



**PARALLEL REPORT**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF**  
**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**  
**SUBMITTED BY**  
**THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL OF MOROCCO**

NOVEMBER 2023

## **I. Overview of CNDH**

1. The National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH) is a constitutional institution for the promotion and protection of human rights. It was established in 1990 and has been accredited with “A” status since 1999, testifying to its full compliance with the Paris Principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 48/134. In 2023, the CNDH was re-accredited with “A” status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, whose secretariat is ensured by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
2. The CNDH has 12 Regional Human Rights Commissions (CRDH), which cover the entire national territory. These commissions are those of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Fez-Meknes, Marrakech-Safi, Casablanca-Settat, Draa-Tafilalet, Oriental, Beni Mellal-Khenifra, Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima, Guelmim-Oued Noun, Souss-Massa, Laayoune-Sakia El Hamra and Dakhla-Oued Eddahab.
3. A new law 76.15 reforming the CNDH<sup>1</sup> was adopted unanimously by the Parliament in February 2018. This law considerably broadens the protection mandate of the CNDH, particularly by entrusting it with the mandate of three mechanisms provided for by international human rights standards. These are the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture (NPM), in line with OPCAT, National Child Redress Mechanism, in line with General Comment 2 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and National Monitoring Mechanism for Persons with Disabilities, in line with Article 33.2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. The CNDH has a general assembly composed of members who engage in pluralistic debates reflecting all perspectives. The CNDH founding law provides that members shall be chosen in such a way as to reconcile intellectual and social plurality, parity, cultural and linguistic diversity as well as regional representation.

## **II. Introduction**

5. The CNDH welcomes the opportunity to submit this contribution to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Committee) and welcomes the submission by the Kingdom of Morocco of the combined nineteenth to twenty-first periodic reports.
6. The CNDH contributed to the national report sent to the Committee three years ago. In this regard, it shared, during the national consultation organized on 23 April 2019 in Rabat its observations and recommendations relating to the draft report. It mainly underlined the need to incorporate in the national report the progress made in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Convention), with particular focus on data and indicators showing this progress.
7. While the CNDH deplores the delay recorded in submitting and reviewing the national report, it encourages the State to adopt the simplified procedure for the next reviews. This would help prevent reporting delays and ensure a predictable calendar of reviews.
8. This report provides information on the CNDH actions on the promotion and protection of human rights, especially those relating to the fight against discrimination. The CNDH also provides input regarding the progress and the remaining challenges as to the implementation of the Convention. In addition, it formulates recommendations that the Committee may wish to include in its concluding observations. This input was developed in light of the CNDH actions, reports and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/loi\\_76-15\\_relative\\_a\\_la\\_reorganisation\\_du\\_cndh\\_1.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/loi_76-15_relative_a_la_reorganisation_du_cndh_1.pdf)

recommendations and took into account the list of themes published by the Committee on 3 October 2023.

### **III. The Convention in domestic law and the institutional and policy framework for its implementation**

#### **A. Legal framework**

9. The CNDH welcomes the progress made by Morocco since its last review in 2010. This is related mainly to the constitutional reforms of 2011, including the provisions aiming at banning and combating any forms of discrimination, recognizing Amazigh as an official language, entrenching the principle of the primacy of international conventions duly ratified by Morocco over domestic laws and recognizing the diversity of the Moroccan national identity (Arab-Islamist, Amazigh, Saharan-Hassani, African, Andalusian, Hebraic and Mediterranean).
10. The CNDH welcomes the adoption of several laws which constitute a legal basis for the prohibition of discrimination. These are, but not limited to, Law No. 14-79 on the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Authority, Organic Law 26.16<sup>2</sup> establishing the process of implementing the official character of Amazigh, Law No. 19-12 setting the working and employment conditions of domestic workers, Framework Law 09-21 relating to social security, Law No. 27-14 on the fight against human trafficking.
11. However, while recognizing this constitutional and legislative progress, the CNDH believes that legal reforms are still needed to comply with the Convention and therefore any legislative provisions that may result in any form of discrimination should be repealed. In this regard, the CNDH presented a memorandum<sup>3</sup> related to the Penal Code, in which it recommended removing the second paragraph of Article 220 which provides protection exclusively to one religion and does not apply to others<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, the CNDH recommends abrogating Article 222 of the Penal Code<sup>5</sup>, which penalizes anyone who, notoriously known for his or her belonging to the Muslim religion, ostensibly breaks the fast in public. Justifications are detailed in the CNDH memorandum on the amendment of the penal code<sup>6</sup>.
12. The Council notes with satisfaction the adoption in 2019 of the Organic Law 26.16<sup>7</sup>, which defines the process of implementing the official character of Amazigh, its integration into the education system and into priority areas of public life. The adoption of this law opens new horizons for upholding the values of equality and non-discrimination. However, the implementation of all provisions of this law needs to be accelerated.
13. The CNDH commends the prohibition of all forms of discrimination in the Moroccan Labor Code, as stipulated in Article 9 of the Labor code<sup>8</sup> in force. However, Article 416 of the Labor Code requires that members responsible for the administration and leadership of professional trade unions must have Moroccan nationality, thus preventing migrants from holding these positions.

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<sup>2</sup> Official Gazette No. 6816 on 26 September 2019

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/cndh\\_-\\_memo\\_code\\_penal\\_vf\\_5mai.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/cndh_-_memo_code_penal_vf_5mai.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Para. 2 of Art. 220 "Anyone who uses means of seduction with the aim of shaking the faith of a Muslim or converting him to another religion, either by exploiting his weakness or his needs, or by using, for these purposes, educational establishments, health establishments, asylums or orphanages. In the event of conviction, the closure of the establishment which was used to commit the offense may be ordered, either definitively or for a period which cannot exceed three years."

<sup>5</sup> Anyone who, notoriously known for belonging to the Muslim religion, ostensibly breaks the fast in a public place during the time of Ramadan, without a reason accepted by this religion, is punished by imprisonment of one to six months and a fine of 12 to 120 dirhams.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/cndh\\_-\\_memo\\_code\\_penal\\_vf\\_5mai.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/cndh_-_memo_code_penal_vf_5mai.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Official Gazette No. 6816 dated 26 September 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Law No. 65-99 relating to the Moroccan Labor Code (Dahir 1-03-194 of 11 September 2003 promulgating the text of the Labor Code)

14. According to the Moroccan Nationality Law in force, Article 6 allows the Moroccan mother (regardless of the nationality of her husband) to automatically transmit her nationality to her children. Additionally, Article 10 states that a foreign woman who is married to a Moroccan man with regular and continuous residence in Morocco for at least 5 years, may obtain a Moroccan nationality. However, this is not the case of foreign men. This restriction of granting nationality to foreign men married to Moroccan women is discriminatory. In this regard, the CNDH welcomes the discussions on the amendment of the Nationality Code, which should enable a foreign spouse to obtain nationality through marriage.
15. The CNDH welcomes the Royal letter to the Head of Government, in which the preparation of the revision of the Family Code was entrusted, in a collective and collegial manner, to the Ministry of Justice, the Superior Council of the Judicial Power and the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor. His Majesty the King called on the aforementioned institutions to closely engage in this process the other bodies directly concerned by this question, including the Superior Council of *Ulema (Muslim scholars)*, the National Human Rights Council as well as the government department responsible for solidarity, social integration and the family, while also opening up to civil society stakeholders, researchers and specialists. The proposals arising from the consultations must be submitted to His Majesty the King within a maximum period of six months, before the government develops a bill, to be submitted to parliament for adoption. This reform will provide an opportunity to amend and abolish any provision that could potentially result in any form of discrimination. Consultations are now in progress with various stakeholders, including NGOs working on issues of equality and non-discrimination.
16. The CNDH notes that, to date, there is no comprehensive legislation dedicated to the fight against racial discrimination, in accordance with the recommendation made to this effect by the Committee. The CNDH recalls in this regard its key structuring recommendation No. 16 formulated in its 2022 annual report<sup>9</sup> and relating to the development of a general legislative framework against discrimination and its harmonization with relevant international instruments, in particular the Convention. This is a necessary step, especially in light of the developments in digital space and its human rights implications.
17. The Committee may consider to include in its concluding observations the following recommendations of the CNDH:
- ***Establish a general comprehensive legal framework to combat discrimination in accordance with the relevant international instruments, particularly the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Constitution, while taking into consideration the new challenges generated by the digital space such as the spread of hate speech and digital discrimination;***
  - ***Accelerate the adoption of the draft law amending and supplementing the Penal Code, in accordance with the recommendations of the CNDH, contained in its memorandum of 2019, and which aim to bring the draft penal code into compliance with the Constitution and the international human rights standards;***
  - ***Take all legal, political and financial measures necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the Organic Law 26.16 establishing the process of implementing the official character of Amazigh, as well as the modalities of its integration in education and in priority areas of public life;***

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/rapport\\_annuel\\_cndh\\_2022\\_va\\_-\\_digital\\_0.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/rapport_annuel_cndh_2022_va_-_digital_0.pdf)

- ***Amend Article 416 of Law N 65.99 relating to the Moroccan Labor Code, in order to allow migrant workers to access leadership positions within the professional trade union with which they are affiliated;***
- ***Amending Article 10 of the Nationality Code, in such a manner as to enable a foreign spouse to obtain nationality through marriage.***

## **B- Institutional Framework**

18. The CNDH welcomes the establishment or reform of human rights and governance institutions. These measures reinforce the national human rights protection system and contribute to national efforts combating any form of discrimination. The CNDH is also a member of several of these national institutions, which enable it to integrate the Human rights approach in their work. These institutions, include but not limited to, the Higher Council for Judicial power, the National Press Council, the National Commission for the Fight against and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Right to Information Access Commission. The CNDH is also a member of the newly established National Council for Languages and Moroccan Culture<sup>10</sup>, a constitutional body mandated to propose strategic guidance to the State regarding linguistic and cultural policies.
19. However, the CNDH notes that four institutions have not been operational, particularly the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Authority and National Council for Languages and Moroccan Culture. The CNDH believes that these institutions would strengthen national efforts aiming at entrenching equality and combating discrimination.
20. The CNDH is a key stakeholder in the national protection system and has a quasi-judicial mandate for handling complaints either at its own initiative or upon a claim from complainants received by its headquarters, its national mechanism or its regional commissions located in the 12 regions of Morocco.
21. From 2019 to 2022, the CNDH, its national mechanisms and its regional commissions received 11,949 complaints and requests. Almost 30% of these complaints do not fall within the competence of the CNDH and complainants were guided to approach the competent authorities. Regarding cases directly linked to discrimination, the CNDH receives a yearly average of four complaints. For example, since the beginning of 2023, the CNDH handled four cases that are characterized as alleged discriminatory treatment. These are an allegation of unfavorable treatment from a referring doctor against a medical student on the basis of racial discrimination and/or nationality, alleged stigmatizing comments by an online media outlet and seen as incitement to hatred/racial discrimination, a complaint from a foreign detainee regarding allegations of discrimination and violence based on gender, and a complaint from a foreign national staying illegally in Morocco and alleging discrimination in access to justice. The CNDH and its three commissions took the necessary measures to resolve the admissible complaints. To this end, they carried out several actions including visits to places of deprivation of liberty, mediation initiatives, engagement with the competent authorities and advising complainants on the relevant procedures to follow.
22. The CNDH and its national preventive mechanism carry out visits to places of detention and monitors the conditions of detainees and their treatment. These places include penitentiary institutions, child protection and reintegration centers, social protection establishments, hospitals specializing in the treatment of mental and psychological disorders and places of detention of aliens in an irregular situation. In 2022, the CNDH and its CRDH undertook a total of 188 visits to

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<sup>10</sup>See law of the National Council for Languages and Moroccan Culture:  
[http://www.sgg.gov.ma/Portals/1/lois/Loi\\_CNLCM\\_Ar.pdf?ver=2020-06-24-130051-497](http://www.sgg.gov.ma/Portals/1/lois/Loi_CNLCM_Ar.pdf?ver=2020-06-24-130051-497)

penitentiary institutions, while its NPM conducted 76 visits since its establishment in 2019. These visits included also thematic visits on specific issues, such as those related to the rights of migrants, women and children. For example, the CNDH and its regional commission of Dakhla conducted in 2023 a visit to 36 foreigners detained in Dakhla prison. The NPM is also conducting visits to women prisoners, including foreigners. Furthermore, in its visits to police stations and gendarmerie royale centers, the NPM includes visits to foreigner detainees and ensures that they are provided with an interpreter during the investigation and, if necessary, a lawyer and benefit from medical care. The CNDH and CRDH prepared relevant reports that included recommendations addressed to the competent authorities with a view to resolve issues identified during visits. Detailed information on such visits is included in the CNDH annual reports<sup>11</sup>.

23. The Committee may consider to include in its concluding observations the following recommendation of the CNDH:

- ***Accelerate the operationalization of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Authority and National Council for Languages and Moroccan Culture.***

### **C- Policy Framework**

24. The CNDH notes with satisfaction the adoption of the National Plan of Action on Democracy and Human Rights for 2018-2021, which included a chapter on equality, parity and equal opportunities<sup>12</sup>. More particularly, the Plan aims, among other things, to combat all forms of discrimination through awareness-raising, training and legislative reforms. However, the CNDH notes that the current government committed itself to updating this plan of action. So far and to the knowledge of the CNDH, no steps have been taken in this regard.

25. A strategic plan for health and immigration 2021-2025 was also adopted, thus enabling the improvement of healthcare access for migrants. A new development model was also adopted and is likely to bring about responses to promote the economic and social rights for all groups.

26. In addition, the government has not yet adopted a plan of action on business and human rights to protect against adverse human rights impacts by business enterprises, including discriminatory practices. This plan should take account of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and incorporate concrete measures to combat all forms of discrimination.

27. Regarding the Amazigh language and culture, the CNDH welcomes the diverse initiatives taken by the government to implement the official status of Amazigh. This helped integrate it into education and priority areas of public life. Also, the Amazigh New Year "*Yennayer*" was recognized as an official national holiday, following a communiqué of the Royal Cabinet dated 3 May 2023. A budget of 300 million dirhams has been allocated in the 2023 financial law aiming to integrate Amazigh into the justice system, administration, public facilities, education, audiovisual communication, culture and arts.

28. However, efforts need to be accelerated to guarantee the official character of Amazigh as stated in the Constitution and in the relevant organic law, especially in terms of education and training. Moreover, the parliament is yet to establish a mechanism for instant translation into and from the Amazigh language.

29. The CNDH provides key information in the Amazigh language, including annual reports, press releases and oral statements provided by video to the UN Human Rights Council.<sup>13</sup> It also uses sign

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cndh.org.ma/ar/rubriques/ltwthyg/lstdrt/tqyr-snw>

<sup>12</sup> <https://aohr.net/portal/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/mlkhs\\_ltaqr Isnwy\\_2021\\_bimzygy\\_2.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/mlkhs_ltaqr Isnwy_2021_bimzygy_2.pdf)

languages in major events, such as its activities organized within the framework of the International Book and Publishing Fair.

30. Morocco has embarked on a major project to generalize social security. The CNDH is closely monitoring the project and its implementation. In particular, the CNDH made advocacy efforts to universalize the social security schemes to all groups, including migrants and refugees. In this regard, it organized, in partnership with the UNHCR and the IOM, a seminar on the theme *"Integrating foreigners in social security schemes: principles and challenges of operationalization"*. This seminar highlighted the importance of integrating foreigners in a regular administrative situation in social security schemes.
31. The CNDH notes that various cultural expressions have been performed in Morocco. Every year, there are various cultural exhibitions and shows organized in different regions in Morocco, including musical, theatrical and other cultural events. Cultural spaces are provided to organize these events, with the participation of various nationals, particularly Africans. These events include, but not limited to, the spiritual music festival in Fez, Gnaoua festival in Essaouira, Marrakech international movie festival, Tan Tan Mousseem (a UNESCO immaterial heritage), folklore music festival in Marrakech, Andalusian music festival, Timitar festival in Agadir, cinema and migration festival in Agadir, etc.
32. The Committee may consider to include in its concluding observations the following recommendations of the CNDH:
  - ***Implement the government commitment to updating the national action plan on democracy and human rights, while taking into account the recommendations made by the international human rights system and the National Human Rights Council. The plan should include concrete measure to combat and prevent all forms of discrimination;***
  - ***Adopt a national action plan on business and human rights to protect against adverse human rights impacts by business enterprises in conformity with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;***
  - ***Speed up measures related to the process of implementing the official character of Amazigh, as well as the modalities of its integration in education and in priority areas of public life;***
  - ***Take concrete measures to include migration dimensions in the implementation of the New Development Model policy, with particular focus on their rights to health, education, social security and employment;***
  - ***Provide financial support for various social and cultural stakeholders.***

#### **IV. Situation of non-citizens, including migrants, asylum-seekers and stateless persons**

33. As part of its mandate, the CNDH attaches special importance to the protection and promotion of the rights of foreigners. Thus, the CNDH has an administrative division in charge of the protection of the rights of foreigners. This division is vested with handling complaints from migrants, guidance, monitoring and reporting on human rights of migrants. The CNDH has also focal points on migration in its 12 regional human rights commissions, who meet annually with the head office to address migration issues through the national territory.
34. The CNDH acknowledges the efforts made by Morocco to protect and promote the rights of foreigners and prevent any form of discrimination. Thus, following the publication of the CNDH report: *"Foreigners and Human Rights in Morocco: for a Radically New Asylum and Migration*

*Policy*<sup>14</sup> in 2013, the Moroccan Government launched a new migration policy, which helped regularize the situation of migrants' workers and members of their families in Morocco. Official figures indicate that two regularization processes resulted in 50,000 people receiving formal status<sup>15</sup>.

35. This multi-stakeholder process has given important roles to the CNDH, civil society and migrants themselves. Thus, the CNDH chaired the National Monitoring and Appeals Committee that reviewed applications from migrants in irregular status, which had been rejected by the prefectural and provincial committees for the regularization process. This Committee adopted more flexible criteria that made it possible to increase the number of people receiving formal status. In addition, two associations sat on each of the 80 provincial and prefectural commissions, which were charged with examining requests for regularization, at first instance. Several civil society actors, including migrants, participated in the National Monitoring and Appeals Committee. At the conclusion of her mission to Morocco from 13 to 21 December 2018, the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance underlined in her statement that Morocco's measures in this regard are worthy of emulation by other States.<sup>16</sup>
36. The CNDH has the legal mandate to examine all cases of violation of human rights. On 24 June 2022, over 2,000 irregular migrants attempted to cross Mellila from Nador. The incident turned violent, with migrants using sharp objects and stones to counter police efforts to prevent the crossing attempt. The CNDH established a fact-finding mission, composed, inter alia, of CNDH members and a doctor, following the violent and tragic confrontations, at the crossing area separating Melilla from Nador and the crossing point known as "Barrio Chino". These events left 23 migrants dead and 217 with injuries of varying degrees of severity among migrants and members of the public forces.
37. The CNDH released an investigative report<sup>17</sup>, which found that the main cause of death was a mechanical asphyxia. The other potential causes of death include massive jostling in a tightly secured and very narrow space at the crossing station and falling as the barbed-wire fence failed. The CNDH also deplored the sharing and spreading of fake news that claimed the use of lethal weapons and firearms by police forces. However, the CNDH report found that law enforcement officers used tear gas and truncheons during the clashes.
38. The incident was unprecedented in nature tactics used, scope, number of migrants attempting a mass crossing, number of victims, and casualties. All injured migrants and law enforcement officers received necessary medical assistance and care, including medical surgery at the Regional Hospital in Nador and the University Hospital in Oujda. The findings indicated Spanish authorities' reluctance or hesitation to provide the necessary assistance and medical care despite the stampede and large jostling among crowded migrants at the metal revolving doors, which remained hermetically sealed; probably leading to a higher death toll and injuries. The CNDH made several recommendations, including the need for a thorough investigation to determine the nature and circumstances of all confrontations and the use of violence.
39. The CNDH Regional Human Rights Commission in the Oriental Region engaged with civil society associations to collect information and appointed a task force to observe the trials of migrants brought before the Court of first Instance and the Court of Appeals of Nador.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/foreigners\\_and\\_human\\_rights- summary.pdf](https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/foreigners_and_human_rights- summary.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> More details are available here: <https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/10974>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24043&LangID=E>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/cndh\\_report\\_at\\_mellila\\_crossing\\_2022.pdf](https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/cndh_report_at_mellila_crossing_2022.pdf)



40. The CNDH is publishing a study in partnership with UNHCR identifying challenges facing foreign individuals, including access to legal advice and legal assistance, the right to appeal and judicial review, access to justice in cases involving civil, economic, social and cultural rights. These challenges include the lack of notification of administrative decisions, difficulties in accessing legal aid and availability of related procedures and documents in Arabic only. The CNDH advocates for the establishment of a mechanism to provide legal aid to foreigners.
41. During the Covid-19 period, the CNDH published a *“call for commitment to human rights in the world of labour after lockdown: diligent companies for a resilient society<sup>18</sup>”*. In its call, the CNDH draws the attention of the Government and businesses to migrant workers who are likely to find themselves in precarious working conditions and disproportionately affected by unemployment or underemployment due to the pandemic. The CNDH also approached the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Administration Reform, being responsible for the Economic Watch Committee (CVE), established within the context of Covid-19, to include foreigners in a precarious situation in the assistance systems dedicated to informal workers.
42. On 16 March 2020, the CNDH informed the public that in light of the circumstances related to Covid-19, it had established a special telephone number and e-mail address to receive complaints or information from the public. In the same vein and concerning the migrants’ rights in the context of Covid-19, the CNDH established a task force to monitor human rights situation and another one to monitor the implementation of the measures taken as part of the state of health emergency in Morocco.
43. The CNDH also published video spots in French, English and Spanish as well as in two of the languages most spoken by migrants, Wolof and Lingala, to raise their awareness about hygiene, quarantine and state of emergency measures within the context of Covid-19
44. Law 02-03 in force on entry and stay of foreigners in Morocco, emigration and irregular immigration<sup>19</sup> provides in article 34 for the detention of certain foreigners in places that are not falling under the responsibility of the prison administration and specifies that these places and the terms of their operation shall be fixed by law. However, no regulatory text has been adopted to this effect since 2003.
45. The CNDH regional commission engaged in efforts aiming to support migrants in the period of Covid-19. For example, Dakhla-Oued Dahab regional commission received requests for support for access to basic foodstuffs from migrants belonging to sub-Saharan African countries. This Commission cooperated with civil society associations and the public authorities in order to provide these people with the necessary assistance. A total of 322 people were able to benefit from this aid up to May 2020, including 252 Senegalese migrants, mainly women, and 60 Ivorian migrants.
46. The Council prepared two guidebooks on prevention against discrimination. In the same vein, the CNDH also launched in cooperation with international partners a project entitled *“Coexistence without Discrimination”* aiming to promote public mechanisms and policies designed to combat racism and xenophobia in Morocco.
47. Migrants residing in Morocco did not participate in local elections, although Article 30 of the constitution provides that migrants who reside in Morocco can participate in local elections by virtue of the law, of the application of international conventions or of practices of reciprocity.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cndh.ma/an/highlights/cndh-call-commitment-human-rights-world-labour-after-lockdown-diligent-companies>

<sup>19</sup> <https://adala.iustice.gov.ma/production/legislation/fr/penal/immigration%20clandestine.htm>

48. The Committee may consider to include in its concluding observations the following recommendations of the CNDH:

- ***Continue to ensure the respect for the principle of non-refoulement of asylum seekers;***
- ***Allow migrants residing in Morocco to participate in the local elections, by virtue of a law, in implementation of an international convention or a practice of reciprocity in line with Article 30 of the Constitution.***

#### **V- Education to combat prejudice and intolerance**

49. Equality and non-discrimination are priorities in the strategy of the CNDH. The CNDH has a promotion department that deals with all promotional activities, including those related to the fight against discrimination. It is also provided with a training institute which hosts capacity building activities, including those related to equality and non-discrimination. Also, the CNDH governing body established a working group on Parity, Non-Discrimination and New Generations of Human Rights.

50. In practice, CNDH and its regional commissions held more than a hundred training sessions in 2016-2022 for participants, including for government departments, civil society actors, law enforcement officials, businesses, human rights defenders, students, the youth, children, etc. A training program for police officers was launched in September 2022. The program aimed to enable police officers to get acquainted with the human rights instruments, standards and practices, including those contained in the Convention. Some of these sessions were organized in cooperation with international stakeholders, such as a workshop on non-discrimination in 2018 and workshop on the role of youth in countering hate speech and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies in 2017, both held in partnership with OHCHR, as well as a training on discriminatory practices for the staff of Morocco's airliner, *Royal Air Maroc*.

51. Regarding university programs, CNDH Chairperson delivered opening courses in several universities, including on equality and nondiscrimination. It also concluded a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Education to raise awareness about the human rights culture in schools and universities.

52. CNDH and its regional human rights commissions supports human rights and citizenship clubs, established by students in schools. It also contributed and/or held several training sessions for the educational staff supervising these clubs. The CNDH published a guide for these clubs containing the objectives, principles, approaches and tools for such clubs<sup>20</sup>.

53. The CNDH seizes the opportunity of major events to promote equality and nondiscrimination. Thus, on an annual basis, a CNDH stand is set up in the International Publishing and Book Fair (SIEL), held in Casablanca or Rabat. In 2023, this event attracted an annual average of 30,000 visitors who had the opportunity to attend the various events organized by the CNDH on this occasion. To be noted that in 2023 more than 40,000 Facebook users reacted to the CNDH posts on its events at SIEL and more than 300,000 views of CNDH videos on Facebook were registered. The CNDH regional human rights commissions facilitated the participation of more than 260 students coming from all regions in the events dedicated to children on various issues, including issues related to equality and non-discrimination.

54. The CNDH ensures the institutionalization of the principle of participation. In this regard, the CNDH included foreign children in its various activities, such as consultations with children to

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/cndh\\_-\\_web\\_guide\\_club\\_citoyennete.pdf](https://www.cndh.ma/sites/default/files/cndh_-_web_guide_club_citoyennete.pdf)

develop their own shadow report for the upcoming review of Morocco by the Commission on the Rights of the Child.

55. The CNDH notes the inclusion of Jewish cultural and heritage aspects in primary school curricula to educate future generations about the history of Jews in Morocco and encourage openness and tolerance toward all religions. Furthermore, Morocco restored Jewish temples, revived historical Jewish celebrations and opened museums of the Jewish culture.

56. The Committee may consider to include in its concluding observations the following recommendation of the CNDH:

- ***To support the establishment of citizenship and human rights education clubs in various schools and universities;***
- ***Enhance human rights training and education for all through awareness raising activities and media campaigns on the content of the Convention.***

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Conseil national des droits de l'Homme,

N° 22 Avenue Riad Hay Riad BP 21527, Rabat – Morocco

<http://www.cndh.ma/an>