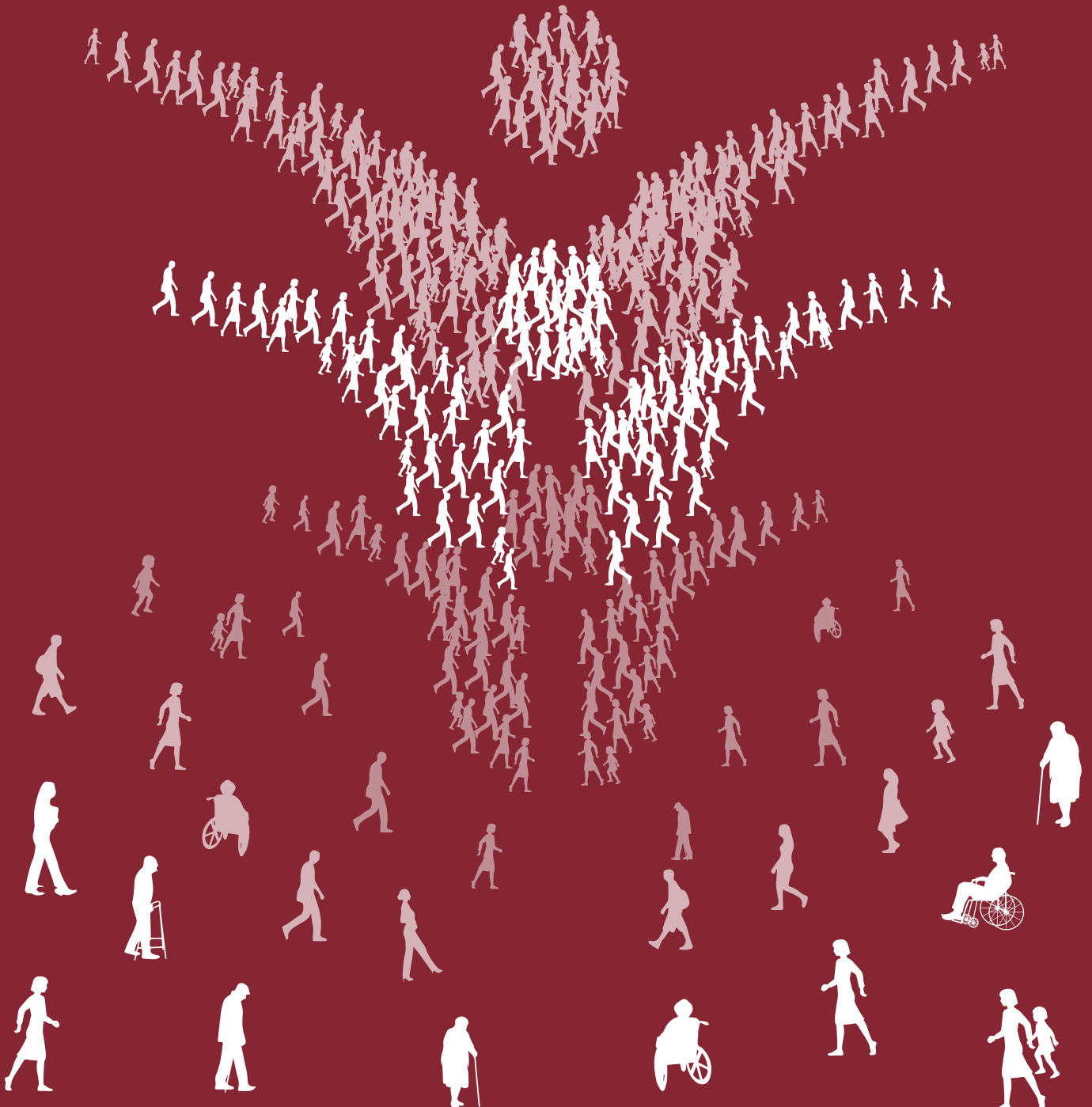




Summary of the Twentieth Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2023



The National Centre of Human Rights

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the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2023**

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Amman

2024 A.D.



His Majesty King Abdullah II, ibn Al-Hussein, may Allah protect and preserve him



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II

The National Center of Human Rights

Preamble:

The twentieth annual report on human rights in Jordan of 2023, prepared in support of Article (12) of the National Center for Human Rights Law, shall be considered a documentation of human rights during the year.

This 2023 report shall include three main axes:

The axis of civil and political rights;

The axis of economic, social and cultural rights;

The axis of rights most in need of protection. (Women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly).

In addition to four appendices, which are: (1) An appendix for implementing the recommendations of the Center's report of 2022 (2) An appendix of the Center's procedures regarding the aggression against Gaza (3) An appendix analyzing the complaints received by the Center during the year 2023 A.D. (4) An appendix highlighting the most prominent achievements of the Center and its basic activities during the year 2023 at the three national, regional and international levels.

The axis of civil and political rights:

During 2023, the Center received 444 complaints about civil and political rights.

1. The right to life, liberty and physical integrity

In 2023, the number of males sentenced to death reached (264) and (20) females. The State Security Court did not issue any death sentences during the same year, and the number of death sentences issued by the High Criminal Court reached (25),

without including any female and/or male inmates sentenced to death by a special pardon¹. The Center did not monitor any legislative developments in the legal regulation against torture, and the three basic problems continued, represented by the following: the continued inclusion of the crime of torture and its consequences by statutes of limitations and amnesty, and the assignment of specific jurisdiction in investigating such cases to the police public prosecution and special courts, in addition to the shortcomings in the legal framework regarding compensation for victims of torture.

- In 2023, the number of traffic accidents in the year reached (169,860) traffic accidents resulting in (554) deaths and (16,414) injuries², a number almost equal to the number of traffic accidents occurring in 2022³.
- In 2023, the number of people arrested on charges of possession and use of narcotic substances reached (22,114), and the number of people arrested on charges of trafficking and promotion in 2023 reached (13,116)⁴,

¹ Public Security Directorate Letter No. 1/44/Cooperation/29850 dated 23/01/2024.

² Public Security Judicial Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024.

³ The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

⁴ Public Security Judicial Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024.

While the number of drug trafficking crimes was (5,295) crimes in 2022 A.D., and then the crimes of possession and use of narcotic substances reached (13,039) crimes⁵.

- The Center praises the efforts of the Drug Control Department in its continuous endeavor to spread awareness and education about the danger of the drug scourge in all community institutions, sectors, and universities.
- The number of those detained administratively and the number of administrative detention decisions in 2023 reached (37,395) detainees⁶, and the number of detainees for the purposes of deportation reached (156).
- There was no amendment to the Crime Prevention Law No. (7) of 1954 during the year 2023 AD, with the Center affirming its position on the Crime Prevention Law in which it stresses the necessity of repealing the law, in accordance with the principle of separation of powers. Until agreement is reached to abolish the Crime Prevention Law, the Center hereby indicates the necessity of making a set of amendments to this law, which the Center referred thereto in the current report and its previous reports.

Conditions of temporary detention centers and reform and rehabilitation centers:

- The Center carried out a number of previously unannounced visits to temporary detention centers; to review the detention environment and the extent of law enforcement agencies' commitment to ensuring the rights of detainees, in addition to reviewing the quality of services provided and their compliance with international standards.
- The monitoring process included inspecting these centers in addition to conducting interviews with detainees.

⁵ The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

⁶ Public Security Judicial Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024.

In this, the team hereby noted the continuation of some practices of preventing detainees from receiving visits from their families, and sometimes not allowing them to communicate with the outside world by not facilitating telephone contact with their families; to inform them of their whereabouts. In addition to the need to maintain the bathrooms of the centers that are experiencing overcrowding, and the need to provide additional meals, as the center provides one meal at the expense of the center, and the detainee bears the responsibility of purchasing the rest of the meals and drinking water at his own expense, in addition to some notes related to the infrastructure.

- The report also documented that the number of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers of 2023 reached 24,240 inmates, compared to 21,232 inmates in 2022. 100 monitoring visits were carried out to reform centers, 4 to Al-Bashir Hospital custody suite, and one visit to Al-Tutanji Hospital.

The report hereby recommended a set of recommendations, including the following:

- Amending Article (208) of the Penal Code to ensure that the crime of torture shall not be subject to amnesty and statute of limitations, criminalizing its attempt to criminalize torture and cruel treatment, and explicitly stipulating the right of victims to demand compensation for torture and establishing a support and psychological and physical rehabilitation fund for victims.
- It is necessary for the concerned authorities to take all measures to reduce overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers, including resorting to alternative punishments and special measures instead of arrest.
- Conducting studies to find out the causes of suicide and reduce them in cooperation between state institutions.

2. The right to access to justice and a fair-trial guarantees

The report pointed to developments in the legislative regulation related to the right to access to justice and fair-trial guarantees that occurred in 2023, the most prominent of which are:

- Instructions were issued amending the Instructions on the Foundations for Implementing Non-Custodial of Sentences of 2023 issued under Paragraph (C) of Article (44) of the Juvenile Law No. (32) of 2015, where Article (6) of the instructions was amended, which relates to the periods for implementing these sentences.
- Amending the Civil Procedure Code No. (14) of 2023, which included amending eighteen articles, the details of which are included in the body of the report.
- The courts implemented (133,581) online court hearing during 2023 compared to (72,918) hearing during 2022. 15 halls were also created in the reform and rehabilitation centers and (20) halls in the courts⁷.
- During 2023 AD, the Center logged an increase in the number of beneficiaries of compulsory and optional legal aid services in the courts and public prosecution, reaching (2,222) beneficiaries, compared to about (1,580) during 2022⁸. This may be attributed to the amendments to the legal aid regulation that were made previously.
- During 2023, a decrease in the number of judicial detainees was observed, reaching 19,163 detainees, compared to about 37,850 detainees during 2022 and 20,070 detainees during 2021⁹. The Center emphasizes its emphasis on the necessity of adhering to the legal controls for detention contained in Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. (9) of 1961, as amended, and activating the resort to alternatives to detention,

as the number of decisions issued to impose alternatives to detention, whether issued by courts or public prosecution departments, reached (2279) decisions

The report made a number of recommendations, including:

- Establishing administrative courts in the North and South regions, and unifying case fees according to clear standards instead of leaving them to the discretion of the president of the administrative court or according to the case, which contributes to the reluctance to claim job rights.
- Reconsidering Article (62) of the Bar Association Law No. (11) of 1972, which prohibits a lawyer from accepting a power of attorney against a lawyer or the Council of the Bar without the approval of the President of the Bar Association.

3. The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum

- The year 2023 witnessed the approval of the amendment to the Jordanian Nationality Law No. (9) of 2023. The amendment came in the second paragraph of Article (8), so that after the amendment it became: "A Jordanian woman who married a non-Jordanian and obtained her husband's nationality may retain her Jordanian nationality unless she renounces it in accordance with the provisions of this law and She shall have the right to submit a request to the Minister of Interior to restore her Jordanian nationality in accordance with its provisions"¹⁰. The Center hereby appreciates the government's response to its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports in this regard, which enhances women's rights, preserves family ties, and is consistent with Article (4/6) of the Constitution and Article Nine of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

⁷ Ministry of Justice letter No. (3/6/2338) dated 04/02/2024.

⁸ Ministry of Justice letter No. (3/6/2338) dated 04/02/2024.

⁹ Judicial Council letter (2/1/30/822) dated 27/02/2024.

¹⁰ The old text included: "A woman who lost her Jordanian nationality through marriage may return it with a declaration prepared in the manner stipulated in this law within two years from the date of her husband's death or the annulment of her marriage."

- On 07/05/2023, a Royal Decree was issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to suspend the implementation of Defense Law No. (13) of 1992.
- (6,000) people have returned since the implementation of the tribal exodus (jalwa) of 2021¹¹.

The right to asylum:

The positions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in protecting refugees and providing them with decent means of living hereby emphasized that providing a safe haven for refugees shall be considered as an integral part of the Jordanian national principles, as the Kingdom bore the heavy costs and burdens resulting from the challenges of bearing the consequences of asylum, which were coupled with the international community's failure to provide the necessary support to host communities, including the Syrian Asylum Response Plan.

The Center hereby documented the continuation of government efforts to provide services to Syrian refugees, noting the repercussions of the Kingdom's hosting of Syrian refugees on sectors and infrastructure, which can be summarized:¹²

- Impacting on limited job opportunities, high housing and food costs, which is associated with increased poverty rates.
- Intensifying vaccination campaigns against infectious diseases, and putting pressure on the operational capacity within hospitals and public health centers, especially in the northern governorates.
- Providing educational services to Syrian students in Jordanian public schools, which led to increased pressure on infrastructure and supplies, as well as overcrowding, which necessitated the opening of schools in Syrian camps, the expansion of the construction of kindergartens in host Syrian communities and camps, and increasing in the employment of educational personnel.

¹¹ Letter from the Minister of Interior No. 30/670/646, dated 04/01/2024.

¹² Report of the second voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2022.

- The rate of child (female) marriage has increased at the national level since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, due to the increase in the number of marriages of Syrian refugee women under 18 years of age. These percentages have played a role in increasing fertility rates and rates of violence against women and girls.
- Providing health care to Syrian refugee women, including maternity and childhood services, free of charge, similar to Jordanian women, and the consequences of these services on the health sector.
- Increasing pressures on services, infrastructure and resources, which has contributed to creating challenges to the right to an adequate standard of living, especially by doubling the challenges in obtaining good housing in light of rising prices.

The financial crisis of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) doubled for the fourth year in a row, as a direct result of the previous US administration's decision to stop US aid and financial commitments to UNRWA, which threatened the agency's work because of the decision, especially the educational and health services that the agency provides to Palestinian refugees in Jordan and the region.

On another level, the year 2023 witnessed some developments in the Syrian refugee file, most notably what was indicated by the "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (UNHCR), with the return of 2,582 Syrian refugees in Jordan to their country since the beginning of this year (2023), and the Jordanian Ministry of Interior issued a decision deeming the security ID card (security ID card) for Syrian refugees in the Kingdom valid until the end of December of this year.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations,

It should be noted that the challenges facing Jordan continue with regard to providing basic services to refugees in light of the decline in international cooperation in this context and the challenges related to pressure on infrastructure, job opportunities, educational and health services, and others.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Strengthening communication between Jordan, refugee organizations and human rights bodies in partnership with the Ministry of Planning to reduce the burdens of asylum on infrastructure and important sectors.
- Cooperation with the European Union and international organizations.
- The necessity of developing a comprehensive strategy for refugees and a plan for their programs and projects directed to them in a manner consistent with national priorities.
- The necessity of communicating with the international community to continue supporting refugees and cooperating with host countries to provide the necessary assistance and help them overcome their difficult circumstances, and also to end the refugee situation and return the refugees to their homeland.

The right to elect and be elected:

The Council of Ministers approved the electoral districts regulation of 2023 in accordance with the Election Law, which defines electoral districts geographically and the number of seats in each district, including representation allocated to Christians, Circassians, and Chechens, in all northern, central, and southern governorates and valleys. In 2023, the Independent Election Commission issued executive instructions regarding the accreditation of international and local observers for the electoral process of 2023, issued in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (K) of Article (12) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012, and Paragraph (B) of Article (72) of the Election Law for the House of Representatives No. (4) of 2022.

including:

- Amending the Local Administration Law of 2021 to ensure that it embodies the contents of the Jordanian Constitution, specifically Articles (120 and 121), and a representative percentage for persons with disabilities (quota).
- Raising citizens' awareness to carry out their electoral duties and participate in the management of public affairs.
- Preventing candidates from exploiting places of worship for propaganda, and adhering to electoral propaganda instructions.
- Preparing polling stations for people with disabilities and the elderly, providing sign language interpreters and all facilitating arrangements.

4. The right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media, and access to information

The year 2023, the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023 has been approved, and the Center has followed up on the draft Cybercrime Law of 2023 since it has been submitted to the House of Representatives. The Center had emphasized the necessary positive developments in the draft Cybercrime Law by introducing some texts that addressed existing legal gaps, the most prominent of which was: the inclusion of a text related to publishing a recording, photo, or video of what a person is careful not to show or conceal from the public, which is a text that protects the right to the private life of individuals in the digital space. As well as including a text related to blackmail and electronic threats. In the same context, the Center presented the following regarding the draft cybercrime law of 2023:

First: Regarding the crime of defamation, slander, and contempt, the general rules contained in the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, as amended shall be sufficient, due to the sufficiency of the existing texts in the Penal Code, to avoid legislative repetition, and to general consistency between these legislations, and to emphasize the perpetuation of non-arrest in this crime.

If the text of this article is maintained in the Cybercrime Law, the penalty will be reduced in a manner consistent with Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, as amended to ensure non-arrest.

Second: Controlling the description of criminal acts and terminology contained in some texts of the law, especially those related to hate speech, false news, and character assassination, to prevent the expansion of the criminalization process in order to protect freedom of expression.

Third: Abolishing of the assumed responsibility contained in the text of Article (25) of the Cybercrime Law, in implementation of the principle of individualization of punishment, which is established in public penal policy.

Fourth: Adhering to the general rules in penal legislation, especially with regard to the rules of criminal participation, and adopting the principle of individualization of punishment in this context. The Center calls for a reconsideration of the text of Article (27).

It is worth noting that His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein met with the President and members of the Board of Trustees after the adoption of the Cybercrime Law. His Majesty emphasized the independence of the Center and its important role in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, including studying the effects of implementing this law on the ground, in preparation for its review.

The Center later held a consultative session with all parties involved and presented its mechanisms in the field of following up on the legislative implications of implementing the Cybercrime Law, leading to developing its recommendations in this context. To this end, the Center also launched a specialized hotline to receive complaints related to the Cybercrime Law.

The year 2023 also witnessed the House of Representatives and Senate discussing the draft law guaranteeing the right to obtain information of 2019, which has been on the Council's agenda since 2019. The Center presented its legal position on the draft law, indicating the Center's appreciation for the positive developments included in the provisions of the law, including the inclusion of a text related to proactive disclosure, the obligation to publish a range of information related to entities related to the application of the law,

limiting exceptions related to requests for access to information, and shortening the period for responding to the request to fifteen days, providing assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities, expanding the scope of the law to include every entity that receives partial or complete funding from the government, and restructuring the Information Council to ensure pluralism and representation of civil society, which are the same recommendations that the Center had previously mentioned repeatedly in its previous annual reports.

At the same time, the Center presented its observations, including the need to establish guarantees and standards related to appointment and dismissal regarding the nomination of some members. In addition to stipulating that the Council's decisions are mandatory and stipulating that in cases of urgency the period should be reduced, in addition to specifying a fast path for journalists, which enables them to obtain information from its sources, given the nature of their work based on speed and accuracy at the same time, among others.

In 2023, the Center monitored the continued blocking of some electronic publications by the Media Authority, and in this context, it confirms that international standards and best practices emphasize not registering electronic publications, and only providing notification by them in the event of their establishment to the concerned body, and in the event that they violate the provisions of national legislation, they will be referred to the judiciary, and the blocking process constitutes a restriction on freedom of expression. In the same context, the Center also monitored the referral of a satellite media channel by the Media Authority to the Attorney General.

As for the number of requests to obtain information, the number of requests to obtain information of 2023 reached (3958), of which (218) were rejected, while (3740) requests were accepted. The number of complaints received by the Information Council during 2023 reached three complaints.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

(1) The Center reaffirms the necessity of preparing a national media strategy that aims to advance the reality of media freedoms and provide a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and media, (2) and limit the blocking of electronic publications by the Media Authority and take necessary measures to introduce the Complaints Committee emanating from the Audiovisual Media Law, as well as, providing awareness and educational programs targeting female journalists and media workers to raise awareness of the forms of digital violence and its impact, (3) Continuing current efforts aimed at raising awareness of the right to obtain information to relevant parties and expanding this, especially after the adoption of the law amending the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information.

The right to peaceful assembly

The year 2023 did not witness any amendment to the Public Meetings Law. The Center reaffirms the necessity of amending the Public Meetings Law No. (7) of 2004, in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.

With regard to exercising aspects of the right to peaceful assembly, it should be noted that the year 2023 witnessed (812) demonstrations, including (433) marches¹³.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Amending the definition of meeting contained in Article (2) of the Public Meetings Law, defining and distinguishing it between a public and private meeting in the law, as the Public Meetings Law does not apply to a private meeting.
- Amending the Public Meetings Law (7) of 2004 to include restrictions on the authority of the administrative governor in line with the Jordanian Constitution and international standards.

¹³Ministry of Interior letter No. (30/670/8321) dated 08/02/2023 AD.

5. The right to establish and join political parties

The year 2023 witnessed the approval by the Higher Education Council of the instructions regulating the practice of student party activities in higher education institutions of 2023 in accordance with the provisions of Articles (8) and (11) of the Regulations Regulating the Practice of Student Party Activities No. 68 of 2022¹⁴.

The year 2023 also witnessed the issuance of the financial contribution regulation to support political parties issued pursuant to Article (27) of the Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022¹⁵.

The center hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Calling for political parties and civil society institutions to rely on royal discussion papers in educating and raising awareness of the masses, as it is an essential part of the state's ideology and necessary to expand the base of political affiliation.
- Continuing to enhance the role of women and youth in political life and raising awareness of the regulation of student party activities in universities.
- Calling on political parties to develop economic programs that advance economic growth in all fields, including providing job opportunities.

6. The right to establish and join trade unions

There was no development in 2023 regarding amending legislation related to this right, despite the Center's recommendations that this is necessary to enable individuals to enjoy this right, which are as follows:

- Adopting of the ruling issued by the Constitutional Court No. (6/2013) dated 01/09/2013, which allows the establishment of private unions for workers in any of the ministries or sectors of the state, even if they are subject to the civil service regulation.

¹⁴Published in the Official Gazette No. (5868) dated 15/06/2023

¹⁵Published in the Official Gazette No. (5855) dated 01/05/2023

- Lifting the legislative restrictions on the right to establish and join trade unions contained in Chapter (11) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996, as amended; the main challenge lies in linking the right to establish trade unions with the requirement to classify and license professions to recognize the identity of the union, and this contradicts the essence of the Jordanian Constitution and international standards.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations in this regard, including:

- Amending the Labor Law to comply with the Constitution and international standards and consulting with those concerned regarding these amendments.
- Reviewing the occupational classification to facilitate the formation of trade unions.
- Activating the role of the union's general body and enhancing its efficiency, and creating an investment unit for each union that manages the investments of its funds, so that the returns grow and the value of its assets rises.

The right to establish and join associations

In 2023, the Council of Ministers approved the reasons for the draft law on planning and international cooperation. The draft includes new tasks for the ministry, including:

- Regulating the mechanism for obtaining foreign funding provided by donors and international bodies to civil society organizations, without prejudice to the provisions of relevant legislation.
- Developing the Kingdom's economic policy and supporting the formulation of national policies in coordination and cooperation with all concerned parties.
- The draft law comes within the executive program to modernize the public sector, which directed the review of Planning Law No. 68 of 1971 within its legislative structure to achieve complementary roles.

During 2023, the Center monitored internal challenges and obstacles that included:

- The control of a group of members of the association over most of its activities and the absence of the principle of election.
- The absence of good governance in the work of some associations is represented by the absence of the internal regulations of many associations specifying a time frame for assuming leadership positions and means of supporting women and youth therein.
- Many associations do not adhere to the geographical scope of their work specified in their bylaws and practice activities and purposes different from the specialization for which they were licensed.
- The failure of some associations to provide the minimum wages to their workers, in addition to depriving them of registration with the Social Security Corporation and Health Insurance.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations in this regard, including:

- The Center recommends creating an institutional mechanism to enhance communication, dialogues, and partnerships between government institutions, civil society organizations, and the National Assembly (parliament), under the supervision of an independent body.
- Conducting a comprehensive survey of civil society organizations in all specializations and surveying the opinions of those who join them on the legal framework for legislative development, in line with political reforms, constitutional amendments, and concepts of human rights, and in line with the vision of the National Plan for Human Rights which is based on national consultation on volunteer work and develops a national plan for educating and training university and secondary students and rehabilitating workers in the field.

The axis of economic, social and cultural rights

During the year 2023, the Center received 143 complaints related to economic, social, and cultural rights, divided into 6 main rights: the right to development and an adequate standard of living, work, education, health, a sound environment, and cultural rights.

The right to development and an adequate standard of living

The Jordan Development Portal platform¹⁶ has been launched in 2023, which provides statistical indicators to measure the extent of implementation of the sustainable development goals and enables users to obtain the latest official data according to the administrative divisions of the Kingdom.

- Continuation of work on implementing the purposes of the executive program of the economic modernization vision for the years (2023-2025), a translation of the government's commitment to implementing the economic modernization vision, as it is a fundamental pillar in the comprehensive modernization project led by His Majesty King Abdullah II, with its three tracks: political, economic and administrative, this program includes initiatives, projects, legislation and priority measures in the various development sectors, which all relevant ministries and institutions will work to implement within the time frames stated therein.

The report pointed out development challenges, the most important of which are:

- The unemployment rate reached 21.4 during the fourth quarter of 2023, a decrease of 1.5 points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. The unemployment rate for males reached 18.9% during the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to 29.8 for females¹⁷.
- The challenges facing the axis of structural and economic reform to which Jordan continues to increase during 2022,

¹⁶ It is an interactive platform prepared by the General Statistics Department that aims to enable the user to obtain the latest official data, in quantity and quality, according to the administrative divisions of the Kingdom, through a tool for monitoring sustainable development goals that was prepared by the Department of General Statistics and can be viewed on the website of the Department of General Statistics.

in addition to its being affected by a group of various internal and external factors, including: its geopolitical location, in addition to the repeated resort to Jordan, followed by the consequences of the Israeli aggression on Gaza in late 2023, as the Jordanian economy depends mainly on the services, trade, and tourism sectors. These broad sectors have been affected since the beginning of the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, and the tourism and services sectors were the most affected, and this had repercussions on the Jordanian economy, the labor market, and curbing real growth rates in the gross domestic product.

On February 15, 2024, the National Center for Human Rights hereby organized a discussion session on "Water and Food Security and Enhancing Independence" to formulate a national vision for strategic priorities.

Water security challenges in Jordan as revealed in the seminar:

- Geopolitical influences: Jordan's geographical location and political situation affect its water share of Al-Yarmouk River.
- Increase in irrigation water prices and increase in the cost of raw materials.
- Slow implementation of the national carrier project.
- Excessive consumption by citizens, encroachment on water networks, and drilling of illegal wells.
- The lack of water resources in Jordan, and the shrinking area of agricultural land due to natural and human factors such as migration and asylum, which exacerbates the pressure on food and water resources.

¹⁷ Department of Statistics website: <https://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/ar/category>

- The lack of balance between population and resources, in addition to the increasing climate change and its impact on the agricultural, water, environment and agricultural land sectors.

The discussion hereby concluded with a number of recommendations, including:

- Increasing oversight of illegal artesian wells,
- Educating citizens about reducing irresponsible domestic water consumption,
- Establishing central stations for treating industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom
- Modernizing water networks, monitoring water basins, and stopping excessive pumping from them.

Within the framework of the same discussion, the topic of food security was addressed, and the most prominent challenges that emerged from the discussions were the following:

- 1) Food security crises and transformations in global markets.
- 2) Erosion of rain-fed agricultural areas in Jordan as a result of desertification.
- 3) Disparities in national productivity between grains and vegetables.
- 4) Food waste is the form of locally produced or imported food that is wasted through the food supply chain.
- 5) The lack of agricultural plans that study the soil to determine its quality and the type of crops appropriate to its nature, the absence of agricultural diversity, and reliance on traditional agriculture.

The discussion session came up with a number of recommendations, including:

- Developing new methods for innovation in the agricultural sector and investing in the cultivation of turmeric and medicinal plants.

- Establishing agricultural schools in various governorates of the Kingdom.
- Establishing projects to recycle surplus agricultural produce by converting it into feed protein.
- Training workers in the agricultural sector, specifically in the peripheral areas, on how to prepare projects to market agricultural products.
- Developing infrastructure (land and fertilizers) for the grain and seed sector.
- Using advanced technology in agriculture.
- It is necessary to pay attention to the future of agriculture in highland areas that rely on groundwater wells, especially in light of the results of studies that predict a decline in productivity and the drying up of some of them, and the extent of its impact on water and food security.
- Expanding the use of treated water in agricultural areas in the Jordan Valley instead of using fresh water specifically in underground agriculture.
- Making more effort and innovation to increase agricultural production sustainably and reduce food loss and waste.
- Working to empower rural women by creating income-generating job opportunities and implementing development projects.
- Finding the necessary solutions to address the problem of plastic in the Jordan Valley.
- Raising the capabilities of workers in the agricultural sector in the fields of obtaining financing and marketing products.
- Supporting projects aimed at recycling surplus agricultural produce by converting it into feed protein and organic fertilizers.

Right to work

The report documented the issuance of some laws and instructions related to promoting and protecting the right to work, including:

- Regulation of Occupational Safety and Health and Prevention of Occupational Hazards in Institutions¹⁸ No. (31) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (C) of Article (85) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996.
- Preventive and Curative Medical Care Regulation for workers in institutions¹⁹ No. (32) of 2023 issued pursuant to Paragraph (B) of Article (85) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996.
- Issuance of instructions specifying the types of sources of occupational hazards in the work environment and the necessary precautions and measures to prevent them²⁰ of 2023, issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (79) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 and Article (10) of the Regulation of Occupational Safety and Health and Prevention of Occupational Hazards in Institutions No. (31) of 2023.
- The issuance of instructions for the protection of pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities, and people who perform night work²¹ of 2023 issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (69/B) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996, as amended, which in Article (4D) thereof prohibited the dismissal of a woman for reasons related to pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or during maternity leave, as the legislator here expanded on providing protection to pregnant women from the date of pregnancy, while the Labor Law guaranteed protection to pregnant women after the sixth month.

¹⁸ Published on page No. 2796 of the Official Gazette No. (5868) dated 15/06/2023

¹⁹ Published on page No. 2801 of the Official Gazette No. (5868) dated 15/06/2023

²⁰ Published on page No. 5455 of the Official Gazette No. (5890) dated 01/11/2023

²¹ Published on page No. 5621 of the Official Gazette No. (5890) dated 01/11/2023

On another level, the Ministry of Labor, through its inspection directorates, carried out (29,300) inspection visits to industrial, commercial and service institutions and establishments, ranging from inspection of working conditions, occupational safety and health, and the extent of compliance with work conditions, in addition to visits related to surveying sectors and visits related to combating child labor, during these visits a total of (5,220) labor violations related to inspection were directed, whether based on the text of Article (12) of the Labor Law or in accordance with other legal articles or in support of defense orders and reports issued pursuant thereto.

A total of (5,407) warnings were sent, whether in support of the text of Article (12) or other articles of the Labor Law, and the directorates affiliated with the Ministry of Labor dealt with (13,341) complaints.

The year 2023 witnessed the Ministry of Labor dealing with (50) labor disputes, of which (41) disputes were resolved through direct negotiation between workers and employers in 2023, while (40) disputes were resolved in 2022, and the Conciliation Council was resorted to resolve one labor dispute in 2023, while (3) disputes were referred to it in 2022, and one labor dispute was resolved through direct intervention by the Minister in 2023, compared to resolving (5) disputes in 2022, and no labor dispute in 2023 was referred to court, compared to referring one labor dispute in 2022.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- 1) Working to develop training in the institutes affiliated with the Vocational Training Corporation to educate its beneficiaries about the dangers of each profession, especially the dangerous ones, and ways to prevent those dangers.
- 2) Disseminating the occupational safety and health strategy to prevent and reduce work accidents and injuries to all establishments in the public and private sectors and following up on its implementation.

- 3) Reconsidering the regulatory legislation, procedures, and violations taken against employers as a result of their violation of the labor law, and working to increase penalties.

Right to education

The report indicated the issuance of many decisions and regulations related to the right to education in 2023, the most prominent of which were:

- The regulation for establishing and licensing private and foreign educational institutions²² No. (87) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (A) of Article (32) of the Education Law No. (3) of 1994.
- An amended regulation for the Scientific Research Regulation for Developing the Educational Process²³ No. (79) of 2023. It shall be read with Regulation No. (47) of 1997.
- Regulation for the recognition of non-Jordanian higher education institutions and the equivalence of their certificates²⁴ No. (55) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (e) of Article (4) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law No. (17) of 2018.
- Regulation for regulating the practice of academic work in public universities and university colleges²⁵ No. (94) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (D) of Article (35) of the Jordanian Universities Law No. (18) of 2018.
- Student Support Fund Regulation in Public Universities, No. (81) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (L) of Article (4) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law No. (17) of 2018.

²² Published on page No. 6352 of the Official Gazette No. (5899) dated 17/12/2023

²³ Published on page No. 5898 of the Official Gazette No. (5894) dated 16/11/2023

²⁴ Published on page No. 4363 of the Official Gazette No. (5881) dated 17/09/2023

²⁵ Published on page No. 6383 of the Official Gazette No. (5899) dated 17/12/2023

The total number of students in all the Kingdom's schools for the academic year 2022/2023 reached (2,274,340) male and female students, and the number of Jordanian students according to all authorities reached (2,016,184) students, including (1,833,683) male and female students in the basic stage, while the number of Syrian students in various schools in the Kingdom reached (163,629) male and female students, while the total number of classrooms in all schools in the Kingdom reached (93,223) classes.

At the policy level, the academic year 2023/2024 witnessed the Ministry of Education continuing to implement its plan to address educational loss, as a plan was adopted that differed from what was followed in previous years, which relied on compensating students for the lessons and knowledge they lost during the Corona pandemic period through a program that was presented to the student two weeks before the start of the semester. The program for this year relied on implementing procedures to compensate for the losses, through a program of remedial interventions that will continue for 3 years in continuation of the previous program, where 13 measures were identified to address the losses in mathematics and the Arabic language, the most prominent of which is: expanding the learning time, as the Ministry brought forward the current academic year to 20/08/2023, meaning an increase of 10 school days in the first semester and 10 school days in the second semester.

The report also addressed the problem of school drop-out, the educational challenges in the educational environment of kindergartens, and the educational challenges facing the parallel program.

The report referred to the outcomes and recommendations of the seminar organized by the National Center for Human Rights entitled: "Education, Performance and Skills Gap"; in order to know the current reality and provide the necessary recommendations, the discussions revealed the following challenges:

- First challenge: a quantitative challenge represented by the number of students exceeding the absorptive capacity of the universities, and maintenance for which no allocations are made in the universities' budget.
- Second challenge: A qualitative challenge, which is that the public sector does not absorb graduates, and graduates do not have the skills that qualify them for the labor market.
- Third challenge: a financing challenge represented by the weak resources of universities and their suffering from high indebtedness.
- Fourth challenge: A technological challenge related to the ability of universities to keep pace with digital development in the education sector.
- Fifth challenge: An educational gap occurred for a period of approximately a year and a half during the period of the Corona pandemic and its repercussions, which had an impact on a decline in the level of students, noting the presence of problems in the Arabic language and mathematics subjects.

The seminar hereby concluded with a number of recommendations, including:

- 1) Focusing on the issue of partnership between Jordanian universities and the entrepreneurship sector.
- 2) Preparing an analytical study of the Jordanian labor market requirements, to link them to university education inputs.
- 3) Forming a national committee by the concerned authorities to find out the reasons for the decline in the level of students in the school stages of education and analyze the outcomes of international studies and tests and measurement indicators.
- 4) Implementing educational meetings, courses, and seminars for school students to help them choose the university major that is most appropriate for them.

Cultural rights

The report indicated the necessity of protecting the tangible cultural heritage, which is of national importance and a tributary to the national economy.

The report highlighted the national efforts made to preserve and protect it in accordance with the best international standards and present it in a sustainable manner. The report stated the vision of the Department of Public Antiquities to apply the following values:

- The archaeological sites in Jordan shall be considered the best in the world due to the quality of these sites.
- Managing the archaeological heritage in accordance with international best practices and contributing significantly to the Jordanian economy and the well-being of local communities.
- The roles of stakeholders in archaeological heritage management are structured, and responsibilities are clearly defined, but they operate within a framework that allows for full integration of management practices and is supported by amended legislation.
- Citizens' appreciation for Jordan's rich and widely diverse archaeological heritage.

The report examines how the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has integrated cultural rights into its legislation and practices, as Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes their promotion, including the right to participate in cultural life and enjoy the arts and science. These rights ensure cultural participation for all.

The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Law No. (22) of 1992, as amended shall be one of the cultural legislations that enshrined copyright, both economic rights and moral rights, which the Jordanian Court of Cassation considered, according to what its jurisprudence has established, to be among the rights closely related to the personality. This law was consistent with international agreements in this regard, in addition to the Culture Sponsorship Law No. (36) of 2006, as amended and the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto, the provisions of which enshrined cultural rights and unleashing the creativity of the Jordanian person in various fields.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Increase financial support for projects related to the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and sustainability of archaeological and heritage sites.
- Educating citizens about Jordan's rich and widely diverse archaeological heritage.
- Developing tourist and religious paths in particular.
- Working to increase activities related to intangible cultural heritage that is practiced in various walks of life by all age groups without exception.

Right to health

In 2023, Health Law No. (47) of 2008, as amended continued to be implemented, with the issuance and amendment of relevant regulations and instructions, including:

- An amended regulation for the Civil Health Insurance Regulation No. (72) of 2023,
- Remote health and medical care regulation No. (51) of 2023.
- Issuing instructions to determine the locations and areas of private medical laboratories of 2023.
- Issuing instructions for dealing with inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers who are on hunger or drink strike
- Issuing instructions to include persons with disabilities in civil health insurance of 2023,
- Issuing amended instructions for the instructions for including individual citizens in civil health insurance of 2023.

The national measures taken by the Ministry of Health to advance the health sector and improve the services provided to citizens continued, especially during the recovery phase from the repercussions of the Corona pandemic in 2023.

In this context, the Center monitored the reality of the right to health in a number of hospitals and health centers. Below are the most prominent monitoring outcomes:

- Expansion of kidney departments in (3) hospitals: Dr. Jamil Al-Tutanji Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from (11) beds in 2022 to (19) beds²⁶, and Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from (7) beds in 2022 to (11) beds²⁷, and Ar-Ramtha Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from (13) beds in 2022 to (30) beds²⁸, bringing its capacity to (60) beds²⁹.
- Restarting Sheikh Zayed Field Hospital/Aqaba to contain a children's department with a capacity of (20) beds.
- Opening (6) Comprehensive Health Centers: Hanina Primary Health Center, Al-Faisaliah Primary Health Center in Madaba Governorate, Al-Mashre'a Comprehensive Health Center in the Northern Jordan Valley, Aqaba Comprehensive Health Center, Deir Al-Kahf Health Center, and Al-Samak Health Center in the Capital Governorate. The rehabilitation of Princess Basma Comprehensive Health Center has also been completed, and it currently provides health services 24 hours a day³⁰.

The report revealed the reality of health services in the hospitals monitored by the Center, including:

²⁶ A monitoring visit to Dr. Jamil Al-Tutanji Hospital on 28/01/2024 to determine the reality of the health, therapeutic and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

²⁷ A monitoring visit to Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Hospital on 29/01/2024 to determine the reality of the health, therapeutic and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

²⁸ A monitoring visit to Ar-Ramtha Hospital on 31/01/2024 to determine the reality of the health, therapeutic and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

²⁹ Al-Mamlaka TV, for more please visit: <https://www.almamlakatv.com/news/133001>

³⁰ Jordanian News Agency "Petra", for more please visit: <https://petra.gov.jo>

- Lack of specialized clinics such as obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, and dermatology clinics in some comprehensive health centers, in addition to specialist physicians.
- Disparities in the quality of services between hospitals and health centers.
- Many health centers need a Hakeem program for electronic connectivity.
- Lack of environmental facilities in some hospitals and health centers necessary for people with disabilities and the elderly.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Taking more effective procedures and policies to examine arrivals to ensure they are free of diseases, in addition to implementing the necessary health education campaigns.
- The need to take the necessary measures to address the challenges faced by people infected with HIV in Jordan, increase awareness, improve access to treatment, and provide psychological and social support.
- It is necessary to reconsider the Doctors' Law, especially Article (35/n) thereof, which delegated the authority to set wages to the Medical Association Council, provided that it be amended by explicitly stipulating the formation of a committee that includes all concerned parties to undertake the task of reviewing and setting wages, similar to the committee formed for the purposes of drug pricing.
- Focus on effective inspections and oversight by the Ministry of Health and the General Food and Drug Administration; to ensure that all food establishments, factories, and restaurants spread throughout the Kingdom adhere to public health and safety conditions.
- Continue to provide the necessary environmental facilities in various hospitals and health centers for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Right to a healthy environment

The year 2022 witnessed developments in the legislative regulation regulating the right to a healthy environment, the most important of which are:

- Instructions for the management, circulation and trading of spent batteries of 2023³¹, for the purposes of regulating the sector of management and circulation of spent batteries, trading in them and disposing of them in environmentally safe ways.
- Submitting the draft regulation for monitoring, managing and supervising waste within agricultural, pastoral and forest lands and waste resulting from the agricultural sector of 2023 to the Prime Minister to proceed with the procedures for issuing it according to the rules.

At the policy level, the report hereby indicated the issuance of the Ministry of Environment's strategy for the years 2023-2025, the launch of which comes in the midst of national modernization programs at the various economic, administrative and political levels, in response to the acceleration of changes that require taking serious measures to confront environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development and green growth.

The report hereby revealed that the percentage of desertified area in Jordan amounts to about 81% of the total area, and the area threatened by desertification is about 16%, which requires developing plans appropriate to the various areas affected by desertification, especially those with rainfall less than 200 mm.

The report hereby indicated that the year 2023 witnessed a decrease in the number of fires that affected dry grasses, forest trees, fruit trees, and agricultural crops in most regions of the Kingdom, as the number of fires that occurred in 2023 reached (29) fires, and the areas of forests and woodlands that were exposed to fires in 2023 amounted to (781) dunums, while the number of trees burned in 2023 reached (16,117) trees.

³¹ Published on page No. 5257 of the Official Gazette No. (5886) dated 16/10/2023

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Establishing central stations for treating industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom.
- It is necessary to intensify volunteer and awareness campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of forest and tree fires, especially in the summer, by intensifying monitoring of summer vacation sites and raising awareness of the dangers of setting fires within forests. There is also the need to intensify efforts to remove weeds from streets and public squares, in order to prevent fires and protect plant and forest wealth.
- Expanding the application of green economy strategies and policies.
- Following a human rights-based approach in all actions related to climate change.

The focus of the rights of those most in need of protection

During 2023, the Center received 51 complaints related to these rights distributed among four main rights: women's rights, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of the elderly.

Women's rights

In 2023, national legislation has been issued with amendments related to women's rights, including:

- Law amending the Jordanian Nationality Law No. (9) of 2023
- Law amending the Social Security Law No. (11) of 2023
- Law amending the Labor Law No. (10) of 2023
- Instructions to protect pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities, and people who work at night.
- Instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries of 2023.

On the policy level, the year 2023 witnessed the issuance of a Council of Ministers' decision in July of 2023, including the approval of the second Jordanian national plan to activate Security Council Resolution No. (1325) on women, peace and security for the years (2022 - 2025), which is a continuation of the implementation of the First National Plan (2018 - 2021). The Family Reconciliation House in Aqaba, affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development³², was also opened in June 2023 AD. The Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women also approved in March 2023 the executive plan for the National Strategy for Women in Jordan (2023-2025)³³, which is a guidance document for policy makers and donors concerned with women's issues. It consists of 6 axes: economic empowerment, political empowerment and participation in decision-making, human rights, confronting violence against women and girls, community culture, and integrating a gender perspective at the institutional level in the public and private sectors.

On the practice level, the year 2023 witnessed an increase in the number of female judges appointed to reach (286), while the number of female judges in 2022 reached (272). The Center also monitored women's participation in the municipal elections of Bab Amman/Jerash Governorate.

The Center recorded its observation that no woman was nominated despite the fact that the percentage of women registered for the purposes of voting in the municipal elections of Bab Amman/Jerash Governorate reached (57%), that is, more than the percentage of men registered to vote. On the other hand, the Center noted that the percentage of women's participation in voting reached (60.9%).

The National Center monitored the reality of the rights of female workers in the agricultural sector by carrying out a monitoring visit to two farms in the central Jordan Valley in Balqa Governorate. The Center found the following:

³²For more information, kindly review the annual report on the human rights situation in Jordan of 2022, published on the center's website.

³³<https://women.jo/sites>

- Failure to implement the agricultural workers' regulation of 2021 in terms of granting annual, sick, and maternity leave, involving women in social security, and adhering to the minimum wage³⁴.
- Poor adherence to occupational safety and health requirements in terms of providing first aid, wearing hand cuffs, head covers, aprons, etc.
- Lack of sufficient awareness among agricultural employers, both male and female, about the agricultural workers regulation for the year.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Amending some articles in the Labor Law to ensure greater protection for women, which are mentioned in the body of the report.
- Amending Article (4/A) of the Instructions for the Protection of Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, People with Disabilities, and People Who Work at Night.
- Disseminating awareness programs about women's right to access justice by civil society institutions, the media, and concerned parties.
- Increasing oversight and inspection of farm owners by the Ministry of Labor and concerned authorities.

³⁴ A letter was sent to the Ministry of Labor No. (H.A./75/18) dated 18/01/2024, and the response included that the Ministry of Labor during the year 2023 carried out inspection visits to (166) establishments in the agricultural sector, and the number of violations that were taken reached (193) violations, and the Ministry also has Hemayah platform through which labor complaints can be submitted and it is constantly followed up and complaints are resolved. A letter was also received from the center No. Inspection/1/6948, dated 14/03/2024, stating that the agricultural sector was included as a major part in the executive plan of the Central Inspection Directorate of 2024 AD. This plan included inspecting all provisions of the Labor Law, focusing on the Agricultural Workers Regulation No. (19) of 2021, monitoring any violations or violations of labor rights, and taking legal measures against violating employers. During inspection visits by the Ministry of Labor, workers in the agricultural sector are directed to visit the labor directorates to assist them in submitting complaints on the Hemayah platform if there is any obstacle preventing them from submitting these complaints electronically.

- Continuing to prepare homes for women victims of domestic violence by providing reasonable accommodation, convenient formats, and accessibility.

Child's Rights

At the level of legislation, the year 2022 witnessed amendments to some national legislation regulating children's rights, most notably the law amending the Sharia Procedure Code No. (15) of 2023.

At the policy level, the Center monitored the issuance of the Council of Ministers' decision on September 3, 2023, approving the National Strategy for Juvenile Justice in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years (2024 - 2028) and assigning ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions to implement it and include it in their executive work plans³⁵. The strategy aims to reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency cases, increase efficiency and effectiveness to ensure the fairness of investigation and trial procedures for this category, increase the effectiveness of their rehabilitation in accordance with best international practices, include juveniles in need of protection and care, and improve the procedures provided to them.

The center hereby monitored by carrying out field monitoring visits to a random sample of public parks and children's play areas. The center appreciates the efforts made that protect the child's right to play and the availability of some games that are suitable for autistic children and people with disabilities, which would contribute to their integration and to the design of gardens friendly to children with disabilities. In the same context, the center recorded its observation about the need to carry out periodic maintenance work for the gardens, as some of the damaged toys in the gardens harm the safety and health of children and the necessity of providing health facilities and first aid in the gardens.

³⁵ Letter sent to the Center by the Prime Minister No. (24 Safar 1445 A.H.) dated 10/09/2023 A.D.

The National Center also logged, through field monitoring visits to a random sample of farms in the central Jordan Valley, the conditions of the rights of female workers in the agricultural sector/plant production, and it was found that there are girls between the ages of (16-18) years old who work on farms on a day-to-day basis, where they interrupt their education for the purposes of work.

The National Center monitored in June 2023 by carrying out an unannounced field monitoring visit to the Russeifa Girls' Education and Rehabilitation Center. The Center appreciates the efforts made to protect and promote the rights of girls. However, the Center recorded its observation as follows:

- a) The need to increase the cadres working in the center, especially the category of social and psychological specialists, and build their capabilities in relevant fields.
- b) The necessity of implementing the text of Article (5/B) of the Juvenile Law regarding the separation of girls who have been sentenced from those in detention.
- c) Work to activate the role of the Aftercare Department in the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of the reform and rehabilitation process.
- d) The need to carry out general and comprehensive maintenance work for all parts of the building and its annexes.
- e) It is necessary to create a hall for various activities and a room for the psychological specialist.
- f) The necessity of cooperating with the Ministry of Education with the aim of providing non-formal (homeschooling) education programs to all beneficiaries, even if their period of stay is short, in order to prevent them from interrupting education in accordance with the text of Article (4/e) of the Juvenile Law.
- g) Working to find appropriate mechanisms in cooperation with the Directorate of Public Security

with the aim of providing treatment to beneficiaries addicted to narcotic substances in national addiction treatment centers; this is with the aim of providing treatment to them before placing them in the center³⁶.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Paying more attention to children's playing areas in public parks by rehabilitating some of them, maintaining them periodically and continuously, and providing them with toys designated for children with disabilities so that they can exercise their right to play and integrate into society.
- The necessity of cooperation with the Ministry of Education by the Ministry of Social Development with the aim of providing non-formal (homeschooling) education programs to all beneficiaries of juvenile homes, even if their period of stay is short, in order to prevent them from interrupting education in accordance with the text of Article (4/e) of the Juvenile Law.
- Take measures at the social policy level to address the problem of child labor and begging, improve the economic conditions of their families, and provide a network of social and psychological support for children and their families.
- Activating the role of the Aftercare Department in the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of the reform and rehabilitation process for graduates of juvenile centers in conflict with the law.

Rights of persons with disabilities

The report hereby indicated amendments to some national legislation related to the rights of persons with disabilities, including:

- Issuance of the amended regulation for the regulation of alternatives to shelter and supportive services for persons with mental disabilities No. (26) of 2023,

³⁶ Letter No. (H.A./444/18) dated 20/07/2023.

- Issuing instructions to include persons with disabilities in civil health insurance of 2023,
- Issuing instructions regarding the conditions for benefiting from alternatives to accommodation and supportive services for persons with disabilities of 2023³⁷.
- Issuance of instructions regulating the licensing of group homes and supportive services for shelter alternatives for persons with disabilities of 2023.

At the policy level, the report indicated that a circular was issued by the Prime Minister to ministries, institutions, public bodies, official universities, municipalities, and others to approve the identification card for everyone to whom it is issued for the purposes of obtaining the special and specialized services that persons with disabilities must obtain.

- Launching the strategic plan to integrate persons with disabilities into the Jordan University of Science and Technology (2023-2026)³⁸, which aims to provide a university environment free of disabilities.
- Increasing in the number of issuance of identification cards issued by the Supreme Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a result of the increase in the number of awareness programs on its importance in all governorates of the Kingdom, as the number of cards as of 31/12/2023 reached (7651) cards, while the number of cards of 2022 reached (3425) cards.

At the level of practices, the Center monitored the participation of persons with disabilities in the municipal elections of Bab Amman in Jerash Governorate, and the Center found the following:

- No person with a disability shall run for mayor.
- The absence of a database that determines the number of persons with disabilities among voters registered for voting purposes,

³⁷ Issued in the Official Gazette No. (5894) dated 16/11/2023

³⁸ <https://www.just.edu.jo/ar/accessibility/Document/StrategicPlan.pdf>

their percentage, and their geographical distribution, or identifying the forms of disabilities to be distributed to polling centers designated for persons with disabilities, or finding sign language interpreters.

The Center organized a panel discussion entitled “The extent of the availability of reasonable environmental accommodations for people with disabilities in public places” with stakeholders and intellectuals, including academics and activists, with the aim of studying the availability of facilitative arrangements to meet the requirements of people with disabilities and access to services and facilities with ease. The panel discussion addressed the national efforts made in this field and highlighted the challenges that hinder the achievement of accessible services for persons with disabilities in work environments, education, and service provision places.

As for the most prominent challenges facing achieving an environment friendly to the rights of persons with disabilities, the discussions resulted in the following:

- Varying in the availability of facilitative arrangements, as they differ from one governorate to another.
- Providing the necessary facilitating arrangements for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to various types of elections.
- The absence of a diagnostic study that reflects the extent of implementation of the instructions to protect financial consumers with disabilities issued by the Central Bank on the ground.

The discussion hereby concluded with a number of recommendations in this context, including:

- Forming a national committee by ministries, government departments, national institutions and others to prepare a road map to make the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan a country friendly to the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Preparing a study and evaluating the gap between legislation and reality regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in providing an accessible environment.

- Implementing seminars to identify the challenges facing concerned parties regarding their commitments to the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in governorates far from the capital.
- Studying the impact of implementing the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. (20) of 2017 from a human rights perspective, identify gaps, and work to develop them.
- Educating institutions and civil society in all governorates of the Kingdom, especially rural and remote areas, about the concept of facilitation arrangements, accessibility, and accessible forms, and their importance for persons with disabilities.

Elderly Rights

The report hereby indicated the progress made at the policy level, as the year 2023 witnessed the opening of Aqaba Sharia Courts Complex³⁹, and the preparation of the complex for the elderly in terms of the physical environment, and the Center appreciates the efforts made by the Chief Justice Department, which contributes to the elderly's access to justice.

- The Center also monitored the implementation of initiatives by the Greater Amman Municipality aimed at integrating the elderly into the local community. These initiatives include: (a) the "Amman Our Big Home" initiative, (b) the "Strengthening and Activating the Role of the Elderly with Their Grandchildren" initiative, (c) Implementing a home care program for the elderly in cooperation with the Faculty of Nursing at Al-Zaytoonah University and the University of Applied Sciences.
- The year 2023 also witnessed the continuation of providing cards to use the Amman Rapid Bus for free for those aged 65 years and over, and the number of elderly people who obtained this card reached (9,364).

The center monitored Dar Al-Zahraa for Elderly and recorded the following observations:

- a) The presence of an unsafe slope at the entrance to the door of Dar Al-Zahraa for Elderly with a slippery floor, in addition to the absence of handrails on the sides of the slope and the absence of side handles on all walls (there are only limited parts).
- b) The level of cleanliness in Dar Al-Zahraa for Elderly's building and facilities is very low, as there are unpleasant odors emanating from the users' rooms. The team also noted the lack of personal hygiene care for some elderly men.
- c) Dar Al-Zahraa for Elderly's building needs maintenance work in terms of lighting and ventilation, as there are some rooms in the home without any windows or ventilation, like a clinic. In addition, the furniture is very old and needs to be replaced, and the lack of medical beds for all beneficiaries, and their availability depends on the health condition of the beneficiary, as the number of medical beds for the elderly is small, and most of them are iron beds with worn out mattresses, and the mattress covers are also worn out, in addition to some rooms being crowded with beds.
- d) The medical clinic is not properly equipped as it does not contain any medical equipment except a medical bed⁴⁰.

The Center monitored Dar Al Amal for Elderly in July 2023. The Center appreciates the efforts made by the management of the Home in terms of providing services, initiatives, programs and recreational activities for the elderly. The Center found the following:

- a) Dar Al Amal for Elderly building is good and suitable for the elderly and people with disabilities. The rooms are clean and tidy and the furniture is new.
- b) The number of staff is proportional to the number of beneficiaries.

⁴⁰ A letter issued by the National Center of the Ministry of Social Development No. (HA/531/18) dated 28/08/2023

³⁹ Supreme Judge's Department Letter No. (5/8/9802) dated 24/07/2023

- c) The pharmacy is equipped and contains medication cabinets and medication distribution boxes for each beneficiary by name, as well as a refrigerator, an examination bed, and patient files.

The report hereby recommended a number of recommendations, including:

- Strengthening Jordan's role aimed at drafting an international agreement on the rights of the elderly, similar to international agreements related to the rights of groups most in need of protection.
- The Greater Amman Municipality's efforts continue to provide free rapid bus use cards for those who have reached the age of 60, and to increase the number of public transport buses designed for the elderly and to cover all areas.
- Building a database and statistics classified according to age, health, social, economic, and other aspects, so that the necessary forms of intervention are built on the outputs of these statistics within the framework of protecting the rights of the elderly.
- Establishing government day clubs for the elderly in all governorates of the Kingdom.
- Implementing specialized programs on the rights of the elderly, and enhancing the role of the media by raising awareness of their rights
- The Center calls for addressing the monitoring observations related to some of the elderly shelters that were monitored.