

ANNEX 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS, ADDRESSED TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, PERTAINING TO EACH RIGHT ILLUSTRATED IN THE REPORT

I. ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RIGHTS

1. Recommendation pertaining to Access to Education under the Right to Education:

The government must ensure proper implementation of Decree #1692 of 9/4/2009 related to free and compulsory education in primary education (until age 15), provide the necessary funds for its implementation, and reduce the dependency of private schools on government subsidies. It should also equip schools to accommodate all students and provide a safe learning environment, especially for PwD, girls, and others.

UNRWA, in coordination with the Lebanese government, should ensure the accessibility and availability of quality education at all levels for Palestinian refugees, whether through increasing their numbers in public schools or providing additional facilities.

2. Recommendation pertaining to Quality of Education under the Right to Education:

The government should allocate a higher budget for public schools and the national university to improve infrastructure, curricula, and build the capacity of teachers and staff to ensure the achievement of the right to education enshrined in international conventions.

3. Recommendation pertaining to Integration of Sex Education in School Curricula under the Right to Education:

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Center for Educational Research and Development should integrate the sex education manuals developed by CERD in the second and third cycles in all schools in order to fully achieve the right to education, the right to health, and the right to access information.

4. Recommendation pertaining to the Right to Work:

The government should: (1) adopt national plans aiming at developing the labor market and enhancing youth engagement in it (including career guidance and orientation sessions on the university majors that match Labor market needs); (2) tackle the question of informality and provide alternatives for precarious workers; (3) ensure that youth benefit from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF); (4) create a system for unemployment benefits; (5) ensure the fair implementation of the Labor law by employers and reduce the exploitation of youth through internships and prolonged probation periods; (6) address the question of brain drain; (7) and address the question of the lack of public housing and transportation and its impact on young workers.

In terms of Palestinian refugees, it must reverse its restrictions on professions and allow professional unions to accept them as members, in addition to exemption from work permits and restrictions imposed on foreign workers.

5. Recommendation pertaining to the Right to Quality Health:

The government needs to address the prohibitive costs of health services and channel public funding to public facilities. Young people, especially out of education, should be provided with alternative health schemes prior to finding work or during their first years of employment.

In terms of Palestinian refugees, the government and UNRWA must address the question of lack of quality health services and provide alternatives for those seeking specialized services.

6. Recommendation pertaining to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

The government and Parliament should immediately ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and establish a national plan to implement it and Law 220/2000. Central and local governments and refugee agencies and organizations should focus on the question of accessibility of educational institutions and other facilities frequented by youth. They should also integrate disability issues in all planning related to employment and public services.

7. Recommendation pertaining to the Right to the City:

Municipalities should construct and maintain green and other public spaces in urban (and rural) areas across the country, also to ensure the full commitment to the achievement of the right to health and in line with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Along with other public institutions, they should open their premises to host activities.

II. CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS

8. Recommendation pertaining to Participation in Public Life:

The government must lower the voting age to 18 and the candidacy age to 21 in parliamentary and municipal elections. It should also consider lowering the age to form and join associations to 15 years. For Palestinians, the government should allow them to form and join associations to ensure they operate legally and are not subject to exploitation.

The government, and the Ministry of Interior in particular, should immediately investigate cases of brutality against protesters during the October 2019 uprising and clarify the reach and scope of the Information Security Branch responsible for suppressing expression on social media.

9. Recommendation pertaining to the Right to Access to Information:

The government must respect the Right to Access to Information Law and establish a body designated to oversee its implementation, with the involvement of civil society. It must also work on reducing internet costs (considered some of the highest in the world) and expand coverage (and quality of service) outside Beirut. It should also equip schools with research technologies. Municipalities must establish and equip public libraries with internet access, especially in the peripheries.

10. Recommendation pertaining to Right to a Nationality:

The government must acknowledge the right of Lebanese women married to non-Lebanese men to grant the Lebanese nationality to their children and lift its reservations on Article 9 (2)25 and Article 16 (1)(c)(d)(f) and (g)26 of the CEDAW.

11. Recommendation pertaining to Personal and Individual Freedoms:

The use of family registers must be reduced to matters involving proof of lineage and the sort and young people freed from it at the age of legal majority. This should go hand in hand with the adoption of a mandatory civil status law in order to ensure full equality among all citizens, as enshrined in the constitution.

III. PROTECTION

12. Recommendation pertaining to Young People in Contact with the Law:

The government must ensure the proper and full application of Law 422 and apply protection measures to non-Lebanese juveniles (including the stateless). It should consider shifting to prevention and social rehabilitation programs instead of incarceration.

13. Recommendation pertaining to Girls Forced into Early Marriage:

The government should issue a law banning and penalizing marriages below the age of 18, binding for all religious groups in Lebanon, and in accordance with Article 1622 of the CEDAW.

14. Recommendation pertaining to Gender-Based and Domestic Violence:

Parliament needs to amend the Domestic Violence Law based on recommendations by women's organizations and in accordance with the CRC (Article 19) and CEDAW, and create social protection mechanisms based thereof.

15. Recommendation pertaining to SOGI/E-Based Discrimination:

Parliament must reform the Penal Code to decriminalize homosexuality and transgenderism by removing Article 534 and other articles related to criminalizing transgenderism (209/531, 521, 523-6), in addition to tackling any resulting institutionalized discrimination. Access to services and public space must be protected for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

IV. PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

16. Recommendations pertaining to Rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon:

In addition to the recommendations in the sections above, the government should respect human rights for Palestinians in Lebanon in general, including youth, particularly the right to work and associated rights (unions and social security), the right to own property, the right to an identity, freedom of association, the right to representation in municipal councils, the right to public services (especially health and education), and the right to movement, security, and adequate housing. It should also address the question of non-ID Palestinians, allow them the right to own property especially housing, and lift the blockade imposed on refugee camps.

The international community must seek to improve the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, deeply exacerbated by the influx of Syrians, and provide the necessary resources for UNRWA and the Lebanese state to provide for their welfare, without infringement of Lebanon's sovereign right and the Palestinian right of return.