



Austrian League for Human Rights -

UPR procedure 2025/2026

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Who is the League?

The **Austrian League for Human Rights** is the oldest Austrian NGO, founded in 1926. It is the Austrian member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (fidh). Within the UPR procedure, the League has coordinated joint submissions since the first review in 2011. In these submissions the League calls together a large part of Austrian civil society with around **30 participating umbrella organisations** and **300 represented member organisations** in 2025. The League's purpose is the advancement of human rights.

The submission(s)!

In 2025 the League has filed two submissions in the UPR procedure:

1. a comprehensive **Joint Submission** with all Partners with 16 Subtopics and 159 Points of Action (PoAs)
2. an **individual technical submission** on the follow-up and national implementation

TOPIC: National Action Plan Human Rights

Key Challenge: The main issue with Austrian human rights politics is the lack of strategic planning. This absence of a clear roadmap hinders the effective implementation of human rights findings.

The "Human Rights First" Principle: We advocate for an approach where human rights are considered first and as a priority at the start of any legislative project's drafting phase, ensuring they are not just an afterthought.

Already in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2020, eight states explicitly recommended Austria to implement a NAP human rights.

Our Solutions (PoAs):

- Develop and formulate a comprehensive NAP Human Rights based on OHCHR recommendations, with civil society participation, strategic goals, and measurable indicators [PoA19].
- Secure budgetary resources for the implementation of the NAP Human Rights and all topic-specific NAPs [PoA22].
- Establish and maintain a general National Human Rights Action Plan as a strategic coordination tool.
- Involve civil society organizations as early as possible in the conception phase of draft legislation



TOPIC: Our Planet, Our Rights: Climate Action for Generations

Key Challenge: Climate protection is not sufficiently considered – even by the courts – despite its constitutional basis, and Austria lacks a necessary Climate Protection Law.

Our Solutions (PoAs):

- PoA149: Enact a Climate Protection Law that enshrines intergenerational justice and aims for climate neutrality by 2040.
- PoA153: Ensure greater consideration and meaningful participation of children, young people, older people and people with disabilities in climate strategies.



All Topics at one glance:

- A.1. International obligations
- A.2. Legal framework
- A.3. International and human rights infrastructure and political measures
- B.1. Equal rights and anti-discrimination
- B.2. Right to life, liberty and security of person
- B.3. Administration of justice, impunity and the rule of law
- B.4. Right to private and family life
- B.5. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of speech and assembly, freedom to participate in public and political life
- B.6. Right to social protection and an adequate standard of living
- B.7. Right to health
- B.8. Right to education
- B.9. People with disabilities
- B.10. Minorities
- B.11. Migrants, refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers
- B.12. Right to an intact environment
- B.13. Right to development

TOPIC: Protecting Our Future: Rights for Every Child

Key Challenge: Inclusive education for children with disabilities has deteriorated. There is political pressure for closed institutions for child welfare. The idea of imprisoning children under 14 is incompatible with children's rights.



Our Solutions (PoAs):

- PoA43: Implement multi-professional care instead of closed facilities for children in difficulties.
- PoA62: Abstain from lowering the age of criminal responsibility.
- PoA109: Ensure a comprehensively inclusive school system based on UN Conventions.

TOPIC: Justice & Equality – Women's Rights Now!

Key Challenge: The gender pay gap is still one of Europe's highest, leading to a gender pension gap. Also, domestic and sexualized violence against women continues to rise.



Our Solutions (PoAs):

- PoA28: Implement measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including binding pay transparency.
- PoA37: Create a new National Action Plan "Protection of women against violence" that includes women with disabilities, precarious residence permits, asylum seekers, and women with mental illnesses.
- PoA38: Ensure permanent state contracts for women's shelters and establish new barrier-free facilities.

TOPIC: Accountability & Fairness: Strengthening Our Justice System

Key Challenge: The introduction of an Investigation Unit against Police Violence is a great first step to address racist misconduct by the police, however it lacks sufficient independence. There is a lack of mandatory training for judges and public prosecutors on gender-based violence.



Our Solutions (PoAs):

- PoA47: Evaluate and strengthen the independence of the Investigation Unit against Police Violence.
- PoA48: Increase efforts to make "ethnic profiling" transparent.
- PoA52: Mandate human rights and children's rights training for judges, public prosecutors, and law enforcement.
- PoA60: Mandatory training for judges and public prosecutors on gender-specific and domestic violence.

TOPIC: Business and Human Rights

Key Challenge: Transnational companies doing business in Austria are not fully upholding human rights standards.



Our Solutions (PoAs):

- PoA7. Participate constructively in the Open Ended Inter-Governmental Work Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights
- PoA20. Develop a NAP on business and human rights

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING – explore ...

UPR-Online-Tool

**Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte /
Austrian League for Human Rights**

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