a measure of last resort only, and to further develop and apply alternatives to detention.¹³⁰

131. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that it was deeply concerned that asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, including those who were unaccompanied and separated, experienced discrimination, had limited access to basic services and were at a high risk of statelessness, being held in immigration detention and subjected to violent forced returns (pushbacks).¹³¹

132. The United Nations country team stated that migrants in an irregular situation faced obstacles with regard to basic rights such as access to education and medical services, including reproductive health. Irregular migrants could access emergency services only, and they risked being reported to the police if they tried to gain access to other medical services without identification. That practice exposed pregnant migrant women in an irregular situation to health risks that could affect them and their unborn children. Such women could give birth in hospitals, but might face obstacles in obtaining birth certificates for their children.¹³²

7. Stateless persons

133. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that refugees and undocumented migrants in Türkiye experienced disproportionately lower birth registration rates and that children of parents facing terrorism-related charges whose nationality had been withdrawn might be at risk of statelessness.¹³³

134. The Committee on Migrant Workers expressed concern about reports that a large number of infants born to Syrians under temporary protection remained unregistered, which might result in situations of statelessness.¹³⁴

135. The same Committee recommended that Türkiye facilitate and encourage the birth registration and issuance of identity documents for all children of migrant workers free of charge, irrespective of their status. The Committee also recommended that Türkiye ensure that all individuals had access to a nationality and take measures to prevent situations of statelessness.¹³⁵

136. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Türkiye repeal legislation and prohibit practices effectively depriving children of their Turkish citizenship if they or their parents were accused or convicted of terrorism-related charges and provide remedies to the children affected.¹³⁶

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/44/14](#), [A/HRC/44/14/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/45/2](#).
- 2 United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Türkiye, para. 3. See also [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 27 (d); [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 61; [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 18; [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 53; and [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 24.
- 3 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 6.
- 4 United Nations country team submission, para. 4. See also [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 7.
- 5 [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 16.
- 6 United Nations country team submission, para. 52. See also [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 32; [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 10; and [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 89 (a).
- 7 ILO submission for the universal periodic review of Türkiye, p. 1.
- 8 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 46 (f).
- 9 *Ibid.*, para. 42 (c).
- 10 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Türkiye, para. 20 (i).
- 11 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 18 (f). See also [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 54.
- 12 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 28.
- 13 United Nations country team submission, para. 72 (c).
- 14 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 9.
- 15 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 29 (a). See also United Nations country team submission, para. 54 (a).

- 16 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 12. See also [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), paras. 10 and 11; [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), paras. 22 and 23; [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 24; and United Nations country team submission, para. 13.
- 17 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 10.
- 18 [CAT/OP/TUR/1](#), paras. 34 (b) and 35.
- 19 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 37.
- 20 *Ibid.*, para. 14 (b). See also [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 26 (b).
- 21 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 14 (a).
- 22 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 20.
- 23 *Ibid.*, para. 12 (c).
- 24 *Ibid.*, para. 21 (a) and (b).
- 25 *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- 26 [A/HRC/45/13/Add.4](#), para. 7.
- 27 *Ibid.*, para. 8. See also [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), paras. 25 and 26.
- 28 [A/HRC/45/13/Add.4](#), para. 18.
- 29 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 29.
- 30 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 13.
- 31 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 31.
- 32 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 15 (a).
- 33 *Ibid.*, para. 15 (b).
- 34 *Ibid.*, para. 15 (e).
- 35 [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 29 (a). See also UNESCO submission, para. 20 (vii).
- 36 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 18. See also [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 20.
- 37 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 22.
- 38 *Ibid.*, para. 45.
- 39 [A/HRC/45/13/Add.4](#), para. 17.
- 40 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 39.
- 41 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 39.
- 42 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 40 (a).
- 43 *Ibid.*, para. 39.
- 44 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 18 (a). See also [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 90 (k).
- 45 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 43.
- 46 United Nations country team submission, para. 30 (a).
- 47 [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 50.
- 48 United Nations country team submission, para. 54 (b).
- 49 [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 28.
- 50 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 30.
- 51 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 53.
- 52 [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 31. See also [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 92.
- 53 UNESCO submission, para. 22.
- 54 *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- 55 ILO submission, p. 2.
- 56 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 60 (a).
- 57 *Ibid.*, para. 60 (b).
- 58 *Ibid.*, para. 61.
- 59 *Ibid.*, para. 52.
- 60 *Ibid.*, para. 49.
- 61 *Ibid.*, para. 66 (a).
- 62 *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- 63 [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 25.
- 64 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 55.
- 65 [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 17. See also [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 56 (a); and [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 90 (r).
- 66 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 35 (a). See also United Nations country team submission, para. 35.
- 67 [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 47.
- 68 [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 35 (b).
- 69 United Nations country team submission, para. 70.
- 70 [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 34 (a).
- 71 *Ibid.*, para. 34 (b). See also [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 36 (f).
- 72 United Nations country team submission, para. 68.
- 73 ILO submission, p. 3.

- ⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 2.
- ⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 1.
- ⁷⁶ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 34 (c).
- ⁷⁷ United Nations country team submission, para. 67 (a).
- ⁷⁸ Ibid., para. 67 (b).
- ⁷⁹ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 9.
- ⁸⁰ United Nations country team submission, para. 42.
- ⁸¹ Ibid., para. 45 (b).
- ⁸² Ibid., para. 41.
- ⁸³ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 36.
- ⁸⁴ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 44.
- ⁸⁵ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 47 (a).
- ⁸⁶ United Nations country team submission, para. 45 (e).
- ⁸⁷ UNESCO submission, para. 20 (ii) and (iv).
- ⁸⁸ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 33.
- ⁸⁹ Ibid., para. 34 (a). See also UNESCO submission, para. 20 (vi).
- ⁹⁰ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 42 (c).
- ⁹¹ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 43 (b).
- ⁹² Ibid., para. 43 (d).
- ⁹³ United Nations country team submission, para. 49 (a) and (b).
- ⁹⁴ Ibid., para. 47.
- ⁹⁵ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 47.
- ⁹⁶ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 44 (g).
- ⁹⁷ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/08/un-experts-turkey-should-preserve-hagia-sophia-space-meeting-cultures>.
- ⁹⁸ United Nations country team submission, para. 21 (b) and (c).
- ⁹⁹ Ibid., para. 39 (c).
- ¹⁰⁰ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), paras. 11 and 12.
- ¹⁰¹ [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 19.
- ¹⁰² [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 72.
- ¹⁰³ Ibid., para. 90 (f).
- ¹⁰⁴ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 29 (d).
- ¹⁰⁵ Ibid., para. 31 (a).
- ¹⁰⁶ [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 7. See also [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 24.
- ¹⁰⁷ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 16.
- ¹⁰⁸ Ibid., para. 37 (a) and (d).
- ¹⁰⁹ Ibid., para. 45 (a), (c) and (e).
- ¹¹⁰ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 28.
- ¹¹¹ United Nations country team submission, para. 10.
- ¹¹² Ibid., para. 63.
- ¹¹³ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 32 (a), (b) and (e).
- ¹¹⁴ Ibid., para. 30. See also [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 27 (b).
- ¹¹⁵ United Nations country team submission, para. 17.
- ¹¹⁶ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 35 (a).
- ¹¹⁷ United Nations country team submission, para. 51 (a).
- ¹¹⁸ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 34.
- ¹¹⁹ United Nations country team submission, para. 28 (a) and (b).
- ¹²⁰ Ibid., para. 45 (d).
- ¹²¹ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 35 (c).
- ¹²² [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 13.
- ¹²³ Ibid.
- ¹²⁴ [CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/8](#), para. 28 (e). See also [A/HRC/53/36/Add.1](#), para. 94.
- ¹²⁵ [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 37.
- ¹²⁶ [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 24.
- ¹²⁷ Ibid., para. 25 (a).
- ¹²⁸ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 20 (b).
- ¹²⁹ [CCPR/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 37.
- ¹³⁰ United Nations country team submission, paras. 24 and 26 (a) and (b). See also [CAT/C/TUR/CO/5](#), para. 25 (c); and [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 36 (a).
- ¹³¹ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 44.
- ¹³² United Nations country team submission, para. 59.

¹³³ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 23.

¹³⁴ [CMW/C/TUR/CO/2](#), para. 45.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 46.

¹³⁶ [CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5](#), para. 23 (b).
