

# THE SDGs AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## STATUS OF UPR RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### Accepted UPR Recommendations: An Opportunity for Action and Engagement

#### SAUDI ARABIA

#### Universal Periodic Review Fast Facts <sup>(1)</sup>

- **Last Review:** 21 October 2013 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle); **Final Report of the Working Group:** December 2013
- **Mid-Term Reporting:** May 2016
- **National Consultation:** May 2017
- **NGO Report Drafting:** January 2018 – March 2018
- **Next Review:** November 2018

#### Status of Core International Human Rights Conventions in Saudi Arabia <sup>(2)</sup>

KEY	Green
	Ratified
	Ratified with Declarations
	Ratified with Reservations
	Ratified with Reservations and Declarations
	Signed but not Ratified
Red	
No Action	
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CAT)	
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)	
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (CCPR-OP2-DP)	
Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)	
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)	

A state has a responsibility to implement all recommendations it has accepted before the Human Rights Council as a demonstration of their commitment to protecting and promoting Human Rights. Following the last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Saudi Arabia in October 2013 and in preparation for the next review scheduled for November 2018, Saudi Arabia has accepted to implement several UPR recommendations. Below is a selection of supported UPR recommendations aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):<sup>(3) (4)</sup>



**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Continue promoting the right to health of its citizens, particularly maternal and child health services.

Continue efforts in providing full access to health services for the general population.



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

Consider legislating a special personal status law that would contribute to the strengthening of women's rights.

Proceed with the promulgation of the necessary laws in order to abolish the male guardianship system while, in parallel, the stereotypes affecting women's enjoyment of their rights, including their personal status law, should be remedied.

Continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women especially through access to quality education.



**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Give due attention to the issue of the practice of sponsorship for foreigners, considering that this practice can give rise to serious human rights violations of foreign workers.

Build on the positive measures in protecting the rights of the household service workers and continue to step up efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families.



**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

Continue to work to harmonize its legal framework with the international instruments to which it is a State party.

Establish training programmes for judges focusing on Saudi Arabia's international human rights obligations.

Ensure that all individuals are afforded due process of law, informed of charges brought against them, and given a timely and transparent trial.

Ensure implementation in practice of laws and regulations to which juvenile offenders are subject, including the prompt access of juveniles to legal counsels, their separate detention and the enrolment of juveniles in appropriate school and training programmes while in custody.

Carry out further efforts to increase the transparency and openness of legal proceedings contemplating death sentences.

Take further steps to ensure the full implementation of the protection from abuse system law. This would call for a clear definition of abuses and harms under the law, so that it can provide an effective mechanism and guarantee for the protection of victims.