



CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.

Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices: El Salvador: Comparison Chart¹: 2016² and 2019³

Department of State (DOS) Human Rights Reports play a critical role in immigration cases, especially applications for asylum and related humanitarian relief. However, the DOS Human Rights reports issued during the Trump administration are markedly different from those issued during past administrations. Several non-governmental organizations have critiqued the changes in DOS Human Rights Reports because of omissions relating to vulnerable groups and watered-down assessments⁴ and a Department of Homeland Security whistleblower has testified that political considerations have influenced the reports.⁵

¹ This chart was created by CLINIC intern, Daria Nastasia, George Washington University, class of 2024, through the generous support of the Power Up internship of Building Movement, and by Victoria Neilson, Managing Attorney of CLINIC's Defending Vulnerable Populations Program.

² Department of State El Salvador Human Rights Report 2016, [justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2017/03/06/dos-hrr_2016_el_salvador.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2017/03/06/dos-hrr_2016_el_salvador.pdf).

³ Department of State El Salvador Human Rights Report 2019, state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EL-SALVADOR-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf.

⁴ See Amanda Klasing and Elisa Epstein, Human Rights Watch, *US Again Cuts Women from State Department's Human Rights Reports Trump Administration Removes Data on Global Reproductive Rights*, March 13, 2019, [hrw.org/news/2019/03/13/us-again-cuts-women-state-departments-human-rights-reports](https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/03/13/us-again-cuts-women-state-departments-human-rights-reports); Rebecca Cordell et al., *How Does the Trump Administration Think About Human Rights? Evidence from the State Department Country Reports*, POLITICAL VIOLENCE AT A GLANCE, June 1, 2018, politicalviolenceatglance.org/2018/06/01/how-does-the-trump-administration-think-about-human-rights-evidence-from-the-state-department-country-reports/; Tarah Demant, Amnesty International, *A Critique of the US Department of State 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, May 8, 2018, medium.com/@amnestyusa/a-critique-of-the-us-department-of-state-2017-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices-f313ec5fe8ca.

⁵ Whistleblower Reprisal Complaint by Mr. Brian Murphy, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, (Sept. 8, 2020), intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/murphy_wb_dhs_oig_complaint9.8.20.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1gn8fjs2abNFSAnwYrw541D1-xHPHlxoUA7qe09Vp0h6LrgujJDdnd4qs. [Emphasis added.]

This chart compares the last DOS report under the Obama administration⁶ with the most recent DOS report under the Trump administration with the aim of determining whether the sources have changed, which sections have reduced in scope, and the overall shift in tone and language while acknowledging that some changes reflect the actual shift in conditions during the three years between the two reports. At the outset, it is worth noting that the 2016 report was 35 pages long whereas the 2019 report is 29 pages long.

In general, the 2019 report is more likely to include information from government sources rather than also including information from non-governmental organization sources. The 2019 report often minimizes the ongoing nature of human rights concerns by adding qualifying wording such as “generally” and removing words like “multiple” when acknowledging that abuses have occurred. When the 2019 report acknowledges human rights concerns, it is less likely to include specific examples and data than the 2016 report. The 2019 report entirely eliminated several substantive sections including the section on the Role of Police and Security Apparatus and the section on Reproductive Rights.

2016 Report	2019 Report	Notes
Executive Summary		
“Civilian authorities failed at times to maintain effective control over security forces.” P. 1	<i>Language eliminated</i>	

⁶ The reports are generally released in the early spring of each year and cover the previous year. Thus, the 2016 report was actually released in early 2017 and the 2019 report was released in 2020.

<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>“Organized criminal elements, including local and transnational gangs and narcotics traffickers, were significant perpetrators of violent crimes and committed acts of murder, extortion, kidnapping, human trafficking, intimidation, and other threats and violence directed against police, judicial authorities, the business community, journalists, women, and members of vulnerable populations. In some cases authorities investigated and prosecuted persons accused of committing crimes and human rights abuses.” P. 1</p>	<p>Language indicating that “in some cases authorities investigated and prosecuted” these abuses could be used to claim the government is not unwilling or unable to provide protection, yet the summary does not provide actual data about the number of cases that authorities prosecuted, which may, in fact, be very small.</p>
<p>Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from: a. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or Politically Motivated Killings</p>		
<p>“The nongovernmental organization (NGO) Cristosal compared PNC data that showed 366 armed confrontations through July 2016, during which 350 suspected gang members died. A total of 359 suspected gang members were killed in 676 armed confrontations in 2015, and 83 were killed in 256 confrontations in 2014.” P. 2</p>	<p><i>No comparable language on police killing suspected gang members</i></p>	<p>2019 report does not include information from NGOs.</p>
<p>b. Disappearance</p>		
<p>“According to the PNC inspector general, eight complaints of forced disappearances</p>	<p>“There were reports alleging that security and law enforcement officials were involved in unlawful disappearances. Law</p>	

<p>were filed against the PNC between January and August.” P. 3</p>	<p>enforcement agencies had not released data on disappearances since 2017. . .” P. 3</p>	
	<p>“In July La Prensa Grafica newspaper reported it had received reports of 259 disappeared persons, of whom 173 were later found living, 11 were found dead, and 72 cases remained under investigation. . . In November 2018, after a lengthy trial process, the Sonsonate Court of Judgment convicted six members of the armed forces for the crimes of deprivation of freedom, making false accusations of gang membership, and forced disappearance of three young men in 2014 in Armenia, La Libertad Department.” P. 4</p>	<p>2019 report has a longer section on Disappearances which, overall, downplays disappearances as a problem and highlights steps the government has taken to prosecute cases of law enforcement wrongdoing.</p>
<p>c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</p>		
<p>“The law prohibits such practices, but there were multiple reports of violations.” P. 3</p>	<p>“The law prohibits such practices, but there were reports of violations.” P. 4</p>	<p>2019 report eliminated “multiple”</p>
<p>“The LGBTI community reported authorities harassed LGBTI persons by conducting strip searches and questioning their gender in a degrading manner.” P. 4</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated information about mistreatment of members of the LGBTI community</p>

Prison and Detention Center Conditions		
<p>"As of September 6, prison authorities removed two guards from duty for carrying illegal objects and sanctioned 29 guards for misconduct. Prison authorities received 17 complaints of human rights violations allegedly committed by prison personnel." P. 6</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted any information on complaints of human rights violations allegedly committed by prison personnel.</p>
<p>"<u>Administration</u>: The IUDOP-UCA report noted that, between 2009 and 2015, parole board staffing decreased by 48 percent. In 2015 the prison system had 69 technical employees (including attorneys, sociologists, social workers, and psychologists) to provide services to more than 31,000 inmates." P. 6</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted information about lack of parole board staffing.</p>
<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>"<u>Improvements</u>: Construction of new prisons and a redistribution of prisoners reduced overcrowding from 215 percent to 141 percent as of September. On September 12, legislators reallocated \$9.3 million from the year's budget to improve prison conditions, including \$4.1 million for a salary increase for prison personnel and \$5.2 million for improved food for inmates." P. 7</p>	<p>2019 report added a subsection on prison improvements.</p>
<p>d. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention</p>		

<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>"The law provides for the right of any person to challenge the lawfulness of his or her arrest or detention in court. The government generally observed this provision" P. 7</p>	<p>2019 report added a paragraph on the right of any person to challenge arrest lawfulness and stated the government generally observed the provision without providing any evidence in support of the statement.</p>
<p>Role of the Police and Security Apparatus</p>		
<p>"The PNC, overseen by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, is responsible for maintaining public security, and the Ministry of Defense has responsibility for maintaining national security. . .</p> <p>From January to August, the Inspector General's Office received 492 complaints of human rights violations—31 for inhuman and cruel treatment, 181 for physical abuse, 117 for personal security, 40 for violence against women (including rape and sexual abuse), 15 for failure to provide access to justice, two for extrajudicial killing, and two for deprivation of life. " P. 7-9</p>	<p><i>Section eliminated</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the whole section on the role of the police and security apparatus, including the details on human rights violations.</p>
<p>Arrest Procedures and Treatment of Detainees</p>		
<p><u>Pretrial Detention:</u> "Lengthy legal procedures, large numbers of detainees, judicial inefficiency, corruption, and staff shortages caused trial delays. Because it</p>	<p>"Some persons remained in pretrial detention longer than the maximum legal sentences for their alleged crimes." P. 8</p>	<p>2016 report indicated the causes of trial delays, 2019 report omitted to mention trial delays.</p>

<p>could take several years for a case to come to trial, some persons remained in pretrial detention longer than the maximum legal sentences for their alleged crimes." P. 9</p>		<p>2019 report also omitted, "Because it could take several years for a case to come to trial."</p>
<p><u>"Detainee's Ability to Challenge Lawfulness of Detention before a Court:</u> The constitution grants detainees the right to a prompt judicial determination on the legality of their detention, and persons arrested or detained may obtain prompt release and compensation if found to have been unlawfully detained. In some cases persons were not promptly released and/or did not receive compensation for unlawful detention." P. 10</p>	<p><i>Section eliminated</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the subsection on detainee's ability to challenge the lawfulness of detention before a court.</p>
<p>e. Denial of Fair Public Trial</p>		
<p>"Although the constitution provides for an independent judiciary, the judiciary was burdened by inefficiency and corruption, and the Solicitor's Office (responsible for public defenders) of the Attorney General's Office and the PDDH [Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos] suffered from insufficient resources." P. 10</p>	<p>"Although the constitution provides for an independent judiciary, the government did not always respect judicial independence, and the judiciary was burdened by inefficiency and corruption." P. 8</p>	<p>There was a change from "the judiciary was burdened by inefficiency and corruption" in 2016 to "the government did not always respect judicial independence" in 2019 as well as from "the Solicitor's Office (responsible for public defenders) of the Attorney General's Office and the PDDH suffered from insufficient resources" in 2016 to "the judiciary was burdened by inefficiency and corruption" in 2019</p>

<p>"As of August, the Office of the Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Security and Justice reported 15 cases of violations of access to justice committed by police officers, and one police officer was accused of obstructing due process." P. 10</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated information on violations of access to justice committed by police officers or obstructions of due process by police officers.</p>
<p>"Substantial corruption in the judicial system contributed to a high level of impunity, undermining the rule of law and the public's respect for the judiciary." P. 11</p>	<p>"Corruption in the judicial system contributed to the high level of impunity, undermining the rule of law and the public's respect for the judiciary." P. 9</p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the word "substantial" before "corruption".</p>
<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>"A number of women charged under the 1998 penal code, which makes it illegal to perform, self-induce, or consent to an abortion under any circumstances, asserted they had suffered miscarriages, stillbirths, and other medical emergencies during childbirth. Legal experts pointed to serious flaws in forensics collection and medical interpretation in many of these cases." P. 9</p>	<p>2019 report included information about women being charged under anti-abortion laws; 2016 report did not include any information about prosecutions under this law</p>
<p>"Between January and June 20, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security's Executive Technical Unit (UTE), which provides witness protection services, provided protection to 682 victims, 821 witnesses, and 457 victim/witnesses. The unit also provided household protection for 55 persons. In 2015 the unit provided protection to 4,218</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated any information on witness protection and failures to protect witnesses.</p>

victims and witnesses. Some judges denied anonymity to witnesses at trial, and gang intimidation and violence against witnesses contributed to a climate of impunity from criminal prosecution." P. 11		
Trial Procedures		
<i>No similar language in this report</i>	"Virtual trials often involved group hearings before a judge, with defendants unable to consult with their defense lawyers in real time. . . Human rights groups questioned the constitutionality of the reform." P. 11	2016 report did not contain information about virtual trials, presumably because they were not commonly used
f. Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence		
"In many neighborhoods, armed groups and gangs targeted certain persons, interfered with privacy, family, and home life, and created a climate of fear that the authorities were not capable of restoring to normal." P. 13	"In many neighborhoods, armed groups and gangs targeted certain persons and interfered with privacy, family, and home life. Efforts by authorities to remedy these situations were generally ineffective." P. 10	2019 report eliminated "created a climate of fear that the authorities were not capable of restoring to normal" softening the language to say, "Efforts by authorities to remedy these situations were generally ineffective."
Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including: a. Freedom of Speech and Press/Freedom of Expression, Including for the Press		
"Freedom of Speech and Press"	"Freedom of Expression, Including for the Press"	2019 report eliminated "Freedom of Speech" from the heading
" <u>Freedom of Speech</u> : The constitution provides that all persons may freely express	<i>The Freedom of speech section was eliminated.</i>	2019 report eliminated the subsection on freedom of speech, including details on

<p>and disseminate their thoughts and that the exercise of this right is not subject to government censorship. Nevertheless, there were allegations that the government retaliated against individuals for criticizing government policy.” P. 13</p>		<p>government retaliation against individuals for criticizing government policy and removal of officials demanding government transparency.</p>
<p><i>No comparable section</i></p>	<p><u>“Press and Media, Including Online Media:</u> Allegations continued that the government retaliated against members of the press for criticizing certain policies.” P. 12</p>	<p>2019 report replaced “Freedom of Speech” with “Press and Media”</p>
<p><u>“Censorship or Content Restrictions:</u> Journalist contacts reported experiencing threats from persons they believed to be government officials after reporting on the topic of violence in the country. They said these experiences diminished journalists’ willingness to report on the security situation.” P. 14</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report in this section</i></p>	
<p><u>“Nongovernmental Impact:</u> APES noted journalists reporting on gangs and narcotics trafficking were subject to threats and intimidation, which led to self-censorship.” P. 15</p>	<p><u>“Nongovernmental Impact:</u> APES noted journalists who reported on gangs and narcotics trafficking were subject to kidnappings, threats, and intimidation. Observers reported that gangs also charged print media companies to distribute in their communities, costing media outlets as much as 20 percent of their revenues.” P. 13</p>	<p>2019 report had more information about gangs kidnapping and extorting the media than 2016 report.</p>

Academic Freedom and Cultural Events		
<p>“After the July 9 Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court decision declaring alternate legislators unconstitutional, Constitutional Chamber judges faced increased difficulty in conducting outreach programs due to FMLN-organized protests. . . On December 5, Melendez reported that constitutional justices had received death threats from protesters, whose signs included slogans such as, ‘death to the four constitutional judges.’ On December 8, the Attorney General stated that he was investigating the death threats against constitutional justices.” P. 15</p>	<p>“There were no government restrictions on academic freedom or cultural events.” P. 13</p>	<p>2016 report indicated difficulties in outreach programs and death threats to constitutional justices pursuing outreach, while 2019 report did not include any such information, though this may reflect a change in circumstances since 2016</p>
b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association		
<p>“The constitution provides for the freedoms of assembly and association, and the government generally respected these rights, although there were occasions where the government used intimidation tactics to discourage assembly. On June 29, well-known LGBTI activist Bessy Rios was the single demonstrator in front of the President’s Office, protesting a proposed increase in electricity prices, when the riot police</p>	<p>“The constitution provides for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, and the government generally respected these rights, except with respect to labor unions.” P. 13</p>	<p>2019 report omitted “although there were occasions where the government used intimidation tactics to discourage assembly.” 2019 report also omitted any examples of arrests of LGBTI activists or any other human rights advocates.</p>

<p>arrested her, leaving bruises and scrapes on her body." P. 15-16</p>		
<p>d. Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons</p>		
<p>"The constitution provides for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation. The government generally respected these rights, although in many areas the government could not provide freedom of movement for any persons, due to the strength of criminal gang activity." P. 16</p>	<p>"The constitution provides for freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation. The government generally respected these rights, although in many areas the government could not guarantee freedom of movement due to criminal gang activity." P. 13</p>	<p>2019 report changed the wording from the government being unable to "provide" freedom of movement to being unable to "guarantee" freed of movement. The 2019 report also omitted the words "the strength of" before "criminal gang activity".</p>
<p>"The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees, returning refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and other persons of concern, but it was unable to facilitate services in many of the ungoverned neighborhoods most in need." P. 16</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted the information about failures to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees, returning refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and other persons of concern in many of the ungoverned neighborhoods most in need.</p>
<p>"If gang members discovered that a person lived in a rival gang's territory, that person might be killed, beaten, or not allowed to enter the territory." P. 16</p>	<p>"If gang members discovered that a person lived in a rival gang's territory, that person risked being killed, beaten, or not allowed to enter the territory." P. 14</p>	<p>2019 report changed the phrase that a person "might be" killed to "risked being" killed.</p>
<p>e. Internally Displaced Persons</p>		

<p>“According to the most recent poll conducted in December 2014 by IUDOP-UCA, 4.6 percent of surveyed citizens reported being internally displaced due to violence and the threat of violence and 8 percent reported having tried to migrate to another country for the same reasons. In 2015 the NGO International Rescue Committee estimated that the number of displaced individuals was approximately 324,000, or 5.2 percent of the country’s population.” P. 16</p>	<p>“As of October 2018, the government acknowledged that 1.1 percent of the general population (approximately 68,060 persons) was internally displaced. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimated there were 71,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and reported the causes of internal displacement included abuse, extortion, discrimination, and threats.” P. 14</p>	<p>Independent poll data in 2016 report was replaced with government data in 2019 report, resulting in a much lower reported percentage of internally displaced persons.</p> <p>2019 report did not provide information, included in 2016 report, on the distinction between citizens reported being internally displaced due to violence and the threat of violence and people reported having tried to migrate to another country for the same reasons.</p> <p>NGO International Rescue Committee data from 2016 report indicates a much higher percentage of displaced individuals than Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimate included in 2019 report. 2019 report omits the percentage of the country’s population of displaced people.</p>
<p>“In August the Civil Society Roundtable against Forced Displacement recorded cases of 623 displaced persons between August 2014 and December 2015 and an additional 396 displacements through August 2016; it determined that at least 86 percent of the displacements resulted from gang activity. Because these were</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted any information on forced displacement, displacements resulted from gang activity, limits to displacement data, and students dropping out.</p>

<p>documented cases from a group of NGOs with limited reach, actual displacement was likely much higher. Ministry of Education data showed that approximately 3,000 students dropped out of public schools in 2015 explicitly because of gang threats. Separate ministry data demonstrated that 15,511 students dropped out of all levels of public and private schools in 2015 because of crime and another 32,637 students left because they changed residence. NGOs suggested that changes in residence were often the result of forced displacement because of gang activity." P. 17</p>		
<p>Section 3. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process</p>		
<p><u>"Participation of Women and Minorities:</u> In 2013 the Legislative Assembly approved a law stipulating 30 percent of all candidates in municipal, legislative, and city council elections must be women. The law took effect during the March 2015 municipal and Legislative Assembly elections. There were 18 women in the 84-member Legislative Assembly, five women on the 15-member Supreme Court, and three women in the 13-member cabinet. On October 18, newspapers reported that the TSE had taken action to advise a political</p>	<p><u>"Participation of Women and Minorities:</u> No laws limit participation of women or members of minorities in the political process, and they did participate" P. 15</p>	<p>2019 report omitted any information on gender quotas for elections and political parties not complying with such quotas. 2019 report omitted any information on barriers to political participation for women or to members of ethnic minority or indigenous communities.</p>

<p>party that its recent elections did not comply with the minimum quota and that it may need to substitute a woman for a man to comply with the law.</p> <p>No members of the Supreme Court, the legislature, or other government entities identified themselves as members of an ethnic minority or indigenous community, and there were no political party positions or legislative seats designated for ethnic minorities." P. 18</p>		
Section 4. Corruption and Lack of Transparency in Government		
<p>"The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, but the government did not implement the law effectively." P. 18</p>	<p>"The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials." P. 15</p>	<p>2019 report eliminated information that "the government did not implement the law effectively".</p>
<p><u>"Public Access to Information:</u> The law provides for the right of access to government information, but authorities did not always effectively implement the law. The law establishes mechanisms to appeal denials of information and report noncompliance with other aspects of the law. As of July, the Institute for Access to Public Information had formally received 1,001 cases, 81 percent of which had been resolved. The law gives a narrow list of exceptions that outline the grounds for</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the subsection related to the public access to information, including the number of access to public information requests received and the percentage of public information requests resolved.</p>

<p>nondisclosure and provide for a reasonably short timeline for the relevant authority to respond, no processing fees, and administrative sanctions for noncompliance.” P. 19</p>		
<p>Section 5. Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights</p>		
<p>“A variety of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Although government officials generally were cooperative and responsive to these groups, officials at times were reluctant to discuss certain issues, such as extrajudicial killings and the PDDH. The government required domestic and international NGOs to register, and some domestic NGOs reported that the government made the registration process unnecessarily difficult.” P. 20</p>	<p>“A variety of domestic and international human rights groups generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Although government officials generally were cooperative and responsive to these groups, officials expressed reluctance to discuss certain issues, such as extrajudicial killings and IDPs, with the PDDH.” P. 17</p>	<p>2019 report omitted “The government required domestic and international NGOs to register, and some domestic NGOs reported that the government made the registration process unnecessarily difficult.”</p>
<p>“On January 28, the PNC launched the Secretariat for Professional Responsibility, which internally investigates all allegations of police misconduct.” P. 20</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated information on internal investigations of allegations of police misconduct.</p>

<p>"On September 7, the deputy ombudsman stated the PDDH had inadequate resources to carry out the majority of its investigations." P. 20</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted any reference to PDDH's inadequate resources to carry out the majority of its investigations.</p>
<p>Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons</p>		
<p>Women</p>		
<p><u>"Rape and Domestic Violence:</u> The law criminalizes rape, and the criminal code's definition of rape may apply to spousal rape, at the judge's discretion. The law requires the Attorney General's Office to prosecute rape cases whether or not the victim presses charges, and the law does not permit the victim to withdraw the criminal charge. Cases may be dropped for lack of evidence if the victim refuses to provide it." P. 21</p>	<p><u>"Rape and Domestic Violence:</u> The law criminalizes rape of men or women, and the criminal code's definition of rape may apply to spousal rape, at the judge's discretion. The law requires the Attorney General's Office to prosecute rape cases whether or not the victim presses charges, and the law does not permit the victim to withdraw the criminal charge." P. 18</p>	<p>This subsection was three paragraphs long in the 2019 report while it was 12 paragraphs long in the 2016 report.</p> <p>2019 report omitted, "Cases may be dropped for lack of evidence if the victim refuses to provide it."</p>
<p>"Incidents of rape continued to be underreported for several reasons, including societal and cultural pressures on victims, fear of reprisal, ineffective and unsupportive responses by authorities to victims, fear of publicity, and a perception among victims that cases were unlikely to be prosecuted." P. 21</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated information about the underreporting of rape and its causes.</p>

<p>"Rape and other sexual crimes against women were widespread." P. 21</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated "Rape and other sexual crimes against women were widespread."</p>
<p>"The Attorney General's Office reported that, as of July 18, 658 women had been victims of sexual-related crimes and 63 defendants had been convicted for sexual-related crimes against women." P. 21</p>	<p>"On April 24, a woman died in Guazapa after being beaten by her husband days earlier. The Attorney General's Office charged her husband with femicide." P. 18</p>	<p>2016 report provided information from the Attorney General's Office on the number of women victims of sexual-related crimes and the number of defendants convicted, while 2019 report only provides an example from the Attorney General's Office.</p>
<p>"Violence against women, including domestic violence, was a widespread and serious problem. A large portion of the population considered domestic violence socially acceptable; as with rape, its incidence was underreported. The law prohibits domestic violence and generally provides for sentences ranging from one to three years in prison, although some forms of domestic violence carry higher penalties. The law also permits restraining orders against offenders. Laws against domestic violence were not well enforced, and cases were not effectively prosecuted. The law prohibits mediation in domestic violence disputes." pp. 21-22</p>	<p>"The law prohibits domestic violence and generally provides for sentences ranging from one to three years in prison, although some forms of domestic violence carry higher penalties. The law also permits restraining orders against offenders. Laws against domestic violence remained poorly enforced, and violence against women, including domestic violence, remained a widespread and serious problem." P. 18</p>	<p>2019 report omitted, "A large portion of the population considered domestic violence socially acceptable; as with rape, its incidence was underreported." There was a change from "Laws against domestic violence were not well enforced, and cases were not effectively prosecuted" in 2016 report to "Laws against domestic violence remained poorly enforced" in 2019 report.</p>
<p>"Between January and July 2016, ISDEMU [Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted ISDEMU reports on cases of femicide, physical abuse, sexual</p>

<p>la Mujer] reported 21 cases of femicide, 458 cases of physical abuse, 385 cases of sexual violence, and 2,259 cases of psychological abuse. ISDEMU reported 3,070 cases of domestic violence against women during the same period. In June ISDEMU issued its 2015 annual report on violence against women and reported that 230 died due to violence in the first six months of 2015, compared with 294 during the same period in 2014 and 217 in 2013.” P. 22</p>		<p>violence, psychological abuse, domestic violence against women, or women dead due to domestic violence.</p>
<p>“ISDEMU coordinated with the judicial and executive branches and civil society groups to conduct public awareness campaigns against domestic violence and sexual abuse. The PDDH, the Attorney General’s Office, the Supreme Court, the Public Defender’s Office, and the PNC collaborated with NGOs and other organizations to combat violence against women through education, increased enforcement of the law, and programs for victims. The Secretariat of Social Inclusion, through ISDEMU, defined policies, programs, and projects on domestic violence and continued to maintain one shared telephone hotline and two separate shelters</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted any information about the efforts regarding sexual violence awareness and their ineffectiveness. 2019 report omitted, “Women’s rights NGOs claimed that many violent crimes against women occurred within the context of gang structures, where women were ‘corralled’ and ‘disposed of’ at the whims of male gang members.”</p>

<p>for victims of domestic abuse and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The government’s efforts to combat domestic violence were minimally effective. Women’s rights NGOs claimed that many violent crimes against women occurred within the context of gang structures, where women were ‘corralled’ and ‘disposed of’ at the whims of male gang members.” P. 22</p>		
<p>“As of August, the Office of the Inspector General reported 40 cases of alleged violations of police officers against women due to their gender.” P. 22</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted any information on cases of alleged violations of police officers against women due to their gender.</p>
<p>“<u>Sexual Harassment:</u> . . .The government, however, did not enforce sexual harassment laws effectively. Since underreporting by victims of sexual harassment appeared to be widespread, it was difficult to estimate the extent of the problem.” P. 23</p>	<p>“<u>Sexual Harassment:</u> . . .The government, however, did not enforce sexual harassment laws effectively.” P. 19</p>	<p>2019 report omitted, “Since underreporting by victims of sexual harassment appeared to be widespread, it was difficult to estimate the extent of the problem.”</p>
<p>“<u>Reproductive Rights:</u> . . .Civil society advocates expressed concern that the country’s complete abortion ban had led to the wrongful incarceration of women who suffered severe pregnancy complications, including miscarriages.” P. 23</p>	<p><i>Section eliminated</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the whole subsection on reproductive rights, and replaced it with a section labeled “Coercive Population Control.” Whereas the 2016 report detailed reproductive health services limitations, concerns about the complete abortion ban, wrongful incarceration of women who</p>

		suffered severe pregnancy complications, and violations of due process and of women's rights.
" <u>Discrimination</u> : The constitution grants women and men the same legal rights but women did not enjoy equal treatment." P. 24	" <u>Discrimination</u> : The constitution grants women and men the same legal rights, but women did not receive equal pay or employment opportunities." P. 19	2019 report changed language from "women did not enjoy equal treatment" in 2016 report to "women did not receive equal pay or employment opportunities".
Children		
" <u>Birth Registration</u> : Children derive citizenship by birth within the country and from one's parents. The law requires parents to register a child within 15 days of birth or pay a \$2.85 fine. While firm statistics were unavailable, many births were not registered. Failure to register resulted in denial of school enrollment." P. 24	" <u>Birth Registration</u> : Children derive citizenship by birth within the country and from their parents. The law requires parents to register a child within 15 days of birth or pay a \$2.85 fine. Failure to register can result in denial of school enrollment." P. 19	2019 report omitted, "While firm statistics were unavailable, many births were not registered."
" <u>Education</u> : Education is free, universal, and compulsory through the ninth grade and nominally free through high school. Rural areas, however, frequently did not provide required education to all eligible students due to a lack of resources and because rural parents often withdrew their children from school by the sixth grade to allow them to work." P. 24	<i>Subsection eliminated</i>	2019 report eliminated the subsection on education.

<p><u>“Child Abuse:</u> Child abuse was a serious and widespread problem. Incidents of abuse continued to be underreported for a number of reasons, including societal and cultural pressures on victims, fear of reprisal against victims, ineffective and unsupportive responses by authorities toward victims, fear of publicity, and a perception among victims that cases were unlikely to be prosecuted. P. 24.</p>	<p><u>“Child Abuse:</u> Child abuse remained a serious and widespread problem. The law gives children the right to petition the government without parental consent.” P. 20</p>	<p>2019 report omitted information, included in 2016 report, on the underreporting of child abuse and its causes.</p>
<p>“The Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), an autonomous government entity, defined policies, programs, and projects on child abuse; maintained a shelter for child victims of abuse and female child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; and conducted a violence awareness campaign to combat child abuse. From January to May, ISNA reported providing psychological assistance to 131 children for physical and psychological abuse and 134 for sexual violence.” P. 25</p>	<p>“On February 19, Judge Jaime Escalante was charged with the crime of sexual aggression against a 10-year-old female child. On March 4, the Legislative Assembly voted to remove his immunity from criminal prosecution. On October 31, the Criminal Chamber determined that Escalante’s actions did not constitute a felony but rather a misdemeanor, because the encounter happened quickly and in a crowded place. The attorney general appealed the decision and asked the Criminal Chamber to overturn the ruling, admit all evidence, and send Escalante to trial.” P. 20</p>	<p>2019 report omitted information from ISNA in regards to the number of abuses and replaced quantitative data with an example.</p>
<p><u>“Sexual Exploitation of Children:</u> Sexual exploitation of children, including girls and boys in prostitution, remained a problem. Child sex trafficking is prohibited</p>	<p><u>“Sexual Exploitation of Children:</u> Child sex trafficking is prohibited by law. Prison sentences for convicted traffickers stipulate imprisonment from six to 10 years. The</p>	<p>2016 report stated, “Sexual exploitation of children, including girls and boys in prostitution, remained a problem,” while 2019 report only specified, “sexual</p>

<p>by law, which prescribes penalties of 10 to 14 years' imprisonment for trafficking crimes. An offense committed against a child is treated as an aggravating circumstance, and the penalty increases by one-third, but the government did not effectively enforce these laws." P. 25</p>	<p>minimum age for consensual sex is 18. The law classifies statutory rape as sexual relations with anyone younger than 18 and includes penalties of four to 13 years' imprisonment for violations. The law prohibits paying anyone younger than 18 for sexual services. The law prohibits participating in, facilitating, or purchasing materials containing child pornography and provides for prison sentences of up to 16 years for violations. Despite these provisions, sexual exploitation of children remained a problem." P. 20</p>	<p>exploitation of children remained a problem." 2019 report omitted "the government did not effectively enforce these laws."</p>
<p>"<u>Displaced Children</u>: Surveys indicated the primary motivations for migration were family reunification, a lack of economic and educational opportunity in the country, and fear of violence." P. 25</p>	<p><i>Subsection eliminated</i></p>	<p>2019 report eliminated the subsection on displaced children.</p>
<p>Persons with Disabilities</p>		
<p>"According to CONAIPD [National Council for Comprehensive Attention to Persons with Disability], the government did not allocate sufficient resources to enforce prohibitions against discrimination effectively, particularly in education, employment, and transportation. The government did not effectively enforce legal requirements for</p>	<p>"According to CONAIPD, the government did not effectively enforce legal requirements for access to buildings, information, and communications for persons with disabilities. Few access ramps or provisions for the mobility of persons with disabilities existed." P. 21</p>	<p>2019 report omitted "the government did not allocate sufficient resources to enforce prohibitions against discrimination effectively, particularly in education, employment, and transportation." There was a change from "The government did not effectively enforce legal requirements for access to buildings" in 2016 report to</p>

access to buildings, information, and communications for persons with disabilities." P. 26		"Few access ramps or provisions for the mobility of persons with disabilities existed" in 2019 report.
"Due to their use of sign language, several young deaf individuals were confused with gang members (who also used signs to communicate) by police officers and soldiers and suffered mistreatment." P. 27	<i>No similar language in this report</i>	
Indigenous People		
"A 2014 constitutional amendment recognizes the rights of indigenous people, but no laws provide indigenous people rights to share in revenue from exploitation of natural resources on historically indigenous lands." P. 27	"Indigenous communities reported they faced racial discrimination and economic disadvantage." P. 21	2019 report omitted, "no laws provide indigenous people rights to share in revenue from exploitation of natural resources on historically indigenous lands."
<i>No similar language in this report</i>	"According to community leaders, gangs pushed out of urban centers by police mounted incursions into and appropriated indigenous land. They also reported gang members threatened their children for crossing gang territorial lines artificially drawn across ancestral indigenous land, forcing some children to drop out of school or leave home." P. 21	2019 report referred to gang violence and children dropping out of school, while 2016 report did not discuss gang violence against indigenous people.

Acts of Violence, Discrimination, and Other Societal Abuses Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity		
<p>"Although the law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, discrimination against LGBTI persons was widespread, including in employment and access to health care." P. 27</p>	<p>"The law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, which also applies to discrimination in housing, employment, nationality, and access to government services." P. 22</p>	<p>2019 report omitted "discrimination against LGBTI persons was widespread."</p>
<p>"In May the PDDH conducted a survey of transgender individuals and reported that 52 percent had suffered death threats or violence, of which 23.7 percent had reported the incidents."</p>	<p><i>No similar language in this report</i></p>	<p>2019 report omitted information about percentages of transgender individuals reporting to have suffered death threats or violence as well as incidences of violence.</p>
<p>"The NGO Space for Lesbian Women for Diversity claimed that, as of November, the Attorney General's Office had not prosecuted any cases of killings and other violent acts or of possible human rights violations committed by public officials against LGBTI persons. The Secretariat for Social Inclusion reported that 11 LGBTI persons were killed during the year because of their sexual orientation. The PDDH reported that since 2009 a total of 18 LGBTI persons were killed because of their sexual orientation." P. 27-28</p>	<p>"As of August 22, the PDDH reported four accusations by the LGBTI community of homicides, one complaint of torture, four complaints of violations to human integrity, one complaint each of physical abuse and harassment. The PDDH was unable to determine whether the incidents were bias motivated." P. 22</p>	<p>2019 report relied on information from a government agency rather than NGOs.</p>

HIV and AIDS Social Stigma		
<p>"Although the law prohibits discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS status, Entre Amigos, a LGBTI NGO, reported that discrimination due to HIV was widespread. Lack of public information and medical resources, fear of reprisal, fear of ostracism, and mild penalties incommensurate with the seriousness of the discrimination remained problems in confronting discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS or in assisting persons suffering from HIV/AIDS." P. 28-29</p>	<p>"Although the law prohibits discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS status, Entre Amigos, an LGBTI NGO, reported HIV-related discrimination was widespread." P. 23</p>	<p>2019 report omitted, "Lack of public information and medical resources, fear of reprisal, fear of ostracism, and mild penalties incommensurate with the seriousness of the discrimination remained problems in confronting discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS or in assisting persons suffering from HIV/AIDS."</p>
<p>Section 7. Worker Rights a. Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining</p>		
<p>"The government did not effectively enforce the laws on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining in all cases. Resources to conduct inspections were inadequate, and remedies remained ineffective. . . ." P. 30-31</p>	<p>"The government did not effectively enforce the laws on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Penalties remained insufficient to deter violations. . ." P. 24-25</p>	<p>2019 report omitted many details in regards to failures to enforce the laws on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.</p>