

LIECHTENSTEIN

Third PERIODIC REPORT

**under Article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil
and Political Rights
of 16 December 1966**

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Foreword

This report, which was adopted by the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein on 30 June 2026, is being submitted to the competent Committee pursuant to Article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966.

This is Liechtenstein's third periodic report, covering the period from August 2017 to May 2026. The report was prepared by the Office for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the offices responsible for the issues in question, taking into account information on the activities of various non-governmental organisations. It was drafted on the basis of the list of issues prepared for Liechtenstein by the competent Committee in document CCPR/C/LIE/QPR/3 of 7 August 2025 and follows the simplified reporting procedure. It sets out the legislative, administrative, and other measures taken during the reporting period to implement the Covenant. All laws and ordinances mentioned in the report can be consulted at www.gesetze.li.

Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein

A. General information on the national human rights situation

1)

1. Since the Committee's previous concluding observations, Liechtenstein has taken a number of measures to strengthen the implementation of existing recommendations and to further develop its human rights framework. Implementation takes place as part of a coordinated State approach involving a variety of actors.

2. To improve coordination and to ensure the systematic implementation and review of the recommendations of international human rights bodies, an interoffice Human Rights Working Group was established within the National Administration in June 2019. This working group supports coordination among the authorities and offices involved, examines possible implementation measures, and ensures follow-up and reporting on human rights obligations.

3. A central instrument in this regard is the administration-internal human rights database, in which all recommendations of the UN human rights treaty bodies and the expert bodies of the Council of Europe are recorded. Since the database was established, all recommendations received since 2023 have been systematically entered, analysed, and categorised by topic. A total of 537 recommendations have been recorded so far. The database provides a structured overview of responsibilities, implementation status, and thematic priorities, and it serves as a basis for the internal coordination of the Human Rights Working Group as well as for reporting to international monitoring mechanisms.

4. This approach ensures a transparent, coherent, and continuous assessment of the recommendations, and implementation measures are documented. At the same time, the database helps to exploit synergies between different reporting and follow-up processes and makes overlaps between recommendations of different bodies visible.

5. The implementation of human rights obligations is also complemented by thematic coordination structures. For instance, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which entered into force for Liechtenstein on 1 October 2021, is implemented *inter alia* through the Istanbul Convention Coordination Group, which meets regularly, organises national expert exchanges, and accompanies the implementation of the recommendations of the GREVIO group of experts.

6. The Association for Human Rights (VMR) plays a central role, operating as the national human rights institution and performing advisory, mediating, and monitoring functions in various human rights fields. The VMR provides support in areas such as equality, violence prevention, migration, and discrimination and serves as an important interface for civil society concerns and actors. It works closely with State bodies and, within the scope of its mandates, carries out awareness-raising and monitoring tasks. The VMR is also the official independent Monitoring Office (MOBE) under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which entered into force for Liechtenstein on 17 January 2024, and in 2026 it will assume the mandate of the independent monitoring mechanism under Article 10 of the Screening Regulation (EU 2024/1356) as part of the implementation of the European Union's Pact on Migration and Asylum.

7. In addition, regular exchanges with civil society organisations take place on various human rights topics. In this context, NGOs are also informed about ongoing and planned reporting processes to the human rights bodies of the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

8. In the course of a reorganisation process within the Office of Social Services (ASD), the Equal Opportunities Unit was upgraded to become the Equal Opportunities Department. The Division was given a clear management structure and was expanded to include existing and new specialist units. Since 2025, a new specialist for disability matters has been part of the Division, with responsibility for

coordinating the implementation of the CRPD and also supporting work in the field of gender-based and domestic violence.

9. With regard to important legal developments since the adoption of the last concluding observations, it should be highlighted that Liechtenstein has ratified significant international human rights instruments. The Istanbul Convention entered into force for Liechtenstein on 1 October 2021. In this connection, several legislative amendments were made: The Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO) and the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act (AussStrG) were amended. In the course of the comprehensive 2019 revision of the Criminal Code (StGB), criminal offences were also amended and added prior to ratification of the Istanbul Convention, so that the legal basis corresponds to the Convention to the greatest extent possible.

10. Liechtenstein has also ratified the CRPD, which entered into force on 17 January 2024. Liechtenstein likewise made several legislative amendments in this regard: amendments to the AussStrG, the Statistics Act (StatG), and the Public Information Act. Subsequently, a comprehensive revision of guardianship law was also carried out; the amendments entered into force on 1 April 2026.

11. Furthermore, the Liechtenstein Marriage Act (EheG) was amended so that the legal institution of civil marriage has been equally open to mixed-sex and same-sex couples since 1 January 2025 (Marriage for All). Already in 2023, adoption law was amended to place same-sex couples on an equal footing with heterosexual couples (amendment of the General Civil Code (ABGB) and the Registered Partnership Act (PartG)).

B. Specific information on the implementation of Articles 1 to 27 of the Covenant

Constitutional and legal framework (Article 2)

2)

12. Liechtenstein is not considering withdrawing its remaining reservations to Articles 14, 17 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The relevant legal situation is unchanged.

13. The Constitutional Court Act (StGHG) explicitly lists the ICCPR among the international conventions whose violation may be asserted by way of individual complaint to the Constitutional Court (StGH). Article 15(2) StGHG specifies that “rights guaranteed by international conventions” include in particular those “of the International Covenant of 16 December 1966 on Civil and Political Rights”, which are thus expressly included in the catalogue of individual rights that may be invoked. However, given that the fundamental rights under the ICCPR largely overlap with domestic fundamental rights and those of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), complainants and the Constitutional Court itself refer to these fundamental rights only in a supplementary manner (see, for instance, the following decisions (all published at www.gerichtsentscheide.li): StGH 2025/091 and StGH 2025/078, in each case consideration 3.1, on the right to a defence with reference to Article 14 ICCPR; StGH 2018/020, consideration 3, on the right to the lawful judge with reference to Article 14(1), second sentence, ICCPR; StGH 2019/027, consideration 2.1, and StGH 2020/014, consideration 2, in each case on the right to respect for privacy with reference to Article 17 ICCPR; StGH 2024/035, facts of the case para. 15, and StGH 2022/064, facts of the case para. 4, in each case involving general invocation of the ICCPR by the complainant).

14. There are currently no specific awareness-raising measures to promote knowledge of the provisions of the ICCPR and its Optional Protocols. As already stated, however, the fundamental rights

enshrined in the Covenant largely overlap with domestic fundamental rights and the rights guaranteed by the ECHR, so that their content is regularly taken into account in legal practice and in the training of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities. Liechtenstein's reports under the ICCPR and the concluding observations of the Committee are published on the website of the Office for Foreign Affairs (AAA). The public is also informed of the submission of the reports and the receipt of the concluding observations by way of Government press releases. The AAA regularly holds public events on human rights topics, at which information is also provided on the reporting processes to international human rights bodies.

National human rights institution (Article 2)

3)

15. The national human rights institution in Liechtenstein is the VMR, which was founded in 2016. The VMR performs the function of an independent body for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Its establishment was a direct response to the recommendations of international human rights bodies calling on Liechtenstein to create an institution in line with the Paris Principles.

16. The VMR has a comprehensive mandate encompassing the monitoring of the implementation of international human rights obligations, the advising of authorities and individuals, and the raising of public awareness. Its core responsibilities include:

- advising and supporting individuals in the exercise of their rights;
- reporting to international treaty bodies and preparing opinions on draft legislation;
- monitoring the human rights situation in the country, including in the areas of discrimination, equality, and protection from violence;
- public outreach and education to strengthen awareness of human rights among the population.

17. The VMR is organised as an association under private law, which guarantees its independence from State institutions. The VMR is guided by the Paris Principles, which set out requirements regarding independence, pluralism, and a broad mandate.

18. The VMR works closely with international human rights mechanisms and regularly takes part in consultations in the context of Liechtenstein's reporting. At the national level, it cooperates with authorities, NGOs, and educational institutions to promote human rights standards and counter discrimination. The members of the association are selected so as to reflect the diversity of society. They comprise a broad range of organisations, including NGOs, associations, educational institutions, and political parties. Various specialist fields such as law, social work, and academia are also represented, thereby ensuring societal pluralism and diversity in the composition of the VMR.

19. The VMR is financed by State funds provided annually by the State of Liechtenstein. The State contribution amounted to CHF 350,000 per year in the years 2017 to 2023. The Secretariat, which also includes the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People (OSKJ), had a staffing level of 1.5 full-time equivalents in 2017, 1.6 full-time equivalents in 2018, and 1.7 full-time equivalents in the years 2019 to 2023.

20. In 2024, the State contribution was increased to CHF 410,000. This was connected with the VMR's newly assumed task as the independent Monitoring Office (MOBE) under the CRPD. The Secretariat accordingly had a staffing level of 2.1 full-time equivalents in 2024; these figures remained unchanged for 2025. In 2026, the State contribution was increased to a total of CHF 447,000, given that the VMR

will take on additional tasks as the independent monitoring mechanism under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum from mid-2026. In this connection, the staffing level was increased to a total of 2.3 full-time equivalents.

Anti-corruption measures (Articles 2 and 25)

4)

21. Liechtenstein has robust and modern criminal legislation that comprehensively covers corruption offences. Of central importance is § 307 StGB, which penalises the bribery of both domestic and foreign officials, thus setting a clear zero-tolerance line.

22. With its accession to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, which has been in force for Liechtenstein since 1 April 2017, Liechtenstein also has a firmly established international anchoring in the field of combating corruption. In this connection, Liechtenstein modernised its criminal law on corruption in 2016 in order to align it fully with international requirements and to ensure a high degree of legal clarity.¹

23. Liechtenstein participates actively in the evaluation mechanisms of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), which allow for the continuous further development of integrity standards.

24. Liechtenstein has structures in place to promote integrity. For members of the Government, various rules of conduct are set out in legislation, in particular in the National Administration Act (LVG). For instance, members of the Government are excluded from deliberations and decision-making in the collegial Government in matters in which they are themselves a party or in respect of which they stand in a relationship of joint entitlement, joint obligation, or recourse liability to one of the parties (Article 17 of the Ordinance on the Rules of Procedure of the Government, Article 6 LVG). Members of the Government (or other public officials) may be recused by a person concerned in the performance of an official act if they themselves, or a person to whom they stand in a relationship of joint entitlement, joint obligation, or recourse liability, can expect a significant advantage or disadvantage from the outcome of the administrative matter (Article 7 LVG). Members of the Government are also prohibited from receiving private visits from parties, or from visiting them or inviting them, in order to report on the status or prospects of an administrative matter or to give advice or information (Article 22 LVG).

25. Moreover, under the Law on the Organisation of the Government and the Administration (RVOG), the Government Secretary, the Secretaries General, and the Senior Political Advisors of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are State employees (civil servants) and are therefore subject to the State Employees Act (StPG) and the Code of Conduct on the Prevention of Corruption for Employees of the Liechtenstein National Administration. This code of conduct is based on the StPG and the State Employees Ordinance (StPV) and contains a series of integrity rules. It includes provisions on conflicts of interest, bias and recusal, gifts and other advantages, secondary employment, public offices, reporting obligations, and sanctions. A national working group on the prevention of corruption has also existed since 2003.

26. The introduction of a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament² and the further development of Compliance Guidelines for the Judiciary³ are clear positive examples of the strengthening of institutional culture. The clear delineation of responsibilities, the ongoing professionalisation of the

¹ [Report and Motion 2016/110](#).

² [Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament](#)

³ [Compliance Guidelines for the Judiciary](#)

judiciary, and regular evaluation by international mechanisms (e.g. GRECO and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)) also contribute to a high level of institutional quality.

27. The State structures in Liechtenstein ensure throughout that public procurement is organised in a manner resistant to corruption. The strict criminal law provisions – including the comprehensive rules on bribery – also apply to public procurement.

28. No Government proposal is planned to restrict the powers of the Head of State. There was not a single case of this kind during the reporting period. There is therefore no need to review this constitutional provision.

Non-discrimination (Articles 2, 19, 20 and 26)

5)

29. Victims of discrimination have access to various judicial and administrative remedies. Under Article 7 of the Gender Equality Act (GLG), counselling organisations may bring an action for a declaratory judgment, initiate legal proceedings on behalf of the aggrieved person, or participate in proceedings initiated by the aggrieved person. In addition, § 283 StGB criminalises public incitement to hatred or discrimination, inter alia on the grounds of language, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or ideology, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation, as well as the refusal to provide a service intended for the general public on those grounds. Victims may file a criminal complaint if they are affected by public discrimination. Anyone who discriminates is liable to prosecution and faces a custodial sentence of up to two years.

30. The Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities (BGlG) provides that persons with speech, hearing, or visual disabilities may demand that official decisions, forms, and documents be made accessible to them in a perceivable and comprehensible form at no additional cost. The BGlG also prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability in other central areas of life. With the entry into force of the CRPD for Liechtenstein on 17 January 2024, the existing framework for accessibility and equal access was further broadened.

31. In addition to these provisions, the GLG also guarantees legal protection for women and girls against discrimination in the world of work and in access to goods and services. Liechtenstein labour law also comprehensively protects the personality of employees, including in respect of the characteristics of gender, race, nationality, and sexual orientation. Taken together, these various rules contribute to combating multiple discrimination, which may particularly affect minorities. In addition, § 33(1)(5) StGB provides that discriminatory motives are to be taken into account as a special aggravating cause in sentencing.

32. With the consent of a victim of a human rights violation, the VMR may participate in judicial and administrative proceedings on the victim's behalf or in support of the victim. Against this background, Liechtenstein has a broad framework of protection against discrimination that covers various areas of life and addresses discrimination effectively in both substantive and procedural terms. Protection from discrimination results from a combination of specific statutory provisions in various fields of law covering different forms of discrimination and areas of life.

33. In addition to these legal remedies, comprehensive assistance is available to victims of discrimination and violence. In accordance with the Victims Assistance Act (OHG), the Victims Assistance Office (OHS) ensures that victims and their family members receive around-the-clock non-deferrable assistance for the most urgent needs arising as a consequence of the offence. To the extent necessary, it provides additional assistance until the health condition of the person concerned has

stabilised and until the other consequences of the offence have as far as possible been remedied or compensated (longer-term assistance). The OHS may arrange for the non-deferrable and longer-term assistance to be provided by third parties.

34. The services of the OHS encompass appropriate medical, psychological, social, material, and legal assistance in Liechtenstein and, if necessary, in neighbouring countries, where such assistance has become necessary as a consequence of the offence. The OHS coordinates its services with other assistance institutions and, where needed, organises emergency accommodation for victims and their family members. Where necessary, it arranges for victims to be accompanied or represented by authorised agents in court. Victims assistance services are free of charge for victims and their family members and may be used for an unlimited period. Financial victims assistance benefits are subject to the principle of subsidiarity. The costs of immediate/non-deferrable assistance are borne by the State. The costs of longer-term assistance provided by third parties (e.g. legal or psychotherapeutic services) are covered in full or in part, taking into account the eligible income of the person entitled.

35. In addition, the Psychiatric-Psychological Service of the Office of Social Services offers counselling and support for victims and perpetrators, including psychiatric and psychological assessment, as well as the organisation of outpatient or inpatient assistance.

36. In addition to judicial and criminal law remedies, persons concerned in Liechtenstein also have access to the supervisory complaint as an administrative remedy. This is an internal administrative remedy within the framework of official and administrative supervision by which the conduct of authorities or public officials can be challenged. The supervisory complaint is directed not against the substantive content of a decision, but in particular against improper conduct or the refusal or excessive delay of an administrative act that is owed. The supervisory complaint is governed by Article 23 of the National Administration Act (LVG). According to the case law of the Administrative Court (VGH), a supervisory complaint may be lodged if an administrative act is refused or unreasonably delayed (VGH 2020/058). It does not constitute an ordinary legal remedy, but rather a supplementary administrative means of exercising supervision and remedying irregularities.

37. Two supervisory complaints were lodged during the reporting period. The first supervisory complaint was lodged in 2022. It concerned a police check on the occasion of entry into Liechtenstein by public transport. The person concerned was checked after presenting a forged passport upon entry. Subsequent inquiries by the National Police, which had been called in, revealed that the person had a demonstrable connection with foreign nationals who had been arrested shortly beforehand and who were jointly accused of property offences in Liechtenstein. The complainant argued that the check and questioning were attributable to the complainant's origin. The supervisory complaint was withdrawn before the conclusion of the proceedings.

38. The second supervisory complaint was lodged at the end of 2025. It concerns the allegation that investigations in criminal proceedings were not conducted with the required diligence on account of the foreign-sounding family name of the person concerned. The underlying criminal proceedings were discontinued by the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The supervisory complaint is currently pending before the Government.

39. In addition to the supervisory complaint against administrative authorities, a judicial supervisory complaint under the Court Organisation Act (GOG) is available in respect of the judiciary.

40. The judicial supervisory complaint under the GOG is a written administrative remedy by which anyone may challenge delay or denial of the administration of justice by courts or by bodies or persons of the court (Articles 48 and 49 GOG). Responsibility lies with the president of the next higher court instance or the judicial service chamber of the Supreme Court (Article 48(1) GOG). No judicial supervisory complaints on grounds of discrimination were recorded at the Court of Justice during the reporting period.

41. The following complaints of discrimination have been registered since the Committee's last concluding observations: The VMR has provided 50 consultations relating to discrimination since 2017. In addition, there were ten consultations at the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People and, since the MOBE took up its activities in 2024, two further consultations.

42. Since 2017, 6 cases of discrimination have been brought to the attention of the OHS: one case based on sexual orientation, four cases of racial discrimination, and one case of discrimination based on disability.

43. Between 2017 and 2025, the Office of the Public Prosecutor initiated 51 proceedings on suspicion of discrimination under § 283 StGB, 43 of which were conducted against known perpetrators. Convictions were handed down in ten cases, nine cases were resolved by way of diversion, and 18 cases were discontinued. The discontinuations were mostly due to lack of evidence ("one person's word against another's") or lack of publicity (§ 283 StGB requires that discriminatory statements be made publicly). Publicity is assumed where at least ten persons are aware of the statements. The vast majority of cases concerned discrimination on the grounds of nationality and race. In four cases, the proceedings concerned discrimination on the grounds of religion, in one case on the grounds of gender, and in one case on the grounds of sexual orientation. Several proceedings concerned statements made in the course of the coronavirus pandemic, in which the coronavirus measures were equated with the oppression of Jews during the Nazi era. In the cases resulting in conviction, predominantly suspended criminal sanctions were imposed. Specifically, suspended custodial sentences were imposed in four cases, in two of which unsuspended monetary penalties were additionally imposed. Suspended monetary penalties were imposed in a further four cases.

6)

44. Liechtenstein has taken various legislative and practical measures to prevent and combat hate speech and hate crimes. It should be noted that Liechtenstein criminal law does not recognise the concepts of "hate speech" and "hate crime" as such. "Hate speech" may fall under the offence set out in § 283 StGB, provided that the publicity requirement is also met. The prohibition of discrimination is enshrined in § 283 of the Criminal Code. That provision criminalises hate speech and discrimination directed against persons on the grounds of their race, language, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or ideology, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation. Acts motivated by racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, and transphobia are thus also covered. Anyone who discriminates is liable to prosecution and faces a custodial sentence of up to two years. The expansion of § 283 StGB in 2016 explicitly extended the scope of protection to these characteristics. Where the publicity requirement is met, the gender of the person concerned is additionally taken into account as a special aggravating cause in sentencing pursuant to § 33(1)(5) StGB.

45. Various awareness-raising measures have also been implemented to combat hate speech. In August 2021, the Violence Protection Commission (GSK) organised a continuing training event for police and judicial personnel on the prohibition of discrimination. The event was aimed at employees of the National Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Court of Justice as well as members of the Chamber of Lawyers, and it focused on explaining the revision of the comprehensive prohibition of discrimination and discussing current questions of case law. To broaden the impact, the presentations were published as specialist articles in the Liechtenstein journal for legal professionals, the *Liechtensteinische Juristenzeitung*, in spring 2022. In addition, the nationwide anti-discrimination campaign "Discrimination is punishable – Tolerance is your right" was launched on 24 March 2023. The campaign content was disseminated via posters, social media channels, and bus advertising. The nationwide campaign was carried out in 2023 as a cooperation between the VMR, the GSK, and the ASD and was deepened by a subsequent travelling exhibition on anti-discrimination in 2024. In this

way, in addition to the broader public, many schoolchildren were introduced to discrimination issues in a vivid manner. The municipalities and the National Administration supported the campaign financially and provided information about it through internal communication channels.

46. In the area of the media, an awareness-raising campaign to combat hate speech was already carried out in 2018. The GSK met with the editors-in-chief of the two largest print media outlets to draw their attention to their obligations under the Media Act (MedienG) and to possible complicity in, or contribution to, the offence of discrimination under § 283 StGB. A regular exchange on this topic was subsequently established. In July 2023, a public event was also held on the Sustainable Development Goal “Reduced Inequalities” (SDG 10), which addressed hate speech in the digital space. Experts from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Swiss Federal Commission against Racism provided information on norms of international law, the definition of hate speech, and the challenges of criminal prosecution. The professional ethics standards of the Swiss Press Council apply to Liechtenstein media outlets insofar as they are members of the Swiss Media Association, and they require respect for human dignity and the prohibition of discrimination.

47. Since 2023, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD has held an annual awareness-raising event on 21 March, the International Day against Racism. In 2023 and 2024, the focus was on everyday racism, which was explored in depth through presentations and panel discussions. A training session for professionals was also held by an expert from Zurich. In the preceding years, the ASD published series of articles and portraits of professionals on the topic of racism in the print media. Since 2025, several days of action against racism have been held around 21 March in cooperation with organisations from the education and youth sectors, using banners, events, discussions, and media work to raise awareness among the broader public and especially among young people.

48. The topic of online hate and misogyny was addressed at several events. Various organisations screened a documentary film, which was complemented by a panel event on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2024.

49. Since the beginning of 2026, hate crime has been recorded statistically and published together with the other statistics in the annual report of the National Police. The police case system was adapted so that hate-motivated offences can be recorded and statistically analysed. Employees were made aware of the correct entry of such offences in the system. At the National Police, the hate crime e-learning course was made mandatory, and a flyer was sent to all employees.

50. In addition, the monitoring report “Extremism in Liechtenstein”, previously published each year, serves as an important basis. Since 2010, it has documented extremist incidents, developments, and prevention measures. The aim of this report is to identify tendencies endangering democracy and the rule of law at an early stage and to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation. The report was most recently published for the year 2024; a new concept for its future design is currently being developed.

51. Complaints of discrimination may be lodged with the National Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and the Association for Human Rights. The VMR advises persons concerned and, with their consent, may participate in judicial and administrative proceedings. Other bodies active in the field of prevention and awareness-raising are the GSK, the Digital Crime Unit of the National Police, the Violence Protection Department, and the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD.

7)

52. Liechtenstein ratified the CRPD on 18 December 2023. The Convention entered into force on 17 January 2024. With this ratification, Liechtenstein has committed itself to comprehensively protecting

the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their equal participation in all areas of life. The implementation of the Convention is a central element of national human rights policy and encompasses both legislative amendments and practical measures. The governmental Focal Point has been staffed at 40% of a full-time position since March 2025 and is attached to the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD. Its tasks include steering the implementation of the CRPD and closing existing gaps, serving as the administration-internal contact point for authorities and institutions, developing a national action plan, strengthening networking and coordination among the relevant authorities, institutions, and organisations, and initiating data collection and analysis. The MOBE under Article 33(2) CRPD is located at the VMR. Liechtenstein introduced the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities (BGIG) in 2006 and in 2007 established the Office for the Equality of People with Disabilities, located at the Liechtenstein Association for People with Disabilities (LBV), which offers counselling and support. The LBV also leads the “sichtwechsel” networking group, which brings together organisations and public offices working on behalf of persons with disabilities. Together with the VMR and the LBV, the Focal Point is currently preparing an inventory and needs analysis on the CRPD. This analysis examines the existing legal basis, the services available, and the need for action for persons with disabilities in Liechtenstein. The finished document is intended to serve as the foundation for an action plan, on the basis of which the further implementation of the Convention will proceed.

53. In the field of education, Liechtenstein is consistently pursuing the goal of inclusive education on the basis of the new 2021 support concept. This concept is based on constitutional law, the BGIG, the CRPD, and the “Education for All” education strategy. Equal access to public schools is guaranteed, and integrative solutions take precedence, with the individual needs of pupils at the centre. The system combines integrative services in regular schools with specialised structures, for instance at the Therapeutic-Educational Centre (HPZ), whose specialists also work directly at regular schools and provide a broad range of therapeutic and educational support services. Early intervention, individual support plans, small class sizes, school assistance, and educational-therapeutic measures such as special needs education in schools, speech therapy, and psychomotor therapy ensure continuous support from early childhood through secondary school. Since the 2024/2025 school year, schools have had access to external practical advice for challenging diagnoses such as trisomy, autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, and others. Since the 2025/26 school year, schools have had additional coaches available for advice through the Learning Support Team. Barrier-free teaching and learning materials are provided as needed. These include materials in easy or plain language, tactile teaching materials for pupils with visual impairments, and digital resources compatible with assistive technologies. Teachers and assistance staff receive ongoing training in implementing reasonable accommodation and adapting learning environments to heterogeneous needs. The tiered support model (see the 2021 support concept) ensures that support needs are assigned transparently and in a graduated manner; the vast majority of pupils receive support within regular schools, while specialised services are available for children with substantial support needs. Vocational training, higher education, and lifelong learning are also accessible, including individual support, the provision of assistive devices, and compensation for disadvantages. The support concept will be evaluated in 2026 and further developed accordingly.

54. With regard to children with learning difficulties, the Office of Education issued a directive on compensation for disadvantages in the school system in 2021. The directive stipulates that pupils with a documented impairment should be given the opportunity to realise their potential despite the impairment. Possible measures include visual-optical measures, auditory measures, haptic-motor measures, alternative measures, time-related measures, spatial measures, and the conversion of oral examinations into written ones and vice versa. Such compensation for disadvantages in the case of learning difficulties also exists in vocational training. Liechtenstein has no vocational schools of its own, so apprentices attend vocational schools in Switzerland or Austria, where the respective local provisions apply. Both of those countries provide for the possibility of compensation for disadvantages in the field of vocational training.

55. In addition, monitoring of the mental health of pupils has been under development since 2024. It aims to obtain a comprehensive picture of the mental health and well-being of pupils at the compulsory school level and to identify any need for action.

56. Children and young people with disabilities thus receive a wide range of support in the school environment. This may take the form of school assistance staff, special support teachers, or the adaptation of teaching methods and examination conditions. The aim is to provide optimal support for the individual learning process and thus to ensure equal opportunities.

Children and young people with special educational needs, comparison of 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school years

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Support for children and young people with special educational needs at municipal schools	58	57
Support for children and young people with special educational needs at secondary schools	35	42
Support for children and young people at the Special Education Day School in Schaan (HPZ) in the context of special schooling	74	78
Support for children and young people in Switzerland in the context of special schooling	10	13
Support for children and young people in Austria in the context of special schooling	4	3
Total pupils with special educational needs	181	193

57. According to the support concept, support is divided into three support levels, which define the intensity and scope of the necessary support for all pupils in regular schools. Support level 1 (differentiated teaching with advice and support from special needs teachers and school assistance) covers approximately 95% of all pupils, while support levels 2 and 3 together account for approximately 5% of pupils. The assignment of children to support levels 1 to 3 depends directly on their current performance level. Support is provided with the help of differentiated, child- and context-related support diagnostics and support planning on the basis of the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health). Since the 2021/2022 school year, the support statistics for regular schools have taken into account the number of learners with an impairment: These include regular pupils with substantial support needs (support level 3: additional intensified support) as well as learners at support level 2 (additional support). The following chart shows the number of pupils from Liechtenstein attending a special school (orange line) and the number of pupils receiving support in regular schools at support level 3 (light blue line). Additional indicators are collected for monitoring purposes and are also depicted in the chart. The figures are taken from the accountability reports of each year.

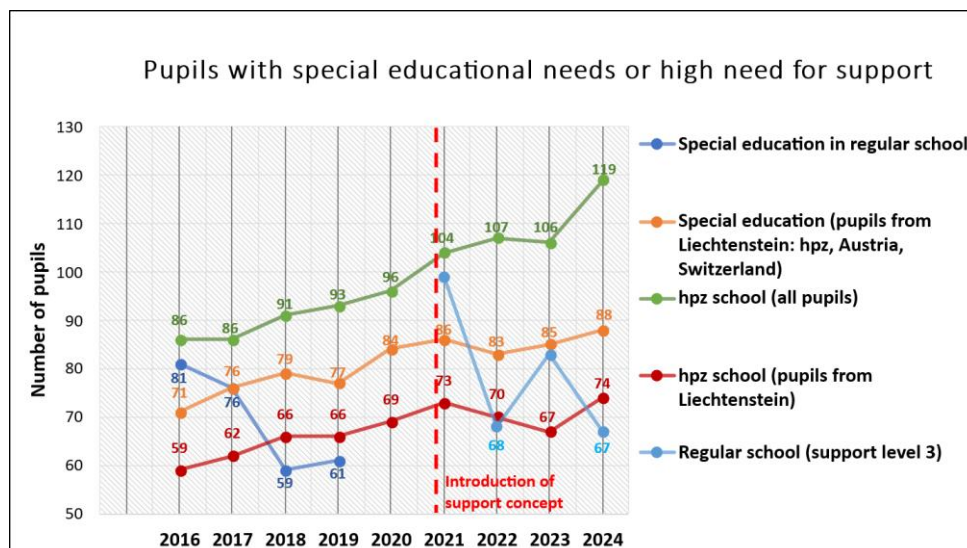


Figure 1: Number of pupils with special educational needs, by school year

58. With regard to access to justice, Liechtenstein ensures that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights on an equal basis. Procedural guarantees such as equality before the law, the right to an independent court, and the right of appeal are protected by the Constitution. In addition, specific rules exist to facilitate access. Persons with hearing, visual, or speech impairments may demand that official and judicial documents be provided in a perceivable and comprehensible form. Interpreting services are provided for persons with hearing disabilities, and a hearing is adjourned if no interpreters are available. Persons concerned may call in a person of trust to support them during the proceedings. The court may also entrust experts with conducting questioning, in particular where mental or cognitive impairments are present. For persons who cannot express themselves comprehensibly, a suitable representative is appointed. The Code of Criminal Procedure also contains arrangements for persons with hearing disabilities, mental illnesses, or cognitive impairments. To raise the awareness of police officers, a training module on interacting with persons with disabilities is being introduced at the Police School of Eastern Switzerland from the 2025/26 training course onwards, in which real-life scenarios are practised with persons concerned. This is intended to ensure that the police and the judiciary are prepared for the needs of persons with different forms of disability.

59. In the area of employment, Liechtenstein has created a legal basis ensuring the equality of persons with disabilities. The Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities (BGIG) prohibits discrimination in employment relationships and obliges employers and educational institutions to remove barriers, provided that this does not entail disproportionate effort. Employers have a statutory duty of care requiring that workplaces and working conditions be adapted to the individual needs of employees. This includes structural adaptations, ergonomic workplace equipment, and technical aids. The Office of Economic Affairs (AVW) is responsible for implementing the provisions of public labour law. In the context of labour market measures for integration into the labour market, the AVW can take into account the special needs of jobseekers with disabilities. Financing of induction subsidies for employers as well as counselling and continuing training services for the persons concerned is available. Within the National Administration, there is also the possibility of setting up compensatory positions if a previous activity can no longer be pursued due to a health impairment. These positions are tailored to the respective needs. These legal requirements, workplace-related adaptations, and support services are intended to strengthen participation in the primary labour market and the economic independence of persons with disabilities.

60. In the area of political participation, legal and practical arrangements are in place to promote access to elections and voting. Several supporting measures exist for the practical exercise of the right to vote. Postal voting, which is widespread in Liechtenstein, also enables persons with limited mobility

to participate in the political process in a self-determined manner. In addition, persons with disabilities may be supported by a person of trust when casting their vote, provided that the secrecy of the ballot remains guaranteed. The municipalities also ensure that polling stations are structurally accessible. The systematic provision of barrier-free voting information, in easy language or sign language, has not yet been implemented throughout and therefore represents a further step in development. Legislative reforms and accompanying measures – such as in the context of the revision of guardianship law – are intended to further strengthen self-determination and also to improve the conditions for equal political participation.

61. Despite this progress, the practical implementation of accessibility is not yet comprehensively guaranteed. Gaps exist in particular in the systematic collection of data on the living conditions of persons with disabilities. In the area of digital accessibility, the EEA States have adopted the EU requirements. In Liechtenstein, the amendments to the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities implementing the corresponding EU Directive 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies have applied since 1 April 2024. On 1 April 2026, the later transition period for websites published before 1 April 2024 came to an end. Mobile applications will have to be barrier-free from 1 October 2026, when the transition period for them will end.

62. Further specification in Liechtenstein is currently taking place primarily through existing implementation instruments such as the Equal Opportunities Action Plan. Article 22a BGIG provides that the ASD, as the competent body, monitors the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies. The first monitoring period, with a sample-based review, will run from 1 January 2027 to 22 December 2028. The resulting report will be transmitted to the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

63. In 2021, in the run-up to ratification of the CRPD, the project “People with Disabilities on Tour in the Municipalities” was carried out. The project was a cooperation between the LBV, the VMR, and the ASD. People with disabilities, accompanied by the LBV, visited all municipalities in Liechtenstein and, in contact with municipal employees, assessed the services offered in terms of accessibility and barriers to accessing services. The findings were discussed in a concluding meeting with the municipal leadership. Each municipality published a report on the visit in its municipal media. The visits, conducted on an equal footing, promoted mutual understanding and raised awareness of the concerns of people with disabilities in Liechtenstein.

64. The broader public was informed through a media series on several key articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In autumn 2022, Articles on access to work, education, information, culture, mobility, and political participation appeared in the national newspapers. The Articles were likewise published in cooperation between the LBV, the VMR, and the ASD.

65. The ASD finances the services of organisations in the disability field through annual contributions under service agreements, which cover a large share of operating costs. In addition, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD has supported various projects and activities of the LBV and other organisations not covered by the service agreements through financial contributions. For example, training for self-advocates is currently being supported.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Articles 2, 7 and 26)

8)

66. A central advance concerns the legal equality of same-sex couples: Since 2023, same-sex couples have had the option of adoption, including of stepchildren, and with the statutory introduction of

marriage for same-sex couples as of 1 January 2025, it was ensured that they have the same rights and obligations as heterosexual married couples to the full extent. This includes in particular non-discriminatory access to family law arrangements and to social law benefits. Existing registered partnerships can be converted into marriage, and foreign same-sex marriages are recognised.

67. There is currently no specific statutory provision in Liechtenstein expressly prohibiting so-called conversion therapies. However, such practices are neither part of State health or counselling services nor the subject of any known cases.

68. Furthermore, in cooperation with the FLay association (Association for Queer People in the Principality of Liechtenstein) and the VMR, Liechtenstein has taken measures to facilitate the legal recognition of changes of gender. Persons wishing to change their gender and, in connection therewith, potentially also their first name can have this legally recognised under defined and thus uniform requirements, which are communicated transparently on the website of the National Administration.⁴ The procedure does not require gender reassignment surgery or hormone therapy to have been performed. All that is required is the presentation of a diagnosis by a medical specialist confirming the diagnosis of “gender dysphoria”. The costs of a change of gender and of a change of first name are CHF 300 each. The costs of gender reassignment surgery are covered by health insurance under certain conditions.

69. In addition, societal awareness-raising measures have also been implemented. Information campaigns and educational programmes are intended to break down prejudices and foster a climate of acceptance. Cooperation with civil society organisations plays a central role in incorporating the needs and perspectives of LGBTIQ+ persons into political decision-making.

70. In 2022 and 2023, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD prepared two information brochures on the topics of trans identity and coming out. Both brochures are guides containing important information and contact points, above all for the persons concerned, their families, and their wider social environment. The brochures are updated regularly and made available to contact points as well as medical practices and other counselling institutions. The brochures were prepared in cooperation with FLay and the VMR.

71. To prevent discrimination, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD carried out several awareness-raising activities, ranging from media contributions to information campaigns. On the screens in Liechtenstein’s buses, information on the letter glossary of queer designations LGBTIQ+ is shown at regular intervals. On the occasion of Intersex Awareness Day, information on intersexuality is likewise published on the screens. The nationwide 2025 poster campaign “No Place for Sexism – Take a Stand” also drew attention to sexist discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons and, with the slogan “Out of the Question! Take a Stand”, used a QR code to point to recommendations for action for bystanders and persons concerned on the website www.sexismus.li.

Gender equality (Articles 3 and 26)

9)

72. Liechtenstein has taken various steps to promote equality between women and men and to strengthen the participation of women in decision-making positions. The Gender Equality Act (GLG) forms the legal basis for these efforts. In addition, a Gender Equality Strategy is being drawn up that defines concrete goals and fields of action for the promotion of equal opportunities. The Gender

⁴ Information sheet on [change of gender](http://www.changeofgender.li)

Equality Strategy was developed in 2024 and 2025 in a participatory process involving important societal stakeholders from politics, business, administration, and civil society, in several workshops and a consultation process. The vision and fields of action were defined, and goals and measures were established. The draft strategy also contains goals relating to the economic and political participation of women in decision-making positions. The strategy is currently being finalised. The strategy was drawn up under the leadership of the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD. It was supported in the participatory drafting process by the Competence Center for Diversity and Inclusion of the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

73. The Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD, which acts as the central coordination body for equality issues, carried out several measures in recent years to promote the share of women in politics and society. For 20 years (2004–2024), women from Liechtenstein were able to pursue continuing education in the cross-border politics course for women. The politics course, which was held annually in six modules, was a cooperation project between the Austrian state of Vorarlberg (Women and Equality Division) and Liechtenstein (Equal Opportunities Department). Instructors from both Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg led the modules and provided the women with comprehensive tools for political, societal, or economic engagement. Several evaluations showed that the majority of graduates subsequently stood for political office or took on socio-political engagement in an association or a new professional role.

74. A further measure was the financial support of the cross-party initiative “Diversity in Politics”. The initiative was a project of the Liechtenstein Women’s Network, which supported candidates and representatives of all political parties through political education, empowerment, and support in the electoral process. The project ran from 2018 to 2025 and supported women candidates in two parliamentary and municipal elections, successfully making their engagement visible. Diversity in Politics did not focus only on women as a target group, however, but also addressed the participation of young people and people with a migration background in politics.

75. Overall, the ASD finances the services of organisations in the field of equality through annual contributions under service agreements, which cover a large share of operating costs. In addition, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD has supported various projects and activities of the Information and Counselling Centre for Women (infra), the Women’s Network, the Women’s Shelter, the Association for Men’s Issues, and other organisations not covered by the service agreements through financial contributions. For example, the Diversity in Politics project, the annual activities of the Liechtenstein Employees’ Association (LANV) for Equal Pay Day, and other initiatives have been supported.

76. Between 2009 and 2021, the Liechtenstein Government, which consists of a total of five members, included two women (40%) in each legislative term. In 2021, the gender ratio was reversed. The 2021–2025 legislative term recorded the highest share of women to date, with three women (60%). In the current 2025–2029 legislative term, the percentage is again 40%, although it should be mentioned that the Government is currently led by two women (Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister).

77. The share of women among Members of Parliament has tended to increase. In 1988, the number of Members was increased from 15 to 25. After the share of women rose continuously to 24% in the first legislative terms from 1986 to 2005, it fell back to 12% in the following years up to 2021. This means that in those years, 3 of the 25 Members of Parliament were women. In the current legislative term (2025–2029), women hold 8 seats in Parliament, the highest figure since 1986 (32%).

78. Over the period shown since the introduction of women’s suffrage, an average of 94.5% of mayors during the respective terms of office were men. The first female mayor served during the 1991–1995 term of office, corresponding to a share of women of 9.1%. In the current term and during the preceding term of office, two women each held the office. They thus accounted for 18.2% of all officeholders.

79. The share of women among the members of the municipal councils was less than one third in every term between 2003 and 2019. The share of women among those elected fell by 11.0 percentage points over the same period. While in 2003 just under 28.3% of municipal council seats were held by women, a decline to 17.3% was recorded in 2015. From 2019 onwards, the gender ratio among municipal council members converged, with the share of women more than doubling compared with the preceding term and reaching a high of 41.3%. In the current term of office, the share of women has fallen by 3.8 percentage points to 36.5%.

80. The share of women in management positions in the Liechtenstein National Administration increased by 28.6 percentage points between 2005 and 2024. In 2005, 4 of 45 management positions were held by women (8.9%). In the following years, the share of women rose by 3.7 percentage points to 13.0% by 2012. After a decline in 2013, the share of women rose again and has been consistently above 20% since 2018. In 2024, the share of women in management positions reached a high of 37.5%. Currently, around one in three offices and units of the National Administration is headed by a woman.

81. The share of the employed population in management positions has risen continuously since 2010. While 3.6% of employed women held management positions in 2010, the figure for 2020 was 5.4%. Growth was also recorded among men, which at 2.5 percentage points between 2010 and 2020 was greater than that of women over the same period. Growth on the women's side was 1.6 percentage points. In 2020, the share of employed men in management positions was more than 2.5 times as high as the share of employed women in management positions.

82. Women with disabilities face multiple disadvantages, as they encounter specific needs and challenges that differ from those of men or persons without disabilities. However, neither the BGLG nor the GLG contains specific provisions for women with disabilities. Nonetheless, Articles 3 et seq. GLG provide a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination in both private and public employment relationships. This protection also applies to women with disabilities when they are disadvantaged in professional contexts, particularly in recruitment, task allocation, working conditions, remuneration, training and further education, promotion and dismissal (Article 3 GLG), or when they are subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace (Article 4 GLG). The GLG is founded on the principles of equality and non-discrimination. It acknowledges that all individuals – regardless of gender, disability, origin, religion, or sexual orientation and identity – have the right to equal treatment. The GLG can be utilised and interpreted to develop targeted measures that respond to these needs, such as barrier-free access to education, employment, and social insurance systems (e.g. the professional reintegration of women with disabilities who are not engaged in paid employment).

83. Liechtenstein has reaffirmed its governmental commitment to strengthening women's rights not only through national legislation – particularly in the StGB, KJG, and GLG – but also at the international level. In addition to ratifying CEDAW in 1995, Liechtenstein ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in June 2021, which entered into force on 1 October 2021. By joining this convention, Liechtenstein closed another significant gap in the protection of women's rights. Article 4 of the Istanbul Convention obliges the parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that everyone – particularly women – can live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere (paragraph 1). Paragraph 3 of the same article explicitly states that the implementation of the Convention must be secured without discrimination, including on the basis of health, disability or any other status. In Liechtenstein, the issue of multiple discrimination was brought into the political process in 2023 through a petition submitted by civil society organisations. As part of the Feminist Strike in June 2023, the petition to combat multiple discrimination was drafted, aiming to promote an inclusive environment, active participation and the removal of barriers. In the context of the CRPD, it calls for barrier-free access in all areas of life, equal opportunities and non-discriminatory participation. The petition also urged the Government to train a person in sign language and finance a permanent position to provide translation services. On 8 November 2023, Parliament referred the petition to the

Government for appropriate action. As part of the implementation of the CRPD, measures are planned to ensure that women and girls with disabilities can fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with Article 6(1). The governmental focal point for the CRPD is located within the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD. In addition to disability, the department is also responsible for gender equality, LGBTIQ+ issues, and integration and migration.

84. In the area of awareness-raising, attention is also drawn to the particular situation of women with disabilities. In 2025, the campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” in Switzerland and Liechtenstein focused on the topic of “Gender-based violence and disability” in order to draw attention to the increased exposure to violence of women, girls, and queer persons with disabilities. As part of the campaign, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD published a press release in autumn 2025 that addressed this topic in depth.

85. Migrant women benefit from integration programmes comprising language courses and counselling services. For many years, the Office of Social Services has supported the “integra” programme of infra, which is geared specifically to the needs of women with a migration background. This includes information events and counselling in various languages as well as courses on entering employment. Women with migration experience are also specifically addressed by Liechtenstein’s Integration Strategy. The strategy encompasses fields of action such as information, counselling, language, education, work, and equal treatment. The aim is to ensure that women with migration experience have access to reliable information, guidance, and counselling services and receive better support in accessing public services. Migrant women often face linguistic and structural barriers and are therefore considered a group particularly in need of support. The Integration Strategy and the formats associated with it, such as the Integration Dialogue, the promotion of language courses, and the updated digital information platform www.integration.li, are intended to remove these barriers in a targeted manner. In addition, the new counselling office integration.li was established in June 2024, serving as a contact point for all residents with a migration background and new arrivals. The counselling office is run by the two organisations infra and the Migration–Integration Foundation (Mintegra), both of which contribute their expertise from their work with people with a migration background. The counselling office is financed from State funds under a service agreement.

86. To combat gender stereotypes, educational programmes are carried out in schools that address the equality of women and men and question traditional role models. To support the educational programmes in schools, the Equal Opportunities Department of the ASD made the travelling exhibition on role models available. This exhibition emerged from a transregional Interreg project carried out by Liechtenstein together with the Austrian state of Vorarlberg and the Swiss canton of Graubünden. The travelling exhibition was shown in several schools in Liechtenstein and explored with pupils in accompanying workshops held by the Amazone association from Bregenz, Austria. The most recent exhibition took place in 2022 at the secondary schools in Triesen and was presented through media reports in the national newspapers.

87. To counter gender stereotypes in career choice at an early stage, the “National Future Day – Changing Sides for Girls and Boys” has been held annually in Liechtenstein since 2012. The aim of National Future Day is for boys and girls to be guided in their career choice not by gender-specific role models but by their abilities and wishes.

Violence against women and domestic violence (Articles 2, 3, 6, 7 and 26)

10)

88. Liechtenstein has taken various measures to combat all types of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. In the area of prevention and early identification, campaigns and projects have been carried out, including participation in the international campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the nationwide action “*Häusliche Gewalt kommt nicht in die Tüte*” (Domestic Violence – No Way!) has been carried out annually since 2012. Numerous bakeries and retail shops take part in the action. The action is officially opened each year by a member of the Government and announced in the media. Events on the topic are also held during this period. In 2024, a cooperation event on online hate and misogyny took place. Non-governmental organisations likewise organise events, some of which also receive financial support from the ASD. In 2025, the Women’s Shelter organised a theatre evening on the topic of sexism. Public buildings are also often illuminated to draw attention to the topic.

89. In addition, emergency cards in eight languages containing information on domestic violence and available assistance are distributed. The emergency cards, which provide brief information on forms of violence and on assistance and support services for persons concerned, as well as a guide for family members and persons close to victims entitled “Violence in Marriage and Partnership – How Can I Help?”, are regularly sent to a large distribution list of public and medical institutions. Reorders show that the emergency cards are in demand and picked up at medical and physiotherapy practices as well as at municipal and other information desks.

90. A transregional poster campaign under the motto “No Place for Sexism – My Body. My Space. My Right.” was directed against sexual harassment in public spaces. This first campaign under the title “No Place for Sexism” was carried out in 2021 and 2022, flanked by events and press releases. In 2025, a second campaign followed as a continuation, addressed not primarily at those affected but at bystanders, calling on them to act with the appeal “Take a Stand”. Both waves of the campaign were carried out by the ASD in cooperation with the cantonal equality offices of St. Gallen and Appenzell Ausserrhoden as well as with infra and the aha Youth Information Centre. The eye-catching posters were highly visible in Liechtenstein as well as in the two Swiss cantons and, thanks to their recognition value, very present.

91. In addition, the “*GewaltFREI*” (FREE from violence) campaign for the prevention of violence in child-rearing was implemented. Projects on the use of digital media and the brochures “Talking to children about digital media!” and “Talking to young people about digital media!” complemented the prevention work. The project “My body belongs to me!” is offered for primary schools, and the travelling “Love Limits” youth protection exhibition is offered every two years with the aim of raising young people’s awareness of sexual violence. As a universal prevention programme, “Growing strong together” at primary schools in Liechtenstein makes an important contribution to the prevention of problem behaviour and negative personality development as well as to the prevention of addiction, violence, and suicide. The programme is accompanied by school social work and is already being implemented at seven of 11 primary schools.

92. For the early identification of violence, the Violence Protection Department was established at the National Police in 2020. It acts as a coordination body for domestic violence and threat situations and conducts systematic risk analyses and measure planning in order to prevent serious violence.

93. In the area of ensuring reporting, criminal prosecution, and sanctioning, binding guidelines are in place, such as the internal service instruction on domestic violence at the National Police. Removal orders and prohibitions of entry may be issued for ten days pursuant to Article 24g of the Police Act

(PolG) and extended by preliminary injunction pursuant to Article 277a of the Execution Act (EO). Prosecution takes place *ex officio* in cases of dangerous threats against close family members, stalking, rape or sexual assault in marriage or cohabitation, and forced marriage. § 21 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) obliges the Office of the Public Prosecutor to investigate all punishable acts *ex officio*. Protective measures during proceedings include anonymous testimony (§ 119a StPO), considerate adversarial examination (§ 115a StPO), support during proceedings (§ 31a StPO), and the witness protection programme (Articles 30d et seq. PolG). Victims are informed of any release of the accused (§ 141(7) StPO).

94. In 2022, 164 reports (2021: 101) in connection with domestic violence or conflicts were received by the National Police. In 41 cases (2021: 27), a complaint was filed with the Office of the Public Prosecutor. A distinction is made between physical (24 cases), psychological (129 cases: e.g. verbal disputes, degradation without the character of an offence), sexual (four cases), and economic violence (seven cases). 61 cases involved current partners and 62 conflicts involved former partners. 33 reports concerned intergenerational violence in the domestic sphere; in eight cases, a clear assignment of the constellation was not possible (for example, siblings).

Overview of the persons involved in cases of domestic violence:

	2022	2021
Male perpetrators	41	21
Female perpetrators	17	8
Male victims	11	7
Female victims	39	17
Juvenile perpetrators	3	2
Juvenile victims		
(of whom 4 not directly involved)	24	12
Children (<14 years)		
(of whom 37 not directly involved)	60	35
Male persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	114	85
Female persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	105	77

95. In 2023, a total of 251 reports of domestic violence were registered, of which 69 led to a complaint being filed with the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The most frequently recorded forms of violence were psychological violence (213 cases) and physical violence (32 cases). During the reporting period, the police conducted 221 de-escalation talks, 72 referrals to further assistance services, and 36 call-ups of other services, and issued three removal orders and nine prohibitions of entry.

Overview of the persons involved in cases of domestic violence:

	2023	2022
Male perpetrators	75	41
Female perpetrators	6	17
Male victims	2	11
Female victims	19	39
Juvenile perpetrators	1	3
Juvenile victims	4	24
Children (<14 years)		
(of whom 14 not directly involved/present)	91	60
Male persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	33	114
Female persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	30	105

96. In 2024, a total of 195 reports in connection with domestic violence or conflicts were received by the National Police. 51 cases involved forms of violence of relevance under criminal law, which led to a complaint being filed with the Office of the Public Prosecutor. 144 incoming reports concerned incidents without criminal relevance, for which reason no perpetrator or victim roles were assigned and the persons involved were recorded as “persons involved”. A distinction is made between physical

(23 cases), psychological (169 cases, e.g. verbal disputes, degradation without the character of an offence), sexual (one case), and economic violence (two cases).

Overview of the persons involved in cases of domestic violence:

	2024	2023
Male perpetrators	51	75
Female perpetrators	12	6
Male victims	14	2
Female victims	49	19
Juvenile perpetrators	0	1
Juvenile victims	2	4
Children (<14 years) (of whom 14 not directly involved/present)	73	91
Juvenile persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	4	0
Male persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	146	33
Female persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	135	30

97. In 2025, a total of 188 reports in connection with domestic violence or conflicts were received by the National Police. 55 cases involved forms of violence of relevance under criminal law, which were reported to the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Psychological (2025: 154) and physical (2025: 27) violence were the most frequent. Taken together (2024 and 2025), the National Police conducted 325 de-escalation talks, arranged further assistance in 128 cases, and called up further assistance on site in 39 cases. There were eleven police removal orders, 4 arrests, one prohibition of entry, and 15 cautionary talks with persons posing a threat.

Overview of the persons involved in cases of domestic violence:

	2025	2024
Male perpetrators	49	51
Female perpetrators	14	12
Male victims	20	14
Female victims	52	49
Juvenile perpetrators	3	0
Juvenile victims	5	2
Male persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	121	146
Female persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	130	135
Juvenile persons involved (in incidents without a clear perpetrator/victim role, e.g. disputes)	7	4
Children (<14 years) (of whom 14 not directly involved/present)	53	73

98. In 2022, the Violence Protection Department handled 62 cases of elevated violence potential, including 22 cases of domestic violence, 2 cases of stalking, and 1 case of sexual violence. In 2023, the department handled a total of 115 cases of elevated violence potential, including cases of domestic violence, stalking, mental health issues, and threatening behaviour towards authorities. 94 reports were made to the Violence Protection Department in 2025 and 59 in 2024. While in previous years most enquiries concerned conflicts in the domestic sphere, 2025 saw a marked increase in threatening behaviour towards public bodies, in persons with mental health issues associated with a potential for violence, and in generally dangerous behaviour. The cases handled in threat management in connection with domestic violence remained at a consistently high level.

99. Since the introduction of the criminal offence of “violation of sexual self-determination” (§ 204a StGB) in 2019, nine investigation proceedings have been initiated. Of these, four led to indictments – two resulting in convictions, one in an acquittal, and one still pending at the time of reporting. Two proceedings were discontinued, and one further case was concluded by way of diversion.

100. Figures are available from the Office of the Public Prosecutor only since 2022. From 1 January 2022 to 20 March 2026, 198 proceedings were initiated that fall within the scope of application of the Istanbul Convention or the area of competence of GREVIO. 71 cases concerned the offences of coercion, threat, and psychological violence, eight cases stalking, 75 cases offences against life and limb, 34 cases sexual offences, and eight cases sexual harassment. With regard to the offences of coercion, threat, and psychological violence, there were convictions in 13 cases, resolution by diversion through the Office of the Public Prosecutor or the court in 15 cases, and discontinuation in 36 cases. Some of the proceedings are still pending. With regard to the offence of stalking, eight proceedings were initiated from 1 January 2022 to 20 March 2026, of which one resulted in a conviction, two were discontinued, one was resolved by diversion, and the remainder are still pending. Of the total of 75 proceedings recorded in the category ranging from bodily harm to homicide offences, 14 resulted in a conviction, 18 in diversion, and 36 in discontinuation. Some of the proceedings are still pending. In the 34 proceedings concerning sexual offences, there were six convictions, ten discontinuations, and four diversions. Some proceedings are still pending; others were terminated because the perpetrator’s

whereabouts are unknown. Eight proceedings were initiated for sexual harassment, of which five were discontinued, one was resolved by diversion, one was terminated, and one is still active.

101. The Liechtenstein Women's Shelter offers free counselling and emergency accommodation, protection and crisis intervention, accompaniment, and prevention and training.

102. In 2022, 12 women and 16 children were admitted to and cared for at the Liechtenstein Women's Shelter. Of these, four women and two children were resident in Liechtenstein, and eight women and 14 children were resident in Switzerland. In addition to residential care, 32 women received personal counselling and accompaniment from Women's Shelter staff. A further 25 persons received intensive telephone counselling.

103. In 2023, 17 women and 14 children were admitted to and cared for at the Liechtenstein Women's Shelter. Of these, three women and two children were resident in Liechtenstein, and four women came from Switzerland with their children. In addition to residential care, 11 women received personal counselling and accompaniment. A further 58 persons received intensive telephone counselling.

104. In 2024, 19 women and 23 children were admitted to and cared for at the Liechtenstein Women's Shelter. Twelve women and 16 children were resident in Liechtenstein. Two women and three children were admitted to an external flat of the Women's Shelter after their residential stay and received further accompaniment. In 2024, an increase in the number of persons seeking protection and in occupancy days was recorded. The outpatient domestic violence counselling office likewise recorded strong demand. 27 women received personal counselling and, as needed, short-, medium-, or long-term accompaniment. A further 72 persons received telephone counselling.

105. In 2025, the Liechtenstein Women's Shelter recorded a marked increase in women in need of protection and their children: 27 women and 15 children were admitted and cared for residentially. Of these, 26 women and ten children were resident in Liechtenstein. One woman and her child were cared for in the external flat over several months. The outpatient Counselling Office for Domestic Violence likewise recorded strong demand: 33 women received personal counselling and short-, medium-, or long-term accompaniment.

106. The OHS provides medical, psychological, social, material, and legal assistance and can be reached for immediate assistance and longer-term support. For more detail on the services of the OHS, see question 5. In the years 2022 to 2025, the OHS recorded six cases of domestic violence in 2022, eleven cases in 2023, eight cases in 2024, and ten cases in 2025. In the years 2022 to 2024, the domestic violence concerned exclusively violence in (former) partnerships. In 2025, of the 10 cases, eight concerned violence in (former) partnerships and two concerned intergenerational violence. Cases of stalking were registered three times each in 2022 and 2024, four times in 2023, and six times in 2025. The number of contacts concerning rape amounted to two cases in 2022, rose to five cases in 2023, again stood at two cases in 2024, and amounted to three cases in 2025. In the area of sexual violence, 10 cases each were documented in 2022 and 2023, eleven cases in 2024, and eight cases in 2025.

107. In addition, the Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team (KIT) is available around the clock for acute crisis situations.

Voluntary termination of pregnancy and sexual and reproductive rights (Articles 2, 3 and 6)

11)

108. Through a revision of the StGB, which was adopted by Parliament in March 2015 and entered into force on 1 July 2015, adjustments were made to the rules on the termination of pregnancy. The most important changes were the abolition of the principle of universal jurisdiction (§ 64(1)(8) StGB), the decriminalisation of the termination of pregnancy by the pregnant woman (under certain conditions) through the amendment of § 96(3) StGB, and the introduction of additional grounds of justification for the termination of pregnancy through the amendment of § 96(4)(1) StGB. Since then, a pregnant woman who has a pregnancy terminated is no longer subject to criminal prosecution if the pregnancy is terminated by a physician. A termination of pregnancy is permissible if it is necessary to avert serious danger to the life or serious damage to the health of the pregnant woman that cannot be averted otherwise, or if the pregnant woman was under-age at the time of conception, or if in respect of the pregnant woman a rape (§ 200 StGB), sexual assault (§ 201 StGB), or sexual abuse of a defenceless or mentally impaired person (§ 204 StGB) was committed and the pregnancy is the result of such an act.

109. A popular initiative submitted for preliminary review in February 2026 calls for the introduction of a time-limit solution in Liechtenstein to allow voluntary terminations of pregnancy within the first twelve weeks without criminal liability. The initiative is aimed at the self-determination of pregnant women and a legally secure solution within the country. On 10 June 2026, Parliament found the initiative to be in conformity with the Constitution and with international treaties, allowing the initiative committee to begin collecting signatures.

110. Open-ended counselling in cases of pregnancy conflicts has been legally safeguarded since the 2015 revision (§ 108(1)(3) StPO, entitlement to refuse to give testimony).

111. Adult men and women receive an invitation to a general preventive medical check-up from the age of 17, at five-year intervals. Women additionally receive an invitation to a gynaecological preventive check-up every two and a half years. Of the six specialists admitted to the compulsory health insurance scheme, three are women, along with two group practices with predominantly female staff. With regard to the assumption of costs by compulsory health insurance in the case of measures relating to intersexuality or transsexuality, the health insurer's medical examiner must assess in each individual case whether the measures of any kind proposed by physicians are suitable for favourably influencing the effects of intersexuality or transsexuality. Mechanical contraceptives such as condoms are available without prescription in all pharmacies and drugstores as well as in kiosks and retail shops and are always in stock. Female condoms, diaphragms, and spermicidal gels/sprays are available but, owing to low demand, generally not kept in stock by specialist retailers. In addition, there are small contraceptive computers using the temperature method, which are available at short notice at any time. Hormonal contraceptives in all common active ingredient combinations are available either directly from the physician or on medical prescription in all pharmacies in all galenic forms (pill, mini pill, ring, patch). There have been no shortages or supply bottlenecks to date. Full availability and deliverability are also ensured for intrauterine devices (IUDs), which are inserted by a physician. The Interdisciplinary Expert Group on Emergency Contraception (IENK) brings together various professional groups (pharmacists, physicians, sexual health professionals, and midwives) dealing with hormonal emergency contraception, with the aim of promoting access to emergency contraception and ensuring the quality of counselling. Two different hormonal emergency contraceptives are available in Liechtenstein, which can be obtained without prescription in all pharmacies after a brief professional consultation with a pharmacist. Access is very low-threshold and guaranteed at any time without an appointment. In accordance with the IENK requirements, a record

of the professional consultation is drawn up in strict compliance with data protection rules. The availability of the active ingredients has so far been guaranteed without restriction. Pharmacies also always keep medicines with these active ingredients in stock.

112. In the field of education, the Education Strategy 2025+ pursues the guiding principle of “Education for All” and integrates inclusive approaches. Sex education content is firmly anchored in the curriculum for primary and secondary levels and is aimed at children and young people. This school-based content covers topics such as sexual health, contraception, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (subject area: Nature, Human Beings and Society – Biology: Human Reproduction). The curriculum also encompasses reflection on relationships, love, and sexuality and one’s own responsibility, for example being able to refer to sexual orientation in a non-discriminatory way. Pupils learn to critically assess behaviours and their effects in the area of sexuality (subject area: Life Skills and Career Orientation). The cross-curricular module “Education for Sustainable Development” takes up topics such as gender and equality and addresses reflection on gender and roles both in relation to education and career and with regard to relationships, sexuality, and family work. In addition, the organisation love.li provides good cooperation with an external partner that supports schools in implementing the curriculum. Schools also foster an inclusive learning environment that supports respect for diversity and social participation.

113. In addition, counselling services on family planning and reproductive health are available on a non-discriminatory basis.

Prohibition of torture (Article 7)

12)

114. The criminal offence of torture introduced in § 312a StGB in 2019 is modelled on the wording of the definition of torture in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). Under paragraph 1 of § 312a StGB, criminal liability attaches to any person who, in their capacity as an office holder, at the instigation of any such office holder, or with the express or tacit agreement of any such office holder, inflicts on another person serious physical or psychological pain or suffering, in particular with the objective of obtaining a testimony or confession from such other person or a third party, of punishing such other person for an act actually or allegedly committed by such other person or a third party, of intimidating or coercing such other person or a third party, or does so for discriminatory reasons.

115. Paragraph 2 of § 312a StGB sets out the aggravating circumstances where the act results in bodily harm with serious lasting consequences or in the death of the injured person. Paragraph 3 of § 312a StGB further provides that an office holder within the meaning of the provision shall also be any person who, in the event that the government agencies are absent or no longer operate, actually acts as an office holder.

116. With regard to the criminal liability of all forms of participation in the offence of torture, § 312a(1) StGB provides that not only office holders may be perpetrators, but also persons who carry out acts of torture at the instigation of such an office holder or with the express or tacit agreement of such an office holder. Under § 12 StGB, moreover, not only the immediate perpetrator is deemed to commit the offence, but also every person who directs another person to carry out the offence or who otherwise contributes to its being carried out.

117. With regard to limitation periods, the new offence of torture was integrated into the existing system of the Liechtenstein Criminal Code. Offences under international law set out in Section 25 of the StGB (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) are not subject to a limitation period.

118. To prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, Liechtenstein has comprehensive legal and practical safeguards in place covering the criminal law framework, procedural law, police practice, and the execution of sentences.

119. The StPO (§§ 145 to 156) contains detailed rules on the conduct of examinations. Accused persons must be informed of their rights and have the right to the assistance of legal counsel. Neither promises nor pretences, nor threats nor coercive measures may be used to make an accused person state a confession or make other statements. Testimonies that have come about under torture or have been obtained through other unlawful interference with the freedom of self-determination, or through inadmissible methods of examination, are void and must not be used as evidence to the disadvantage of the accused.

120. Access to legal counsel is guaranteed by law from the beginning of the deprivation of liberty and is effectively implemented in practice. To secure this right, the Liechtenstein Chamber of Lawyers operates an on-call legal service enabling arrested persons to contact defence counsel at any time by telephone or in person. Lawyers are also deemed persons of trust within the meaning of the PolG.

121. There are currently no legal provisions in the Liechtenstein StPO making standardised audio or video recording of examinations mandatory.

122. § 21a of the Juvenile Court Act (JGG) provides that, at the request of a detained juvenile, a person of trust must be called in for the juvenile's informal questioning on the matter and formal examination by a police officer or the court, provided that this would not unreasonably prolong the detention. The juvenile must be informed of this right immediately after arrest. Reference may also be made to § 25(4) JGG, under which defence counsel is always required when juveniles are held in pre-trial detention.

Treatment of persons deprived of their liberty (Article 10)

13)

123. Access to medical care for persons deprived of their liberty is guaranteed by law in Liechtenstein. Under Article 24h(3) PolG, every person taken into police custody is entitled to access to a physician. This right is granted without restriction in practice, in particular where there is a recognisable medical need or at the express request of the person concerned. Every person taken into police custody on the basis of Article 24h(1) PolG is entitled to a medical examination. At the National Prison in Vaduz, a standardised request form is available with which inmates may request a medical consultation at any time and without giving reasons. They may choose between an urgent consultation and a consultation during normal medical office hours. The prison physician is informed immediately of every new admission. If non-deferrable medical care is required, either the emergency service of the Liechtenstein National Hospital is called in or the inmate is taken out of the prison for medical treatment. A presentation to a physician is dispensed with only with the express consent of the inmate, provided that the inmate states that they feel healthy and wish to have the admission examination performed only at the next visit. Medical confidentiality is fully respected; police personnel are present during medical examinations exclusively for security reasons and only at the request of the medical staff.

124. It is additionally ensured that persons newly admitted to the National Prison are medically examined as quickly as possible, regardless of their legal status. The Liechtenstein authorities have taken up the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), according to which comprehensive medical entry screening should take place within 24 hours at the latest and may also be carried out by qualified nursing staff; the relevant steps to implement this

recommendation have already been initiated. Medical care also takes account of the need for psychological and psychiatric care. Due to the small number of inmates, there are no permanently employed psychological or psychiatric services at the National Prison. However, there is a service agreement with an external psychiatrist, who is called in as needed and, where appropriate, arranges a referral to a specialised institution. For acute crisis situations, a specialised care team in the field of crisis psychology can be called in at any time.

125. With regard to social and occupational integration, inmates at the National Prison have access to various basic options for meaningful activity. These include a fitness room, a multipurpose room for social activities, and limited outdoor recreational facilities. The Government recognises the importance of such services for the well-being and reintegration of detainees and aims to further expand these options within the constraints of the spatial and organisational circumstances.

126. By decision of the Government of 14 February 2017, the strategic reorientation of the corrections system was adopted. On the basis of the treaty between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Republic of Austria on the accommodation of prisoners, the entire execution of sentences has since been carried out in Austrian correctional institutions. The conditions of detention there, including health care and services for occupational and social integration, are governed by Austrian corrections law. The Liechtenstein National Prison now accommodates only pre-trial detainees, persons in extradition proceedings, and persons in administrative detention under immigration law.

127. To secure the legal guarantees against torture and ill-treatment for persons convicted in Liechtenstein who serve their custodial sentences in Austrian correctional institutions, the Republic of Austria adopted an interpretative declaration, which was approved in Liechtenstein by Government decision of 4 February 2025. This declaration clarifies that Article 5(3) of the aforementioned treaty guarantees the application of Austrian law in its entirety. This encompasses in particular the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which has constitutional rank, the provisions on national preventive mechanisms (Article 148a(3) of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law (öB-VG)), and the legal remedies provided for in the Austrian Execution of Sentences Act. Liechtenstein inmates in Austrian correctional institutions thus have access to all legal remedies and enjoy the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights to the same extent as persons who have been convicted by Austrian courts and are likewise serving their sentences in the Austrian corrections system. It should additionally be noted that international monitoring mechanisms, in particular the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), regularly conduct country visits in both Austria and Switzerland and review the conditions of detention in the respective institutions. The Liechtenstein authorities engage in constructive exchange with these mechanisms.

128. Welfare placement of adults is governed by Articles 18d et seq. of the Social Assistance Act (SHG), and the placement of children and young people by Articles 25 et seq. of the Children and Youth Act (KJG).

129. Welfare placement can be divided into two categories: ordinary placement upon application by the Office of Social Services or the public health officer, and placement in cases of imminent danger by the physician on duty (for adults and minors) or by the Office of Social Services (for minors).

130. In the case of ordinary placements, the ASD or the public health officer files an application with the Court of Justice. For adults, in placement proceedings an expert opinion must be obtained before the decision on the application (Article 18i(1) SHG) and the person concerned must be heard in person (Article 18i(2) SHG). If necessary, the court must appoint legal counsel for the person concerned (Article 18i(2) SHG); in practice, court trainees are generally appointed. For minors, the ASD must submit an expert opinion with the application for placement, and the Court of Justice may obtain further expert opinions if necessary (Article 27(2) KJG). Minors and their legal guardians must in principle be heard before the decision on placement (Article 29(1) KJG), and legal counsel is appointed for them if necessary (Article 27(3) KJG).

131. Adults concerned are released as soon as the conditions for placement are no longer met (Article 18d(3) SHG). In practice, the authority to release is delegated to the institution in question (Article 18f(2) SHG). The person concerned may also request release at any time. The request must be decided upon in writing without delay (Article 18d(4) SHG). Minors are released as soon as the purpose of the measure has been achieved, their mental condition permits, and their further care is ensured (Article 27(7) KJG). The court decides on release, and here too the ASD, the minor concerned, or the legal guardian may file requests for release at any time (Article 27(6) KJG).

132. While adults may in principle be placed for an unlimited period, the placement of minors may be ordered for a maximum of one year (Article 27(5) KJG). During this time, the ASD must regularly review whether the purpose of the measure is being achieved and whether the placement remains justified; for this purpose, reports must in particular be obtained from the domestic or foreign institution providing care. The court issues the corresponding instructions. For adults, periodic reviews take place at regular intervals, at the latest six months after the beginning of the placement, to determine whether the conditions for placement are still met and whether the institution remains suitable (Article 18i SHG).

133. In the case of placements where there is imminent danger, the physician on duty or the ASD notifies the court after the placement has taken place, and the court decides on the permissibility of the measure within five days (Article 18g SHG and Article 28 KJG). A placement limited in this way may be extended upon application, in which case the ordinary placement procedure is carried out (Article 18g(3) SHG and Article 28(4) KJG).

134. As Liechtenstein has no such institutions of its own, the persons concerned are generally placed in Switzerland and in some cases in Austria. The procedural steps described above are in principle also followed for placements abroad, and the placement is monitored accordingly (periodic review by the court, review by the ASD).

Elimination of slavery, servitude and trafficking in persons (Articles 7, 8 and 24)

14)

135. Liechtenstein has taken both domestic and foreign policy measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, forced labour, and domestic servitude.

136. The national legal basis has been continuously developed, in particular through amendments to the StGB and the StPO. The criminal offence of trafficking in humans under § 104a StGB was tightened in 2019, the penalty was increased, and the conditions constituting exploitation as well as responsibility were defined more clearly. In addition, various aggravating circumstances in criminal law were expanded, in particular for offences against minors or particularly vulnerable persons. At the procedural level, the rights of victims were strengthened, in particular with regard to gender-sensitive questioning, the obligation to conduct considerate examinations, and the possibility of questioning by experts.

137. Since August 2023, the National Police has acted as the national reporting office for trafficking in persons in Liechtenstein.

138. In parallel with these legislative measures, institutional mechanisms have also been further developed. Liechtenstein relies on the coordinated interaction of the National Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Migration and Passport Office, the OHS, and other competent State bodies. This strategic cooperation takes place *inter alia* within the framework of the Round Table on Human Trafficking, which meets several times a year. The identification of presumed victims is carried out by

the competent bodies on the basis of the checklist of the Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (KSMM). Case handling is guided by victim-protection-oriented guidelines, which ensure in particular early information about rights, available legal protection, and support services. Translation and interpreting services are provided by the National Police, the Court of Justice, and the OHS.

139. Case numbers are consistently low. In the years 2018 to 2022, a total of three cases of trafficking in persons were registered – two involving labour exploitation (2018 and 2019) and one case of sexual exploitation (2021). In 2018, four Thai nationals (female, aged 41–46) were identified as victims of labour exploitation. In 2019, one male victim (aged 22, national of North Macedonia) was registered, likewise in the area of labour exploitation. In 2021, four Brazilian women (aged 31 and 32) were identified as victims of sexual exploitation. In addition, there was one case in 2019 in the context of the asylum procedure in which a Nigerian asylum seeker was classified by the FIZ Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women and Victims of Trafficking as a victim of earlier sexual exploitation abroad.

140. Investigations were initiated in all recorded cases, but there were neither indictments nor convictions. Accordingly, there are also no cases in which assets were confiscated or penalties imposed. Likewise, no compensation – whether from the State or under private law – has been applied for or granted to date. Free legal counsel was also not used in any case. The number of victims who have received State support services, repatriation, residence permits, or a reflection period is correspondingly very small. In 2017, at the request of FIZ, a male Thai victim of sexual exploitation was granted a recovery and reflection period. In 2023, three cases of trafficking in persons were registered. Investigations into drug trafficking also gave rise to an initial suspicion of trafficking in persons. According to chat messages, there was a suspicion that women were being brought from Romania to Liechtenstein or Switzerland to engage in prostitution there. The second case involved a complaint by a woman from Belarus who applied for asylum in Liechtenstein. She stated that she had been a victim of trafficking in persons abroad. In the third case, there was a suspicion that a Chinese brothel was being operated in Liechtenstein. In all three cases, investigations were initiated, but there were neither indictments nor convictions, as the suspicion was not substantiated. There were no cases of trafficking in persons in 2024 and 2025.

141. In addition to legislation, prevention measures encompass in particular basic and continuing training as well as awareness-raising. An important element is the aforementioned Round Table on Human Trafficking, which serves as the central coordination platform. In 2023, together with ACT212, it organised specialised training for labour inspectors on the topic of labour exploitation. In addition, professionals from the judiciary, administration, and police regularly take part in relevant continuing training and subsequently act as multipliers for their respective offices. Gender-sensitive and victim-oriented standards are also applied in the asylum procedure and in the care of vulnerable groups. In the area of detecting financial flows connected with trafficking in persons, the Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) organised a training session for the private sector and Liechtenstein authorities on 24 November 2025. At this training session, representatives of the human trafficking work stream of the Europol Financial Intelligence Public Private Partnership (EFIPPP) presented their handbook “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through Financial Intelligence” to over 90 participants, with a focus on the detection of suspicious financial flows. A follow-up event is planned for the first half of 2026, at which the detection of suspicious financial flows connected with trafficking in persons will be discussed in greater depth. In the context of International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development (IHCD), Liechtenstein supports several organisations, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with financial contributions to combat trafficking in persons and to support survivors of trafficking. The Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) initiative launched by Liechtenstein has been housed at UNDP since 2024 and is dedicated to the role of the international financial sector in combating trafficking in persons.

142. Awareness-raising measures include information sheets, multilingual leaflets for particularly vulnerable professional groups – such as foreign dancers – and comprehensive information obligations of the police and the Victims Assistance Office under the OHG and the StPO. The authorities, in particular the Victims Assistance Office, systematically inform the persons concerned about compensation options, procedural rights, and support services.

Migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons (Articles 7, 9, 12, 13 and 24)

15)

143. An important contribution to the protection of non-citizens was the entry into force of temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine. Temporary protection, which is based on the Asylum Act (AsylG), was put into force by Government ordinance on 16 March 2022 and gives people fleeing Ukraine access to protection by Liechtenstein without having to go through a full asylum procedure. All persons covered by the AsylG are entitled to welfare benefits (including health insurance) and accommodation for as long as they are in need.

144. Regarding the question of the revocation of settlement permits in the event of reliance on social assistance, it should be noted at the outset that every revocation of a permit is subject to a comprehensive proportionality assessment in the individual case. Under Article 49(b) of the Foreigners Act (AuG), a settlement permit (type C permit) may be revoked if the foreigner or a person the foreigner must care for is dependent on social assistance permanently and to a considerable extent. This is a discretionary provision. The personal circumstances of the person concerned must in any event be taken into account, including *inter alia* the person's integration in Liechtenstein, family and social relationships, and any situations of hardship. It should further be noted that the revocation of a residence permit in the event of reliance on social assistance is possible on the basis of Article 48(1)(e) AuG. A residence permit may thus be revoked if the foreigner or a person the foreigner must care for is dependent on social assistance. This is likewise a discretionary provision. Here too, the personal circumstances of the person concerned are taken into account in each case.

16)

145. In principle, Liechtenstein has no standalone procedure for the determination of statelessness. In this respect, Liechtenstein is guided by the procedure in Switzerland and applies the same principles. Switzerland likewise has no explicit rules on the assessment of statelessness, for which reason the general provisions of administrative procedure and the case law on the international conventions apply.

146. In conjunction with the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (LGBI. 2009 No. 289), such a procedure is initiated only upon a personal application (see Article 25(1) of the Citizenship Documents Ordinance (HSchV)). The person must – to the extent reasonable – cooperate in establishing the facts and submit the necessary documents (Article 23(a^{bis}) *e contrario* of the Citizenship Documents Act (HSchG; LGBI. 1986 No. 27)). The burden of proof thus lies with the applicant. Finally, the application for determination of statelessness must not be made and pursued in an abusive manner (see StGH 2020/027a et al.).

147. If a person files an asylum application claiming to be stateless and Liechtenstein is responsible for conducting the asylum procedure, the Migration and Passport Office (APA) also examines the

claimed statelessness status in the course of the procedure. If the examination reveals indications of persecution, the person is recognised as a refugee and receives a residence permit. If there are no indications of persecution but there is evidence of *de jure* statelessness, temporary admission is granted.

148. To date, no application for the determination of statelessness has been filed in Liechtenstein. At the same time, over the past 10 years, as far as is known, only three persons have been dealt with under asylum law who were able to present statelessness already determined by another State. Apart from these, three further persons stated during their asylum procedure that they were stateless. This was not pursued due to Liechtenstein's lack of responsibility on the basis of the procedure under the Dublin III Regulation.

149. § 5b of the Citizenship Act of 4 January 1934 (BüG), LGBl. 1960 No. 2, provides for a facilitated naturalisation procedure in the event of statelessness.

150. Compared with the other facilitated naturalisation procedures (naturalisation on the basis of long-term residence or marriage) and with the ordinary naturalisation procedure, the same basic conditions apply to the facilitated naturalisation procedure on grounds of statelessness. With regard to the required years of residence in Liechtenstein, however, this procedure, together with the facilitated naturalisation procedure on grounds of marriage, imposes the lowest requirements, so that it can generally be described as a corresponding facilitation.

151. It should be noted as a matter of principle that the possibility of facilitated naturalisation on grounds of statelessness provided for by the legislature has not been used at all, at least in the past 10 years. There is therefore *per se* no need for any procedural facilitation.

Access to justice (Articles 2 and 14)

17)

152. Liechtenstein has taken various measures to ensure effective access to justice for all. Persons who do not have sufficient financial means may apply for legal aid. Legal aid is governed by the Code of Civil Procedure (§§ 63 et seq. ZPO) and covers the costs of the proceedings as well as necessary legal representation. This ensures that access to all judicial proceedings is possible regardless of a person's economic situation.

153. For persons who do not speak German, the provision of translation and interpreting services is ensured. This obligation arises from the provisions of the StPO and the Code of Civil Procedure, which stipulate that parties to proceedings must understand the language of the proceedings and are entitled to translation and interpretation where needed.

154. In addition, there are specific support services for victims of violence, such as the OHS under the OHG, which offers counselling and support. Cooperation with the police, courts, and social services helps to ensure that the persons concerned have access to information and legal support.

155. In the asylum field, persons who do not speak German are notified of the first-instance decision with the assistance of an interpreter. In the context of the asylum procedure, they also have access to free legal counselling, which encompasses advice on legal issues and prospects and, since 2018, also support in appeal proceedings. Persons who do not speak German may also file appeals in asylum proceedings in their mother tongue.

156. In proceedings on the appointment of a guardian for a person who, as a result of a mental illness or mental disability, requires a legal representative, as well as in proceedings concerning the

termination, limitation, and extension of a guardianship, Liechtenstein provides procedural safeguards to ensure effective access to legal representation and to judicial review.

157. Where there are concrete and substantiated indications, the person concerned must be notified without delay of the initiation of proceedings on the appointment of a guardian (Article 117(3) AussStrG). In principle, the court must take into account *ex officio*, at any stage of the proceedings, any lack of capacity to act in proceedings or of legal representation and, where necessary, appoint a legal representative (curator) or arrange for one to be appointed; at the same time, running mandatory deadlines are interrupted to protect the person concerned (Article 5 AussStrG).

158. If the guardianship appointment proceedings are continued, the court must ensure that the person concerned has legal counsel in the proceedings if this appears necessary due to the special circumstances of the individual case. If the person concerned does not have a legal or chosen representative, or if there is a conflict of interest, a guardian *ad litem* must be appointed; the guardian *ad litem* must be removed from office as soon as the person concerned has chosen a suitable representative (Article 119 AussStrG). According to the case law of the Supreme Court, the person concerned may in principle also authorise a lawyer directly in guardianship proceedings, provided that the person concerned is able to grasp the purpose of the power of attorney; Article 119 AussStrG ensures that the person concerned is not limited to inadequate self-representation (OGH, 02 PG.2012.69). In addition, the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure on authorised representatives apply *mutatis mutandis* (Article 5 AussStrG).

159. Guardianship is also subject to judicial control, as the rules on the appointment proceedings described above also apply *mutatis mutandis* to proceedings on the termination, limitation, and extension of guardianship (Article 128 AussStrG). In addition, the guardian must report to the court at adequate intervals, but at least every three years, on the personal situation of the person concerned (Article 130 AussStrG). However, an expressly stipulated general periodic review of guardianship is not provided for in the legal bases referred to. The court must review at appropriate intervals, not exceeding five years, whether the welfare of the person under care requires the termination or modification of the guardianship or curatorship (§ 275(3) ABGB).

160. In connection with the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Liechtenstein has recognised that access to justice for persons with disabilities needs to be further strengthened. The guardianship law was further amended in the course of a renewed revision, which has been in force since 1 April 2026. A main goal of the reform was to strengthen the autonomy and self-determination of the persons concerned. To this end, *inter alia*, the new legal institution of “supported decision-making” was created in § 283a ABGB. In addition, the restriction of legal capacity in § 280(1) ABGB as well as the restriction of testamentary capacity in § 568 ABGB and the restriction of the capacity to marry in Article 11(1) EheG were deleted without replacement.

Freedom of conscience and religious belief (Articles 2, 18 and 26)

18)

161. Liechtenstein guarantees freedom of religion and belief as well as the freedom to manifest a religion or belief either individually or in community with others, in public or in private, in worship, observance, practice, and teaching, without discrimination. This right is enshrined in the Constitution. The Constitution protects freedom of faith and conscience and guarantees that no one is disadvantaged on the grounds of their religion or ideology. The prohibition of discrimination in § 283 StGB ensures that hate speech and discrimination on the grounds of religion or ideology are

punishable. Anyone who discriminates is liable to prosecution and faces a custodial sentence of up to two years.

162. Since 2017, Liechtenstein has been progressively preparing a comprehensive reorientation of the relationship between the State and religious communities. A central milestone was the resumption of structured talks with religious communities, municipalities, and the Archdiocese on the topic of “Church and State”, as set out in the 2021–2025 Government Programme. These dialogues were taken up and continued. The aim is to further develop the historically evolved rules on the relationship between State and church and to adapt them to the societal and religious diversity of the country.

163. The centrepiece of this development is the legislative proposal on the reorganisation of the relationship between the State and religious communities, which is intended to transform the previous system into a modern model of religious constitutional law. It provides for a uniform regulation of all religious communities, based on the Constitution and statute, on the basis of a new Religious Communities Act. This is intended to ensure objectively graduated equal treatment without providing for a complete separation of State and church. At the same time, the conditions are being created for a possible later disentanglement of property relations between the municipalities and the national church. Religious communities recognised by the State will receive clearly defined rights – for instance in the areas of religious education, pastoral care in public institutions, the capacity to conclude public-law contracts, and financial support – but will also be subject to certain obligations. The first reading of the proposal in Parliament took place in April 2024; no decision has yet been taken on how to proceed.

164. In addition to the legislative work, practical and dialogue-oriented measures have also been further developed. These include recurring bilateral talks between the Government and religious communities, the continuation of interreligious exchange, and the planning of the next Round Table of Religions for 2026. The Round Table of Religions takes place annually. In parallel, the recognised religious communities continue to receive annual State contributions – since 2023 also the Islamic Community in the Principality of Liechtenstein – coupled with reporting obligations regarding their activities and use of funds.

Rights to freedom of opinion and expression (Articles 19–22)

19)

165. Freedom of opinion is guaranteed by the Constitution in Liechtenstein. Under Article 40 of the Constitution, all persons have the right to freely express their opinion. This constitutional guarantee forms the central frame of reference for the interpretation and application of criminal law provisions concerning statements directed at State bodies or officials.

166. According to the Office of the Public Prosecutor, in the reporting period since 1 January 2017, a total of 16 criminal proceedings were initiated under § 116 StGB (public insult of Parliament, the Government or other public authority) and two criminal proceedings under § 248 StGB (vilification of the state and its symbols). No proceedings under § 317 StGB (vilification of foreign symbols) were recorded during the reporting period.

167. One set of proceedings under § 248 StGB was discontinued; in one case against unknown perpetrators, the criminal proceedings were terminated.

168. Of the 16 proceedings under § 116 StGB, nine were discontinued, four resulted in convictions, and one is currently still pending. In the majority of cases, the reported acts were directed against the National Police as a public authority. The convictions predominantly concerned situational outbursts

in the course of police operations, in which the statements made were clearly to be qualified as insults on account of their content and context. In these cases, convictions resulted in particular from a clear body of evidence.

169. By contrast, proceedings were discontinued where statements could not clearly be qualified as insults directed against a specific authority, but rather constituted general expressions of displeasure. Practice thus shows that critical or emotionally expressed statements directed at State bodies do not automatically entail criminal consequences.

170. Overall, the practice of application demonstrates that criminal law in the area of offences against honour is applied with restraint and with due regard to the freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 40 of the Constitution.

Participation in public life (Article 25)

20)

171. Political rights in Liechtenstein – including the right to vote and to stand for election at the municipal level – are tied to national citizenship. Article 111 of the Constitution expressly assigns political rights in municipal matters to Liechtenstein citizens “in the municipality in which they reside”. Foreign nationals resident in Liechtenstein are thus excluded from municipal elections and municipal referendums. The introduction of a right for foreign nationals to vote and stand for election at the municipal level could therefore not be achieved by ordinary legislation, but would require a prior constitutional amendment.

172. Substantively, the question of such a municipal right to vote for foreign nationals was addressed in particular in 2011 in a response to an interpellation (BuA 84/2011), but no further steps resulted from this. More recent impulses, mostly from civil society, are essentially limited to the recommendation that the matter be examined anew. As of May 2026, no binding, ongoing legislative or constitutional amendment procedure for the introduction of a right for foreign residents to vote or stand for election at the municipal level is discernible. A comprehensive catalogue of recommendations on the political participation of people with a migration background was drawn up by the “Diversity in Politics” project in cooperation with the Association for Human Rights. In the run-up, talks were held with political parties to address the participation of people with a migration background. Apart from legislative procedures, there are opportunities at the municipal level for political participation by people with a migration background, for example through involvement in commissions, although these have not yet been fully exploited and used. The topic of the political participation of people with a migration background who do not hold Liechtenstein citizenship is also being pursued in the context of the implementation of the integration strategy and is regularly addressed in this connection in a dialogue with civil society.

173. Liechtenstein has taken several measures to ensure that the legal framework on the political rights of persons with cognitive, intellectual, or psychosocial disabilities is consistent with human rights requirements. Under Article 2(1)(b) of the People’s Rights Act (VRG), a person may be excluded from the right to vote only if a court determines in the individual case that the person is incapable of judgment with regard to elections and voting. Exclusion is thus not based on a disability as such, but on the specific lack of capacity to form a will.

174. To ensure that restrictions on the right to vote remain in place only for as long as they are justified, the AussStrG provides for a regular review of such decisions. Under Article 131d(2) AussStrG, the court must repeatedly review the capacity of judgment of the person concerned with regard to elections and voting; the period specified for this review may not exceed five years. In addition,

guardians are required by law to inform the court of changes in the capacity of judgment of the person concerned so that the restoration of the right to vote can be examined without delay.

List of abbreviations

AAA – Office for Foreign Affairs (*Amt für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten*)

ABGB – General Civil Code (*Allgemeines Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*)

ACT212 – Association for the Prevention of Human Trafficking

ADHD – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APA – Migration and Passport Office (*Ausländer- und Passamt*)

ASD – Office of Social Services (*Amt für Soziale Dienste*)

AsylG – Asylum Act (*Asylgesetz*)

AuG – Foreigners Act (*Ausländergesetz*)

AussStrG – Non-Contentious Proceedings Act (*Ausserstreitgesetz*)

BGIG – Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities (*Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz*)

BuA – Report and Motion (*Bericht und Antrag*)

BüG – Citizenship Act (*Bürgerrechtsgesetz*)

CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN CEDAW)

CHF – Swiss francs

CPT – European Committee for the Prevention of Torture

CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

ECHR – European Convention on Human Rights

EEA – European Economic Area

EFIPPP – Europol Financial Intelligence Public Private Partnership

EFTA – European Free Trade Association

EO – Execution Act (*Exekutionsordnung*)

EU – European Union

FIU – Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit

FIZ – Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women and Victims of Trafficking (*Fachstelle Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration*)

GOG – Court Organisation Act (*Gerichtsorganisationsgesetz*)

GREVIO – Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

GSK – Violence Protection Commission (*Gewaltschutzkommission*)

HPZ – Therapeutic-Educational Centre (*Heilpädagogisches Zentrum*)

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICF – International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

IENK – Interdisciplinary Expert Group on Emergency Contraception (*Interdisziplinäre Expertinnengruppe Notfallkontrazeption*)

infra – Information and Counselling Centre for Women (*Informations- und Beratungsstelle für Frauen*)

Istanbul Convention – Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

IUD – intrauterine device

JGG – Juvenile Court Act (*Jugendgerichtsgesetz*)

KIT – Liechtenstein Crisis Intervention Team (*Kriseninterventionsteam Liechtenstein*)

KJG – Children and Youth Act (*Kinder- und Jugendgesetz*)

KSMM – Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (Switzerland)

LANV – Liechtenstein Employees' Association (*Liechtensteinischer ArbeitnehmerInnenverband*)

LBV – Liechtenstein Association for People with Disabilities (*Liechtensteinischer Behinderten-Verband*)

LGBL – Liechtenstein Law Gazette (*Landesgesetzblatt*)

LV – Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein (*Landesverfassung*)

Mintegra – Migration–Integration Foundation (*Stiftung Migration–Integration*)

MOBE – Monitoring Office for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (*Monitoringstelle UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention*)

NGO – non-governmental organisation

öB-VG – Austrian Federal Constitutional Law (*österreichisches Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz*)

OHG – Victims Assistance Act (*Opferhilfegesetz*)

OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

OSKJ – Ombuds Office for Children and Young People (*Ombudsstelle für Kinder und Jugendliche*)

PartG – Registered Partnership Act (*Partnerschaftsgesetz*)

PGR – Persons and Companies Act (*Personen- und Gesellschaftsrecht*)

PolG – Police Act (*Polizeigesetz*)

SHG – Social Assistance Act (*Sozialhilfegesetz*)

StGB – Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*)

StGH – Constitutional Court (*Staatsgerichtshof*)

StGHG – Constitutional Court Act (*Staatsgerichtshofgesetz*)

StPG – State Employees Act (*Staatspersonalgesetz*)

StPO – Code of Criminal Procedure (*Strafprozessordnung*)

StPV – State Employees Ordinance (*Staatspersonalverordnung*)

UN – United Nations

UNCAC – United Nations Convention against Corruption

UNCAT – Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

UNCRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

VGH – Administrative Court (*Verwaltungsgerichtshof*)

VMR – Association for Human Rights (*Verein für Menschenrechte*)

VRG – People's Rights Act (*Volksrechtegesetz*)

ZPO – Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*)