Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-sixth session
31 October-11 November 2016

Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with
paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council
resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council
resolution 16/21

Lithuania

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the
treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State
concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in
other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner
owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced.
The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of
the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in
public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted
by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been
systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into
consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.
I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations

1. International human rights treaties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
<th>Not ratified/not accepted</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ICERD (1998)</td>
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<td>ICESCR (1991)</td>
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<td>ICCPR (1991)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2 (2002)</td>
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<td>CEDAW (1994)</td>
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<td>CAT (1996)</td>
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<td>CRC (1992)</td>
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<td>CRPD (2010)</td>
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<td>Reservations and/or declarations</td>
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<td>OP-CRC-AC (declaration, art. 3 (2), minimum age of recruitment 18 years, 2002)</td>
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<td>OP-CEDAW, arts. 8 and 9 (2004)</td>
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<td>CAT, art. 20 (1996)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRPD, arts. 6 and 7 (2010)</td>
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<td>ICCPR, art. 41</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT, arts. 21 and 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-IC, arts. 12 and 13 (signature, 2015)</td>
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2. Other main relevant international instruments

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
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<td>ICERMW</td>
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2
### Status during previous cycle

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventions on refugees and stateless persons (except 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness)⁵</td>
<td>1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto⁶</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions⁷</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189⁸</td>
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1. Lithuania was invited to consider ratifying ICRMW⁹ and OP-ICESCR.¹⁰ It was recommended that Lithuania ratify OP-CRC-IC¹¹ and the Convention against Discrimination in Education.¹²


3. The Committee against Torture reiterated its recommendation that Lithuania consider making declarations under articles 21 and 22 of CAT.¹⁵

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Lithuania to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of ICERD¹⁶ and recommended ratifying the amendment to article 8 (6).¹⁷

### B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended revising the draft Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child to better reflect the principles and provisions of CRC, and expediting the adoption of the revised draft law and other legislative proposals in the area of children’s rights.¹⁸

### C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

#### Status of national human rights institutions

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in 2015, and the Human Rights Committee, in 2012, recommended establishing a national human rights institution with a broad human rights mandate, and providing it with adequate resources, in full compliance with the Paris Principles.¹⁹ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee against Torture and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities made similar recommendations.²⁰ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Lithuania to seek the support and advice of OHCHR in that process.²¹
7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended establishing regional and local branches of the Office of the Ombudsman for Equal Opportunities and providing the Office with sufficient financial and human resources.22

8. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Lithuania strengthen its support for the Office of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman, including by providing sufficient resources.23

9. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.24

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Concluding observations included in previous review</th>
<th>Latest report submitted since previous review</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Combined ninth and tenth reports due in 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>May 2004</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>Third report due in 2019</td>
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<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>April 2004</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
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<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
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<td>November 2008</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>Fourth report due in 2018</td>
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<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Combined second and third reports due in 2020</td>
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<td>Committee on Enforced Disappearances</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Initial report pending consideration in March 2017</td>
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2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Due in</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>Submitted in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Legal safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty; pretrial and administrative detention; conditions of detention in police arrest houses</td>
<td>201525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Law on Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effect of Public Information; counter-terrorism; administrative detention</td>
<td>2013,29 201430 and 201631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>National machinery for the advancement of women, violence against women including domestic violence</td>
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Views

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<th>Treaty body</th>
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<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Follow-up dialogue ongoing33</td>
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B. Cooperation with special procedures34

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<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Current status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Standing invitation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits undertaken</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on racism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits agreed to in principle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits requested</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</td>
<td>During the period under review, two communications were sent. The Government replied to one communication.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

10. Lithuania contributed financially to OHCHR in 2014 and 2015.35
III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Lithuania to amend its laws on anti-discrimination and equal opportunities to ensure that they explicitly protected women from multiple or intersecting forms of discrimination.  

12. It recommended eliminating the horizontal and vertical segregation between women and men in the labour market and ensuring the effective implementation of the provisions of the Labour Code with regard to equal pay for work of equal value. It recommended amending the law on equal opportunities for women and men to include mandatory equality plans by public and private employers, covering also pay issues and family-friendly policies. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended promoting the pursuit of education and training in fields other than those traditionally dominated by one or the other sex.

13. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended addressing obstacles to women’s career advancement, including by providing sufficient opportunities to reconcile work and family obligations. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended developing incentives to encourage more men to avail themselves of parental leave, and ensuring the provision of affordable and accessible childcare facilities.

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that many persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities reportedly experienced racial stereotyping and discrimination that negatively affected their access to the labour market. It recommended that Lithuania closely monitor the effective application of the anti-discrimination legislation and consider taking special measures to foster the integration of national and ethnic minorities into society. It also recommended incorporating all grounds for discrimination into the definition of racial discrimination contained in its legislation.

15. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about reports of marches and demonstrations of a xenophobic and racist character during which anti-Semitic, xenophobic and racist slogans were common and amounted to racist propaganda. It was concerned at reports of instances of hate speech and discriminatory statements by politicians and in the media and on other public platforms, at the lack of a long-term strategy aimed at firmly combating hate speech, that criminal provisions penalizing discriminatory expressions and hate speech were not always adequately and effectively applied, and at the leniency of sanctions imposed on those responsible.

16. Moreover, it was concerned about reports of incidents of racist hate crime targeting individuals belonging to ethnic and national minorities, and migrants, and about the underreporting and insufficient recording of hate crimes. It was concerned that hate crimes were not always properly investigated and about the low number of hate crimes brought before domestic courts.

17. The Human Rights Committee stated that Lithuania should strengthen its efforts to prevent crimes committed with racial, discriminatory or xenophobic motives, to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice and to make effective remedies available to victims. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination made similar recommendations.
18. UNHCR recommended combating stereotypes, intolerance and prejudice against refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries and responding effectively to manifestations of hatred.49

19. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about ongoing discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities, Roma children, children living in poverty, children living in care institutions and children in conflict with the law.50

20. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended reviewing the anti-discrimination legislation to ensure that discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited.51 The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended revising the action plan for the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2015-2021 to include an explicit focus on prevention and eradication of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.52

21. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the increasing negative attitudes against, and stigmatization of, LGBT persons in society, which had manifested itself in instances of violence and discrimination, and at reports of reluctance on the part of police officers and prosecutors to pursue allegations of human rights violations against LGBT persons. It was concerned that certain legal instruments might be applied in a manner unduly restrictive of the freedom of expression guaranteed under ICCPR, and that various legislative proposals, if adopted, would impact negatively on the enjoyment of fundamental rights by LGBT persons.53

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

22. The Committee against Torture stated that Lithuania should amend its Criminal Code to include a definition of torture that covers all the elements contained in article 1 of CAT and to make torture a specific offence with appropriate penalties that take into account its grave nature. Lithuania should ensure that there is no statute of limitations for acts of torture.54

23. It was concerned at allegations of excessive use of force by prison staff in certain facilities. Lithuania should ensure that all reports of excessive use of force by prison staff are investigated promptly, effectively and impartially by an independent mechanism.55

24. It was concerned that material conditions in police arrest houses and the regimen offered to detained persons in terms of daily outdoor exercise in certain police facilities were not in conformity with international standards. It was particularly concerned at the conditions in the Vilnius City Police Headquarters Arrest House.56 Likewise, it was concerned that the infrastructure and poor material conditions in a number of prisons, especially in the Lukiskes and Siauliai prisons, were not in conformity with international standards. It was concerned at the high number of prisoners in the penitentiary system, resulting in serious overcrowding in some prison facilities and giving rise to inter-prisoner violence.57

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the ill-treatment of children with mental disabilities in care institutions, especially the nursing home at Venta. It recommended investigating all allegations of abuse and ill-treatment of children with mental disabilities, prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators and providing assistance for the recovery and rehabilitation of victims.58

26. The Committee against Torture was concerned at the placement of minors in “socialization centres”, amounting to administrative detention, and their placement in “relaxation rooms” for violations of discipline, amounting to solitary confinement.
Lithuania should review “socialization centres” where minors were held in de facto administrative detention and ensure effective monitoring of such institutions.

27. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reiterated its concern at the high incidence of domestic violence, the low rates of prosecution and the absence of effective measures to protect victims. The Committee against Torture was concerned that domestic violence did not constitute a separate crime in the Criminal Code. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that marital rape was not explicitly criminalized. It was concerned at the excessive use of reconciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence, and about the inadequate assistance and number of shelters available to them.

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the high rate of violence against women with disabilities. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended strengthening the protection of persons with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse, particularly women and girls, by establishing inclusive and accessible victim support services, and strengthening awareness-raising efforts and training of police, health professionals, social workers and others on supporting persons with disabilities who have been affected by violence.

29. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed its concern that violence against children was increasing. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about an increase in child abuse, including of children in care institutions, and about the lack of a mechanism for children to report cases of abuse and violence against them. It was concerned that cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children remained unreported, due to a fear of reprisals and to stigmatization of the victims of such crimes, and that the level of investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse of children was insufficient.

30. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Lithuania, inter alia, prevent abuse and violence against children in all settings by ensuring the effective investigation of reports of such cases and prosecuting and punishing perpetrators accordingly, and develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children.

31. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed its concern that corporal punishment continued to be practised as a means of discipline, particularly in the home. The Committee against Torture was concerned that corporal punishment of children in the home and in alternative and day-care settings was not legally prohibited. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and Human Rights Committee expressed similar concerns. The Committee against Torture recommended amending the legislation to prohibit and criminalize all forms of corporal punishment of children in all environments and settings.

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that Lithuania remained a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking, which had reportedly increased, and at the low number of investigations and prosecutions for human trafficking. It recommended preventing human trafficking, and investigating effectively all cases of human trafficking, prosecuting, as appropriate, those responsible and providing redress and support to victims. The Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Human Rights Committee made similar observations and recommendations.
C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

33. The Committee against Torture stated that Lithuania should guarantee that all detained persons are afforded, by law and in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the outset of deprivation of liberty, in particular, inter alia, the right to prompt access to a lawyer and, if necessary, to legal aid, and the right to have access to a medical examination by an independent doctor and, if possible, a doctor of their choice, in accordance with international standards.79

34. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the absence of legal representation of a person in procedures where his or her legal capacity might be deprived, and was concerned at the absence of the right of individuals declared legally incapacitated to independently initiate a court procedure requesting the review of their legal capacity. Lithuania should ensure free and effective legal representation to individuals in all proceedings regarding their legal capacity, including actions to have their legal capacity reviewed.80

35. The Committee against Torture was concerned at the duration of and the high number of persons held in pretrial and administrative detention, and that pretrial detention was not used as a measure of last resort.81 The Human Rights Committee stated that Lithuania should implement alternatives to prison sentences, including probation, mediation, community service and suspended sentences. The Government reported on measures in place to guarantee the use of alternatives to imprisonment.82

36. The Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture recommended eliminating detention for administrative offences.83 In follow-up to the Human Rights Committee’s concluding observations, the Government reported on a draft law on a Code of Administrative Offences, under which administrative detention would be eliminated from the list of administrative penalties.84

37. The Committee against Torture recommended ensuring that there was no blanket prohibition on life-sentenced prisoners applying for release on parole for good reasons. Measures should be taken to integrate life-sentenced prisoners into the general prison population.85

38. The Committee against Torture stated that Lithuania should amend its legislation to include explicit provisions on the right of victims of torture and ill-treatment to redress, and provide, in practice, all such victims with redress.86

39. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that there was no comprehensive juvenile justice system, including juvenile courts and comprehensive legislation on juvenile justice and with provisions for diversion mechanisms and efficient alternatives to the formal justice system.87

D. Right to marriage and family life

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Lithuania to repeal without delay the provisions of the Civil Code that lowered the legal age of consent to marriage.88

41. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring sufficient alternative family- and community-based care options for children deprived of their family environment, and ensuring that placement in institutional care was used only as a last resort and that adequate safeguards and clear needs-based criteria upholding the best interests of the child were used to determine whether a child should be placed in institutional care.89
42. It urged Lithuania to end the practice of anonymous abandonment of infants, to strengthen and promote alternatives without delay and to address the root causes of the abandonment of infants.  

43. It recommended establishing effective mechanisms to facilitate the adoption process by removing unnecessary barriers, while at the same time ensuring that prospective adoptive parents were properly screened.  

**E. Freedom of expression and the right to participate in public and political life**  

44. UNESCO noted that defamation continued to be regarded as a criminal offence though it had been partly decriminalized. It recommended that Lithuania continue decriminalizing defamation.  

45. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Lithuania to adopt temporary special measures to increase the participation of women, particularly rural women, women from ethnic minorities and women with disabilities, in political and public life.  

**F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**  

46. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that youth unemployment remained twice as high as the total national unemployment level and that unemployment among persons over 50 years of age was increasing, and at the increasing regional gap with regard to unemployment. It reiterated its previous recommendation that Lithuania combat unemployment, targeting the most affected regions and disadvantaged and marginalized groups.  

**G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**  

47. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that 28.4 per cent of the population was at risk of poverty and that the poverty level was especially acute among children and in rural areas. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Lithuania to combat poverty and provide families with children who were living in poverty with the support and assistance they needed by designing public policies to address the increasing problem of child poverty. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended developing an effective monitoring system to ensure that measures to combat poverty led to concrete results among the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups and reduced regional disparities between rural and urban areas.  

48. It expressed its concern that the levels of the minimum wage and of unemployment benefits, pensions and social assistance were inadequate to ensure a decent standard of living for the recipients and members of their families.  

49. It expressed its concern at the acute shortage of social housing, with an average waiting time of 10 to 15 years. It urged Lithuania to ensure that its national housing policy prioritized the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups who lacked access to adequate housing and basic facilities and amenities, such as low-income families, homeless persons and Roma.
H. Right to health

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that the budget allocations for maternal and child health-care programmes were decreasing, making such programmes less accessible, and that women who chose to deliver at home did not receive the assistance or care they needed during the delivery and post-partum.100

51. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned at the increasing rate of abortion among girls and young women between 15 and 19 years of age.101 The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and child-friendly services available to adolescents, as well as the inaccessibility of contraception and confidential tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections.102

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regretted that the bill regulating reproductive health had not yet been adopted and that assisted reproductive treatment was not subsidized.103

53. It recommended ensuring that women and girls, especially women in rural areas, had access to and could afford modern contraception, and adopting the pending bills on reproductive health and assisted reproduction.104 It recommended that Lithuania refrain from adopting laws or amendments that would restrict the right of women to legal and safe abortion.105

54. UNESCO noted that Lithuania had not yet taken steps to include sexual health education in its curricula.106 The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called upon Lithuania to provide age-appropriate sex and reproductive health education to boys and girls.107

55. The Committee also expressed its concern at the lack of effective measures to reduce the risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C among marginalized groups, such as prisoners and persons who injected drugs. It recommended guaranteeing the right to health care among marginalized groups such as prisoners and persons who injected drugs, including access to State-funded HIV testing and opioid substitution therapy, and ensuring that adequate funding was allocated to finance such services.108

I. Right to education

56. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that free education and textbooks were provided to all children in all parts of the country and that children in care institutions and penitentiary institutions were provided with the same number of hours and classes as children in regular schools.109

57. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended identifying the causes of the gap in student achievement between rural and urban areas and taking effective measures in that regard.110

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended establishing a system of data collection on the dropout rate from schools for all children and carrying out studies on the root causes of this phenomenon.111

59. UNESCO noted that Lithuania had not yet taken steps to include human rights education in its curricula.112
J. Persons with disabilities

60. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned that the definition and understanding of disability in domestic legislation focused on the individual impairment, thereby neglecting the social and relational dimension of disability, including in particular the barriers that persons with disabilities faced. It was concerned by the frequent use of derogatory language such as “deaf-mute” and “disorder” when referring to persons with disabilities in legislation and data collection, which perpetuated negative perceptions about persons with disabilities.113

61. It was concerned at reports that many students with disabilities were referred to and were obliged to attend special schools, due to, inter alia, a lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility in the mainstream educational system, and reports that the special education system or home schooling remained a frequent option for children with disabilities. It recommended adopting and implementing a coherent strategy on inclusive education that, among other things, ensured the accessibility of school environments, the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible and adapted materials and curricula, and the compulsory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers on inclusive education.114 The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar observations.115

62. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned at the commonly applied concept of “working incapacity”, which resulted in a low employment rate among persons with disabilities, and at the uniform focus on segregated work environments.116 It recommended eliminating the concept of “working incapacity”, and developing and implementing efficient strategies and programmes aimed at increasing the employment of persons with disabilities in the labour market.117

63. It recommended adopting new policies to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families had adequate income levels, equal to the income levels of others, that took into account additional disability-related costs.118

64. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendation that Lithuania continue to improve the quality and capacity of its mental health services.119 The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended developing community-based services, that included peer support and other alternatives to the medical model, for persons with psychosocial problems, and allocating the necessary resources for the effective functioning of those services.120 Furthermore, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended securing access for persons with disabilities to free and affordable health-related habilitation and rehabilitation goods and services.121

65. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned at the limited scope of measures taken and the insufficient progress reportedly made to promote universal design principles in the physical environment and in transport, especially to improve accessibility within and around private and public buildings and throughout the chain of transport, including with regard to parking spaces, train stations, platforms, intercity buses, taxis and ferries.122

66. It recommended adopting an adequately funded strategy for deinstitutionalization ensuring a range of community-based services for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, including their right to live independently in the community, with the possibility of individualized personal assistance support services in their home. It recommended that Lithuania further prioritize investing in a social service system for independent living in the community.123

67. It recommended improving the monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of residents with disabilities,
and ensuring that persons with disabilities who were deprived of their liberty had access to independent complaint mechanisms.  

68. The Committee against Torture was concerned at the absence of legal safeguards concerning the involuntary hospitalization and involuntary medical treatment of persons with mental and psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended repealing laws permitting deprivation of liberty based on impairment, forced treatment, and the use of restraints and seclusion, and enacting new legislation prohibiting those practices.

69. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned at the provision in the Civil Code that allowed surgical operations to be performed on persons with disabilities who had been deprived of legal capacity, without their consent, when authorized by a court. It recommended abolishing all practices of forced treatment, including non-consensual castrations, sterilizations and abortions, and eliminating the possibility for third parties such as guardians, doctors and courts to approve such practices.

70. It was concerned at the legislation permitting denial or restriction of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities. It was concerned that the Constitution denied to persons with disabilities who had been declared legally incapable the right to vote and to stand for election, and that laws on elections did not allow autonomous, free and secret participation in the electoral process by all persons with disabilities.

71. It was concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity, could be denied the right to marry, found a family and adopt and raise children.

72. It recommended repealing laws, policies and practices permitting guardianship and trusteeship for adults with disabilities and replacing regimes of substituted decision-making with regimes of supported decision-making.

K. Minorities

73. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regretted that, despite its previous recommendation, Lithuania had not yet adopted the draft law on national minorities. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended expediting the process for adopting the new law on national minorities, and taking effective measures in the interim to fully protect the rights of all national minorities, including their language, religion, culture and identity. It recommended establishing an effective entity within the Ministry of Culture for effective coordination of national minority issues.

74. It also expressed its concern that the amendments to the 2011 law on education had led to restrictions on the use of national minority languages in State-funded national minority schools and in State examinations.

75. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that, despite a ruling of the Constitutional Court, a satisfactory solution to the issue of the use of names in identity documents in a language other than Lithuanian had not yet been found.

76. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights remained concerned at the lack of progress achieved in addressing the social exclusion of Roma and discrimination against Roma. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that Roma continued to be the most disadvantaged group, facing stereotypes, prejudice and intolerance, as well as difficulties in a number of areas, such as education, access to the labour market, health care, and adequate and social housing. It was also concerned that despite efforts made by Lithuania, the illiteracy rate of Roma children...
remained high and they continued to face problems such as language barriers, early school dropout and absenteeism and limited access to secondary and higher education, and that the housing conditions for Roma were inadequate, particularly in the Kirtimai settlement in the Municipality of Vilnius, where dwellings were reportedly being demolished.138 The Human Rights Committee139 and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights140 made similar observations.

77. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended finding durable solutions to the housing issues of Roma, including by providing them with social housing in the context of the action plan for greater social inclusion for 2014-2020; and paying particular attention to the housing situation of Roma in the Kirtimai settlement and providing them with alternative solutions in consultation with Roma communities.141 The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made similar recommendations.142

78. Furthermore, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Lithuania, in the context of its new action plan for Roma integration for 2015-2020, reinforce its special measures to reduce the illiteracy rate and school dropout rate and to improve the attendance of Roma children and their language skills.143

79. It was also concerned at reports that some Roma lacked identity documents, and recommended taking proactive measures to provide Roma with identity documents.144

L. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

80. UNHCR recommended ensuring that persons who may seek international protection were proactively identified, including at border-crossing points and detention facilities, provided with information about the asylum procedure, registered as asylum seekers, and referred to the determining asylum authority without delay.145

81. The Committee against Torture recommended that Lithuania refrain from detaining asylum seekers and illegal immigrants for prolonged periods and use the detention of asylum seekers only as a measure of last resort for as short a period as possible, and that it promote alternatives to detention.146

82. While noting the efforts of the Government to improve reception conditions at the foreigners’ registration centre, UNHCR recommended further improving reception conditions at the centre and implementing alternative reception arrangements, especially for asylum seekers with specific needs.147 The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination made a similar recommendation.148

83. Furthermore, UNHCR recommended allocating sufficient funds to ensure an adequate standard of living for asylum seekers, including those living outside the foreigners’ registration centre.149

84. UNHCR recommended ensuring that monetary support for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection adequately covered the necessities of life and facilitated the process of social integration, and eliminating the differences in access to the mainstream social welfare system for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.150

85. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that the phenomenon of statelessness persisted, and that pursuant to the law on citizenship, a person could be left stateless under certain conditions.151 UNHCR explained that the law on citizenship did not grant automatic citizenship to children born in the country who would otherwise be stateless because of being born to parents who possessed a nationality but could not confer that nationality to their children. Following the accession of Lithuania to the 1961 Convention, residency requirements were reduced for stateless persons born in
Lithuania from 10 to 5 years. However several additional requirements remained, concluded UNHCR.\footnote{152}

86. UNHCR recommended facilitating naturalization procedures for stateless persons by, for example, reducing the number of years of residence required prior to being eligible for naturalization, expanding preparatory courses for stateless persons and reducing or waiving the fees. It recommended ensuring that all children born in Lithuania who would otherwise be stateless were automatically granted nationality.\footnote{153}

M. Right to development, and environmental issues

87. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Lithuania to increase the level of its contribution of official development assistance, which stood at 0.13 per cent of gross national income in 2012, and to achieve the international commitment of 0.7 per cent as expeditiously as possible.\footnote{154}

N. Human rights and counter-terrorism

88. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the parliamentary investigation had failed to determine whether Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) detainees had been held in or transited through Lithuanian territory and that the pretrial investigation launched by the Prosecutor General’s Office had been terminated owing to the applicability of the statute of limitations, which had precluded disciplinary action, and also that the file constituted an official secret. It urged Lithuania to complete the investigation into allegations of its involvement in CIA rendition and secret detention programmes, within a reasonable time.\footnote{155} The Human Rights Committee made similar observations.\footnote{156}
Notes


2 The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

- ICERD: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- OP-ICESCR: Optional Protocol to ICESCR
- ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICCPR-OP 1: Optional Protocol to ICCPR
- ICCPR-OP 2: Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- OP-CEDAW: Optional Protocol to CEDAW
- CAT: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- OP-CAT: Optional Protocol to CAT
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
- OP-CRC-AC: Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- OP-CRC-SC: Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- OP-CRC-IC: Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
- ICRMW: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- OP-ICRMW: Optional Protocol to ICRMW
- CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- OP-CRPD: Optional Protocol to CRPD
- ICPPED: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

3 Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.


6 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/ihl.

7 International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
(No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 32; CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 27; CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 45; E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 28; and CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 54.

8

See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 23.

9

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 32.

10

See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 27; E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 27; and CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 54.

11

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 32.

12

See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 9.

13

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 11; and CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 5.

14

See CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 5; CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 15; CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 17; and CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 68.

15

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 11; and CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 5.

16

See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 13.

17

See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 13.

18

See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 66.

19

See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 29.

20

See CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 17.

21

See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 46.

22

See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3/Add.1.

23


30


31

See CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3/Add.2.

32

See CCPR/C/110/D/2155/2012.

33

See CCPR/C/113/3.

34

For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HR Bodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.

35


36

See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 11.

37

See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 35. See also E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 9.

38

See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 9.

39

Ibid.

40

See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 35.

41

See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, paras. 24 and 25.

42

Ibid., para. 5.
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/LTU/INT_CCPR_FUL_LTU_2185
1_E.pdf:

85 See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 12.
86 Ibid., para. 21.
87 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 50.
88 See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, paras. 40 and 41.
89 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 34.
90 Ibid., para. 23.
91 Ibid., para. 36.
92 See the UNESCO submission to the universal periodic review of Lithuania, paras. 53 and 65.
93 See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 29. See also E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 9.
94 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 11.
95 Ibid., para. 18.
96 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 44.
97 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 18. See also CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, paras. 38 and 39.
98 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 10.
99 Ibid., para. 17.
100 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 39.
101 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 22.
102 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 41.
103 See CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 36.
104 Ibid., para. 37.
105 Ibid.
106 See the UNESCO submission to the universal periodic review of Lithuania, para. 62.
107 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 22. See also CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 50.
109 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 46.
110 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 23. See also CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 46.
111 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 46.
112 See the UNESCO submission to the universal periodic review of Lithuania, para. 62.
113 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, paras. 5-7.
114 Ibid., paras. 45 and 46.
115 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, paras. 37 and 38.
116 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 51. See also E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 12.
117 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 52.
118 Ibid., para. 54.
119 See CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4, para. 42.
120 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 20.
121 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 50.
122 Ibid., para. 21.
123 Ibid., paras. 40 and 42.
124 Ibid., para. 33.
125 See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 23. See also CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 32.
126 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 31.
127 Ibid., para. 37. See also CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, paras. 36 and 37; and CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 14.
128 See CRPD/C/LTU/CO/1, para. 38.
129 Ibid., para. 25.
130 Ibid., para. 57.
131 Ibid., para. 43.
133 See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 6.
135 Ibid., para. 23.
136 See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 25.
137 See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 7.
138 See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 20.
See CCPR/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 7
See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 7.
See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 21.
See E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 17.
See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 21. See also CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, paras. 32 and 33; and E/C.12/LTU/CO/2, para. 23.
See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 22.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 5.
See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 17.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 6.
See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 27.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 6.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 8.
See CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, paras. 26 and 27.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 9.
See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lithuania, p. 9. See also CERD/C/LTU/CO/6-8, para. 27; and CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5, para. 31.
See CAT/C/LTU/CO/3, para. 16.