



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-sixth session
4–15 May 2020

Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Liberia*

Report of 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 periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 17 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia noted that some international human rights instruments had not been ratified by Liberia yet; several of its reports to treaty bodies were still pending; and some instruments ratified had not been incorporated into domestic law yet. It recommended that Liberia ratify the instruments to which is not a party yet, and fulfil its reporting obligations under treaty bodies by submitting the pending reports.²

3. The Commission recommended that Liberia continue supporting the constitutional reforms and ensure its consistency with human rights standards.³

4. The Commission indicated that it received insufficient budgetary support and therefore lacked of adequate infrastructure.⁴ It recommended that the Government allocate sufficient resources to the Commission, in order to enable it to fully carry out its mandate.⁵

5. The Commission was concerned at persistent discrimination against LGBTI persons and regretted that in 2018, a bill criminalizing same sex consenting relations was introduced in the Legislature.⁶ It recommended to decriminalize same sex consenting relation among adults.⁷

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



6. The Commission regretted the persistence of prolonged pre-trial detention, despite Liberia's efforts to address the issue. It was concerned at overcrowding, poor sanitation and inadequate medication in prisons.⁸ It recommended to take steps to reduce prolonged pre-trial detention and improve prison conditions.⁹
7. The Commission recommended increasing support to the system of justice including at regional level, and establishing human rights desks in the different ministries.¹⁰
8. The Commission stated that the right to a counsel was not guaranteed to poor people.¹¹ It recommended to enact a national legal aid programme and deploy more public defenders and support them to carry out their functions.¹²
9. Regarding transitional justice, the Commission noted that the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had not been implemented yet, and the proposition to establish a war and economic crimes court was being debated.¹³ In order to achieve national reconciliation, it recommended establishing accountability mechanisms for economic and war crimes.¹⁴
10. The Commission regretted that challenges posed by weak institutions, corruption and bad governance undermined the right to an adequate standard of living for the Liberia's population. It welcomed the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.¹⁵
11. The Commission welcomed the adoption of the Land Rights Act of 2018.
12. The Commission acknowledged measures taken by the Ministry of Health to eliminate discrimination against Ebola survivors. However, it was concerned at challenges related to the right to health and at the lack of basic services further to the Ebola crisis.¹⁶
13. The Commission was concerned at precarious educational system, with a very high level of children out of school, poor quality of education, and unequal access of girls to education, compared with boys.¹⁷ It recommended that Liberia prioritize spending allocations to the areas of health and education.¹⁸
14. The Commission was concerned that, despite the Government's efforts in this regard, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) persisted in Liberia. It recommended to criminalize FGM in compliance with the Maputo Protocol.¹⁹
15. The Commission noted that the New Election Law established a quota for gender representation. However, the vagueness of the provision made its application ineffective. It recommended adopting the Affirmative Action Bill.²⁰
16. The Commission appreciated Liberia's efforts to protect the rights of children through its programmes and policies. It recommended strengthening protection for children in the area of trafficking in persons, and prohibit in the Penal Code corporal punishment.²¹

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations²² and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies²³

17. JS8 recommended that Liberia continue the ratification of international human rights instruments to which is not a party yet.²⁴
18. Advocates for Human Rights (AHR) regretted that Liberia had not ratified yet the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women despite the fact that it accepted this recommendation during its 2nd UPR.²⁵
19. JS4 recommended that Liberia ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and incorporate it in its national legislation.²⁶
20. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) appreciated Liberia's participation in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons of

2017, and its vote in favor of its adoption. It recommended that Liberia sign and ratify the treaty.²⁷

21. JS2 and JS5 noted that, while during the 2nd cycle, Liberia accepted the recommendations to improve its reporting records, many reports were still pending. JS2 recommended that Liberia submit all outstanding reports.²⁸ JS5 recommended prioritizing the initial report to the Committee against Torture.²⁹

B. National human rights framework³⁰

22. JS3 stated that, despite efforts by Liberia to incorporate international law in its domestic legislation, gaps existed between international law and its customary law, in particular those related to children issues. JS3 noted that, while the Constitution dictated that national legislation should take precedent over customary laws, in practice, these laws were widely used in particular in rural areas, where the population feel that the traditional system is more accessible and cheaper.³¹

23. JS5 noted that the Independent National Commission on Human Rights was underfunded. JS5 recommended that Liberia ensure that the Commission is provided with the human and financial resources necessary for optimally carry out its functions.³²

24. SJ2 recommended that Liberia implement the recommendations accepted at previous cycles and develop human rights indicators, thus allowing a coherent evaluation of the human rights policies.³³

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination³⁴

25. JS7 stated that the Constitution also discriminated on the basis of ethnic origin and, according to Article 27 (2) of the Constitution, “only persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent shall qualify by birth or by naturalization to be citizens of Liberia”. JS7 indicated that this had resulted in thousands of persons who had lived in Liberia for generations being barred from citizenship, and other rights.³⁵ JS7 recommended amending Article 27 (2) of the Constitution in order to remove discrimination.³⁶ JS1 recommended to adopt a comprehensive legislation against discrimination that includes a definition of all forms of discrimination and an expanded list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, including national or ethnic origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity and any other status, and provide for effective remedy in cases of violations.³⁷

26. JS7 was concerned at discriminatory provisions in the Constitution and the Aliens and Nationality Act for the transmission and access to nationality. JS7 regretted that Liberian women were impeded to transmit their citizenship to their children born abroad, while Liberian fathers could do it automatically. According to JS7, the distinction resulted in cases of statelessness, risk of deportation, and lack of access to education, and also compromised Liberian’s women equal right to freely choose a spouse and place of residence.³⁸ JS7 recommended guaranteeing women the same rights as men to transmit their nationality to their children, particularly by amending the Aliens and Nationality Law.³⁹

27. While acknowledging some improvements to protect the rights of LGBTI persons, such as the appointment of a coordinator to assist minority groups including LGBTI persons, JS6 was concerned that the Penal Code criminalized consensual same-sex activity among adults.⁴⁰ JS6 and AHR noted that LGBTI people continued to experience widespread violence and discrimination.⁴¹ According to JS6, many victims did not report the crimes to the police for fear of reprisals.⁴² AHR and JS6 recommended to repeal all provision in domestic law that criminalize same sex relations among consenting adults and combat widespread impunity for violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,

inter alia, by bringing perpetrators to justice, and providing related training to the National Police.⁴³

28. JS1 was concerned at the situation of persons with albinism who faced multiple forms of discrimination, abuses and violence including ritual killings.⁴⁴ JS1 was also concerned at the situation of leprosy patients and ex-leprosy patients who were rarely accepted back within their families and therefore faced marginalization and vulnerability.⁴⁵ JS1 recommended establishing an appropriate mechanism that addresses victims of discrimination, including survivors of the Ebola virus, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV, and persons with albinism.⁴⁶

2. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person⁴⁷

29. JS5 stated that, while not executions had taken place since Liberia's previous UPR, a death sentence was passed in 2016 and not concrete actions had been taken to repeal the death penalty from domestic law.⁴⁸ Several stakeholders recommended to repeal the death penalty from national law in conformity with Liberia's obligations under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.⁴⁹ JS1 also recommended to commute all existing death sentence and refrain from carrying out any execution.⁵⁰

30. JS5 indicated that several instance of enforce disappearance have been documented over the past years, involving persons being whistle blowers, critics and key informants.⁵¹ JS5 recommended to ratify the International Convention of the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearance are investigated and that authors of such acts are prosecuted and punished.⁵²

31. World Council of Churches (WCC) recommended that Liberia take concrete steps to address violence in the country, in particular, by bringing the perpetrators to justice.⁵³

32. JS2 and JS5 regretted that the anti-torture bill that had been submitted by local CSOs in 2010, had still not been approved.⁵⁴ JS2 recommended to adopt the bill and put an end to the practice of torture.⁵⁵

33. JS5 welcomed the establishment of the Professional Standard Division to investigate and punish police misconduct.⁵⁶ JS5 recommended strengthening efforts to prevent and combat police misconduct and ensuring that police officers are being held responsible for their misconduct.⁵⁷

34. JS5 was concerned that the 48-hour time limit for holding a person in custody was not always respected and that the number of detainees in pre-trial detention was extremely high, resulting in serious overcrowding in prisons.⁵⁸ JS2 regretted that the reform of the system of pre-trial detention had not been carried out yet.⁵⁹ JS5 recommended ensuring respect of the time limit for custody pre-trial detention, and ensuring separation of pre-trial detainees from those convicted.⁶⁰

35. While acknowledging positive measures taken by Liberia to address overcrowding in prisons, JS2 and JS5 were concerned that detention conditions did not meet the UN minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners.⁶¹ According to JS5, prisoners usually ate only once a day and meal often lacked nutritive ingredients, lacked minimum access to health care and were maintained in poor sanitary facilities.⁶² JS5 recommended that Liberia reduce prison overcrowding, particularly by developing the use of alternatives to detention, and improve prison conditions, especially regarding nutrition and access to health care.⁶³ JS2 recommended granting autonomous status to the Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation for the effective management of prisons.⁶⁴ JS1 recommended scaling up the work of the Magistrate Sitting Programme to all places of detention, and legalize of the Alternative Dispute Resolution in the court's system to work towards addressing overcrowding in prison facilities.⁶⁵

36. JS5 regretted that no national preventive mechanism had been established in Liberia despite the recommendation of the Sub-committee against torture further to its visit to the country in 2018.⁶⁶ JS5 recommended establishing without any further delay a National

Preventive Mechanism in conformity with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.⁶⁷ JS2 recommended that Liberia accept to make public the recommendations made by the Subcommittee in 2018.⁶⁸

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*⁶⁹

37. JS9 acknowledge progress made by Liberia to re-establishing the rule of law.⁷⁰ JS8 was, however, concerned at persistence of human rights challenges, including corruption.⁷¹

38. JS2 and JS8 were concerned at the extent of corruption among public authorities in Liberia, including at high level.⁷² JS2 recommended that Liberia take further measures to redress corruption, including by prosecuting acts of culprits; increase the salaries and incentives of civil servants.⁷³

39. JS2 regretted that Courts remained under staffed and resourced, and was concerned at the persistence of corruption among judiciary actors, including public defenders and court clerks.⁷⁴ SJ2 recommended establishing a monitoring system to ensure integrity of the Judiciary, and taking efficient measures to create trust of the general public on the Judicial System.⁷⁵

40. JS1 recommended to provide adequate resources for prosecutors and judicial officers to undertake effective prosecution, case management and adhere to criminal procedures.⁷⁶

41. JS5 regretted that no one has been prosecuted and sentenced for serious human rights violations committed during the war.⁷⁷ WCC recommended that serious human rights violations and war crimes committed during the civil war are subjected to accountability through appropriate channels.⁷⁸

42. JS1 was concerned that many of the recommendations regarding the reconciliation process accepted by Liberia during its second UPR, had not been implemented yet.⁷⁹ JS1, JS2 and JS5 regretted that the recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were still not implemented, particularly the establishment of the war and economic crimes court.⁸⁰ JS2 and WCC recommended implementing the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in order to promote reconciliation and justice, in particular by establishing the war and economic crimes court.⁸¹ JS1 recommended establishing a well-resourced body to monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.⁸²

43. WCC recommended ensuring that the memorials of the civil war were preserved.⁸³ JS1 recommended to set up a trust fund commission to facilitate reparation of victims.⁸⁴

44. JS1 was concerned that a list of alleged perpetrators included in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had not only not hold accountable but had official responsibilities.⁸⁵

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*⁸⁶

45. JS8 was concerned at violations against journalists including arbitrary detention, harassment, physical attacks and death threats, by state security agents.⁸⁷ JS8 recommended that Liberia end impunity for attacks against journalists, by conducting investigations and hold security forces accountable for human rights violations, including in the context of demonstrations. JS8 also recommended creating a monitoring independent mechanism for freedom of expression and opinion, and avoiding public denigration of journalists.⁸⁸

46. JS8, JS9 and Accessnow were concerned at suspension of licences of media outlets, and internet shutdowns in the context of anti-government protests, including during elections or public assemblies.⁸⁹ JS8 recommended that Liberia guarantee freedom of expression online by desisting from shutting down or disrupting the internet.⁹⁰ Accessnow also recommended ensuring robust society participation in internet policy-making, extending digital literacy programmes and developing inclusive public consultation policies.⁹¹

47. JS8 was concerned at excessive fines and prison sentences, imposed in cases of defamation filed by politicians and powerful figures, which resulted in prejudice, economic difficulties and widespread self-censorship for journalist in Liberia.⁹² JS8 recommended

repealing legislation that undermine freedom of expression and opinion and remove obstacles to pluralistic media.⁹³ Various stakeholders welcomed amendments to the Criminal Code in 2019, decriminalising defamation and libel, as a positive move towards decriminalisation of press offences.⁹⁴

48. JS9 recommended to increase efforts to provide equal access to technology and communications to all, including disadvantaged and marginalized groups, by removing barriers to access an improving affordability.⁹⁵

49. AHR stated that LGBTI activists and human rights defenders who opposed female genital mutilation (FGM) were subject to threats, violence and reprisals.⁹⁶ AHR recommended to ensure investigations of all reports of violence and harassment against HRDs and make perpetrators accountable.⁹⁷

50. JUBILEE recommended that Liberia refrain from promoting any particular religion or ideology and ensure freedom of religion without discrimination.⁹⁸

51. JS9 welcomed the 2017 elections.⁹⁹ WCC was concerned at political and electoral violence and tensions among political parties, occurred in July 2019.¹⁰⁰

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*¹⁰¹

52. JS4 welcomed the anti-human trafficking and migrant smuggling unit, the Criminal Court “E”, and the anti-trafficking task force of the Ministry of Gender, Children and social Protection. However, it regretted the persistence of trafficking in Liberia. JS4 recommended allocating sufficient budget for the implementation of activities included in the National Plan against Trafficking in Person 2019–2023.¹⁰²

53. JS4 was concerned that children were more vulnerable to trafficking and were less likely to return to their original place because of the lack of official birth registration documents, and that, according to UNICEF, less than one quarter of all births were registered.¹⁰³

Right to privacy

54. JS9 recommended that Liberia enact legislation on personal data protection and privacy in order to provide proper safeguards on the use of personal data, and to protect the right to privacy online.¹⁰⁴

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*¹⁰⁵

55. JS3 noted that there were few opportunities for women to access to formal employment and that they faced precarious conditions in the informal sector. JS3 also regretted the high rate of unemployment among young people, and the particularly difficult situation of young women. JS3 recommended that Liberia address decent work in a holistic way that includes a strategy to change existing traditional gender roles.¹⁰⁶ SJ3 recommended taking measures to eliminate discrimination against women in employment and promoting decent work.¹⁰⁷

*Right to an adequate standard of living*¹⁰⁸

56. WCC was concerned that, according to a report of the World Bank, 54% of the population was living under the poverty line.¹⁰⁹ JS3 noted that, despite the poverty reduction strategies developed by Liberia, poverty continued to be particularly acute in rural areas.¹¹⁰ WCC indicated that poverty had resulted in sexual, gender and domestic violence, substance abuse by young people, expansion of ghettos and depression, particularly among young people.¹¹¹

57. According to SJ2, further to the Ebola crisis, not enough measures had been taken to ensure enjoyment of economic and social rights.¹¹² JS4 was concerned that the Ebola crisis continued to have a severe socioeconomic impact on the vulnerable population, since

household income and agricultural output dropped during the outbreak.¹¹³ JS3 was concerned at food insecurity in Liberia, seriously affecting children.¹¹⁴

58. JS2 stated that the increasing and alarming corruption in the public sector was negatively affecting access of the population to basic social services, and recommended that Liberia take effective measures to facilitate access to basic goods and services for the population.¹¹⁵

59. JS3 and JS4 were concerned at very limited access to electricity, potable water and sanitation facilities, and adequate housing, particularly in rural areas.¹¹⁶ JS3 indicated that, according to a UNICEF report of 2016, only 25% of the Liberian population had access to potable water.¹¹⁷

*Right to health*¹¹⁸

60. JUBILEE was concerned at the high mortality rate, and that, according to a report of UNICEF, ten percent of children died before age of five due to disease and illness. JUBILEE also noted that, according to a study of 2019, 40% of Liberian children faced malnourishment.¹¹⁹ JUBILEE recommended that Liberia provide pre-natal and maternal health care to all women to reduce the rate of child mortality and maternal death; adequately allocate resources to provide medical treatment to children suffering from disease and illness; and take measures to decrease and eventually eliminate child malnutrition.¹²⁰

61. WCC was concerned at high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the internal conflict, including major depressive disorders and suicidal tendencies among the population, particularly among victims of sexual violence. WCC recommended to provide psychiatric care for the treatment of sexual violation, post-traumatic disorders, depression and substance abuse, as a core component of the recovery and rehabilitation programme for the Liberian population.¹²¹

62. AHR regretted that medical treatment of victims of FGM has been insufficient and that complications from infection or blood loss frequently causes death.¹²²

63. JS6 was concerned that unsafe abortions were widely practiced in Liberia, leading to many deaths of women. JS6 regretted that, in cases where abortion was legal, the requirements, such as certification from two physicians, were difficult to fulfil, and medical practitioners feared legal consequences of their decisions.¹²³ JS6 recommended to increase efforts to reduce high maternal mortality rates by ensuring that women and adolescents can access to safe abortion and free services in accordance with Liberian obligations under the Maputo Protocol.¹²⁴

64. JS6 noted that unwanted pregnancies among girls were linked to inadequate access to family planning information and services, and at the lack of privacy and confidentiality for adolescents at some health facilities.¹²⁵ JS6 recommended that Liberia take all necessary steps to ensure access for the population to comprehensive sexuality information and services on the full range of family planning and contraceptives; formulating a stand-alone reproductive health policy and increasing youth friendly sexual reproductive services in public health services.¹²⁶

*Right to education*¹²⁷

65. JS4 indicated that education was severely disrupted during the Ebola epidemic, with schools closed for several months, and that the consequence persisted.¹²⁸

66. JS3 stated that, while there was a policy for free and compulsory primary school, attendance rates were still very poor, particularly in rural areas. JS3 was concerned at the high discrepancy among the number of girls and boys attending the school, which was due, among other factors, to the lack of adequate and sufficient sanitary facilities for girls in schools, persistence of gender-based violence and negative societal attitudes towards girls including harassment at school by teachers.¹²⁹

67. According to JS6, the prohibition of abortion aggravated the situation of teenage girls across the country and had a serious impact on their retention in school.¹³⁰

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

*Women*¹³¹

68. JS2¹³², JS3¹³³ and AHR¹³⁴ were concerned at the persistence of violence against women including rape and harmful practices, despite the fact that Liberia accepted many related recommendations during its 2nd UPR. AHR regretted that gender-based crimes were rarely prosecuted and extremely few cases resulted in convictions.¹³⁵

69. AHR noted that the National Traditional Council agreed to eliminate FGM in its customary law and system. However, FGM was still practiced with impunity.¹³⁶ JS6 further indicated that, in response to the recommendations received during its 2nd UPR, in 2019, Liberia passed into law the Domestic Violence Act in 2019.¹³⁷ JS6 and AHR regretted, however, that a provision banning FGM was removed from the Domestic Violence Bill because some parliamentarians considered that FGM was a “cultural” matter that took place outside households.¹³⁸

70. JS3 recommended that Liberia strengthen efforts to abolish traditional harmful practices.¹³⁹ AHR and JS6 recommended ensuring the enactment of a new comprehensive law that criminalizes FGM with adequate penalties for perpetrators, and take educational measures to change social norms and behaviours, targeting in particular local chiefs, traditional women leaders and communities that practice FGM.¹⁴⁰ Meanwhile, JUBILEE recommended renewing the presidential ban on FGM.¹⁴¹ AHR recommended ensuring high quality medical and psychological support for the victims of FGM.¹⁴²

71. JS6 regretted high rates of underreporting of rape cases and the incapacity of the National Police to prosecute rape crimes.¹⁴³ JS3 highlighted the numerous barriers for reporting and for ensuring accountability in cases of rape, including the weakness of the justice system, notably deficient investigation and prosecution, corruption, and undue influence of traditional leaders.¹⁴⁴

72. JS3 was concerned that, the widespread culture of impunity put women and children at continued serious risks of sexual violence.¹⁴⁵ JS6 stated that, according to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, only two per cent of sex and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases reported in 2015 resulted in a conviction due in part to the legal and institutional weaknesses, traditional patterns, corruption and logistic constraints.¹⁴⁶

73. JS3 recommended that Liberia enact and strengthen national domestic law to criminalize sexual violence and domestic violence; establish a fast track system for all SGBV cases; and provide capacity building activities, including for prosecutors.¹⁴⁷ AHR recommended to explicitly criminalize spousal rape.¹⁴⁸

74. AHR recommended ensuring prosecution of domestic violence and gender-based violence cases in the Judiciary, by providing courts and prosecutors with adequate resources. It also recommended taking measures to end impunity for Sande and Poro society members who engaged in or promoted the practice of FGM.¹⁴⁹ JS6 recommended improving the capacity of the National Police and health institutions to support criminal prosecution of rape cases.¹⁵⁰

75. JUBILEE recommended publicly condemning acts of sexual violence and providing with psychological and medical care to victims of sexual violence.¹⁵¹

76. JS6 recommended that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection raise awareness on the Domestic Violence Act among the population and work closely with other relevant ministries in the enforcement of the law.¹⁵²

77. JUBILEE was concerned at obstacles faced by women workers such as discrimination, lack of access to credit and banking services, limited financial literacy and business training, few social protection and childcare support, harassment and poor sanitation within workplaces.¹⁵³ JUBILEE recommended that Liberia ensure that women can access to formal job equally than men; offer educational opportunities to women; eliminate discrimination of women regarding credit and financial training; and ensure that workplaces for women meet the same safety and sanitation standards as those for men.¹⁵⁴

78. JS3 recommended that Liberia take measures to ensure women's participation in decision making processes.¹⁵⁵ JUBILEE recommended increasing the proportion of female officials in governmental positions.¹⁵⁶

*Children*¹⁵⁷

79. JS3 stated that the current child protection system lacked a coherent and holistic approach and vision to reach the needs of children and their families, and the current legislation did not provide enough room for improvement.¹⁵⁸

80. JS4 was concerned at the persistence of sexual exploitation, particularly of girls. JS4 added that, according to a study conducted in 2017, a pattern emerged of sexual exploitation of female students by male teachers in Liberia, which was "a normative and often encouraged method for girls to obtain resources in the school setting".¹⁵⁹ JS4 further indicated that there were a number of non-traditional infrastructures facilitating the exploitation of children, including social and economic inequalities and cultural practices and norms. JS4 recommended developing a comprehensive national plan of action on sexual exploitation of children, and streamlining and update all different national plans and policies.¹⁶⁰

81. JUBILEE was concerned that child labour was very common in Liberia, and many children were subjected to exploitation as workers on rubber tree plantations, in stone quarries and on diamond excavation sites.¹⁶¹ JUBILEE recommended that Liberia take measures to enforce legislation prohibiting child labour, and the authorities publicly condemn this practice.¹⁶²

82. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children regretted that corporal punishment was still lawful in Liberia, including at home and schools, despite recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms to prohibit this practice. It recommended that Liberia draft and enact legislation to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings including at home.¹⁶³

83. JS3 was concerned that the laws and policies related to the prevention and elimination of child marriage and sexual violence and abuse against children were ineffectively implemented due to deeply entrenched discriminatory social norms. It also regretted that related awareness-raising has not been created among the population. In addition, access to prevention and protection services was weak.¹⁶⁴ JS3 recommended to set the legal minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys at 18.¹⁶⁵

84. JS3 and JS4 noted that, due to poverty, financial constraints and lack of opportunities, many children in Liberia did not live with their biological parents and that rather lived in formal and informal foster care or kinship arrangements, and that children living in those situations experienced exploitation and discrimination.¹⁶⁶ JS4 stated that the existing gaps in child protection were exacerbated by the Ebola epidemic, such as infant mortality and severe malnutrition. JS4 recommended that Liberia update its policy frameworks and allocate sufficient human and financial resources towards prevention programmes for child abuse and neglect, particularly for programmes outside the capital.¹⁶⁷

85. JUBILEE was concerned about the situation of children living in the street and noted that thousands of children were orphaned as a result of the Ebola outbreak in 2015.¹⁶⁸ JUBILEE recommended that Liberia addresses the ever-growing situation of street children, by providing care, homes, food and medical care to those children, and raise awareness on their situation. It also recommended that the authorities publicly condemn discrimination against those children.¹⁶⁹

*Persons with disabilities*¹⁷⁰

86. JS1 indicated that the public education institutions discriminated against students with disabilities.¹⁷¹

Notes

- ¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org. (One asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with “A” status).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

AHR	Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, (United States of America);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London (United Kingdom);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JUBILEE	JUBILEE CAMPAIGN, Fairfax (United States of America).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: the Center for Civil and Political Rights Centre Africa Office (CCPR Centre Africa): Touching Humanity in Need of Kindness (THINK), He For She Crusaders Liberia (HEFOSEL), National Association Against Traditional Practice Affecting the Health of Women (NATPAH), Her Voice Liberia, Women Solidarity, Inc. (WOSI), Women Empowerment Foundation of Liberia, Citizen Initiative for Dialogue, Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG), Women Passion, Inc., National Health Workers Union of Liberia, Human Rights and Protection Forum, Right Alert Liberia (RAL), National Union of Organizations of Person with Disabilities (NUOD), Sister Hands Liberia, Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL), Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia Inc. (LEGAL), National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL), Student Unification and Development Association (STUDA), Stop Aids in Liberia (SAIL), Foundation for Human Rights & Democracy (FOHRD), United Methodist Human Rights Monitor, Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), Rural Women Human Rights (RWHR), Better Future Foundation (BFF), Pentecostal Mission Unlimited (PMU-LIB), Liberia Massacre Survivors Association -(LIMASA), Serving Humanity for Empowerment and Development (SHED), Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO), National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), Independent Human Rights Investigators (IHRI), National Human Rights Center of Liberia, Regional Watch for Human Rights (RWHR), National Civil Society Council of Liberia, Rural Human Rights Activists Program (RHAP), Lome (Togo);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: the Civil Society Organizations on Liberia UPR (CSO-UPR), Better Future Foundation, Center for Democratic empowerment (CEDE), Center for Transparency & Natural Resource Governance (CETNARG), United Methodist Human Rights Monitor, Community Development Foundation (CDF), Forum for Advocacy and Civic Education (FACE), Foundation for Democracy in Liberia (FDL), Foundation Grass Roots (FORGE), Human Concern Inc., Human Rights Network Foundation, Peaceful Youth for Transformation, Liberia Civil & Human Rights Alliance, Liberia Coalition of Human Rights

- Defenders (LICHRD), Liberia Research and Development Agency (LIRDA), Juvenile Children Education Networks (JCNE), Organization for Women and Children (ORWC), National Concern Youth of Liberia (NACYOL), National Institute for Public Opinion (NIPO), Kokoryah Citizen Union (KOCU), Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD), Parental Care Liberia (PCL), People Empowerment Program (PEP-Liberia), Positive Globalization Initiatives, Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL), Research and Documentation Center on Human Rights, Rural and Development Organization (RADO) INC, United Women in Action for Development (UNIWAD), Voice Against Violence, Women Solidarity, Women Recovery Initiatives (WORI), Women's Rights and Democracy (WORD Center), Monrovia (Liberia);
- JS3 **Joint submission 3 submitted by:** the Defence for Children International – Liberia (DCI – Liberia): Defence for Children International-Liberia (DCI-Liberia) and Plan International-Liberia, who are working together in the Girls Advocacy Alliance, Monrovia (Liberia);
- JS4 **Joint submission 4 submitted by:** the ECPAT International along with Defence for Children – Liberia, Bangkok (Thailand);
- JS5 **Joint submission 5 submitted by:** the Fédération Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (FIACAT) : Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Liberia), The World Coalition Against The Death Penalty (WCADP), Paris (France);
- JS6 **Joint submission 6 submitted by:** the Human Rights Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including: Liberia Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (LICHRD), Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL), Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS), West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO), Monrovia (Liberia);
- JS7 **Joint submission 7 submitted by:** the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion: The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights Equality Now, Eindhoven (Netherlands);
- JS8 **Joint submission 8 submitted by:** the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA): Center for Media Studies and Peace Building, IFEX, Accra (Ghana);
- JS9 **Joint submission 9 submitted by:** the Small Media: Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding (CEMESP), Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), London (United Kingdom).

National human rights institution:

INCHRL*

Independent National Commission on Human Rights –Liberia, Monrovia (Liberia).

- ² INCHRL, para. 11.
³ INCHRL, para. 15.
⁴ INCHRL, para. 41.
⁵ INCHRL, para. 42.
⁶ INCHRL, para. 16.
⁷ INCHRL, para. 20.
⁸ INCHRL, para. 22.
⁹ INCHRL, para. 23.
¹⁰ INCHRL, para. 42.
¹¹ INCHRL, paras. 21-22.
¹² INCHRL, para. 23.
¹³ INCHRL, para. 26.
¹⁴ INCHRL, para. 27.
¹⁵ INCHRL, para. 28.

¹⁶ INCHRL, para. 17.

¹⁷ INCHRL, paras. 30-32.

¹⁸ INCHRL, para. 33.

¹⁹ INCHRL, para. 25.

²⁰ INCHRL, para. 19.

²¹ INCHRL, para. 19.

²² following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

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;
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.

²³ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.1–100.22, 100.37, 100.54, 100.105–100.111.

²⁴ JS8, para. 64.

²⁵ AHR, para. 8.

²⁶ JS4, para. 21.

²⁷ ICAN, p. 1

²⁸ JS2, para. 14 and JS5, para. 35.

²⁹ JS5, para. 36.

³⁰ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.23–100.28, 100.34–100.36, 100.38–100.40, 100.42–100.53, 100.55, 100.60–100.63, 100.65, 100.66, 100.69, 100.71, 100.72, 100.74, 100.76–100.82, 100.91, 100.97, 100.118, 100.128, 100.132, 100–138, 100.146, 100.186.

³¹ JS3, para. 9.

³² JS5, para. 33.

³³ JS2, para. 32.

³⁴ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.75, 100.116, 100.117, 100.119, 100.121–100.124, 100.127, 100.129, 100.143.

³⁵ JS7, para. 17.

³⁶ JS7, para. 18.

³⁷ JS1, para. 12.

³⁸ JS7, para. 13.

³⁹ JS7, para. 18.

⁴⁰ JS4, para. 4.

⁴¹ JS4, para. 7 and AHR, para. 24.

⁴² JS6, para. 7.

⁴³ AHR, para. 38 and JS6 p. 11 and.

⁴⁴ JS1, para. 9.

⁴⁵ JS1, para. 10.

⁴⁶ JS1, para. 12.

- 47 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.29–100.33, 100.41, 100.156, 100.157, 100.159, 100.160, 100.162.
- 48 JS5, paras. 1-5.
- 49 JS1, para. 16, JS5, para. 5, JS2, para. 38, JUBILEE, para. 66, and JS8, para. 66.
- 50 JS1, para. 16.
- 51 JS5, paras. 8-11.
- 52 JS5, para. 11.
- 53 WCC, p. 3.
- 54 JS2, para. 9 and JS5, para. 29.
- 55 JS2, para. 10.
- 56 JS5, para. 15.
- 57 JS5, para. 17.
- 58 JS5, paras. 18-22.
- 59 JS2, para. 41.
- 60 JS5, para. 22.
- 61 JS2, para. 41 and JS5, para. 27.
- 62 JS5, para. 27.
- 63 JS5, para. 27.
- 64 JS2, para. 42.
- 65 JS1, para. 19.
- 66 JS5, para. 29.
- 67 JS5, para. 29.
- 68 JS2, para. 48.
- 69 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.64, 100.68, 100.70, 100.67, 100.142, 100.144, 100.150, 100.154, 100.155, 100.158, 100.164.
- 70 JS9, para. 5.
- 71 JS8, para. 5.
- 72 JS2, para. 4 and JS8, para. 6. See also JS2, para. 26.
- 73 JS2, para. 26.
- 74 JS2, para. 4.
- 75 JS2, para. 45.
- 76 JS1, para. 19.
- 77 JS5, para. 14.
- 78 WCC, p. 3.
- 79 JS1, para. 19.
- 80 JS1, para. 1, JS2, paras.17 and5, and JS5, para. 13.
- 81 JS2, para. 30 and WCC p. 3.
- 82 JS1, para. 5.
- 83 WCC p. 3.
- 84 JS1, para. 5.
- 85 JS1, para. 2.
- 86 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.56, 100.163, 100.75.
- 87 JS8, para. 36.
- 88 JS8, paras. 71-76.
- 89 JS8, paras. 60-62, JS9, paras. 8-11 and 18(a), and Accessnow, para. 15.
- 90 JS8, para. 77.
- 91 Accessnow para. 15.
- 92 JS8, para. 39.
- 93 JS8, paras. 67-68.
- 94 Accessnow, para. 6, JUBILEE, paras. 33-34, JS8, paras. 32-33, and JS9, para. 6.
- 95 JS9, para. 18(c).
- 96 AHR paras. 24 and 36.
- 97 AHR, para. 38.
- 98 JUBILEE, paras. 15-18.
- 99 JS9, para. 5.
- 100 WCC, p. 3.
- 101 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.113, 100.134.
- 102 JS4, para. 28.
- 103 JS4, para. 13.
- 104 JS9, para. 18(d).
- 105 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.171.
- 106 JS3, para. 10.

- 107 JS3, para. 10.
108 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.165, 100.168, 100.170.
109 WCC, page 2
110 JS3, page 3
111 WCC, para. 3.
112 JS2, para.24-26.
113 JS4, para. 5.
114 JS3, page 4.
115 JS2, para. 26.
116 JS3, pages 4 and 5, Js4, paras. 5 and 6.
117 JS3, para. 4.
118 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.172–100.177, 100.180.
119 JUBILEE, para. 50.
120 JUBILEE, paras. 54-57.
121 WCC, p. 2.
122 AHR, para. 29.
123 JS6, paras. 16 and 21.
124 JS6, para. 11.
125 JS6, para. 22.
126 JS6, p. 12.
127 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.180–100.185.
128 JS4, para. 5.
129 JS3, para. 4.
130 JS6, para. 19.
131 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.57, 100.59, 100.64, 100.67, 100.98,
100.99–100.101, 100.112, 100.114, 100.115, 100.118–100.120, 100.126–100.141, 100.143, 100.145–
100.147, 100.163.
132 JS2, para. 4.
133 JS3, paras. 5-6.
134 HR, para.34.
135 AHR, para.35.
136 AHR, paras. 1 and 32.
137 JS6, para.25.
138 JS6, para.23, AHR.
139 JS3, para. 9.
140 JS6, p. 12.
141 JUBILEE, para. 31.
142 AHR, para. 6.
143 JS6, para. 31.
144 JS3, pp. 6-8.
145 JS3, para. 6.
146 JS6, para. 6.
147 JS3, para. 6.
148 AHR, para. 38.
149 AHR, para. 38.
150 JS6, page 12.
151 JUBILEE, para. 35.
152 JS6, p. 13. See also AHR also recommended to dedicate substantial resources towards a national
awareness-raising campaign focusing on the Domestic Violence Act. See also JUBILEE, para. 35.
153 JUBILEE, para. 38.
154 JUBILEE, paras. 40-44.
155 JS3, para. 10.
156 JUBILEE, para. 45.
157 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, paras. 100.58, 100.73, 100.95, 100.148, 100.149.
158 JS3, p. 3
159 JS4, paras. 7-8.
160 JS4, para. 24.
161 JUBILEE, para. 64.
162 JUBILEE, para. 67.
163 GIEACPC, p. 1.
164 JS3, para. 9.
165 JS3, para. 9. See also JUBILEE, para. 63.

¹⁶⁶ JS3, p. 4 and JS4, para. 12.

¹⁶⁷ JS4, under para. 28.

¹⁶⁸ JUBILEE, paras. 69-71.

¹⁶⁹ JUBILEE; paras. 76-79.

¹⁷⁰ For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/30/4, para. 100.186.

¹⁷¹ JS1, para. 8.
