

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 31ST SESSION
REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS THAT MENTION SOGIESC ISSUES

UPDATE 27/01/2015

1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. A/HRC/31/3

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/3

6. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

45. OHCHR supports efforts to counter homophobic and transphobic attitudes through its Free and Equal public education campaign, which continued through 2015 with the release of new videos, factsheets and other materials. OHCHR led campaign events in Austria, Brazil, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, China, El Salvador, Fiji, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Timor-Leste and the United States. A campaign video that was launched in May and showcases the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and their contributions to the community, was watched by almost 10 million people online. In Mexico City, the subway system broadcast the campaign for five months on a line used daily by about 400, 000 passengers.

46. In September, OHCHR hosted an expert meeting in Geneva to discuss the specific human rights challenges faced by intersex people — including unnecessary and involuntary surgery and other medical treatments, as well as lack of access to justice and discriminatory practices in education, employment and sport. OHCHR also released a Free and Equal campaign factsheet on human rights and intersex persons, available online.

2. REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO WORK – REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. A/HRC/31/32

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/32

29. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has stressed the need for measures to combat discrimination and promote equality in relation to minorities and disadvantaged groups, which constitute immediate obligations. It is the duty of States to ensure equal access to work while respecting and providing equal conditions, removing barriers to access and protecting workers against discrimination. Measures that could have the effect of increasing discrimination or weakening the protection of disadvantaged groups must be avoided. Action plans aimed at removing discrimination in access to work must be developed in a participatory manner, with special attention given to the concerned groups in their formulation and monitoring.¹

3. OUTCOME OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM ON THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS – REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. A/HRC/31/45

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/45

D. Non – discrimination and specifically affected groups

34. A number of States emphasized that drug policies needed to be implemented in a non-discriminatory way. One State underlined that it was making great efforts to strengthen its drug policies, while at the same time taking into account the rights of indigenous peoples and their use of coca leaves. A number of non-governmental organizations stated that drug control policies could lead to harsh

¹ Good practices in combating discrimination were mentioned for Brazil (E/C.12/BRA/CO/2) (sexual orientation), Costa Rica (E/C.12/CRI/CO/4), the Dominican Republic (E/C.12/DOM/CO/3), Mexico (E/C.12/MEX/CO/4), Nicaragua (E/C.12/NIC/CO/4), Uruguay (E/C.12/URY/CO/3-4), Algeria (E/C.12/DZA/CO/4), Benin (E/C.12/BEN/CO/2), Ukraine (E/C.12/UKR/CO/6), Slovenia (E/C.12/SVN/CO/2) and Liechtenstein (E/C.12/LIE/CO/1).

outcomes for women, children, indigenous peoples and human rights defenders, all of whom were particularly vulnerable. Other non-governmental organizations highlighted the vulnerability of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons to drug-related problems, indicating that they faced discrimination that led to lack of access to health services.

4. RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. A/HRC/31/27

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/27

B. General comments and general recommendations

40. In its general recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice (CEDAW/C/GC/33), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that discrimination against women was compounded by intersecting factors, including ethnicity/race, indigenous or minority status, colour, socioeconomic status and/or caste, language, religion or belief, political opinion, national origin, marital and/or maternal status, age, urban/rural location, health status, disability, property ownership and identity as a lesbian, bisexual, transgender woman or intersex person, and that these factors made it more difficult for women from those groups to gain access to justice. The Committee recommended that States parties should, inter alia, develop targeted outreach activities and distribute, through specific units or desks for women, information about the justice mechanisms, procedures and remedies available, in various formats and also in community languages. It also recommended that such activities and information should be appropriate for all ethnic and minority groups in the population and designed in close cooperation with women from these groups and, especially, women's and other relevant organizations.

5. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF ON HIS MISSION TO LEBANON – NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT. A/HRC/31/18/Add. 1

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/18/Add.1

62. Recently, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community in Lebanon launched a new public campaign to counter discrimination and social taboos based on sexuality. The campaign was organized to recall the decision made in 2013 by the national psychiatric board to remove homosexuality from a list of mental illnesses, in which it stressed that homosexuality was not an illness to be treated. While article 534 of the Penal Code states that sex acts "against nature" are a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment, in 2014 a court ruled that same-sex relations were in fact not a violation of the Penal Code. The Special Rapporteur encourages the ongoing discussions on the decriminalization of same-sex relations, including by challenging religious "justifications" for homophobic attitudes.

UPDATE 04/02/2016

6. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON HIS MISSION TO BURUNDI. A/HRC/31/55/Add.2

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/55/Add.2

4. Freedom of association

30. Freedom of association is guaranteed by article 32 of the Constitution. Associations are governed by Decree-Act No. 1/11 of 18 April 1992 on the organization of non-profit-making associations. The Decree-Act contains a number of provisions that are detrimental to the development of associations. These are primarily a lack of clarity concerning the registration process, which at times leads to abuse, since the registration of an association remains at the discretion of the administrative authorities. No remedy is provided for in the event that registration is denied. The text indicates that the competent authorities may deny registration for non-compliance with the conditions stipulated in articles 4 and 5 or when the object of the association is contrary to the law, public order or morality (art. 6). As a result, some

associations working on sensitive topics, such as gender identity, may be denied registration for no official reason. Furthermore, there is no fixed deadline for registration by the administrative authorities.

51. In the course of his visit, the Special Rapporteur met defenders engaged in promoting and defending civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. He observed that, because of their legitimate work undertaken for the promotion and protection of human rights, certain categories of defenders are particularly vulnerable, including journalists, lawyers, defenders working on political and economic issues, as well as women defenders and defenders working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

56. The Special Rapporteur was disappointed to be informed that defenders working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons face double discrimination on account of their status and a lack of recognition by civil society. He was told about the verbal and telephone threats, cases of extortion and other types of incidents that they face. Often no action is taken when defenders report these violations to the police, since they are systematically required to state their sexual identity. Furthermore, the defenders of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons continue to be stigmatized by their pairs and to be excluded from civil society. This also applies to the Independent National Human Rights Commission, whose human rights defenders claim that it is not open to all members of civil society.

90. Another issue of concern in terms of freedom of association is the rights of associations working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. No authorized associations are known to be working specifically in this area.

7. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON ADEQUATE HOUSING AS A COMPONENT OF THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, AND ON THE RIGHT TO NON – DISCRIMINATION IN THIS CONTEXT. A/HRC/31/54
http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/54

V. Homelessness and marginalized groups

39. Discrimination is both a cause and a consequence of homelessness. Those who face discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, place of origin, socioeconomic status, family status, gender, mental or physical disability, health condition, sexual orientation and/or gender identity and age are more likely to become homeless and, once homeless, experience additional discrimination. The intersections of other grounds of discrimination with homelessness vary in different countries. In some, for example, racial inequality intersects strongly with homelessness. In Brazil, African-Brazilians make up only 7 per cent of the population of wealthy areas and yet make up the majority in informal settlements. In the United States of America, black families are seven times more likely to be homeless than white families.

44. Most families of street-connected children have experienced persistent discrimination, poverty and social exclusion. Street-connected children and young people face particular challenges, including the threat of being removed from their parents for neglect and put into orphanages or foster systems.³⁰ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people are overrepresented in homeless populations in some countries and face additional stigmatization and social exclusion from their families and communities, and are more vulnerable to violence and more likely to be turned away from shelters.

87. Homelessness disproportionately affects particular groups, including women, young people, children, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees, the working poor, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, each in different ways, but with common structural causes. These include: (a) the retreat by all levels of government from social protection and social housing and the privatization of services, infrastructure, housing and public space; (b) the abandonment of the social function of land and housing; (c) the failure to address growing inequalities in income, wealth and access

to land and property; (d) the adoption of fiscal and development policies that support deregulation and real estate speculation and prevent the development of affordable housing options; and (e), in the face of urbanization, the marginalization and mistreatment of those who are most precariously housed in informal settlements, living in temporary overcrowded structures, without access to water, sanitation or other basic services and living under the constant threat of eviction.

8. ANNUAL HIGH – LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING. “THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT”. A/HRC/31/1

The debate will be guided by the following questions:

3. How can we ensure that the 2030 Agenda effectively and efficiently contributes to the realization of human rights of women and girls and the most vulnerable groups of society?

9. PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY: CONTRIBUTION OF THE FAMILY TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ITS MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ITS ROLE IN POVERTY ERADICATION AND ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. A/HRC/31/37

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/ProtectionFamily.aspx

42. Furthermore, States should ensure that children with disabilities enjoy equal rights in relation to family life, included preventing their “concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation.”² Children born of de facto unions or out of wedlock should also enjoy equal rights in relation to those born from married couples, including the rights to be registered and to have a name.³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for States to protect children from discrimination based on their own or their parents- or legal guardian’s sexual orientation or gender identity.⁴

2. Violence and abuse against children, including corporal punishment

44. Article 19(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States Parties to protect the child “from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation” in the family context. This prohibition includes all forms of abuse of children based on their gender, sexual orientation or disability.⁵ According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, this prohibition encompasses the corporal punishment of children, as well as any other cruel or degrading forms of punishment within the family.⁶

UPDATE 3. 11/02/2016

10. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OF PUNISHMENT. A/HRC/31/57

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Torture/SRTorture/Pages/SRTortureIndex.aspx>

² Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 23(3).

³ Committee on Discrimination against Women, General recommendation No., para. 19.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, General recommendation No. 15 para. 8. Cfr. A/HRC/29/23, para. 79(h).

⁵ A/HRC/19/41, para. 24; A/HRC/29/23, paras. 22, 30, 45.

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, General comment No. 8, para.5.

III. Gender perspectives on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment

5. In the present report, the Special Rapporteur assesses the applicability of the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in international law to the unique experiences of women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons. Historically, the torture and ill-treatment framework evolved largely in response to practices and situations that disproportionately affected men. The analysis has thus largely failed to have a gendered and intersectional lens, or to account adequately for the impact of entrenched discrimination, patriarchal, heteronormative and discriminatory power structures and socialized gender stereotypes. He highlights in the report how the torture and ill-treatment framework can be more effectively applied to qualify human rights violations committed against persons who transgress sexual and gender norms; identify gaps in prevention, protection, access to justice and remedies; and provide guidance to States on their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all persons to be free from torture and ill-treatment.

7. Gender-based violence, endemic even in peacetime and often amplified during conflict, can be committed against any persons because of their sex and socially constructed gender roles. While women, girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, sexual minorities and gender-non-conforming individuals are the predominant targets,⁷ men and boys can also be victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence stemming from socially determined roles and expectations. As noted by the Committee against Torture in its general comment No. 2 (2007) on the implementation of article 2 of the Convention, gender-based crimes can take the form of sexual violence, other forms of physical violence or mental torment.

8. The purpose and intent elements of the definition of torture (A/HRC/13/39/Add.5) are always fulfilled if an act is gender-specific or perpetrated against persons on the basis of their sex, gender identity, real or perceived sexual orientation or non-adherence to social norms around gender and sexuality (A/HRC/7/3). The definitional threshold between ill-treatment and torture is often not clear. A gender-sensitive lens guards against a tendency to regard violations against women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons as ill-treatment even where they would more appropriately be identified as torture.

9. Gender-based discrimination includes violence directed against or disproportionately affecting women (A/47/38). Prohibited conduct is often accepted by communities due to entrenched discriminatory perceptions while victims' marginalized status tends to render them less able to seek accountability from perpetrators, thereby fostering impunity. Gender stereotypes play a role in downplaying the pain and suffering that certain practices inflict on women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Furthermore, gender intersects with other factors and identities, including sexual orientation, disability and age, that may render a person more vulnerable to being subjected to torture and ill-treatment (general comment No. 2). Intersectional identities can result in experiencing torture and ill-treatment in distinct ways. The torture protection framework must be interpreted against the background of the human rights norms that have developed to combat discrimination and violence against women.

10. States' obligations to prevent torture are indivisible, interrelated, and interdependent with the obligation to prevent other forms of ill-treatment. States have an obligation to prevent torture and ill-treatment whenever they exercise custody or control over individuals and where failure to intervene encourages and enhances the danger of privately inflicted harm (general comment No. 2). States fail in their duty to prevent torture and ill-treatment whenever their laws, policies or practices perpetuate harmful gender stereotypes in a manner that enables or authorizes, explicitly or implicitly, prohibited acts to be performed with impunity. States are complicit in violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons whenever they create and implement discriminatory laws that trap them in abusive circumstances (A/HRC/7/3).

⁷ Secretary-General's guidance note on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence (2014).

B. Torture and ill-treatment of women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in detention

13. Women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are at particular risk of torture and ill-treatment when deprived of liberty, both within criminal justice systems and other, non-penal settings. Structural and systemic shortcomings within criminal justice systems have a particularly negative impact on marginalized groups. Measures to protect and promote the rights and address the specific needs of female and lesbian, gay, bisexual and, transgender prisoners are required and cannot not be regarded as discriminatory.

14. In many jurisdictions, the criminalization of abortion, “moral crimes” like adultery and extramarital relationships, and witchcraft and sorcery, among others — offences that are aimed at or that solely and disproportionately affect women, girls and persons on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity — besides constituting violations of international human rights law in and of themselves are also a significant factor in prison overcrowding, which has a negative impact on all aspects of detainees’ lives and gives rise to ill-treatment or torture.

15. A clear link exists between the criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and homophobic and transphobic hate crimes, police abuse, community and family violence and stigmatization (A/HRC/19/41). At least 76 States have laws that criminalize consensual relationships between same-sex adults, in breach of the rights to non-discrimination and privacy; in some cases, the death penalty may be imposed. Such laws foster a climate in which violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons by both State and non-State actors is condoned and met with impunity. Transgender persons are criminalized in many States through laws that penalize cross-dressing, “imitating the opposite sex” and sex work. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are frequently detained on the basis of laws containing vague and undefined concepts such as “crimes against the order of nature”, “morality”, “debauchery”, “indecent acts” or “grave scandal” (A/HRC/29/23).

32. Upon interception or rescue, migrants and refugees tend to be criminalized and detained in substandard and overcrowded conditions amounting to torture or ill-treatment. Unsanitary conditions and inadequate medical care, including lack of access to reproductive care, affect women in particular. Many facilities fail to separate female and male prisoners, leading to heightened risks of sexual violence from other detainees or guards (A/HRC/20/24). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender migrants are also vulnerable to abuse on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.⁸

33. The Special Rapporteur recalls that States are prohibited from returning anyone to a situation where there are substantial grounds to believe that the person may be subject to torture or ill-treatment. The prohibition of refoulement is absolute and an important additional source of protection for women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons who fear such treatment in their countries of origin.

2. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in detention

34. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons who are deprived of their liberty are at particular risk of torture and ill-treatment, both within the criminal justice system and in other contexts such as immigration detention, medical establishments and drug rehabilitation centres. Criminal justice systems tend to overlook and neglect their specific needs at all levels. Transgender persons tend to be placed automatically in male or female prisons or wards without regard to their gender identity or expression.

35. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender detainees report higher rates of sexual, physical and psychological violence in detention than on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity than the general prison population (CAT/C/CRI/CO/2). Violence against these persons in custodial settings, whether by police, other law enforcement authorities, prison staff or other

⁸ European Court of Human Rights, application No. 12294/07, *Zontul v. Greece*, judgement of 17 January 2012.

prisoners, is prevalent (A/HRC/29/23). Fear of reprisals and a lack of trust in the complaints mechanisms frequently prevent lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in custody from reporting abuses. Their placement in solitary confinement or administrative segregation for their own “protection” can constitute an infringement on the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Authorities have a responsibility to take reasonable measures to prevent and combat violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender detainees by other detainees.

36. Humiliating and invasive body searches may constitute torture or ill-treatment, particularly for transgender detainees. In States where homosexuality is criminalized, men suspected of same-sex conduct are subject to non-consensual anal examinations intended to obtain physical evidence of homosexuality, a practice that is medically worthless and amounts to torture or ill-treatment (CAT/C/CR/29/4).

38. Adequate and effective complaint and oversight mechanisms are critical sources of protection for at-risk groups that experience abuses in detention. All too often proper safeguards are absent or lacking in independence and impartiality, while fear of reprisals and the stigma associated with reporting sexual violence and other humiliating practices discourage women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons from reporting. In many cases, the vulnerability and isolation of women and girls is compounded by limited access to legal representation, inability to pay fees or bail as a result of poverty, dependence on male relatives for financial support and fewer family visits.

39. All places of detention must be subject to unannounced visits by independent bodies established in conformity with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. The inclusion of women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and other minority representation on inspection bodies at all levels would help facilitate the reporting of gender-based violence and discrimination and identify cases of torture and ill-treatment.

D. Torture and ill-treatment of women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in health-care settings

42. Women are vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment when seeking medical treatment on the basis of actual or perceived non-conformity with socially determined gender roles (general comment No. 2). Discrimination against women, girls, and persons on the basis of sex, gender, real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and sex characteristics often underpins their torture and ill-treatment in health-care settings. This is particularly true when seeking treatments such as abortion that may contravene socialized gender roles and expectations. International human rights law increasingly recognizes that abuse and mistreatment of women seeking reproductive health services cause tremendous and lasting physical and emotional suffering, which is inflicted on the basis of gender (A/HRC/22/53). Health-care providers tend to exercise considerable authority over clients, placing women in a position of powerlessness, while the lack of legal and policy frameworks that effectively enable women to assert their right to access reproductive health services enhances their vulnerability to torture and ill-treatment.

Forced and coerced sterilization

45. Forced sterilization is an act of violence and a form of social control, and violates a person’s right to be free from torture and ill-treatment. Full, free and informed consent of the patient herself is critical and can never be excused on the basis of medical necessity or emergency when obtaining consent is still possible (A/HRC/22/53). Gender often intersects with other characteristics such as race, nationality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age and HIV status to render women and girls at risk of torture and other ill-treatment in the context of sterilization (CAT/C/CZE/CO/4-5, A/HRC/29/40/Add.2) The European Court of Human Rights found that the sterilization of a Roma woman who consented to the procedure only during delivery by caesarean section violated the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.⁹ Documented practices that may violate the prohibition of

⁹ Application No. 18968/07, *V.C. v. Slovakia*, judgement of 8 November 2011.

torture and ill-treatment include Government-sponsored family planning initiatives targeting economically disadvantaged and uneducated women that shortcut the process of obtaining consent, sterilization certificates required by employers and coerced sterilization of HIV-positive women in some States. Despite the fundamental rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, women and girls with disabilities are also particularly vulnerable to forced sterilization and other procedures such as imposed forms of contraception and abortion, especially when they are labelled “incompetent” and placed under guardianship (A/67/227).

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in health-care settings

48. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are frequently denied medical treatment and subjected to verbal abuse and public humiliation, psychiatric evaluations, forced procedures such as sterilization, “conversion” therapy, hormone therapy and genital-normalizing surgeries under the guise of “reparative therapies”. These procedures are rarely, if ever, medically necessary, lead to severe and life-long physical and mental pain and suffering and can amount to torture and ill-treatment (A/HRC/22/53). The criminalization of same-sex relationships and pervasive discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons lead to the denial of health care, information and related services, including the denial of HIV care, in clear violation of international human rights standards such as the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

49. Transgender persons often face difficulties in accessing appropriate health care, including discrimination on the part of health-care workers and a lack of knowledge about or sensitivity to their needs. In most States they are refused legal recognition of their preferred gender, which leads to grave consequences for the enjoyment of their human rights, including obstacles to accessing education, employment, health care and other essential services. In States that permit the modification of gender markers on identity documents abusive requirements can be imposed, such as forced or otherwise involuntary gender reassignment surgery, sterilization or other coercive medical procedures (A/HRC/29/23). Even in places with no legislative requirement, enforced sterilization of individuals seeking gender reassignment is common. These practices are rooted in discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, violate the rights to physical integrity and self-determination of individuals and amount to ill-treatment or torture.

50. In many States, children born with atypical sex characteristics are often subject to irreversible sex assignment, involuntary sterilization and genital normalizing surgery, which are performed without their informed consent or that of their parents, leaving them with permanent, irreversible infertility, causing severe mental suffering and contributing to stigmatization. In some cases, taboo and stigma lead to the killing of intersex infants.

Rape and sexual violence

51. It is well established that rape and other forms of sexual violence can amount to torture and ill-treatment.¹⁰ Rape constitutes torture when it is carried out by, at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of public officials (A/HRC/7/3). States are responsible for the acts of private actors when States fail to exercise due diligence to prevent, stop or sanction them, or to provide reparations to victims. In addition to physical trauma, the mental pain and suffering inflicted on victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence is often long-lasting due, inter alia, to subsequent stigmatization and isolation. This is particularly true in cases where the victim is shunned or formally banished from the family or community. Victims can also face difficulties in establishing or maintaining intimate relationships and a variety of other consequences, including sexually transmitted diseases, inability to bear children, unwanted pregnancy, miscarriage and forced or denial of abortion (A/HRC/7/3). Torture and ill-treatment of persons on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity is rampant in armed conflict and perpetrated by

¹⁰ European Court of Human Rights, application No. 39272/98, [M.C. v. Bulgaria, judgement of 4 December 2003](#); Inter-American Court of Human Rights, [Ortega et al. vs. Mexico](#), judgement of 30 August 2010.

State and non-State actors alike, with rape and other forms of sexual violence sometimes being used as a form of “moral cleansing” of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (S/2015/203, A/HRC/25/65).

57. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are disproportionately subjected to practices that amount to torture and ill-treatment for not conforming to socially constructed gender expectations (A/HRC/22/53). Violence motivated by homophobia and transphobia tends to be characterized by particularly brutal acts, often resulting in murder (A/HRC/19/41). Private actors typically inflict torture and ill-treatment on such persons in a climate of impunity as many States fail in their due diligence obligations to combat, prevent and remedy abuses. Lesbians and transgender women are at particular risk of mistreatment because of gender inequality and power relations within families and communities (ibid.). Sexual violence, including the practice of “corrective rape”, uniquely affects lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals (CEDAW/C/ZAF/CO/4). Discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons extends into the family sphere and can include placement in psychiatric institutions, forced marriage and honour-based violence (A/HRC/29/23).

Honour-based violence

59. Violence committed by family members against relatives in order to protect the family’s “honour” is a common practice around the world. In some communities honour is equated with the regulation of female sexuality and with women’s conformity with social norms and traditions. Women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are the most common victims of honour-based violence, which targets female sexuality and autonomy and individuals’ actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1).

67. Adequate redress requires States to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators and inform the public of results. States must ensure that judicial procedures and rules of evidence are gender responsive; that equal weight is afforded to the testimony of women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; and that the introduction of discriminatory evidence and the harassment of victims and witnesses are strictly prohibited.¹¹ The standards established by international courts should serve as an example for domestic courts to follow, for instance by implementing institutional gender-balance requirements and prohibiting the admission of evidence regarding the victims’ prior sexual conduct in cases of sexual, domestic and other gender-based violence.

Conclusions and recommendations

68. States have a heightened obligation to prevent and combat gender-based violence and discrimination against women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons that amount to torture and ill-treatment, committed in a variety of contexts by both State and actors. In assessing the level of pain and suffering experienced by victims of gender-based violence, States must examine the totality of the circumstances, including the victim’s social status; extant discriminatory legal, normative and institutional frameworks that reinforce gender stereotypes and exacerbate harm; and the long-term impact on victims’ physical and psychological well-being, enjoyment of other human rights and their ability to pursue life goals. The provision of comprehensive reparations, including monetary compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, is essential and must be accompanied by diverse measures and reforms designed to combat inequality and legal, structural and socioeconomic conditions that perpetuate gender-based discrimination. Urgent interim reparations designed to respond to the immediate needs of victims of gender-based violence, including rehabilitation and access to physical and mental health care, should also be provided where necessary.

¹¹ Committee against Torture, general comment No. 3 (2012) on implementation of article 14 by States parties.

69. States must repeal all laws that support the discriminatory and patriarchal oppression of women, inter alia laws that exclude marital rape from the crime of rape or grant pardon to rapists who marry their victims and laws that criminalize adultery. In addition, States must decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and repeal all laws that criminalize persons on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Comprehensive, coordinated policies and programmes to combat gender-based discrimination and violence, inclusive of gender-sensitive trainings of public officials and the implementation of public education and awareness campaigns, must be developed and implemented at all levels.

(d) Enact legislation that prohibits discrimination by public actors and private parties, including hate crime laws that sanction homophobic and transphobic violence; ensure that appropriate laws apply to all persons equally, regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity; and implement effective complaint and enforcement procedures and systems for quantifying prohibited acts.

(q) Ensure that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are individually assessed, including with respect to their need for protection, and that adequate screening and assessment procedures are in place to identify victims of torture and ill-treatment; provide opportunities for safe, voluntary and dignified disclosure of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status; and ensure that measures taken by migration authorities do not retraumatize victims;

(r) In the context of administrative enforcement of immigration policies, ensure that detention is used only as a last resort and in exceptional circumstances; and comply with the absolute prohibition of refoulement at all times, with special attention to prospective situations of gender-based discrimination and violence that women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons may face;

(s) Take individuals' gender identity and choice into account prior to placement and provide opportunities to appeal placement decisions;

(t) Ensure that protective measures do not involve the imposition of more restrictive conditions on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons than on other detainees;

(u) Guarantee all transgender detainees the choice of being searched by male or female officers;

(w) Set up operational protocols, codes of conduct, regulations and training modules for the ongoing monitoring and analysis of discrimination against women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons with regard to access to all services and rehabilitation programmes in detention; and document, investigate, sanction and redress complaints of imbalance and direct or indirect discrimination in accessing services and complaint mechanisms;

(y) Ensure that all places of detention are subjected to effective oversight and inspection and unannounced visits by independent bodies established in conformity with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as by civil society monitors; and ensure the inclusion of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and other minority representation on monitoring bodies;

(z) Undertake specific training and capacity-building programmes designed to sensitize law enforcement authorities and detention facility staff to the specific circumstances and unique needs of female and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender prisoners and standards such as the Bangkok Rules.

72. With regard to abuses in health-care settings, the Special Rapporteur calls upon States to:

(g) Undertake appropriate training sessions and community-level gender-sensitization campaigns to combat discriminatory gender stereotypes underlying discrimination and abuses in the provision of health-care services to women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons;

(h) Adopt transparent and accessible legal gender recognition procedures and abolish requirements for sterilization and other harmful procedures as preconditions;

(i) Repeal laws that allow intrusive and irreversible treatments of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including, *inter alia*, genital-normalizing surgeries and “reparative” or “conversion” therapies, whenever they are enforced or administered without the free and informed consent of the person concerned;

(j) Prohibit and prevent the discriminatory denial of medical care and of pain relief, including HIV treatment, to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

73. With regard to domestic and private-actor violence against women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the Special Rapporteur calls upon States to:

(a) Repeal or reform civil laws that restrict women’s access to divorce, property and inheritance rights and that subjugate women and limit their ability to escape situations of domestic and other gender-based violence;

(b) Dismantle legal and practical barriers to initiating legal proceedings and reform judicial systems and procedures to permit women to obtain protective measures, including, *inter alia*, restraining and protective orders, witness protection programmes and other measures designed to combat harassment and retaliation;

(c) Provide community support programmes and services, including shelters, to victims and their dependents;

(d) Enact legislation that prohibits discrimination by public actors and private parties, including hate crime laws that sanction homophobic and transphobic violence; ensure that appropriate laws apply to all persons equally, regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity; and implement effective complaint and enforcement procedures and systems for quantifying prohibited acts.

(g) Undertake appropriate training sessions and community-level gender-sensitization campaigns to combat discriminatory gender stereotypes underlying discrimination and abuses in the provision of health-care services to women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons;

(h) Adopt transparent and accessible legal gender recognition procedures and abolish requirements for sterilization and other harmful procedures as preconditions;

(i) Repeal laws that allow intrusive and irreversible treatments of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including, *inter alia*, genital-normalizing surgeries and “reparative” or “conversion” therapies, whenever they are enforced or administered without the free and informed consent of the person concerned;

(j) Prohibit and prevent the discriminatory denial of medical care and of pain relief, including HIV treatment, to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

UPDATE 4 17/02/16**8. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL RIGHTS.
A/HRC/31/59**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/SRCulturalRightsIndex.aspx>

19. The Special Rapporteur has been particularly disturbed by recent political discourses of exclusion, sometimes directed at entire religious or other groups. One of her key commitments is to promote the enjoyment of cultural rights without any discrimination, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, migrant status, disability or poverty. Committed to integrate both disability and gender perspectives into her work as emphasized by the terms of her mandate, she will also give particular focus to the equal cultural rights of women. Moreover, she plans to pay close attention generally to the cultural rights of those at heightened risk of human rights violations due to group or other status.

29. The Special Rapporteur believes that this innovative approach to the question of women's rights is valid for many other groups that are the victims of human rights violations justified in the name of tradition, religion, or culture. It paves the way for future similar work to be done concerning other subordinated groups, be it persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons or people living in extreme poverty, for example.

**9. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES. A/HRC/31/62****A. Importance of effective and meaningful participation****1. Participation for enhanced decisions: diverse perspectives for better outcomes**

25. Diversity is a fundamental aspect of human existence. Human beings experience life from different perspectives in accordance with their multiple human traits or identities: sex, race, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, language, religion, origin, age, disability or any other status. This diversity is reflected in the way in which people take decisions, exercise agency and participate in society. Persons with disabilities are part of this human diversity and, arguably, embody one of the most heterogeneous population groups. Notwithstanding, despite decades of efforts, in practice persons with disabilities continue to face barriers to their participation as equal members of society, all over the world. They rarely occupy positions in governments, their opinions are seldom considered, and they are usually not consulted in policymaking, including on matters directly affecting them.

B. Ensuring the participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities**8. Inclusiveness**

60. States must promote the participation of persons with disabilities across all population groups, including those historically discriminated against or disadvantaged, such as indigenous people, poor or rural-based persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and others. States must also ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities from throughout the life cycle are heard (particularly those of children, adolescents and older persons) and from across the whole range of impairments and experiences of disability (including deaf persons, autistic persons, deafblind persons, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities).

UPDATE 5 24/02/16**10. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF ON HIS MISSION TO BANGLADESH. A/HRC/31/18/Add.2.**

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/18/Add.2

B. Freedom of religion or belief of hijras and other sexual minorities

92. Transgender persons — biological males who identify as female — are also known as “hijras” in South Asia. They are usually accepted in their societies, including Bangladesh. However, by their difference, people reportedly believe that they own a different set of religious practices — quite similar to some Hindu rituals — developed just for their community. Indeed, many hijras actually participate in mainstream religious life, for instance, by attending the Friday prayer or participating in church services.

93. Unlike the case of the hijras, other sexual minorities do not find much acceptance in society and often experience verbal or other abuse. The idea that individuals belonging to sexual minorities should be able to exercise their freedom of religion or belief like everyone else may strike many people as unusual or even unthinkable. It seems to be a widespread perception in Bangladesh that persons belonging to sexual minorities must be “non-believers” since their conduct is seen in breach of traditional interpretations of religious ethics. However, many individuals belonging to sexual minorities in fact identify themselves as believers of different faiths.

94. Freedom of religion or belief of persons belonging to sexual minorities is a very much underexplored issue that warrants more international attention. Diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are a reality in every society and not an invention imposed from abroad, as some may be inclined to think.

95. The only question is whether and how to recognize this reality. An opening-up in this regard helps to overcome prejudices and unsubstantiated anxieties, thus giving more breathing space to human beings who otherwise would be forced to conceal important aspects of their personal identity. The Special Rapporteur would like to stress that the right to freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed for every single human being, so no one should be deprived the right on the basis of sexuality, gender, ethnicity or caste. He has heard of encouraging initiatives by representatives of sexual minorities and religious community leaders in South Asia, including some from Bangladesh, who met to discuss and better understand these issues.

11. REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA. A/HRC/31/48.

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/48

B. Cooperation with international human rights protection mechanisms**1. Universal periodic review**

68. The country office’s advocacy work and technical assistance led to the submission of the second periodic report of Guinea to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GIN/1), which was considered on 20 January 2015. Following its consideration, 194 recommendations were made to the Government. In its reply of June 2015, the Government accepted 180 of the recommendations and took note of the other 14, which mainly concerned the abolition of the death penalty and the protection of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons.

UPDATE 6 26/02/16

12. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. A/HRC/31/31.

17. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, in partnership with the Scottish Human Rights Commission, has worked on the development of the Human Rights Measurement Framework for England, Scotland and Wales. The framework aims to provide a set of indicators to measure human rights progress and help the Commission in fulfilling its monitoring and reporting mandate, including to Parliament. Its work includes extensive consultations with a range of government agencies and human rights and civil society organizations, as well as maintaining a dedicated website for online consultations. The indicators developed come from varied sources of data, including alternative sources such as events-based data collected by human rights organizations and United Nations human rights mechanisms. The indicators developed have been used in the Commission's latest report *Is Britain Fairer?* in relation to equality of opportunity and freedom from unlawful discrimination and harassment. Detailed information on indicators and their analysis are available by "domain", namely: life; health; physical security; legal security; education; standard of living; productive and valued activities; individual, family and social life; identity, expression and self-respect; and participation, influence and voice. A special effort was made to measure disparities, drawing from a range of data disaggregated by age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Evidence is also presented for people who are in vulnerable positions, such as asylum seekers and people resident or detained in public and private institutions, including children in foster care and homeless persons.¹²

13. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT ON HIS MISSION TO BRAZIL. A/HRC/31/57/ADD.4.

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/57/Add.4

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

32. The Special Rapporteur notes with concern that little data exist on lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in conflict with the law in Brazil. Few people declare themselves as such in prison, the great majority of incidents are not reported due to fear of retaliation from the perpetrator(s), and there is little interest in mapping such incidents.

33. From the information available, the Special Rapporteur understands that they are the target of systematic threats and serious harm to their physical and psychological integrity, including sexual violence and killings during arrests and detention, by police and penitentiary agents, as well as by fellow inmates.

34. Joint resolution 1/2014 of the National Council on Criminal and Penitentiary Policies and the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Council provides that lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are entitled to specific wings and cells. Compulsory transfers are, in principle, considered a violation, but the resolution foresees no sanctions in the event of breaches. In terms of

¹² See "Human Rights Measurement Framework: Prototype panels, indicator set and evidence base" (available at www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/human-rights/human-rights-measurement-framework); and *Is Britain Fairer? The State of Equality and Human Rights 2015* (available at www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/key-projects/britain-fairer-0).

access, according to Infopen, in 2014 only about 5 per cent of establishments had special cells for this group. The resolution is unclear about how and by whom searches of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people must be conducted. Implementation is left up to each institution, and there are no sanctions for non-compliance.

35. The joint resolution is undoubtedly a positive step; however, the Special Rapporteur is concerned that it could contribute to the further exclusion and isolation of such persons, depending on how it is implemented.

36. In terms of access to health services, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are, relative to the rest of the prison population, likely to be additionally affected by inadequacies stemming from overcrowding. In that regard, the joint resolution establishes

that the national health policies relating to lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including access to hormone treatment, also apply in prisons.

B. Recommendations

146. In a spirit of cooperation and partnership, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government, with appropriate assistance from the international community, take decisive steps to implement the recommendations outlined below.

147. With regard to legislation, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Brazil:

(e) Take measures to eliminate discrimination against minority groups, including based on race, sexual orientation and gender identity;

(f) Ensure that all states follow the recommendation contained in the joint resolution (1/2014) of the National Council on Criminal and Penitentiary Policies and the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Council, to establish separate cells for persons who are particularly exposed because of sexual orientation and gender identity, and protect them against exclusion and isolation;

14. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC. A/HRC/31/68.

B. Fracturing of communities

106. In September, fighters from Jabhat al-Nusra and anti-government armed groups executed seven men in Rastan city (Homs) on accusations of homosexuality. An unauthorized court, functioning on behalf of all armed groups from the area, ordered the executions.

113. ISIS continues to target sexual minorities for execution. In August, the terrorist group released a video showing two men being thrown from a building in Tadmur as punishment for allegedly committing homosexual acts.

Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. **A/HRC/31/19.**

Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. **A/HRC/31/20.**

Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. **A/HRC/31/22.**

Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. **A/HRC/31/23.**

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system. **A/HRC/31/25.**

Outcome of the panel discussion on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service. Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. **A/HRC/31/28.**

Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the arbitrary deprivation of nationality on the enjoyment of the rights of children concerned, as well as on the existing laws and practices on accessibility for children to acquire nationality, inter alia, of the country in which they are born, if they otherwise would be stateless. **A/HRC/31/29.**

Study of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of persons with disabilities on article 11 of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. **A/HRC/31/30.**

Analytical study of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (note by the Secretariat). **A/HRC/31/36.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. **A/HRC/31/51.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food on her mission to the Philippines. **A/HRC/51/add.1.**

Summary report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on the expert seminar on the effective implementation of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, challenges thereto and the way forward. **A/HRC/31/53.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, on her mission to Cape Verde. **A/HRC/31/54/Add.1.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Georgia. **A/HRC/31/57/Add.3.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her mission to the Republic of Moldova. **A/HRC/31/62/Add.1.**

Outcome of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. **A/HRC/31/82.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on her visit to Botswana. **A/HRC/31/Add.1.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on her mission to Botswana: comments by the State. **A/HRC/31/Add.2.**

Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. **A/HRC/31/60.**

Final study on illicit financial flows, human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. **A/HRC/31/61.**

Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. **A/HRC/63.**

Progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on its research-based report on the activities of vulture funds and the impact on human rights. **A/HRC/67.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. **A/HRC/70.**

Report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations of special procedures. **A/HRC/31/24.**

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1. **A/HRC/31/40.**

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/22/63). **A/HRC/31/42.**

Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan. **A/HRC/31/43.**

Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. **A/HRC/31/44.**

Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali. **A/HRC/31/76.**

Report of the Independent Expert on the enhancement of capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights. **A/HRC/31/78.**

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on technical cooperation and capacity-building to promote and protect the rights of all migrants, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. **A/HRC/31/80.**

Situation of migrants in transit - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. **A/HRC/31/35.**

Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on its role and achievements, including on the field-based structure established to strengthen the monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. **A/HRC/31/38.**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. **A/HRC/31/56.**

Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. **A/HRC/31/68.**