

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LEBANON

BELGIUM

- Is the Government of Lebanon considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Government of Lebanon considering ratifying the optional protocols to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- Is the Government of Lebanon considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?
- Is the Government of Lebanon considering ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees?
- A considerable number of reports from Lebanon to the treaty bodies are overdue. What measures has Lebanon taken to remedy this?
- The CEDAW has expressed concern about Lebanon's reluctance to withdraw its reservation to article 9 (2) so as to allow Lebanese women to pass their nationality to their children and foreign spouses. How has Lebanon addressed this concern?
- The CEDAW has also called upon Lebanon to ensure equality for women in marriage and its dissolution, by giving women equal rights to property accumulated during marriage. Have any measures been taken to respond to this call?
- The CEDAW has expressed concern at provisions in the Penal Code which allow for mitigation of penalties for crimes committed in the name of honor, tolerate marital rape and allow for charges to be dropped in rape cases. Has Lebanon considered amending its Penal Code?
- Has Lebanon acted upon the recommendation reiterated by CEDAW in 2008 to urgently adopt a unified personal status code in line with the Convention and applicable to all women in Lebanon, regardless of their religion?
- Has the Government of Lebanon included provisions on domestic violence in the Penal Code, and has it moved cases of domestic violence from religious courts to the civil court system?
- Has the Government of Lebanon undertaken steps to raise the very low minimum age of criminal responsibility?

- In 2006, the CRC expressed concern that the minimum age for marriage still depends on a person's religious beliefs and belonging. Has this concern been addressed since then?
- Has the Government of Lebanon taken measures to prohibit the practice of early and/or forced marriage?
- The CRC has expressed concern at the low level of enrolment in secondary education of Palestinian refugee children, particularly girls. How has the Government of Lebanon addressed this concern?
- The CERD has urged Lebanon to take measures to ameliorate the situation of Palestinian refugees and, as a minimum, amend legislative provisions and policies that have a discriminatory effect on the Palestinian population in comparison with other noncitizens. Has the Government of Lebanon taken such measures?
- Is the Government of Lebanon considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Does the Government of Lebanon intend to respond positively to the request for a visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery?
- In 2009, the Working Group on enforced disappearances noted that since its establishment, the Working Group had transmitted 320 cases to the Government, of which 312 remained outstanding. What concrete measures have been undertaken to address this high number of outstanding cases?
- The Special Rapporteur on Trafficking has recommended the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements in areas requiring cooperation with countries sending large numbers of migrant workers, as well as the amendment of the Penal Code to criminalize all forms of trafficking. Has the Government of Lebanon been undertaking steps to implement these recommendations?
- The ILO Committee of Experts recently recommended that amendments to the Labor Code regarding the sale and trafficking of children be adopted as a matter of urgency. Is the Government of Lebanon swiftly going to act upon this recommendation?
- The ILO Committee of Experts also noted that the phenomenon of child labour existed on a wide scale in Palestinian refugee camps and surrounding areas. How is the Government of Lebanon addressing this phenomenon?
- The CRC recommended that Lebanon continue to address the issue of street children by adopting a comprehensive national strategy to provide these children with official documents and adequate assistance, including recovery and social reintegration services. Have steps been undertaken to adopt such a comprehensive national strategy?

UNITED KINGDOM

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you inform us as to whether an independent national human rights institution exists in your country and operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions?
- Could you elaborate further on your National Human Rights Plan? How close to implementation are the plans and what role will civil society play in monitoring and evaluating the success of the plan?
- We would like to know more about the draft law for the abolition of the death penalty, the reasons behind it not being adopted yet and if Lebanon is planning to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- How will the Internal Security Forces monitor the effectiveness of their human rights training? We would welcome more information on what practical safeguards are in place to prevent torture occurring, and what procedures are in place to investigate accusations of torture.
- It is now 3 years since fighting finished in Nahr el Bared, and the camp remains under strict security measures that stifle the economy and freedom of movement. What steps is the government taking to address these specific concerns of Palestinian refugees?
- When will the practical implementations of the new employment legislation for Palestinians begin?
