

The National Centre for Human Rights

Key Achievements of the National Centre for Human Rights for the Year 2023

The Centre crowned its achievements by retaining “A” status accreditation for the third consecutive time from the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions; and by the election of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the National Centre as a member of the Governance Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF).

This report on the achievements of the National Centre for Human Rights for the year 2023 sets out the tasks discharged by the Centre’s commissions and directorates — monitoring, legislative, training and participatory alike — for the protection and promotion of human rights, pursuant to the powers vested in the Centre by virtue of the National Centre for Human Rights Act No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments, during the year 2023. These tasks and activities constituted the principal source and the cornerstone upon which the substance and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Annual Report were built.

Achievements of the Protection Commission for the Year 2023

The Protection Commission comprises four directorates, namely: the Directorate of Civil and Political Rights; the Directorate of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Directorate of Groups Most in Need of Protection; and the Directorate of International Mechanisms and Report Preparation.

First: Directorate of Civil and Political Rights

The Directorate comprises three units: the Complaints, Follow-up and Cessation of Violations Unit; the Criminal Justice Unit; and the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Unit.

Complaints, Follow-up and Cessation of Violations Unit: The Unit received (576) complaints during the period extending from November to January of the year 2023; (170) legal opinions were submitted concerning the complaints received, and (883) communications were addressed to the entities concerned.

Criminal Justice Unit: The Unit carried out a series of unannounced field visits to temporary detention centres, amounting to (43) visits, together with one visit to the detention centre of the General Intelligence Department. As regards visits to correction and rehabilitation centres, the Unit carried out (100) visits, including (4) visits to hospital custody wards.

Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Unit

1. Monitoring the supplementary municipal elections in Jerash Governorate (the Bab Amman municipality elections).
2. Monitoring the elections of the Administrative Board of the Union of Charitable Societies – Zarqa Governorate Branch.
3. Carrying out (80) monitoring missions and (9) fact-finding missions.

Second: Directorate of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Directorate comprises two units: the Right to Education Unit, and the Right to Health, Food and Environment Unit.

Key achievements of the Directorate during the year 2022 [as stated in the source]:

1. Conducting a field visit to the Bab Al-Salam factory in Sahab Industrial City.
2. Monitoring and following up the strike of the workers of the Iron and Steel Company.
3. Monitoring and following up the sit-in of the pensioners of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, calling for the withdrawal of health insurance from the current insurance company and its return under the umbrella of the Phosphate Company.
4. Monitoring and following up the march of the independent trade unions calling for freedom of trade union organisation and for the amendment of the Labour Act in conformity with international conventions.

Third: Directorate of Groups Most Vulnerable to Violation

The Directorate comprises two units: the Women's Rights Unit, and the Unit for Persons with Disabilities, Older Persons, Juveniles and Children.

1. Preparing the Sixth Shadow Report on the national report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. Preparing a specialised report on monitoring the reality of the rights of persons with disabilities in benefiting from banks and banking services.
3. Monitoring the conditions of the rights of women, persons with disabilities and older persons in the industrial sector, through field visits to the Union of Workers in the Spinning and Weaving Industry in the Sahab and Dhulail areas and the Dhulail Labour Office; the Tafilah Centre for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities; the shelter and rehabilitation home for women "Amneh"; the education and rehabilitation home for girls in Zarqa; and the Family Reconciliation Home in Aqaba and Irbid Governorates.
4. Monitoring the conditions of children with disabilities and orphaned children in numerous institutions, including: the Model School for Special Education; King Hussein Orphanage in Irbid Governorate; and King Abdullah II Orphanage in Salt.
5. Monitoring the child's right to play by visiting eight public parks (Housing Bank Park, Ta'reeb Al-Jaysh, Zahran, Salah Al-Din, Prince Hashem Bird Park, Journalists' Park, Shafa Badran, Al-Manhal School Park, and Aya Aghabi Park).
6. Monitoring the conditions of older persons in: Al-Zahraa Home for Older Persons; Al-Amal Centre for Older Persons; and Bayt Al-Ziyara for Older Women.
7. Monitoring the right of women to access justice at the Amman Shari'a Court, and monitoring the right of women to access justice at the Ghor Al-Safi Shari'a Court.
8. Monitoring the conditions of women workers in the agricultural sector through two visits to two farms in the Karameh area of the Middle Jordan Valley.
9. Holding a round table concerning the shadow report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
10. Holding two seminars on the occasion of International Women's Day at the University of Jordan and Al al-Bayt University.
11. Holding an awareness session entitled "The Protection of Women from Violence: A Legal Perspective" for the beneficiaries of the shelter and rehabilitation home for women at risk, "Amneh".

Achievements of the Promotion Commission for the Year 2022 [as stated in the source]

The Promotion Commission comprises three directorates, namely: the Directorate of Awareness-Raising and Training; the Directorate of Studies and Documentation; and the Directorate of Legislation; in addition to the Projects Unit.

First: Directorate of Awareness-Raising and Training

1. Delivering (13) lectures on human rights for officers and personnel of the Public Security Directorate; (8) lectures and workshops on numerous human rights subjects for school pupils; and (10) lectures for university students and civil society organisations.
2. Organising (4) training courses targeting official institutions and the students of the Judicial Institute.
3. Holding two seminars: the first on fair trials and human rights, and the second on the Universal Declaration and double standards in the application of international norms.

Second: Directorate of Studies and Documentation

1. Reviewing and editing the Annual Report for the years 2022 and 2023.
2. Preparing a matrix addressing the recommendations of the National Centre for Human Rights and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review.
3. Preparing a report on the extent of enforcement of the Centre's recommendations during 2012–2020.
4. Preparing a design for a study on the level of societal awareness of human rights.
5. Strengthening the mechanism of cooperation between the National Centre for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education (updating the memorandum of understanding between the two parties) for the purpose of preparing a study on the level of awareness of human rights among pupils and teachers.
6. Submitting a working mechanism for the activation of the Quadripartite Human Rights Forum.
7. Submitting a legal opinion on the Associations Act.
8. Submitting a legal opinion on the Political Parties Act.

Third: Directorate of Legislation

Preparing a number of legal opinions (the position of the Centre) concerning:

1. The draft Social Security Act.
2. The extradition agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Romania, and between the Kingdom and the Republic of Cyprus.
3. The Guarantee of the Right of Access to Information Act No. (47) of 2007.
4. The notification to the administrative governor of the activities intended to be carried out by the National Centre, in accordance with the provisions of the National Centre for Human Rights Act and the Public Assemblies Act.
5. The Cybercrime Act No. (17) of 2023.
6. The Instructions on the Regulation of Student Party Activities in Higher Education Institutions of 2023.
7. The draft amendment to the Pension Fund Regulation for Members of the Engineers Association of 2023.
8. The unified employment contract for workers in the private education sector.
9. The Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Domestic Observers of 2023.

10. Preparing a legislative matrix of Jordanian laws and the amendments made thereto.

Achievements of the Directorate of International Relations

The International and Public Relations Unit of the Centre took care to facilitate the Centre's participation in the following events:

1. The meeting of the Arab Human Rights Committee (the Charter Committee), to attend the proceedings of the Twenty-First Special Session for the consideration of the combined second and third report submitted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan — Cairo, 30–31/1/2023.
2. Participation in the international conference on “Climate Change and Human Rights” — Qatar, 21–22/3/2023.
3. The Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions — Geneva, 14–16/3/2023.
4. The meeting of the Twenty-First Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission — Jeddah, 21–25/5/2023.
5. The meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions — Cairo, 29–30/7/2023.
6. Participation in the international conference on “The Impact of Human Activity on the Right to a Healthy and Adequate Environment: Practices, Challenges and Solutions” — Bahrain, 19–20/9/2023.
7. The meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions — India, 20–21 September.
8. Participation in the 33rd Anabtawi Course, under the title “Promoting Environmental Rights and Climate Justice in the Arab Region” — Tunis, 27/9/2023.
9. Participation in the Second Conference of National Institutions and Representatives of Arab Ministries of the Interior — Cairo, 19–20/9/2023.
10. Participation in the regional forum on “The Future of Education in the Arab Region and Human Rights Education and Training” — Cairo, 18–19/10/2023.
11. The meeting of the delegation of the Arab Network with the High Commissioner for Human Rights — Geneva, 15/11/2023.
12. The Twenty-Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum — New Delhi, 20–21/9/2023.
13. Participation in the 4th Mohamed Fayek Course — Cairo, 22–23/11/2023.

Capacity-Building of the Centre's Staff

With a view to enhancing institutional capacity and building the capacities and skills of the General Secretariat of the Centre, the Centre participated in a number of conferences, training courses, workshops, and research and discussion sessions, the most important of which were the following:

1. Participation in the dialogue session on the amendment of the Associations Act, organised by the Adaleh Centre for Legal Aid.
2. Participation in the training course on planning and implementing monitoring, evaluation and accountability, organised by the Asia Pacific Forum via the Zoom application.
3. Participation in the workshop on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, in cooperation with the Office of the Government Coordinator / Prime Ministry.
4. Participation in the evaluation session on the preparation of the legislative agenda / economic participation axis, organised by the Jordanian National Commission for Women.
5. Participation in an international conference on “Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms in the Field of Counter-Terrorism”, organised by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law.

6. Participation in the policy dialogue programme entitled “The Role of Political Parties in Integrating Youth and Women Leaders into Party Work and Public Life”, in cooperation with the Jordanian Women’s Solidarity Institute (Tadamun).
7. Participation in the course on the prevention of torture, organised by the Asia Pacific Forum (APF).
8. Participation in the introductory session on the annual report of the “Better Work Jordan” programme, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and the Ministry of Labour.
9. Participation in the workshop on the economic empowerment of women, organised by the Jordanian Women’s Solidarity Institute Society.
10. Participation in a training course on mechanisms for drafting policy papers, organised by the National Council for Family Affairs.
11. Participation in the evaluation session on the preparation of the legislative agenda / economic participation axis, organised by the Jordanian National Commission for Women.
12. Participation in the workshop on the mental health report for workers in the garment sector, organised by the International Labour Organization.
13. Participation in the dialogue session for the discussion of the annual report on labour protests in Jordan for the year 2022, organised by the Phenix Centre for Economic Studies.
14. Participation in the workshop on grievance mechanisms for workers in the garment sector, organised by the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development.
15. Participation in the workshop of the team concerned with the preparation of the national report and the recommendations relating to Goal Three of the Sustainable Development Goals, “Good Health and Well-being”, organised by the Ministry of Health.

Meetings and Radio Interviews

1. A meeting with the Director of the Transparency and Human Rights Office, for the purposes of coordination and the examination of working mechanisms.
2. A meeting with the Director of Correction and Rehabilitation Centres / Public Security Directorate, for the purposes of coordination and the examination of working mechanisms.
3. Participation in radio programmes and television interviews (Radio Al-Balad; University of Jordan Radio; Rotana Radio – “Bi-Saraha ma’a Nusour”; Amman TV Radio; and Amman TV channel, among others).
4. Participation in the meetings concerning the formulation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons.

Membership of Committees with Official Bodies and Civil Society Organisations

In furtherance of cooperation and partnership between the National Centre and the official bodies and civil society organisations, members of the General Secretariat represent the Centre on the following committees:

5. The Committee for the Preparation of the Legal Aid Strategy (the Justice Sector Strategy 2022–2026).
6. The Criminal Justice Committee / Ministry of Justice.
7. The Committee on the Harmonisation of National Legislation with the International Conventions and Treaties Ratified by Jordan / Ministry of Justice.
8. The Human Trafficking Committee / Ministry of Justice.
9. The Equal Opportunities Committee / Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
10. The Sham’a Network Committee / Jordanian National Commission for Women.

11. The Committee on the National Plan for the Activation of Resolution 1325 / Jordanian National Commission for Women.
12. The Committee for Following up the National Strategy for Older Persons / National Council for Family Affairs.
13. The Pay Equity Committee / Jordanian National Commission for Women.
14. The Amman Age-Friendly City Committee / Greater Amman Municipality.
15. The National Team for the Protection of the Family from Violence Committee / National Council for Family Affairs.
16. The Committee for the Reduction of Marriage under the Age of 18 / Jordanian National Commission for Women.

Press Statements

The Centre issued a number of statements during the year 2023, as follows:

1. Four press statements concerning the follow-up of the Bab Amman municipality elections, dated 30/4/2023.
2. A press statement on the occasion of International Workers' Day, dated 1/5/2023.
3. A press statement on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, dated 2/10/2023.
4. A press statement on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, dated 11/10/2023.
5. A press statement on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, dated 10/10/2023.
6. A press statement on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women, dated 15/10/2023.
7. A press statement on the occasion of the Arab Day for Population and Development, dated 29/10/2023.
8. A press statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, dated 25/11/2023.
9. A statement on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, dated 3/12/2023.
10. A statement concerning the action taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under Article (99) of the Charter of the United Nations, dated 7/12/2023.

Delegations Received by the Centre

During the year 2023 the National Centre for Human Rights received a number of delegations from the embassies of Arab and non-Arab States, and from governmental and non-governmental, national, regional and international institutions, with a view to introducing the Centre and exploring avenues of cooperation, as follows:

1. The Canadian Embassy, on 8/1/2023.
2. The delegation of the International Charter Committee, on 18/1/2023.
3. The Norwegian Embassy, on 19/1/2023.
4. The United States Embassy, on 27/2/2023.
5. A delegation from Al-Isra University, on 5/3/2023.
6. A delegation from Al al-Bayt University, on 8/3/2023.
7. The Belgian Embassy, on 5/6/2023.
8. The Chinese Ambassador, on 23/11/2023.

Memoranda of Understanding

The National Centre for Human Rights signed a number of memoranda of understanding during the year 2023, with a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination with the entities concerned and promoting human rights in Jordan, the most important of which were:

1. A memorandum of understanding with the National Centre for Curriculum Development, for joint coordination and cooperation in embedding human rights in the process of developing educational curricula and in the preparation of joint studies.
2. A memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education, for cooperation in the preparation of studies and reports, the exchange of information and documents relating to human rights, recourse to the specialised expertise available to both parties, and the enforcement of all the recommendations connected with the objectives of the memorandum.
3. A memorandum of understanding with SOS Children's Villages Jordan, with a view to holding and organising training programmes for the beneficiaries of the Children's Villages Association in the three villages in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba.