

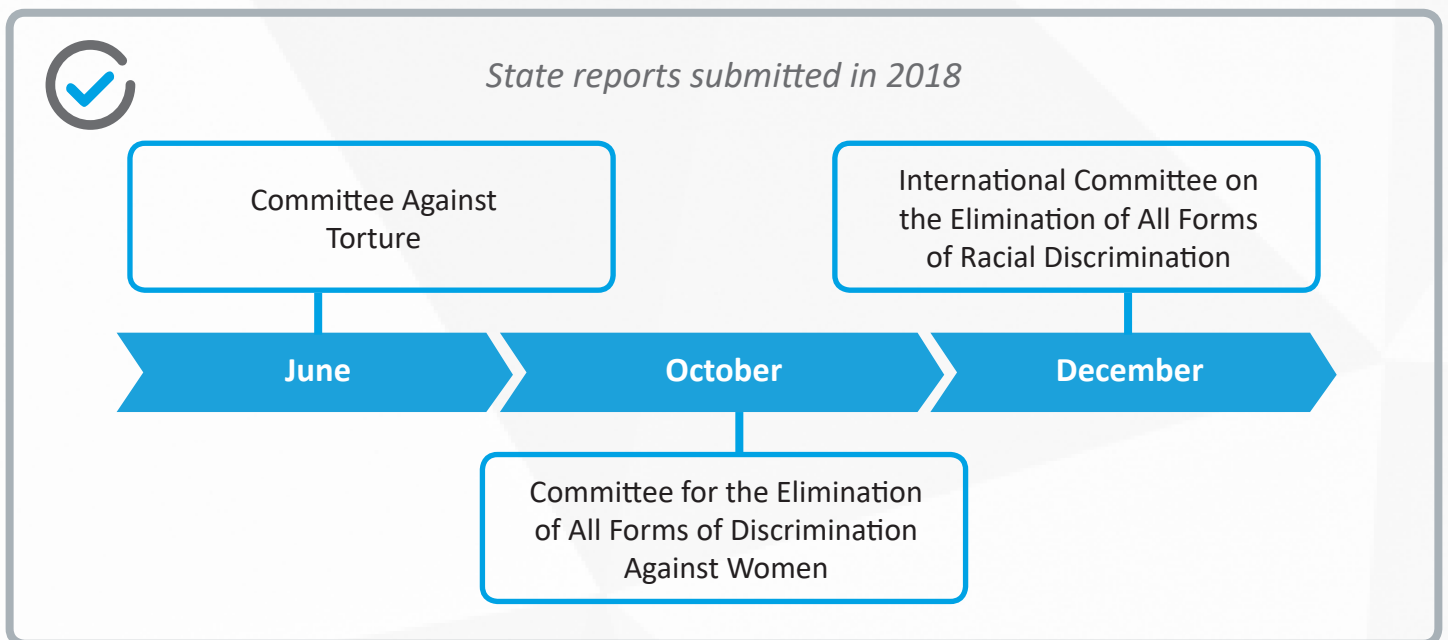
Annual Report 2018

The Situation of Human Rights in Lebanon

In 2018, the Lebanese government took some positive steps towards promoting human rights and showed willingness to comply with certain human rights matters. However, it clearly lacked the capacity and political will to further improve legislation, enforce laws, uphold the country's international obligations, and create meaningful change. This remained the strongest obstacle for the protection, promotion, and fulfillment of human rights in Lebanon, as did the lack of public support and awareness on certain rights. The following report highlights Lebanon's improvements and setbacks in the most pressing human rights issues throughout 2018.



Cooperation with international human rights bodies



 *Establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) which:*

- Communicates with international and regional human rights bodies
- Prepares reports and replies to communications from Special Rapporteurs

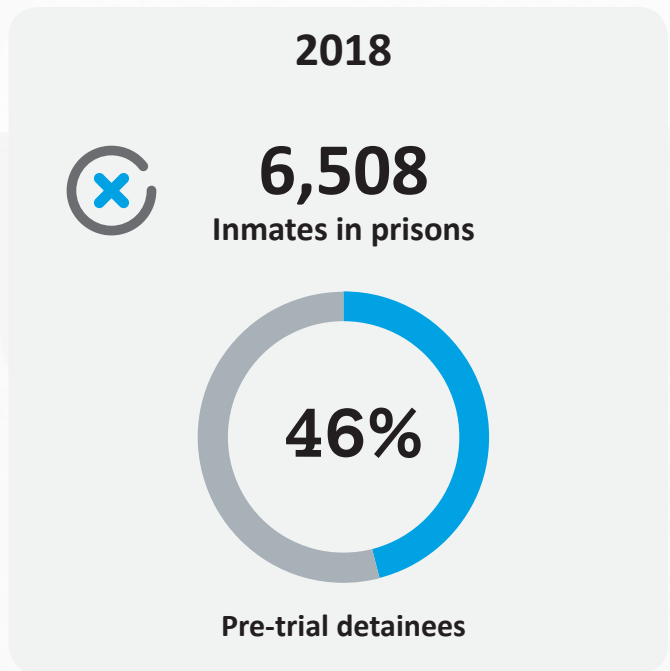
 Only 2 of 5 communications to Special Rapporteurs in 2018 were replied to by the Lebanese government.





Arbitrary detention and guarantees of fair trial

The pretext of a “challenging security situation”, as a justification to deprive individuals of their liberty and right to fair trial, violates internationally protected rights and guarantees.



Exceptional courts



In terms of judicial independence, Lebanon ranked 105 out of 137 states in the 2018 Global Competitive Index, regressing from its rank as 101st of 138 states in 2017.

105
137

Main exceptional courts in Lebanon

The Supreme Council

- Looks into cases against the President of the Republic, Prime Minister, and ministers
- Has never exercised its duties

The Military Court

- In 2018, a total of 544 civilians were sentenced by the Military Court in absentia, 70 of which were tried for drug- related crimes

The Judicial Council

- Is vulnerable to pressures by the executive branch and political figures
- Utilizes article 108 of the Criminal Code of Procedure to justify holding suspects in pre-trial detention indefinitely
- Lacks an appeals system

Personal Status Courts

Press Offenses Court

Monopoly and Fraud Court

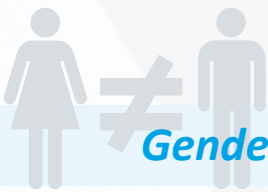
Juvenile Court



Torture



The **persistent use** of torture against vulnerable communities, despite the creation of laws to prevent it, is **deeply concerning**. The Lebanese judiciary **completely failed** to implement the new law **criminalizing torture**.



Gender-based discrimination



Lebanon ranked **140th** out of 149 countries in terms of gender equality in the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report, while it ranked **137rd** out of 144 countries in 2017.

140
—
149

Gender inequality

Gender-based assault/
harassment

Discrimination against
the LGBTQ+ community



Women's possibilities to political empowerment in Lebanon are **97.6%** lower than for men, the third lowest in global comparison.

97%

2009 elections

12

women ran for office

4

were elected to parliament



2018 elections

86

women ran for office

6

were elected to parliament

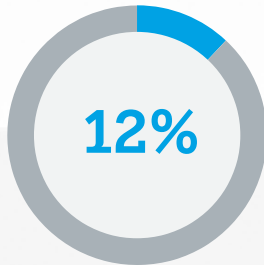


Child rights

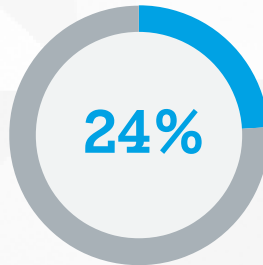
Children are deprived of an education and are being pulled out of school to work to provide for their families, or due to the costs of transportation or educational material.



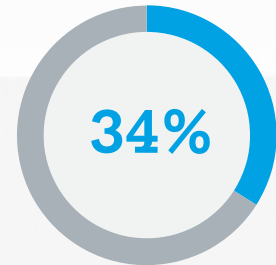
Among Lebanese and non-Lebanese children



Primary school age children are out of school



Lower secondary school age children are out of school



Upper secondary school age children are out of school

Between 5% and 7% of refugee children are engaged in child labor.



Refugees and asylum-seekers

Syrian refugees

110,000 refugees are estimated to have returned to Syria from Lebanon in 2018 .

Registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon



Despite claims by the Lebanese government that all the returns are voluntary, international organizations expressed concerns regarding the conditions of the return. Rapidly deteriorating conditions of displacement are serving as push factors for return.

Syrian refugee households living below the national poverty line

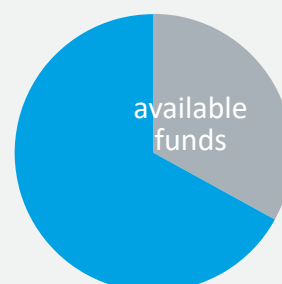


Syrian refugees who do not have a residence permit



Problems in funding pose additional barriers to refugees' access to services in Lebanon:

Only **1/3** of the USD **2.291 billion** required to provide adequate support to Syrian refugees in Lebanon: was available in 2018



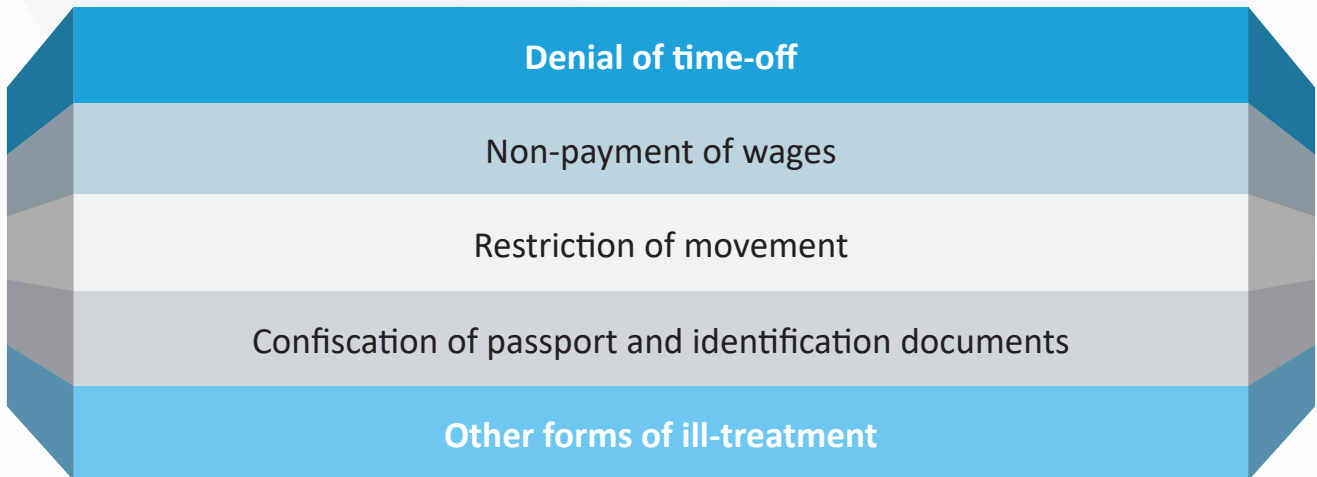


Migrant Domestic Workers



Lebanon hosts over **250,000** migrant domestic workers. Due to several **protection gaps** within the Lebanese sponsorship system, migrant workers remain at risk of **exploitation** by their sponsors.

Persistent Abuses in 2018



Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Peaceful Meetings and Demonstrations



28

individuals have been arrested or summoned for questioning for expressing their opinions, threatening the right to free speech, out of at least 50 such cases since 2016

100
—
180

According to the World Press Freedom Index, Lebanon ranks 100th out of 180 countries in terms of press freedom



Elections



In May 2018, Lebanon witnessed its first parliamentary elections since 2009. The general election witnessed the emergence of candidates' coalitions from non-traditional parties.

This election saw:

A new electoral law allowing for proportional entry into parliament

The formation of an Electoral Supervisory Committee (ESC) whose role excluded organizing and overseeing electoral practices

Several electoral frauds and miscounts



16 Appeals were registered at the Constitutional Council

3600 Critical incidents reported in the election process by Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)

50 Complaints filed by citizens and candidates to the ESC

45 Additional complaints referred by the ESC to the judiciary



Environment



The solutions for the ongoing waste management crisis have focused primarily on finding alternative dump sites, instead of concentrating on adopting sustainable environment policies.

Law 80 passed in September 2018

Addresses **solid waste management**

Bans **openly burning waste** and penalizes violations



Enforced Disappearances

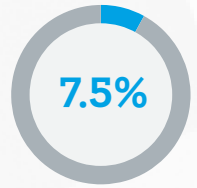
17,415 Lebanese citizens reported as disappeared



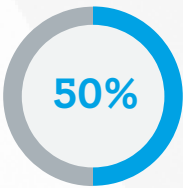
Right to Health



Lebanon is performing far behind developing countries, with a national spending on healthcare as merely **7.5%** of the GDP.



The public healthcare sector it is severely underfunded, underequipped, under-qualified, and **unable to provide** basic affordable health care.



The right to health is further violated by the costly Lebanese health care system. Almost **50%** of the Lebanese population cannot access affordable medical coverage, including emergency care.



Total of people living with HIV/AIDS in Lebanon has been **on the rise** due to a general lack of awareness on sexual and reproductive health.

Cases Of HIV/AIDS in Lebanon



Labor and Social Security



The main issue regarding labor rights is that the Lebanese Labor Law is non-inclusive.

The law does not apply to:

Domestic workers employed in private households



Agricultural corporations that have no connection with trade or industry

Family businesses employing only family members



Day laborers in municipal or governments services

Staff of "Electricite du Liban" and wage-earners who are not governed by Civil Servant Regulations





The Right to Life, Liberty, and Security of Persons



Armed Violence

73

At least 73 shootings recorded as individual acts of violence in 2018, decreasing from 111 incidents in 2017.

Homicides in Lebanon



Kidnapping

17

At least 17 cases of kidnapping registered in 2018, decreasing from 25 such cases in 2017.



Death Penalty

82

Convicts with death sentences identified in Lebanese prisons

34

Death sentences issued by the Military Court in absentia