



Saudi Arabia's input on the questionnaire about the report on cultural rights and migration¹

1. **What are the issues relating to cultural rights that you see in your country's migration processes? Please provide relevant information concerning laws and regulations, programmes and measures, services and practices that seem relevant.**

The Kingdom's laws, and at the top of it, the Basic Law of Governance, guarantee that everyone enjoys all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin. Based on the Basic Law of Governance, which includes principles and provisions that explicitly recognize the principle of equality as provided for in Article (8), the protection of human rights in Article (26) and guaranteeing the right to litigation for citizens and residents equally Article (47). All the laws, regulations, and legal foundations that constitute the legal framework for promoting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom comply with these principles and provisions.

2. **Do migrants have access to the cultural services and institutions of the host society? How about undocumented migrants, asylum seekers and refugees? How is such access ensured?**

Yes, all citizens and foreign workers can access cultural services and institutions in the Kingdom alike without any discrimination. The Basic Law of Governance provides in Article (29) that the Kingdom shall promote literature and culture. The Kingdom is also keen to protect intellectual rights without distinction between its authors. The Kingdom is a party to The Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage, concerned with preserving and respecting groups' cultural heritage and raising awareness of the importance of heritage and mutual appreciation. Further, King Abdulaziz Complex for Endowment Libraries was established under the Council of Ministries Resolution No. (398) dated (20/06/2016), which aims to preserve endowment libraries and to be available for the public to benefit from it, to hold awareness seminars and workshops regarding the importance of libraries for societies and their impact on the individual.

The Kingdom has sought to implement (27) cultural initiatives to support and participate in all members of society in cultural activities without discrimination, including ("Tarjim" Program for Translation), which aims to provide a vibrant cultural environment, by translating books and authorship works, for the exchange of knowledge in which all segments of society interact, and (Children's Culture Program), (Public Libraries

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2022/call-inputs-report-cultural-rights-and-migration>



Development Program) and (Books for All Initiative). Currently, (Cultural Development Fund) project is underway which aims to support and empower talents and cultural participation in various fields.

The Kingdom's regulations also is free of any discriminatory restrictions on the basis of race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin with regard to access to the public services' premises, including public transport facilities that are public facilities operated by public entities or private companies in accordance with rules governing these facilities without discrimination, among the beneficiaries.

3. Are tangible artefacts belonging to migrants protected by the state? Does their use affect the cultural rights of migrants?

The Kingdom protects private property, according to the provisions of Article (18) of the Basic Law of Governance, that "The Kingdom shall guarantee private property and its inviolability. No one shall be deprived of his property except for the public interest, provided that the owner is fairly compensated; this includes the artefacts of the migrants.

4. Which institutions have been successful in respecting and protecting the cultural resources and assets of migrants? Please provide examples when possible, including on how this was achieved.

Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development,

- The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched initiatives aimed at protecting and promoting the right to work, most notably: The Wages Protection Program, with the aim of following up paying wages as per the Employee and Employer's agreement. As for the occupational risks, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched the Occupational Safety and Health Management Regulations, and it was approved under the Ministerial Resolution in 2018). Further, the National Council for Occupational Health and Safety regulation was also approved by Council of the Ministries Resolution No. (379) dated, February 8, 2022).
- The mechanism for receiving the workers' complaints on the unified number (19911) in several different languages was promoted. Furthermore, their conditions and problems were addressed, and they were educated about their rights. Moreover, wages protection program was launched and implemented to ensure that employees' wages are paid on time through local banks. Mudad platform was launched as a second stage for the development of the wages protection program.
- In order to activate the protection of foreign workers stipulated in the Labor Law, several Ministerial Resolutions were issued, most notably the following:



- Ministerial Resolution No. (1/738) dated (04/07/2004), which stipulated that (prohibiting all forms of trafficking in persons, such as selling work visas, obtaining remuneration for the employment of the worker, and collecting sums from him in return for the entry, exit and return visa, and a working permit, breach of contractual obligations and inhuman and unethical treatment."
- Ministerial Resolution No. (1/2370) dated (28/08/2010), which stipulated: "Preventing all discrimination in wages between male and female workers for work of equal value".
- Ministerial Resolution No. (2425) dated 14/04/2013) specifying cases of suspending services from employers and condition the return of services on adjusting their situation as per the law. Among the cases stipulated in the Resolution (The Establishment fails to comply with the wage protection system).
- Ministerial Resolution No. (4786) dated (12/10/2015), penalizing the employer who retains the worker's passport without his consent.
- The "Labor Reform Initiative" was also launched, which is one of the initiatives of the National Transformation Programs that contribute to achieving the "Saudi Vision 2030", which aims to improve the labor market, increase employment rates, improve the level of productivity and assist in attracting international competencies, in addition to promoting and protecting human rights.
- Several measures have been taken that have contributed to the promotion of the right to participate in cultural life for all without discrimination, including:
- The establishment of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property pursuant to Council of Ministers Resolution No. 496 dated (May 29, 2018). The Authority undertakes intellectual property activities in the Kingdom.

Approval of license issuance for cinemas and the Executive Regulations for the Audiovisual Media Law on 04/03/1440 AH corresponding to (November 12, 2018), including detailed provisions regulating audiovisual media activities, including cinema and its services.

Ministry of Culture

- Launching the Culture Scholarship Program and launching its electronic platform in January 2020.
- The issuance of the Cultural Development Fund Law in January 2021.
- The establishment of (11) Cultural commissions in February 2020, which have a public legal personality and financial and administrative independence, is organizationally associated with the Minister of Culture. The new commissions are Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission, Fashion Commission, Film Commission, Heritage



Commission, Architecture & Design Commission, Visual Arts Commission, Museums Authority, The Theater, and Performing Arts Commission, Saudi Libraries Commission, Music Commission, and Culinary Arts Commission.

- Expanding the establishment of cultural, artistic, and entertainment activities and events in various regions of the Kingdom and ensuring access for all citizens and residents without discrimination.

Ministry of Sport

- Launching a strategy to support Saudi Sports Federations to develop sports federations in all sports and create a competitive sports generation.
- Launching the Program to Develop Elite Athletes to prepare national sports competencies in the long term in the Olympic and Asian Games
- Launching Fakher Program Initiative to rehabilitate talented people with disabilities and develop their abilities.
- Launching the first Saudi Women's Football League under the supervision of the Women's Football Department, with the participation of 16 teams.
- Launching the NAFES platform for licensing clubs, academies and private gymnasiums.
- The Kingdom continues to host international sporting meetings, forums and events that contribute to providing economic opportunities:
 - Hosting the Dakar Rally in the Kingdom.
 - Holding the Saudi International Golf Tournament.
 - Holding the second edition of the Saudi Cup for the horse race.
 - Hosting the seventh Season of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship in the historic city of Diriyah.

General Entertainment of Authority

- The number of tourists reached 100,000 in Riyadh Season in its first edition. 280 Saudi companies implemented it, and provided 24,000 seasonal jobs, in addition to more than 22,000 part-time jobs in consideration of a fee. The number of visitors to the Season reached more than 7,600,000 visitors until its sixth week, while it achieved great purchasing power in a number of its various activities, which exceeded 100 activities distributed throughout the capital, Riyadh.
- As for the Second Edition of the Riyadh Season, the number of visitors from the Gulf States was more than 163,000, while the number of visitors from different states of the world exceeded 145,000 visitors.
- The number of tourist visas reached more than 40,000 from about 104 states worldwide.



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- The Ministry of Tourism announced the availability of tourist visas for residents in the Gulf States and those who obtained a visa from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, or one of the Schengen agreement States. Further, it includes the permanent residents of the European Union, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom.
