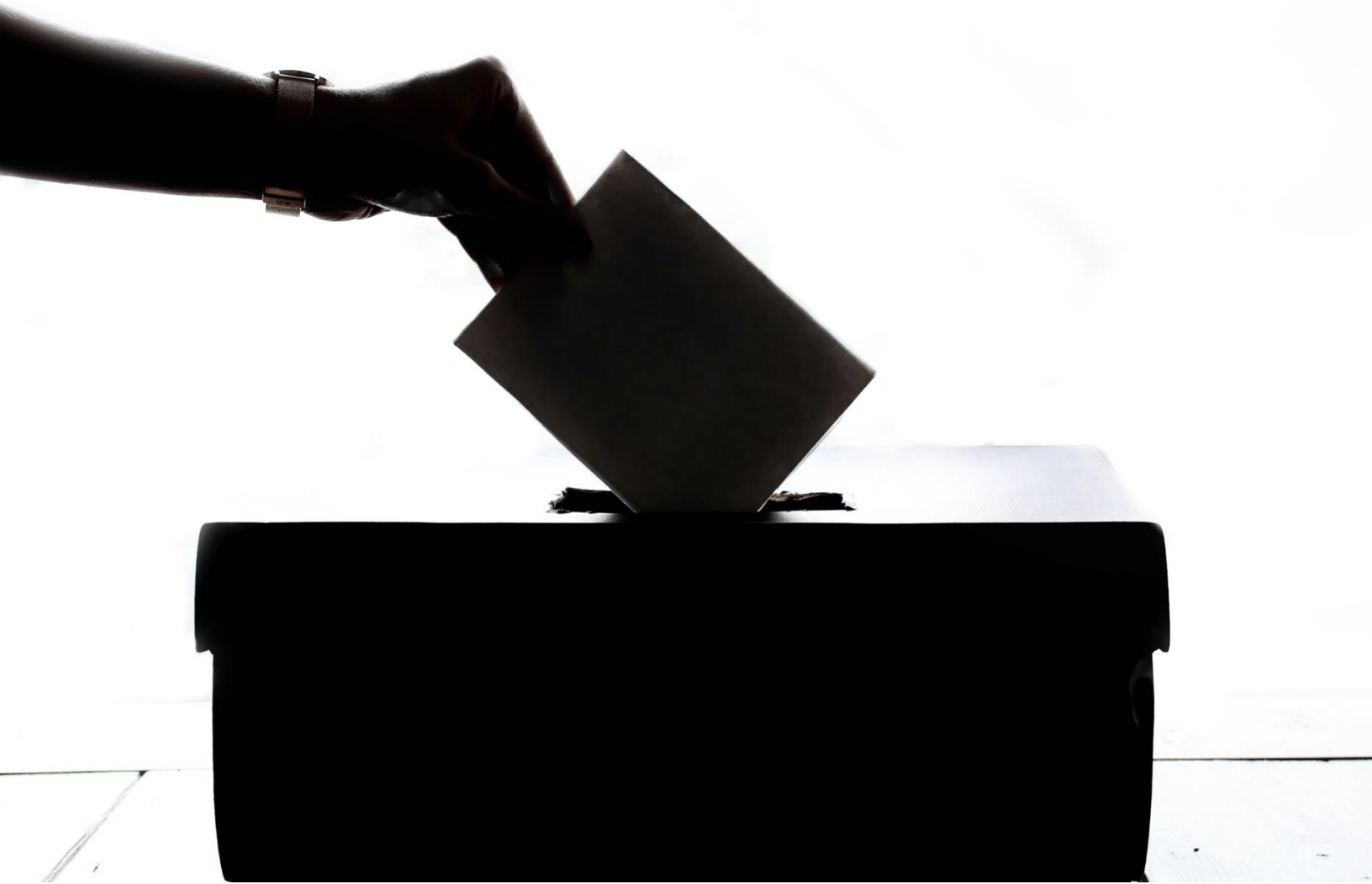




10 POINTS TO LOOK FOR IN CANDIDATES' ELECTORAL PROGRAMS

A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE





1- GUARANTEEING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- Urging the implementation and amendment of laws in accordance with the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to life, security, freedom of movement and a standard of living adequate to ensure the health and well-being of individuals, especially in terms of food, clothing, housing, and medical care.

2- FAIR TRIAL, COMBATTING TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

- The application and amendment of **Law 65/2017 “Punishment of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment”** through the **inclusion of** witness protection and compensation mechanisms, as well as abolishing criminal statute of limitations and demanding the rehabilitation of victims.
- Ensuring that **Article 47** of the Lebanese Penal Code which includes detainees’ rights is being implemented. This article guarantees the right to a fair trial by guaranteeing detainees’ rights during investigations.
- Urging the implementation of **Law 105/2018** on Enforced Disappearances and **Article 37** which criminalizes Enforced Disappearance, as well as activating the role of the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The fate of thousands of victims of enforced disappearance remains unknown since the civil war. It is necessary to demand the return of forcibly disappeared persons from Syrian prisons.
- Developing Decree No. 14310 regarding the organization of prisons. This is an outdated decree from 1949 that violates a number of prisoners’ rights.

3- ABOLISHING SLAVERY AND THE KAFALA SYSTEM

- Amending **Article 7** of the Lebanese Labor Code, which excludes migrant domestic workers and the Kafala system. More than 250,000 migrant domestic workers still



suffer from living under modern slavery. Their rights can only be restored through their inclusion in the Lebanese labor law.

4- FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF PRESS

- Refraining from exploiting laws that criminalize expression, i.e., defamation and libel laws, repealing articles 384, 386, and 388. Authorities often utilize these laws to **limit freedom of expression** or call individuals for questioning because of publications that target authorities, including the President. Therefore, Article 384 of the Penal Code should be repealed: *“Whoever insults the head of state shall be punished by imprisonment from six months to two years. The same penalty shall be imposed on those who insult the flag or national emblem publicly by one of the means mentioned in Article 209”*.
- Adopting a new media law which ensures freedom of expression and freedom of press.

5- GUARANTEEING PERSONAL FREEDOMS

- Repealing **Article 534** of the Lebanese Penal Code which prohibits "sexual intercourse against nature", often used to commit numerous violations of LGBTQ+ rights in Lebanon.

6- GUARANTEEING WOMEN’S RIGHTS

- Amending the discriminatory and unfair laws against women: guaranteeing the right to pass the nation the Lebanese nationality, women's autonomy over their bodies and the right to abortion, the adoption of the women quota in the parliament, the implementation of a unified personal status law, criminalizing child marriage are fundamental steps to achieve equality.

7- HOLDING PERPETRATORS OF HARASSMENT, RAPE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACCOUNTABLE

- Amending **Law 205/2020** on sexual harassment: despite the importance of its approval in 2020, the law lacks key protection measures, including protection of victims in the workplace.
- Amending **Law 293/2014** on domestic violence to clearly define domestic violence and impose rehabilitation on perpetrators. The latest amendments have failed to criminalize marital rape and protect the victims in some instances.



8- PROTECTING REFUGEES

- **Internationally:**
Signing and ratifying the **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees**.
- **Locally:**
Enacting a local law that is in accordance with international standards especially non-penalization in case of illegal entry or presence, in order to limit the violation of refugees' rights.

9- INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Adopting the law on the **Independence of the Judiciary** which guarantees **separation of powers, independence**, and the establishment of an **accountability system**.

10- ACTIVATING THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WHICH INCLUDES THE COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL PREVENTION MECHANISM) AND THE PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

- Amending **Law 62/2016** on the “**Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission which includes the National Prevention Mechanism**”. This year’s amendment failed to establish transparency criteria for the appointment of the commission’s members. Instead of electing new members based on qualifications, memberships are renewed without taking into account the members' previous mandates.
- Encouraging cooperation between the **Parliamentary Human Rights Committee** and human rights organizations to guarantee human rights in Lebanon.