



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Saint Lucia and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group in January 2021.

As the final outcome report on the review of Saint Lucia has been recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 47<sup>th</sup> session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Saint Lucia – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years, until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 58 delegations and the presentation made and responses provided by the delegation of Saint Lucia. I have also considered the actions taken by the Government of Saint Lucia to implement the 91 recommendations fully supported as well as the partially accepted recommendation during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues, which appear in the annex to this letter.

I welcome measures to abolish corporal punishment in schools, which became effective in May 2020. I also welcome action taken in 2019 to establish the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights to serve as the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRF) as well as the ratification in 2020 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Saint Lucia's engagement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean to secure technical assistance for the improvement of the lives of persons with disabilities.

I encourage Saint Lucia to develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results in the areas highlighted in the annex to this letter and to facilitate preparations for the fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to all Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular all civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including my Office and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

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H.E. Ms. Sarah FLOOD-BEAUBRUN  
Minister Responsible for External Affairs  
Saint Lucia

I also encourage Saint Lucia to continue to make further efforts to strengthen the National Coordinating Committee for Human Rights for comprehensive reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and to treaty obligations, while linking these to the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, I strongly recommend the use of the OHCHR practical guide on this topic, which is available at:

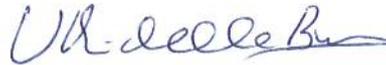
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR\\_PUB\\_16\\_1\\_NMRF\\_PracticalGuide.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf).

Please note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. One important measure that can positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage Saint Lucia to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the third cycle of the review, by 2023.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *“The Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may assist Saint Lucia in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its annex.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc: H.E. Mr. Cosmos RICHARDSON  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York

Mr. Didier TREBUCQ  
United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean  
Barbados

## Annex

### **Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies**

- Ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- Taking concrete steps to address outstanding reporting obligations to Treaty Bodies.

### **National human rights framework**

- Providing adequate budgetary and financial resources to State institutions working for the promotion and protection of human rights, ensuring that they can carry out their mandates.

### **Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### *Equality and non-discrimination*

- Enacting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.
- Continuing to engage with civil society organisations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and addressing discrimination regarding this community.
- Taking all necessary measures to strengthen the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons.

##### *Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

- Continuing to develop and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practices, including by making efforts to secure support and assistance from the international community in pursuing such plans and policies.

#### **B. Civil and political rights**

##### *Right to life, liberty and security of person*

- Establishing independent investigations into extrajudicial police shootings to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
- Maintaining the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty and considering additional measures concerning its abolition.

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

- Considering the establishment and implementation of training programmes to ensure the use of force by security forces complies with international standards.
- Increasing the pace of legal reform and improving the efficiency of the judicial system, by combating low prosecution rates and increasing services to process evidence.
- Continuing efforts to improve conditions of detention and taking measures to reduce the length of remand and detention without trial and to ensure that criminal defendants are tried without undue delay.
- Enacting reforms to prevent all forms of ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty and to ensure accountability.

*Fundamental freedoms*

- Enhancing access to information by enacting the freedom of information bill.

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*

- Increasing efforts to eliminate human trafficking, including by improving the effectiveness of victim identification and support, focusing on protection, specialized assistance and their social and community reintegration, and improving efforts to investigate, prosecute and sentence traffickers.

**C. Economic, social and cultural rights**

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

- Ensuring a human rights-based approach in addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, by taking into account the special needs of women and girls, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, children, older persons and LGBTI persons.

*Right to health*

- Continuing to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care, and to ensure free and timely access to appropriate health care for all and improve maternal and child health.
- Taking further efforts to ensure all health and essential workers are able to protect themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continuing to make progress on the adoption process of a national sexual and reproductive health policy and ensuring its effective implementation with adequate resources.

*Right to education*

- Continuing to provide quality education for all, including by implementing strategies to reduce school dropout rates, and completing the draft school feeding policy, 2020–2030.
- Continuing efforts to develop an official policy aimed at retaining and reintegrating pregnant students in the formal school system.

- Taking appropriate measures to reduce inequalities in the education system in order to address the challenges faced by children with special needs and disabilities.

#### **D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

##### *Women*

- Making further efforts, including through international cooperation in capacity-building, to mainstream gender in domestic law and public policy, in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Promoting adequate actions and policies to eliminate gender stereotypes in the workplace.
- Strengthening legislation to protect women and girls from violence, including by establishing specialized police units to investigate crimes of violence against women and reviewing the legislative framework to include provisions on marital rape and a precise definition of violence against women.

##### *Children*

- Developing and implementing legislation that prohibits child marriage and setting the minimum age of consent to marry at 18 years of age.
- Taking measures to ban corporal punishment against children and taking further steps to combat child abuse.
- Increasing efforts and promoting appropriate actions and policies to combat child labour.

##### *Persons with disabilities*

- Continuing efforts to develop programmes and policies at the national level for the inclusion and the guarantee of all the rights of persons with disabilities, and enacting policies to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

##### *Refugees and asylum seekers*

- Adopting asylum legislation and procedures, including a refugee status determination procedure, to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement.