

**August 2019**

### Information on Mauritania

**Compliance with ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour (ratified in 1961) and PO29 – Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (ratified in 2016)**

**Slavery in Mauritania**

There has been a lack of meaningful progress on addressing and ending slavery since the Committee’s last Observation in 2017:

* The practice of slavery based on descent persists, predominantly within the Moor community.
* There is a lack of official data on the number of people who remain in slavery today.
* It is understood that the first phase of the ILO Bridge project qualitative study on ‘working relations that may result in a risk of forced labour’ is now underway, but a quantitative study has yet to be agreed by the government.
* Four years since the 2015 Anti-Slavery Law was adopted and the Special Courts on Slavery were established, there has been very little improvement, if any, to the chronically low rates of prosecutions and convictions. No slave-owners are in prison in Mauritania at the time of writing.
* The Government continues to demonstrate inaction and an absence of political will to enforce anti-slavery law, policy and programmatic measures, and to effectively identify, release, rehabilitate and ensure access to justice for victims of slavery.
* In addition to the general inaction of the judicial system, the problem is exacerbated by statements by the now-former President and other senior government officials denying the continued existence of slavery and acknowledging only that that the ‘legacy’ or ‘vestiges’ of the practice remains, alongside stigmatizing speeches towards the Haratine community.
* Limitations on freedom of expression and association continue, including the harassment and imprisonment of anti-slavery activists.

1. **Low rates of prosecutions and convictions under the 2015 Anti-Slavery Law**

Four years on, the establishment of a stronger anti-slavery law in 2015 and the Special Courts on Slavery (the Special Courts) have done little to address the persistent problems of poor enforcement of law, a failure to prosecute perpetrators, and a failure to ensure access to justice and remedy for victims. Prior to 2018, there was just one set of convictions by the Courts – a 2016 ruling by the Special Court in Nema – but with sentencing that was extremely lenient and well below that provided for in the Law:

***2016 conviction by the Special Court in Nema***

In May 2016, the Special Court in Nema convicted two slave owners, Sidi Mohamed Ould Hanana and Hlehana Ould Hmeyada, of slavery. They were sentenced to five years’ imprisonment, with one year to be served and four years suspended, and ordered to pay significant compensation to two female victims, Fatimetou Mint Hamdi and Fatimata Mint Zaydih. However, this sentence was extremely lenient; the one year of imprisonment to be served was well below the 10 to 20 years’ imprisonment provided by the law. Fatimetou and Fatimata, both aged between 35 and 40 at the time of conviction, had lived with their masters since birth, serving as slaves throughout their childhood and adult years. They escaped from slavery with their children in 2015, with help from local anti-slavery activists. The two defendants had both pleaded not guilty and a full public trial was held. Although Fatimetou was put under pressure to negotiate an out of court settlement with her former masters and finally withdrew her complaint, SOS-Esclaves was able to act as civil party in the case, enabling it to be brought to court. In July 2016, following an appeal by the lawyer against the leniency of the sentence, the Court of Appeal upheld the prison sentence, although increased the compensation awarded to the victims from 1 million MRO (approx. $2,900) to 6 million MRO (approx. $17,400). The lawyer once again appealed the lenient sentencing before the Supreme Court, and unfortunately despite expressed concerns about the safety risk posed to the victims, the ‘masters’ were both released pending the appeal, which is not known to have taken place at the time of writing.

In 2018, a further 12 cases were heard by the Special Courts; two by the Special Court in Nouadhibou in March 2018, and a further ten cases were heard in Nema in November. According to lawyers working with SOS-Esclaves, these 12 cases resulted in two convictions, two cases postponed and eight acquittals. The two convictions include the following:

***March 2018 convictions by the Special Court in Nouadhibou***

In March 2018, in the first ever session of the Special Court in Nouadhibou (almost three years after the Courts were established), convictions were handed down in two cases:

* ***The case of Rabiaa and sisters***

The case was brought by SOS-Esclaves acting as civil party. It concerns three sisters named Rabiaa (b. 1989), Aminetou (b. 1990) and Nana (b. 2000), who had been held in slavery since birth by a mistress called Riva Mint Dah Ould Mouhaimoudy. They first filed a complaint in August 2011 (under the previous Anti-Slavery Law) which was then subjected to several years of delay before its eventual transfer to the jurisdiction of the Special Court in Nouadhibou in early 2017. In March 2018, Riva Mint Dah Ould Mouhaimoudy was sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment, a sentence in line with the 2015 Anti-Slavery Law, and a fine of 25,000 New Ouguiyas (new Mauritanian currency, MRU, approximately US$700.) She was then released on bail pending an appeal. As the victims withdrew their complaint (the case was able to continue with SOS-Esclaves acting as civil party), there was no compensation awarded.

* ***The case of Boujimea Ould Bilal and 3 family members***

In the same hearing, the case of Boujimea Ould Bilal and three family members, who were the slaves of two masters, Hamoudy Ould Salek and Salek Oumar Ould Mohamed, was tried in absentia. The Judge sentenced one of the accused to the maximum prison sentence of 20 years, a fine of 100,000 New Ouguiyas (US$2800), and compensation payable to the victims of 5 million New Ouguiyas (US$140,000). The other accused in the case is now deceased.

Therefore to our knowledge no slave owners remain in prison, despite those convictions: the individual convicted in the case of Rabiaa and sisters remains on bail while appealing the sentence; and one individual convicted in the case of Boujimea Ould Bilal and 3 family members is deceased while the individual convicted in absentia remains in absentia, in Western Sahara. Similarly, the two people convicted by the Special Court in Nema in 2016 are believed to remain on bail pending appeal.

1. **Ongoing failure to secure justice in cases brought under the now-replaced 2007 Anti-Slavery Law: the case of Said and Yarg Salem**

In its previous reports to the Committee, the ITUC highlighted failings to implement the now-replaced 2007 Anti-Slavery Law and documented the ongoing failure to secure justice and redress for two child victims of slavery, Said and Yarg Salem. Their ‘slave owner’ Ahmed Ould El Hassine was convicted in November 2011, in the only case prosecuted under the now-replaced 2007 law. He was given a prison sentence of just two years (well below the prescribed sentence in the law) and a fine of 500,000MRO (around US$1500)[[1]](#footnote-1). Compensation was ordered of 840,000MRO (US$2500) for Said and 240,000MRO (US$700) for Yarg. El Hassine was released on bail pending an appeal, which was not held for over four years until it was finally scheduled in response to the pressure of a hearing by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The Appeal Court increased the level of the compensation awarded to the Salem brothers, but regrettably upheld the lenient two-year prison sentence.

In January 2018, the ACERWC found that Mauritania’s authorities had failed to take adequate steps to prevent, investigate, prosecute, punish and remedy slavery. Ruling that Mauritania’s Anti-Slavery Law does not provide adequate protection against slavery in practice, it found the State to be in violation of its obligations to protect children’s rights under the African ‘Children’s Charter’, including a failure to act in their best interests and protect them from discrimination, child labour, abuse and harmful cultural practices, as well as to provide for their survival and development, education, and leisure, recreation and cultural activities[[2]](#footnote-2). Mauritania is now required to provide Said and Yarg Salem with compensation, psychosocial support and education and ensure that all the perpetrators are brought to justice. It must also take wider steps to eradicate child slavery, including providing special measures for child victims and making the elimination of slavery a priority.[[3]](#footnote-3) Despite this clear ruling, in May 2018 the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Appeal Court, thus reconfirming a lenient sentence that was far below that provided in the now-replaced 2007 Anti-Slavery Law.

1. **Obstacles for the successful prosecution of slavery cases**

A major obstacle to the effective enforcement of the Anti-Slavery Law continues to be the inaction of police officers and prosecutors’ offices when cases of slavery are reported. Civil society organisations report that a large number of actors in the judicial chain, such as police officers, judges or prosecutors, are not investigating allegations. The 2015 Anti-Slavery Law, just like the 2007 law, provides for prison sentences and fines for law enforcement officials or the office of the prosecution when they fail to follow up on serious allegations of slavery. Yet to date there has been no known investigations and/or prosecutions for breach of this obligation to investigate and to prosecute.

If investigations take place, they are usually limited to interviewing the victims and alleged masters, and often bringing the two together, which places enormous pressure on vulnerable victims to change their testimonies. Another impediment to effective prosecutions is the fact that in the majority of cases brought to the courts by civil society organisations acting as civil party, the accused was released on bail while the civil party had not been notified, in total contradiction with the provision of the criminal procedural code. The accused ‘disappear’, often in neighbouring countries, never searched for again, which prevents the case from progressing. Moreover, in such cases, even if detention should be the last resort in principle, considering the seriousness of the crime, risk of escape and the safety of the victim and potential witnesses, release on bail should not be granted systematically and the civil party should be notified of such decisions and be able to oppose it.

Frequently, cases brought to the attention of the authorities are not prosecuted as slavery crimes under the provisions of the Anti-Slavery Law, but instead re-classified into minor offenses, such as work-related conflict under the labour code or exploitation of minors. In other instances, cases are resolved with informal settlements. Victims report intimidation by the police and judicial officials in order to get them to reach a settlement with their former master.

Procedures and deadlines at all stages of the process are regularly not respected. Article 38, which provides that the Prosecutor must decide whether or not to prosecute within eight days is routinely ignored. Many cases are dismissed by the prosecution without sufficient investigation or reasonable grounds. There is no victim or witness protection measures in place, which deters victims and witnesses from coming forward.

All pending slavery cases brought prior to the 2015 Anti-Slavery Law and the establishment of the Special Courts have in theory been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Special Courts, but an unknown number of slavery cases remained with local courts. Each of the three Special Courts covers a vast territorial jurisdiction, and each is presided over by just one Judge, representing significant capacity problems. The Special Court in Nouakchott is yet to issue a single ruling. The 2019 *Trafficking in Persons (TiP)* report states “the courts lacked the staff, funding, and resources to investigate and prosecute trafficking and slavery crimes throughout their regions. The three courts received a total of 700,000 MRU ($19,440) during the reporting period, an increase from a total of 450,000 MRU ($12,500) during the previous reporting period. While the appointed judges received specialized training on the 2015 anti-slavery law, they have not been trained in its enforcement and the unique challenges of investigating slavery cases, including how to prevent slaveholders from intimidating victims to withdraw their cases. Moreover, while other topical courts had specialized prosecutors, there were no specialized prosecutors for the anti-slavery courts. Judicial shuffles affected the anti-slavery courts twice during the reporting period. During an abrupt May 2018 judicial reshuffle, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) reassigned or removed experienced presiding judges sitting on the Nema and Nouakchott anti-slavery courts. In a second reshuffle in December 2018, the SJC appointed a new presiding judge to the Nema anti-slavery court and two deputy judges to the Nouakchott anti-slavery court.”[[4]](#footnote-4) Mauritania remained on Tier 3 of the TiP report, the lowest possible ranking.

In May 2018 the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination stated “The Committee is concerned about the difficulties that victims of slavery encounter in filing complaints with the police and judicial authorities in order to enforce their rights. It is concerned as well about the persistent challenges that hinder efforts to investigate such cases, gather evidence, prosecute the perpetrators effectively and expeditiously and impose appropriate penalties. Also troubling is the lack of adequate resources for the proper functioning of the three specialized courts in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Néma and the fact that the sentences imposed thus far in cases involving slavery are not always commensurate with the gravity of the offence (arts. 2, 5 and 6).”[[5]](#footnote-5) The Committee recommended that the State party “ensure that the victims of slavery can actually complain without any form of pressure and ensure that they are registered, investigations are conducted, prosecutions take place, and that those responsible are sentenced proportionally to the seriousness of the facts. It also recommends that the State Party provide the three special courts of Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Nema with adequate financial means and staffing for their proper functioning.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. **An absence of state mechanisms to identify, release, assist, rehabilitate**

The absence of effective State programmes and policies to provide socio-economic support to people emerging from slavery is a huge challenge. People freed from slavery, normally as the result of action by civil society organisations, do not have access to adequate rehabilitation and reintegration measures as required under article 3 of the Protocol. They face poverty and destitution. Survivors are hugely vulnerable to further exploitation due to a lack of options, or indeed a return to their former masters given the psychological pressure on them due to the nature of descent-based slavery – it involves multi-generational ‘ownership’ and subordination. Survivors struggle to obtain official documents such as identification cards because the requirements for such documents (such as providing parents’ identity documents) are difficult or almost impossible to fulfil. The lack of identity documents creates a huge barrier in access to State services (which are already very limited) for people emerging from slavery, including people of slave descent who have never experienced slavery themselves.

In 2018, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed its concern about “… (c) the difficulties that persons subjected to slavery encounter in becoming reintegrated into society because they do not have identity papers or access to employment, education or landownership, including ownership of their parents’ land, and are thus at risk of having no choice but to return to situations of slavery (arts. 2 and 5).”[[7]](#footnote-7)

The Government makes frequent allusion to the role of Tadamoun in assisting people released from

slavery. For example, it indicated to the Committee that that the Ministry of Labour and the Tadamoun Agency are developing a joint initiative intended to promote means of subsistence for victims, the two pillars of which will be vocational training and strengthening of entrepreneurial capacity.[[8]](#footnote-8) Yet, it remains the case that Tadamoun, which is administratively under the direct control of the executive branch of government, has undertaken little work on slavery, choosing to focus on the ‘poverty reduction’ aspect of its mandate instead. Very few former slaves have received any financial support from Tadamoun, despite the fact that since 2014, SOS-Esclaves has submitted lists of victims in urgent need of support to the Agency. Civil society organisations have no choice but to fill in the gaps left by the Government in accompanying victims in their transition from slavery and providing socio-economic support to enable them to establish independent livelihoods.

1. **Lack of full recognition of the persistence of slavery and a lack of official data**

The now-former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, alongside other senior government officials, have continued to deny the existence of slavery categorically, acknowledging only that ‘vestiges’ or ‘consequences’ of slavery exist (*les séquelles de l’esclavage*), alongside speeches that are stigmatizing about the Haratine community. Such statements on the non-existence of slavery send a damaging message to those authorities who are responsible for implementing anti-slavery legislation, and significantly reduce the likelihood that the legislation will be enforced, perpetrators prosecuted, and victims compensated. We regret that the creation of an official day of remembrance to address the aftermath of slavery on 6 March was not accompanied by an official recognition of the existence and persistence of this practice.

In 2017, the Committee called on the Government to take the necessary measures to rapidly conduct the planned qualitative study by the Bridge Project. The Direct Contacts Mission also considered it essential that the government conduct the study as soon as possible. It is our understanding that the terms of reference for the Bridge project qualitative study on ‘working relations that may result in a risk of forced labour’ have been approved by the Government, and the first phase is now underway, with regional consultations taking place. While the progress with the qualitative study is very welcome, we note that the study is not quantitative. We reiterate the importance of conducting a study which would establish the quantitative prevalence of slavery in the country. Further, when the study is published, the new President should be urged to publicly recognise that slavery is still practised in the country and call for its end, in addition to recognition of the separate problem of the multiple legacies of slavery.

In April 2018, a High-Level ILO Mission took place. A report by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) notes “Independent Mauritanian trade unions affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) submitted a detailed report to the Mission. Unfortunately, the ILO mission did not meet with the ITUC affiliates alone to discuss the specifics of their report but instead held a single general meeting with all registered unions in the country. It is important to note that a number of these unions are government dominated and have publicly denied the existence of slavery. As such, it is impossible to expect the discussion at the meeting accurately reflects the true extent of slavery in Mauritania.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

1. **Continued harassment and intimidation of anti-slavery activists and other Human Rights Defenders**

Limitations to freedom of expression and association persist, including harassment and imprisonment of anti-slavery activists. The legal framework in Mauritania does not comply with international standards on the right to freedom of association. The official registration system for organisations is extremely limiting, as the authorities can refuse permission on the basis of a hypothetical threat to unity or security. Very few civil society organisations have been granted legal approval. Amnesty International reports that over 43 associations promoting human rights, including anti-slavery associations, have applied for registration and the authorities have failed to respond.[[10]](#footnote-10) Those refused official authorisation include the anti-slavery organisation Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA). Although the authorities have refrained from dissolving the organisation, its members have been arrested and their offices closed by the police on the orders of the government on several occasions. In addition, the lack of official status prevents the organisation from acting as civil party and bringing slavery cases to the courts under the 2015 Anti-Slavery Law.

In general, human rights groups face pressure, arrest and obstacles to complicate the implementation of their activities, particularly those working on the most sensitive issues such as discrimination based on caste and slavery. Even officially authorized organizations may be banned from their activities and intimidated.

In April 2018, a law on blasphemy was passed. Those found guilty under this law face a mandatory death penalty sentence. Twenty-one NGOs issued a joint statement condemning the law, explaining it: “…makes death penalty mandatory for anyone convicted of “blasphemous speech” and acts deemed “sacrilegious”. The new law eliminates the possibility under article 306 of substituting prison terms for the death penalty for certain apostasy-related crimes if the offender promptly repents. The law also extends the scope of application of the death penalty to “renegade acts.”[[11]](#footnote-11) The Head of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, issued a statement criticizing the law, stressing “[t]he African commission uses the occasion of its current session in Mauritania to urge the highest authorities to review this legislation.”[[12]](#footnote-12)

Presidential elections took place in June 2019. The ruling party candidate, Mohamed Ould Ghazouni, won in the first round with 52% of the vote, with the result disputed by four other candidates. Resulting protests relating to electoral irregularities were met with mass arrests of nearly 100 people including opposition supporters and journalists, and security forces were deployed in Nouakchott and the cities of Nouadhibou and Kaédi. West African nationals were attacked and some deported back to their home countries after being accused of destabilizing the peace in the country. The internet was cut off for 10 days apparently to prevent people gathering and protesting.[[13]](#footnote-13) Those arrested included the Vice President of SOS-Esclaves, journalist Ahmedou Ould Wediaa, who was released some days later; Yahya Sy from human rights group COVISSIM, who was detained for six days before being released without charge; Cheikhna Mohamed Lemine Cheikh, the campaign manager of the Coalition Sawab/Initiative de resurgence du mouvement abolitionniste (Initiative for the resurgence of the abolitionist movement) who was arrested on 24 June and released on 2 July; and journalist  Moussa Camara was arrested on 26 June, accused of questioning the results of the elections and released on 3 July. Samba Thiam, leader of the political party Forces progressistes pour le changement (Progressist forces for change) and anti-discrimination activist was arrested on 25 June following a Facebook post where he questioned “the fairness of the electoral process” and commented on the mobilization of the Afro-Mauritanian community. He was questioned without his lawyer until 1 July. He was released without charge on 3 July after being forced to sign a statement that he would “cease activities leading to extremism and violence”.

1. **Discrimination against those considered to be of slave caste**

According to SOS-Esclaves, the community of slave descent represents more than 40% of the Mauritanian population, and a significant minority still live in slavery. Discrimination against the Haratine community (people whose ancestors were enslaved by the Moors but who are no longer slaves) is deeply rooted. The majority of the Haratine suffer discrimination because of their status as former slaves and limited access to certain resources and services such as land ownership, arable land, employment, education, housing, water, food and healthcare. In the city, they make up the majority of the population living in the slums. In rural areas, many still live next to their former masters in ghettos called *Adwabas,* where they are also affected by extreme poverty and high illiteracy rates. Many people of slave descent continue to cultivate land over which they have no rights and are therefore forced to give part of their crops to their former ‘masters’. The majority of Haratine do not have identity documents. The requirements for access to the census and identification documents are difficult or impossible for the Haratine community to fulfil, which intensifies their social isolation and impedes the exercise of many fundamental rights.

In May 2018, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed its concern “…that certain traditional social structures and cultural prejudices continue to stoke racial discrimination and to marginalize the Haratine community, particularly in terms of access to education, employment, housing, health care and social services. While noting the information provided by the State party, the Committee is also concerned about the very limited representation of the Afro-Mauritanian (Halpular, Soninke and Wolof) and Haratine communities in political and public affairs, including in leadership and decision-making positions in public administration, the army and the police, in elective office at the national level and in the private sector and the media (arts. 2 and 5)”[[14]](#footnote-14)

On January 18, 2018, the government adopted a new law on the repression of discrimination. While the law was intended to advance the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, UN experts have found that it could actually further stigmatize the Haratine community. Stating that, “While we welcome the initiative taken by the Government of Mauritania to criminalize discrimination, we have concerns regarding the unintelligibility, inaccuracy, and insufficient legal protections that characterize several provisions of this law. Overall, it fails to comply with a number of international treaties ratified by the country. Several provisions, including the very definition of discrimination, are inaccurate and confusing, which could lead to an exaggerated application, undue restrictions on human rights and the persistence of inhuman discriminatory practices, including slavery.”[[15]](#footnote-15) In May 2018, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that “…the State party revise its new legislation relating to the criminalization of discrimination in order to bring it into full compliance with the Convention, taking due account of the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council.” [[16]](#footnote-16)

1. **CONCLUSION**

The Government has made limited progress to implement the recommendations of the Conference Committee (2017), the Committee of Experts (Adopted 2017, Published 2018), as well as those made by UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies in 2018 (CERD and CRC). Action to secure the effective implementation of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention is particularly lacking. We urge the new President, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, who was sworn into office on 1 August 2019, to commit to increased efforts to prosecute and convict slave owners, who must receive stronger sentences that are truly commensurate with the crime; alongside measures to ensure proper support and rehabilitation measures for those emerging from slavery; and to issue a statement fully and unequivocally recognizing the persistence of slavery and other forms of forced labour in the country. The Government should also address limitations on the rights to freedom of association, assembly and expression. The Government is once again urged to implement the recommendations of the ILO’s Supervisory Bodies and the UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies.

1. All currency conversions are approximate [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Committee found the Respondent State in violation of its obligations under article 1 (obligation of states parties), article 3 (non-discrimination), article 4 (best interests of the child), article 5(survival and development), article 11 (education) article 12 (leisure, recreation and cultural activities), article 15 (child labour), article 16 (protection against child abuse and torture) and article 21 (protection against harmful social and cultural practices). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.acerwc.org/download/acerwcdecision_communication_mauritaina_final_english/?wpdmdl=10278> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. US Department of State, *2019 Trafficking in Persons Report: Mauritania,* June 2019 https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report-2/mauritania/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD/C/MRT/CO/8-14, 30 May 2018, para 15 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Ibid,* para 16 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, op.cit, para 13C [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Government’s report reference in 2017 CEACR Observation published 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Public comment to the African Growth and Opportunity Act implementation subcommittee of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, Submitted by The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), August 1 2018. Available at <https://agoa.info/images/documents/15501/aflciomauritaniarequesttotestifyandbrief.pdf>, pp10-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Amnesty International, A Sword Hanging Over Our Heads, p28 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Available at: https://humanists.international/2018/05/ngos-protest-mauritania-creates-mandatory-death-sentence-apostasy-blasphemy/ [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Available at https://africatimes.com/2018/05/12/rights-groups-speak-out-on-mauritanian-blogger-blasphemy-law/ [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/mauritania-new-president-must-prioritise-human-rights/ [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. CRC/C/MRT/Q/3-5/add.1, 12 July 2018, para 11 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Mauritania: UN rights experts urge immediate reform of “flawed” anti-discrimination law, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22618&LangID=E> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. CRC/C/MRT/Q/3-5/add.1, 12 July 2018, para 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)