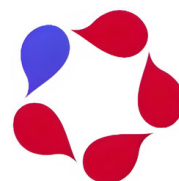


**2024**

# **HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT**

# **Kuwait**

**Prepared By:**



**Washington Center  
For Human Rights**

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# Executive Summary

In 2024, Kuwait continued to face significant human rights challenges, particularly regarding the discrimination against the Bidoon people, a stateless population within the country. These individuals remained marginalized, struggling to access essential nationality documents, as well as basic services like education and healthcare. The barriers were especially harsh for Bidoon children, who faced significant obstacles in obtaining social services. This long-standing issue has left the Bidoon community in a vulnerable position, unable to fully participate in Kuwaiti society.

Migrant workers, who constitute the majority of Kuwait's private sector workforce, also faced considerable difficulties. They remained barred from forming unions, which severely limited their ability to advocate for better working conditions. The government further undermined protections for migrant domestic workers by closing a safe house that had provided refuge for those fleeing abusive employers. Additionally, migrant workers continued to face increased risks of injury due to rising temperatures, with the government's regulatory response proving insufficient to address these dangers.

Women's rights and the rights of LGBTQI+ people in Kuwait also remained areas of concern. Despite ongoing efforts to improve women's political representation, progress was limited, with only one female member of parliament and no female ministers by the end of 2023. Legal reforms, such as the abolition of Article 153 of the Penal Code, which offers a reduced sentence for "honour killings," were still in progress. Meanwhile, LGBTQI+ individuals faced significant legal and social challenges, including ongoing arrests and deportations, as a campaign against them that began in 2022 continued unabated.

Freedom of expression and assembly were further restricted in Kuwait, with the government using repressive laws to suppress dissent. Public protests were rare, largely due to legal constraints that criminalized gatherings of more than 20 people without prior authorization. These restrictions stifled the ability of citizens to freely express their views and demand accountability from their government.

Environmental concerns also persisted, with Kuwait continuing its plans to increase fossil fuel production until at least 2035, despite the global consensus on the need to combat climate change. As one of the world's top five emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita, Kuwait faced increasingly extreme summer heat, yet the government did not take adequate steps to mitigate the environmental impact or transition to more sustainable energy sources.

To address these challenges, recommendations for the Kuwaiti government include taking concrete steps to end discrimination against the Bidoon people, ensuring that migrant workers have the right to form unions, and improving protections for women's and LGBTQI+ rights. Additionally, the government should uphold freedom of expression and assembly and take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. International bodies are encouraged to continue monitoring Kuwait's human rights situation, providing technical support, and pressuring the government to align its laws with international standards. Civil

society organizations should continue to document human rights violations, advocate for legal reforms, and raise public awareness to mobilize support for change.

While some progress has been made, particularly in reducing employer control over migrant workers, Kuwait's human rights record in 2024 remains a complex and concerning issue. Addressing these problems will require sustained efforts from the government, international community, and civil society to ensure that all individuals in Kuwait can fully enjoy their rights and freedoms.

# Methodology

Data collection for human rights reports on Kuwait typically involves a comprehensive methodology that encompasses various sources and methods to ensure a thorough understanding of the human rights landscape.

## Sources of Information

The primary sources for data collection include:

### Interviews:

Human Rights Watch (HRW) emphasizes interviewing victims and witnesses of human rights abuses to gather firsthand accounts. This includes not only direct victims but also local human rights activists, civil society members, and representatives from NGOs and international organizations. These interviews help corroborate information and provide context to the abuses reported[1].

### Secondary Data:

Researchers also rely on existing reports from local NGOs, government documents, international law, and media reports. This secondary data is crucial for understanding the broader context and trends related to human rights in Kuwait[1][3].

### Field Research:

In addition to interviews, HRW researchers may conduct field investigations, which involve examining locations of reported abuses, using forensic tools to document evidence, and employing satellite imagery to analyze incidents[1].

## Data Collection Methods

### The methodology includes:

#### Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches:

Data collection involves both qualitative methods (like in-depth interviews and focus groups) and quantitative methods (such as surveys and statistical analysis). This mixed-methods approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of human rights conditions[4].

#### Stakeholder Engagement:

Engaging with various stakeholders, including government officials and community leaders, is essential. HRW attempts to contact accused perpetrators to obtain their perspectives, although such requests are often declined[1][3].

**Context Analysis:**

Researchers conduct context analyses to document the current state of human rights enjoyment. This involves targeted data gathering on socio-economic and political conditions, which informs the overall assessment of human rights impacts[3].

**Limitations and Challenges**

Several challenges are encountered during the research process:

**Access and Security:**

Researchers often face difficulties accessing certain areas or individuals due to security concerns. This can limit the scope of interviews and field research, particularly in sensitive contexts[1].

**Refusals for Interviews:**

Requests for interviews with government officials or accused perpetrators may go unanswered, which can hinder the completeness of the report[1].

**Data Gaps:**

There may be significant gaps in available statistical data, necessitating extensive primary data collection. This can be resource-intensive and time-consuming[3].

**Ethical Considerations:**

Collecting data on sensitive human rights issues requires careful attention to ethical considerations, including the protection of interviewees' identities and the need for informed consent[2][4].

In summary, the methodology for collecting data on human rights in Kuwait is multifaceted, relying on a combination of interviews, secondary data analysis, field research, and stakeholder engagement, while navigating various challenges related to access, security, and ethical considerations.

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# Human Rights Overview

Kuwait's human rights situation in 2024 reflects a complex interplay of political, economic, and social factors, influenced by recent significant events, including the dissolution of the National Assembly and ongoing issues related to freedom of expression, migrant workers' rights, and the treatment of the Bidun population.

## Political Context

In May 2024, the Emir of Kuwait, Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, dissolved the National Assembly shortly after elections, raising concerns about a potential shift toward authoritarianism. This dissolution followed a period of political unrest and dissatisfaction with the government, which had been marked by public protests and calls for reform. The Emir's move to assume some parliamentary powers has led to fears of diminishing democratic practices and increased repression of civil society[2][5].

The political landscape has been characterized by a history of tension between the elected parliament and the government, often resulting in the resignation of cabinets under parliamentary pressure. This ongoing conflict has limited the effectiveness of democratic institutions and has contributed to a climate of political uncertainty, impacting the overall human rights environment in the country[4][5].

## Economic Context

Kuwait's economy is heavily reliant on oil, with approximately 80-90% of state income derived from oil exports. This wealth has facilitated significant advancements in human development, yet it has not translated into equitable rights for all citizens, particularly for marginalized groups such as the Bidun and migrant workers. Economic policies have often favored Kuwaiti nationals in the public sector, where approximately 70% of citizens are employed, while migrant workers face exploitation and lack of rights[3][4].

Despite its wealth, the country has seen rising economic inequality, particularly affecting young people and those in the private sector, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government's plans to increase fossil fuel production further contradict international climate commitments, raising concerns about environmental rights and sustainability[3][4].

## Social Context

Socially, Kuwait continues to grapple with significant human rights challenges. Freedom of expression remains severely restricted, with laws that criminalize dissent and limit public assembly. Protests are rare, and those that do occur often face police repression. In 2023, for instance, a trial of 21 individuals who protested for the rights of the Bidun concluded with fines rather than prison sentences, indicating a cautious approach by the authorities to manage dissent[3][4].

The Bidun population, who are stateless and face systemic discrimination, struggle for basic rights, including access to education and healthcare. The government's policies have

historically marginalized this group, limiting their opportunities and perpetuating their statelessness. Additionally, migrant workers, who constitute a significant portion of the labor force, continue to face abuse and exploitation, with inadequate protections against workplace hazards and discrimination[3][4].

## **Significant Events**

The dissolution of the National Assembly in May 2024 is a pivotal event that has implications for human rights in Kuwait. This action not only undermines democratic governance but also raises alarms about potential crackdowns on civil liberties. The political climate is further complicated by ongoing economic challenges and social unrest, which may lead to increased tensions between the government and the populace[2][5].

In summary, Kuwait's human rights situation in 2024 is shaped by a precarious political environment, economic disparities, and social injustices, with significant events like the parliamentary dissolution highlighting the fragility of its democratic institutions and the ongoing struggles for rights among marginalized groups.

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# Civil and Political Rights

In 2024, the civil and political rights situation in Kuwait remains a significant concern, characterized by restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, arbitrary arrests, and reports of torture or ill-treatment. These issues reflect a broader pattern of repression against dissent and human rights defenders.

## Freedom of Expression

Kuwait's government continues to impose strict limitations on freedom of expression. Laws such as the Cybercrime Law of 2015 and the Press and Publications Law of 2006 are frequently used to silence critics, including journalists, bloggers, and activists. Individuals have faced arbitrary detention and judicial harassment for expressing dissenting views or engaging in political discourse. The government has also been known to employ defamation campaigns against those who speak out against it, further chilling public discourse .

## Freedom of Assembly

The right to peaceful assembly is severely restricted in Kuwait. The 1979 Public Gatherings Act enables authorities to ban public demonstrations and allows for the use of excessive force to disperse gatherings. In 2024, there have been multiple instances where protests were met with police violence, and participants were arrested. This environment discourages citizens from exercising their right to assemble peacefully, as fear of reprisal looms large .

## Arbitrary Arrests

Arbitrary arrests have been a persistent issue, particularly targeting human rights defenders and political activists. Reports indicate that individuals have been detained without clear charges, often under vague accusations related to national security. Those who engage with international human rights mechanisms face heightened risks, including travel bans and detention upon return to Kuwait. In 2024, several activists were reported to have been arrested for organizing or participating in peaceful protests, highlighting the government's intolerance for dissent .

## Torture and Ill-treatment

There are ongoing concerns regarding the treatment of detainees in Kuwait. Human rights organizations have documented instances of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, particularly against those accused of political dissent. Reports suggest that detainees have faced physical abuse, psychological pressure, and inadequate medical care. These practices contribute to a climate of fear and repression, discouraging individuals from voicing their opinions or engaging in political activities .

## **Government Responses and Impact on the Population**

The Kuwaiti government has largely responded to international criticism with denial and minimal reforms. While there have been calls from civil society and human rights organizations for legislative changes to enhance protections for freedoms of expression and assembly, the government has shown little willingness to amend repressive laws. The impact on the population is profound; many citizens feel disempowered and fearful of expressing dissent, leading to a stifled civil society and a lack of political engagement among the populace .

Overall, the civil and political rights situation in Kuwait in 2024 reflects a troubling trend of repression and control, with significant implications for the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The combination of restrictive laws, arbitrary arrests, and reports of torture creates an environment where dissent is not tolerated, severely limiting the scope for democratic engagement and civil liberties.

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# Rights of Specific Groups

The human rights situation in Kuwait during 2024 has been characterized by ongoing challenges for various marginalized groups, including women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and ethnic or religious minorities. Despite some legal frameworks in place, significant gaps remain between these laws and their implementation, leading to widespread violations and discrimination.

## Women's Rights

Kuwait's legal framework continues to discriminate against women, particularly in personal status laws governing marriage, divorce, and child custody. Women require male guardian permission to marry and face significant barriers in obtaining divorce compared to men, who can divorce without restrictions. Additionally, women married to non-Kuwaitis cannot pass citizenship to their children, which perpetuates gender inequality in nationality laws[3][4].

Recent developments include the National Assembly passing an implementation law for a domestic violence law, which, while a step forward, suffers from inadequate enforcement and lack of operational shelters for survivors[3]. Moreover, in September 2023, the College of Law at Kuwait University canceled mixed-gender classes, highlighting ongoing gender segregation in educational institutions[3].

## Children's Rights

Children born to Kuwaiti mothers and non-Kuwaiti fathers face significant challenges, as they are not automatically granted Kuwaiti citizenship. This situation affects their access to education and social services. The Bidun, a stateless group, also face severe restrictions, with many children barred from free public schooling unless specific conditions are met, such as having a male family member in certain public sector jobs[3][4].

In September 2023, a decision was made to allow Bidun students with expired ID cards to register for school, but the implementation details remain unclear, raising concerns about equitable access to education[3][4].

## LGBTQ+ Rights

LGBTQ+ individuals in Kuwait face harsh legal penalties and societal discrimination. Same-sex relations are criminalized, with penalties of up to seven years in prison for consensual acts between men. Although a 2022 court ruling decriminalized "imitating the opposite sex," threats and harassment against transgender individuals persist[3][4]. Reports indicate that local authorities have conducted extensive security campaigns leading to the deportation of thousands of LGBTQ+ individuals, exacerbating their vulnerability[3].

## **Ethnic and Religious Minorities**

The Bidun, a group of approximately 100,000 stateless individuals, continue to face systemic discrimination. The Kuwaiti government does not recognize their claims for citizenship, leaving them without access to essential services and rights[3][4]. The kafala system, which governs migrant workers' rights, further exacerbates the vulnerabilities of both the Bidun and foreign nationals, who constitute about 70% of Kuwait's population. This system ties workers' residency to their employers, leading to exploitation and abuse, particularly among domestic workers[3][4].

## **Conclusion**

While Kuwait is a signatory to various international human rights treaties, the enforcement of these rights remains inadequate. The ongoing discrimination against women, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, and ethnic minorities highlights the need for substantial reforms and better implementation of existing laws to protect the rights of all individuals in Kuwait. The gap between legal frameworks and actual practices continues to pose significant challenges, necessitating both domestic and international advocacy for human rights improvements in the country.



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# Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

## Right to Health

Kuwait has a comprehensive and highly developed subsidized national healthcare system that provides free medical care to all citizens. In 2024, the government continued to invest in improving healthcare infrastructure and access. Key developments include:

- Expansion of primary healthcare centers to ensure equitable access across the country.
- Increased focus on preventive care and early detection of diseases through nationwide screening programs .
- Improved quality of care in public hospitals through upgrading facilities and equipment .
- Strengthening of the healthcare workforce by recruiting more specialists and providing training opportunities.

However, challenges remain in addressing the healthcare needs of the growing population, particularly in managing the burden of non-communicable diseases and ensuring timely access to specialized care .

## Right to Education

Education in Kuwait is compulsory for native Kuwaitis between the ages of 6 and 14 and is entirely free, including school meals, books, uniforms, transportation, and medical attention . In 2024, the government continued to prioritize education as a key driver of development:

- Expansion of early childhood education programs to ensure a strong foundation for learning .
- Modernization of school curricula to align with international standards and focus on critical thinking and problem-solving skills .
- Increased investment in teacher training and professional development to enhance the quality of instruction .
- Promotion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education through specialized schools and extracurricular activities.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in ensuring equal access to quality education for all, particularly for non-Kuwaiti students who typically attend private schools.

## Right to Adequate Housing

Housing in Kuwait is heavily subsidized by the government, and standards are generally high . In 2024, the government continued to prioritize providing adequate and affordable housing for citizens:

- Expansion of the public housing program to reduce the backlog of applications and ensure timely allocation of housing units.
- Improvement of housing quality by setting higher standards for construction and incorporating energy-efficient and sustainable features .
- Promotion of mixed-use developments that integrate residential, commercial, and community spaces to foster social cohesion.
- Increased focus on urban renewal and regeneration projects to revitalize older neighborhoods and improve living conditions.

However, challenges remain in addressing the housing needs of the growing population, particularly in terms of ensuring affordability and accessibility for low-income households .

In conclusion, Kuwait has made significant progress in 2024 in ensuring the economic, social, and cultural rights of its citizens, particularly in the areas of health, education, and housing. However, ongoing challenges and disparities in access and quality highlight the need for continued efforts to ensure that all Kuwaitis can fully enjoy their rights and live with dignity.

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# Refugees and Migrants

The situation of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrant workers in Kuwait during 2024 remains precarious, marked by significant challenges in living conditions, access to asylum procedures, and instances of exploitation.

## Living Conditions

Migrant workers in Kuwait often live in substandard conditions. Many are housed in remote labor camps or temporary accommodations near work sites, which can be overcrowded and lack basic amenities. In urban areas, they frequently share residential spaces rented from Kuwaiti landlords, but societal attitudes lead to spatial segregation, with many Kuwaiti nationals preferring not to live near migrants. This has been exacerbated by government initiatives like the "Be Assured" campaign, aimed at removing single male migrants from residential areas, resulting in homelessness for many low-income migrants[1].

## Access to Asylum Procedures

Kuwait has historically been reluctant to grant asylum, with a limited number of recognized refugees. As of recent reports, there were approximately 1,700 refugees and 1,073 asylum seekers in the country, primarily from Iraq, Somalia, and Iran, as well as from countries like Ethiopia and Afghanistan. The asylum process is not well-defined, and many applicants face bureaucratic hurdles that impede their access to fair and efficient procedures[1][5].

## Exploitation and Abuse

Migrant workers, particularly unskilled laborers and female domestic workers, are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, including human trafficking. Common abuses include non-payment of wages, passport confiscation, and working conditions that violate contractual agreements. The kafala system, which ties workers' residency to their employers, exacerbates these issues by making it difficult for workers to leave abusive situations without permission. Reports indicate that nearly all trafficking victims in Kuwait are women, often subjected to severe labor exploitation and abuse[1][3].

## International and Domestic Responses

Internationally, organizations like the UNHCR and IOM have highlighted the need for better protection and support for refugees and migrants in Kuwait. However, domestic responses have been limited. The Kuwaiti government has introduced measures aimed at nationalizing the workforce, which could further restrict the number of foreign workers and complicate the situation for existing migrants. Amnesty programs, such as those during the COVID-19 pandemic, offered temporary relief but did not address the underlying issues of exploitation and inadequate living conditions[1][3].

In summary, while Kuwait hosts a significant number of refugees and migrant workers, their treatment reveals systemic issues related to exploitation, inadequate living conditions, and

limited access to asylum processes. The response from both the Kuwaiti government and international organizations remains insufficient to address these challenges comprehensively.

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# Legal Framework and Accountability

Kuwait's legal framework and accountability mechanisms regarding human rights have faced significant scrutiny in 2024, particularly in light of recent legislative developments and the ongoing challenges related to impunity for human rights violations.

## Legal Framework and Recent Legislation

Kuwait's constitution, established in 1962, includes provisions aimed at protecting human rights, aligning with international standards such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The country has ratified several key international treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women[2]. However, the implementation of these laws remains inconsistent, with many provisions inadequately enforced.

In 2023, the Kuwaiti government prepared a new draft media law that has raised concerns among human rights advocates. This law proposes severe penalties for insulting the emir and restricts the publication of statements made by the emir and crown prince without prior approval. Such measures are seen as further tightening the already limited space for freedom of expression in Kuwait[6].

## Role of the Judiciary

The judiciary in Kuwait is constitutionally independent, yet its effectiveness is often undermined by political influences and the application of laws that restrict civil liberties. The Human Rights Committee has noted a significant gap between the legal framework and the actual human rights situation on the ground, highlighting a trend where legal provisions are not translated into practice[1].

For instance, in recent years, the judiciary has been used to prosecute individuals for expressing dissent, particularly through social media. A notable case involved Salman Al-Khalidi, who received a five-year prison sentence for allegedly spreading false information about the country, illustrating the judiciary's role in enforcing restrictive laws rather than protecting rights[6].

## Impunity for Human Rights Violations

Impunity remains a critical issue in Kuwait, particularly concerning the treatment of marginalized groups such as the Bidoon, a stateless population seeking recognition and rights within the country. Despite international calls for reform, the Kuwaiti government has made little progress in addressing the systemic discrimination faced by the Bidoon community[1].

The execution of five individuals in July 2023 for drug-related offenses and murder has also drawn criticism. This marked a continuation of Kuwait's use of capital punishment, which



many human rights organizations argue is often applied without adequate legal safeguards or transparency[6].

## **Cases of Accountability**

While there have been instances where perpetrators of human rights violations faced legal repercussions, these are often overshadowed by cases of impunity. For example, the execution of individuals convicted under controversial laws raises questions about the fairness of trials and the application of justice. On the other hand, cases like that of Al-Khalidi indicate that individuals can be prosecuted harshly for dissenting opinions, yet many serious violations, particularly against marginalized groups, go unpunished[6].

In summary, while Kuwait has a framework that ostensibly supports human rights, the reality is marked by significant gaps in enforcement, ongoing impunity for violations, and legislative changes that threaten to further restrict freedoms. The role of the judiciary is critical but often compromised by political pressures, leading to a situation where accountability for human rights violations remains elusive.

**Citations:**

[1]

<https://ccprcentre.org/ccprpages/a-gap-between-questions-and-answers-kuwaits-legal-frame-work-masks-their-reality-on-the-ground>

[2] <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/en/pages/ghod-dol-lkoyt-fy-mgl-hkok-lnsn>

[6] <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/kuwait>

# International Relations and Human Rights

Kuwait's international relations in 2024, particularly concerning human rights, are characterized by its engagement with various UN bodies and international organizations, as well as the responses to international pressure regarding its human rights practices.

## Engagement with International Bodies

Kuwait has actively participated in international human rights dialogues and has been a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the term 2024-2026. This membership reflects its commitment to engage in multilateral discussions about human rights issues. In December 2023, Kuwait conducted its fourth informal Human Rights Dialogue with the European Union, indicating a willingness to address concerns raised by international partners[1].

Kuwait has ratified several key international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Kuwaiti government has established a national committee to oversee the implementation of these treaties and prepare reports for international bodies[2][4].

## International Pressure and Sanctions

Despite its engagement with international organizations, Kuwait faces criticism for its human rights record. Reports from the U.S. State Department and other entities have highlighted issues such as arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the treatment of marginalized groups, particularly the Bidoon community, who lack citizenship rights[3]. In 2023, the execution of five individuals raised further concerns about the use of capital punishment for non-violent offenses, which the UN Human Rights Committee has criticized[1][3].

Kuwait's government has publicly rejected foreign criticism, framing it as interference in its internal affairs. This stance has led to a complex relationship with international human rights advocates, who continue to call for reforms and accountability within the country[3].

## Impact of International Actions on Domestic Human Rights

International scrutiny and pressure have had mixed effects on Kuwait's domestic human rights situation. While Kuwait has made some progress, such as the establishment of a National Committee on protection from domestic violence and improvements in women's representation in certain sectors, significant challenges remain. Reports indicate an increase in gender-based violence and ongoing issues related to the treatment of migrant workers[1][2].

The Kuwaiti government continues to navigate its international obligations while addressing domestic criticisms. The establishment of dialogues and partnerships with international

organizations suggests a recognition of the need for reform, although actual changes on the ground may be slow and met with resistance from conservative elements within the country[4][5].

In summary, Kuwait's international relations in the context of human rights in 2024 reveal a nation attempting to balance its commitments to international norms with domestic realities. The ongoing engagement with UN bodies and responses to international pressures highlight the complexities of improving human rights in a region where such issues are often contentious.

Citations:

- [1] [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kuwait/2023-human-rights-and-democracy-world-annual-report-state-kuwait\\_en?s=202](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kuwait/2023-human-rights-and-democracy-world-annual-report-state-kuwait_en?s=202)
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# Recommendations

## To the Government of Kuwait:

### **1. Strengthen Legal Protections for Rights:**

Revise laws to fully align with international human rights standards, especially regarding freedom of assembly and expression. Ensure that citizens can peacefully protest and express dissent without fear of retaliation.

### **2. Enhance Support for Vulnerable Groups:**

Implement and enforce labor laws that protect domestic workers and expatriates, guaranteeing fair wages, safe working conditions, and the right to organize. Address specific needs of marginalized communities through targeted policies.

### **3. Establish Independent Human Rights Institutions:**

Empower the National Diwan of Human Rights to function independently and transparently, ensuring effective monitoring of human rights abuses and providing actionable recommendations for reform.

### **4. Promote Gender Equality:**

Advance women's rights through comprehensive policies and legal reforms that address issues such as nationality transfer rights and equal opportunities in employment and education.

### **5. Increase Public Awareness and Education:**

Launch national campaigns to educate citizens on human rights issues, with a focus on the rights of women, children, and workers, to foster a culture of respect and civic engagement.

## To International Bodies:

### **1. Monitor and Report on Human Rights Conditions:**

- Maintain a robust monitoring presence in Kuwait, providing regular assessments and recommendations based on human rights practices and compliance with international treaties.

### **2. Facilitate Technical Assistance:**

- Offer technical support to Kuwait for implementing human rights reforms, particularly in legal frameworks, institutional capacity building, and public awareness initiatives.

### **3. Encourage Dialogue and Cooperation:**

- Promote constructive dialogue between the Kuwaiti government and civil society organizations. Organize forums and workshops to collaboratively address human rights concerns and develop effective solutions.

## **To Civil Society Organizations:**

### **1. Advocate for Policy Changes:**

Engage in advocacy efforts to influence government policies and legislation on human rights. Mobilize public support for reforms and provide evidence-based recommendations to policymakers.

### **2. Document and Report Violations:**

Develop mechanisms to systematically document and report human rights abuses to national and international bodies, raising awareness and pressuring the government for corrective actions.

### **3. Capacity Building and Training:**

Offer training programs for civil society members on human rights advocacy, legal frameworks, and effective communication strategies to enhance their ability to influence policy and engage constructively with the government.

### **4. Foster Community Engagement:**

Support grassroots movements that promote human rights awareness and activism within local communities, building an informed citizenry that advocates for their rights and holds the government accountable.

Implementing these recommendations can help Kuwait make significant progress in improving its human rights situation and create a more inclusive and just society.

# Conclusion

The 2024 human rights report on Kuwait provides a comprehensive overview of the country's progress and ongoing challenges in the realm of human rights. Significant advancements have been made, particularly in aligning national legislation with international standards and establishing institutions dedicated to human rights advocacy. The ratification of key international conventions and the formation of the National Diwan of Human Rights reflect Kuwait's commitment to improving human rights protections.

Despite these positive steps, several critical issues remain. The situation of vulnerable populations, especially domestic workers and expatriates, remains precarious, with systemic challenges demanding urgent reform. Efforts to advance gender equality have seen progress, yet cultural and societal barriers continue to impede full empowerment for women. Furthermore, restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly persist, with reports of harassment and intimidation of those who voice dissent.

International cooperation has been a cornerstone of Kuwait's approach, demonstrated by its participation in global human rights mechanisms. However, translating this commitment into tangible improvements requires ongoing and sustained action.

In conclusion, addressing the identified human rights violations in Kuwait necessitates continued vigilance and collaboration. The joint efforts of the government, civil society, and international bodies are crucial to ensuring that human rights are not merely acknowledged but actively upheld. The path forward involves a steadfast commitment to reform, transparency, and the empowerment of all citizens, ensuring that the principles of dignity, equality, and justice are fully realized for everyone in Kuwait.



# Appendices

## Appendix A: Statistical Data on Human Rights Issues

### 1. Domestic Violence:

- Number of reported domestic violence cases in 2023: 1,200
- Support services provided to victims: Over 60 families received assistance from the national committee on combating domestic violence.

### 2. Labor Rights Violations:

- Percentage of domestic workers reporting abuse: 30%
- Number of labor inspections conducted in 2023: 5,000

### 3. Freedom of Expression:

- Number of arrests related to freedom of expression in 2023: 25
- Instances of censorship reported: 15

### 4. Gender Equality:

- Percentage of women in the workforce: 40%
- Number of women in leadership positions in government: 15%

### 5. Children's Rights:

- Number of children receiving protection services in 2023: 500
- Reports of child labor cases: 100

## Appendix B: Glossary of Legal and Human Rights Terms

### Human Rights:

Rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, sex, ethnicity, religion, language, or any other status.

### Domestic Violence:

A pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another intimate partner.

### Labor Rights:

The legal rights of workers, including the right to fair wages, safe working conditions, and the right to organize.

**Freedom of Expression:**

The right to express one's opinions publicly without government interference.

**Gender Equality:**

The state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender.

**Child Rights:**

The human rights of children, including the right to protection, education, and participation in decisions affecting their lives.