



## Report Submitted to the Universal Periodic Review

### Jordan

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**Submitted by: Al-Aman Center for Human Rights**

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#### **About the Center:**

Located in Zarqa, Jordan, Al-Aman center for Human Rights is a Jordanian society registered under the Ministry of Political Development and Parliamentarian affairs as per the relevant Jordanian laws. The society has been active in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since 2010.

- Vision: to build an inclusive society, where members carry out their national duties, respect values of democracy, renounce violence and continuously work for holistic reform and a developed nation.

#### **-Objectives:**

1- Promoting and defending human rights, and empowering young distinguished leaders, capable of overcoming the challenges that Jordan is facing.

2- Enhancing participation in the democratic process as well as monitoring elections.

3-Empowering and building the capacities of young leaders, who believe in the power of dialogue, tolerance and pluralism, and renounce violence and extremism.



## **Part One: Legal Framework of International Obligations on Human Rights**

Having ratified numerous international conventions on human rights, including the two international covenants, the state of Jordan is bound by a number of international obligations. The state must ensure that all people, residing in Jordan or falling under the state's jurisdiction, enjoy their full rights without discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, economic status, birth or any other condition. It is, therefore, necessary to take all legislative and other measures to safeguard these human rights.

These obligations include the right to education. According to article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, "States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace." Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child also stressed on this right.

### **Part One- 1: Dropping Out of School and Child Labor:**

According to the Education Law, education is mandatory until 10<sup>th</sup> grade, which we believe is a good practice. However, after reviewing the Education Law No 3 of 1991, it becomes clear that the law is not fully enforced, and does not include serious penalties to limit drop outs.

We shall address full and partial drop outs in our report, and the strong correlation between dropping out of school and child labor in many cases.

"Although A.A is supposed to be in sixth grade, he does not go to school and works at a small shop (sells coffee) in Russeifa instead". This child was deprived of school, perhaps willingly, but he belongs to a broken family. As many other children suffer like A.A in Jordan and worldwide, we must take action to ensure that they have access to education that leads to their development and that of their societies.



Child labor in Jordan refers to child workers under 16, which is the minimum age to work as per the relevant laws, and juveniles aged 16 and 17 whose working hours exceed 36 hours a week, the maximum number allowed by law. Furthermore, there is a significant number of children who work in hazardous jobs, violating national legislation in this regard.<sup>1</sup>

Male juveniles drop out of school, as the Labor Law allows them to work for a maximum of 36 hours a week, encouraging them to find a paid job. According to official figures, the percentage of children enrolled in schools drops from 89 % of children aged 15 to 81 % of children aged 16 and 17.<sup>2</sup>

### **Part Two: The Right to Participate in Cultural Life with Special Emphasis on Youth**

According to provisions of International conventions and covenants, states parties, including Jordan, are to commit to “the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential” (article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child). States parties “recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”, as per article 31 of the convention.

### **Recommendations:**

The center urges members of the UN Human Rights Council to look into the following recommendations while reviewing Jordan’s case:

1. More Enforcing mandatory education as per provisions of the Jordanian Constitution, which tackled rights and duties of Jordanians in its second chapter. In article 20, it stipulates that “Elementary education shall be compulsory for Jordanians and free of charge in Government schools.”
2. Ensuring that the right to access education is granted to all refugees residing in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We, therefore, urge the United Nations to carry out its duties and support the kingdom to achieve this goal.
3. Drafting laws to penalize a parent, or both parents, who may be responsible for a school dropout, by either giving them a jail sentence or a hefty fine to pay or both (father/mother/guardian of child). In the case of child labor, Jordan needs laws that also penalize employers of children under 16.
4. Giving special attention to an individual’s right to participate in the cultural life, especially the youth, taking into consideration the cultural and social barriers that deny females this right.

<sup>1</sup>The National Survey of Child Labor 2016. The Center of Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. International Labor Organization and the Jordanian Ministry of Labor. Amman. August, 2016. P. 26

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. P.21