

# HUMAN WRONGS, HUMAN RIGHTS

*A guide to the human rights  
machinery of the United Nations*

Jane Winter & Caroline Parkes



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# HUMAN WRONGS, HUMAN RIGHTS

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*Human Wrongs, Human Rights:  
A guide to the human rights  
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Winter, Jane and Parkes, Caroline

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## FOREWORD

In recent years the machinery dealing with human rights at the United Nations has undergone major changes which makes this edition of Human Wrongs, Human Rights published by British Irish RIGHTS WATCH such a useful document. Having attended the National Human Rights Institutions meeting at the United Nations, I was able to observe how many delegates from across the world were struggling to understand the new structures that had been put in place. I also observed the first round of the Universal Periodic Review, in which the UK had just been examined, and now realise how useful this guide would have been at the time. I recommend it to delegates working with any of these institutions and suggest the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights make it available to those working with any of these human rights mechanisms.

It will prove to be an important guide to many people in many countries around the world as well as a useful tool for those working in their own country. People need to know how to enforce their rights if they are abused or neglected and this new edition should help them to make more effective use of these UN institutions. This guide will prove particularly useful for community groups and schools throughout Northern Ireland as they continue to develop a culture of human rights.

I strongly welcome this new addition which sets out how the UN addresses human rights violations and therefore challenges us to make full use of what it has to offer. We will be thankful that British Irish RIGHTS WATCH published such a clear and comprehensive document at this time of change in the United Nations.

**Professor Monica McWilliams**

Chief Commissioner

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

April 2008

# INTRODUCTION

Most people associate the United Nations with its peace-keeping role and blue-helmeted soldiers or with refugees such as those fleeing violence in Iraq. However, the UN also plays a key role in setting international human rights standards and monitoring governments' adherence to them. It is the UN's role as a promoter and protector of human rights that provides the focus for this book.

The UN has a whole array of mechanisms for helping people to obtain their rights and redress their wrongs, but lawyers, advice agencies and voluntary and community groups often know very little about them. This book draws on British Irish RIGHTS WATCH'S experience of using the UN human rights machinery, as well as information provided by other non-governmental organisations and the UN itself. This guide explains where to find out about human rights, how the UN human rights machinery works, and how to make effective use of it.

It is particularly important that young people are aware of both their human rights and the mechanisms to protect them. Everyone has the right to live free from torture, to receive a fair trial if they are accused of a crime, to practise their religion, to enjoy an education, and to exercise their rights free from racial or other forms of discrimination. This focus on youth has led us to include a section on the Model United Nations, an organisation which encourages youth engagement with the UN system (see *Appendix F*). As Northern Ireland moves into a new, more peaceful era, it is vital that human rights are given more prominence, through education and through good practices. We hope that this guide proves a useful resource to both individuals and community groups, of all ages and backgrounds, and provides a small contribution to the development of better awareness of human rights in Northern Ireland.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To get the most out of this guide, it is suggested that you first read the following items:

- Some basic points about the UN – see *page 9*
- Glossary – see *page 14*
- The human rights machinery of the UN – see *pages 22-33*
- Making a submission – see *page 34*
- Lobbying – see *page 46*.

These five sections will enable you to understand the language used by the UN and will give you an overview of how the system works. These building blocks are important and it may be worth looking through them now, before reading the rest of this section. It is suggested that you read them in full, rather than just looking for issues of immediate interest to you, as key points made under one heading are not repeated under others even though they may be relevant.

The sections will also help you to make the best use of the tables towards the end of this guide that deal with specific human rights mechanisms:

- the Human Rights Council – see *pages 65-70*
- the Advisory Committee – see *page 71*
- the Committees – see *pages 75-95*
- the Special Rapporteurs – see *pages 96-110*
- the Working Groups/Independent Expert – see *pages 111-114*.

The easiest way to find out which mechanisms are most relevant to your concern is to look at the Contents page, which notes all mechanisms covered in this book. It is also a good idea to look at the sections on the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. These bodies deal with general human rights issues and these sections may include information which is linked to your issue. For instance, if you were interested in minorities, this may be covered in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of a state, as well as by the Forum on Minorities and by a thematic mandate such as the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights. ►



## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended primarily for use by people in Northern Ireland and concentrates on the mechanisms most likely to be of interest to them. If you cannot find any reference to your concerns, have a look at the UN's website at

**<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>.**

A copy of the current site map can be found at page 64.

This will help you to locate other mechanisms, whether they relate to a particular country or to a particular violation of human rights. If you want to contact someone whose telephone number is not in this guide, you can contact the General Inquiries desk on 00 41 22 917 9000 or email **[InfoDesk@ohchr.org](mailto:InfoDesk@ohchr.org)**.

If you need advice on which mechanism or mechanisms are most appropriate (whether covered by this guide or not), the NGOs listed in Appendix A may be able to help, or you could contact the International Service for Human Rights – see *Appendix C*.

If you have an urgent case, see *page 61 – Urgent cases*.

If you want to know about using special procedures for making complaints, have a look at *Complaints about patterns of gross human rights violations – page 58*.

The creation of the Human Rights Council in 2006 has meant that the UN human rights mechanisms are in a state of flux. This is most clearly seen in the questions over the renewal of the mandates for the Special Procedures. The information in this guide was checked by the relevant office dealing with the Special Procedure but, due to the changing nature of the Special Procedure mechanisms, some subsequent changes may have been made after the publication of this guide.

# SOME BASIC POINTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE UN IS POLITICAL

Although international human rights are meant to be above politics, the UN is the single most powerful forum where most of the world's governments talk to one another, and this has an impact upon its human rights mechanisms. The issues that divide the world also affect the way that the human rights machinery works. For example, China is criticised by many Western democracies over its human rights record. China may therefore be ready to support criticisms levelled against a Western democracy over human rights violations. When lobbying the UN you need to be aware of these tensions, and choose your allies with care.

## THE UN IS INTERNATIONAL

When it comes to human rights, there is nothing you can tell anyone at the UN that they have not heard before and no situation you can describe of which there has not been a worse example somewhere else in the world. It particularly pays for people in Northern Ireland to be sensitive to that fact; although Northern Ireland includes oppressed and discriminated against individuals and communities, it is seen by the rest of the world as a privileged place with limited human rights problems. The government, naturally, does everything in its power to maintain this impression. In countering it, we need to keep a sense of proportion. It does not help to describe a beating-up in a police station, however brutal, as "torture". Much better to call it "ill-treatment" and let the UN decide that you have understated your case.

## LANGUAGE MATTERS

The language of international human rights is peppered with obscure jargon. No matter how much you support the use of plain English, you will need to learn this jargon. The reason for this is that the jargon crosses international language barriers. However, the use of plain English remains key. This is because anything you put in writing will probably have to be translated into at least some of the UN's six official languages: French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian (English being the sixth). While English speakers have an advantage at the UN as this is the most common language, it helps if you also know some French and/or Spanish. ►

# SOME BASIC POINTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE UN IS NOT USER-FRIENDLY

This is not the fault of the staff, who are overworked, under-resourced and often employed on short-term contracts. Despite these problems, they are usually very friendly and as helpful as they can be given the acute lack of resources at the UN. Generally speaking, you will get further by face-to-face or telephone discussions than by attempts to correspond (although faxes or email can be useful for imparting information, especially in an emergency, so long as you do not expect a reply). Otherwise, dealing with the UN is extremely frustrating. If you send a written submission, do not expect an acknowledgement. Do not expect that the person you sent it to will necessarily have received it, or that anyone has read it – it may be sitting in that person's assistant's in-tray in a large pile of documents waiting to be read. If it is considered by an official or a committee, do not expect to be sent a copy of their report. If they take the matter up with the government, do not expect to hear about or be told what the government said in reply. Some of these things may happen, but do not count on it. If you want to know what happened to your submission, you will have to follow it up yourself, and this guide will explain how to do that where appropriate.

## THE UN DEALS WITH GOVERNMENTS

The UN human rights machinery is directed at governments. It is governments who sign up to international human rights treaties and instruments and it is governments who are obliged to uphold them. "Government" includes all those individuals and bodies who make up the state, such as Parliament, government ministers, civil servants acting in an official capacity, the courts, the police, and the army. It also includes officials appointed by law who carry out state functions. However, it does not include private individuals, companies, membership groups carrying out non-governmental functions (e.g. trade unions), terrorists and criminals. The only way that the UN human rights machinery will consider complaints about these groups, called non-state actors, is if you can show that the government has failed in some way to protect your human rights by regulating their behaviour effectively and appropriately.

# SOME BASIC POINTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE UN WORKS ON TRUST

The human rights machinery is focused upon monitoring the actions of governments. Governments make reports to the UN and reply to their questions. They are expected to be honest in their replies, but of course they are often selective and sometimes downright economical with the truth. The UN has to accept what governments say as being in good faith unless they have evidence to the contrary. Such evidence is usually supplied by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs). Just as the UN does not have the resources to test or check what governments say to them, they also have to take what NGOs tell them on trust. UN human rights experts are not pleased if they put a point made by an NGO to the government, only to find that it was inaccurate, exaggerated or unfair. Always back up what you say if you can by quoting statistics or official sources (e.g. the Census, Home Office statistics). See *Making A Submission* for more guidance on this. Also, the UN feels more confident about an NGO they already know, than one they do not. You can create confidence in your own organisation by regularly making submissions to the UN, so that you build up a reputation for providing reliable information. You can also create confidence if you obtain the sponsorship of another NGO with consultative status (see *Glossary*), such as the International Federation of Human Rights or the International Commission of Jurists – see *Appendix A* for their representatives in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY IS NOT STATIC

The UN is constantly working on new human rights standards and refining its understanding of established standards. New human rights posts are being created all the time and old posts are not always renewed. Newer committees and post holders may be much more NGO-friendly than ones that have been established longer. Committees reflect the individuals who make up their membership, which is continually changing. A recently-appointed post holder may take a very different approach from his or her predecessor. The staff who work for a particular mechanism may change. This guide therefore reflects a snapshot of how things stand in early 2008. You must be prepared to find that things have changed, especially the names of UN staff members and members of committees.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in the aftermath of the Second World War as a replacement for the failed League of Nations. At its centre was the United Nations Charter, which created the framework for the organisation.

Article 1 of the United Nations Charter states:

"The Purposes of the United Nations are:

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion: and
- To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends."

This Charter was signed by the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, then-Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the United States of America). The significance of human rights at the United Nations emerged in 1948 with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although human rights have been, in principle at least, at the centre of the United Nations' system, mechanisms and organs charged with protecting and enforcing human rights have come under criticism. The recent creation of the Human Rights Council, which replaced the Commission on Human Rights, is an attempt to counter some of this criticism. Regardless of criticism, it should be noted that the UN had and continues to have a key role to play in improving human rights globally.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The supreme governing body of the UN is the General Assembly, which includes representatives of each Member State.

The office that holds primary responsibility for human rights at the UN is the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It achieves this by serving as the secretariat to all human rights bodies. The current High Commissioner is Louise Arbour, although she is due to be replaced shortly. More information about the High Commissioner can be found at: <http://ohchr.org> – see *Site Map* on page 64.

The UN human rights machinery has two strands: charter-based organisations and treaty-based bodies.

**Charter-based organisations** are the product of the human rights provisions in the United Nations Charter and comprise the Human Rights Council (and thus Special Rapporteurs and thematic Working Groups), the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and the Commission on the Status of Women. Charter-based organisations are political and have a broader mandate than treaty-based bodies. They all have responsibility for promoting an awareness of human rights and related issues, fostering respect for human rights and responding to human rights violations.

**Treaty-based bodies** are committees set up by the seven major human rights treaties and include the Committee Against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The role of treaty-based bodies is to monitor how the States are meeting their obligations under those treaties; as a result, they only examine those countries which have signed up to that treaty. Members of treaty-based bodies are elected by the State Parties to that treaty; they work as independent experts who meet regularly to consider States' reports on the implementation of the respective treaty.

## GLOSSARY

The UN uses jargon; therefore, to make the most of both this guide and your interaction with the UN, it is worth looking at this glossary. If you see a word in the explanation column with which you are unfamiliar, you should find it explained elsewhere in the glossary itself.

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>ACCREDITATION</b>	Access to some bodies at the UN depends on being vouched for by an NGO with consultative status (see <i>Appendix G</i> ).	If you do not obtain accreditation, you will not be able to enter the room where a Committee meets.
<b>ADOPTION</b>	Where a state agrees to be bound by a human rights instrument, but does not ratify the treaty.	The Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers have been adopted by the UK.
<b>ARTICLE</b>	The term used to describe the various clauses that make up Conventions and Covenants.	Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the right to a fair trial.
<b>CAT</b>	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; or, Committee Against Torture	
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
<b>CERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	The seven bodies that oversee the implementation of the seven human rights treaties: the Human Rights Committee, the Committee Against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Human Rights Committee is considered by many to be the most important of the committees, although it is not the oldest committee.</li> <li>• The Committees are supported by the Secretariat in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.</li> </ul>

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# GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>COMPLAINT PROCEDURE</b>	The Human Rights Council has a confidential complaint procedure known as the 5/1 procedure, for investigating patterns of gross human rights violations.	The Complaint Procedure now has an enhanced focus on victims.
<b>CONSULTATIVE STATUS</b>	Large NGOs who regularly work with the UN can apply for recognition as an NGO that the UN will consult about human rights matters. Some UN bodies only allow NGOs with consultative status to have access to them. See Appendix A for a list of NGOs with consultative status.	In Northern Ireland, this is the Committee on the Administration of Justice, based in Belfast.
<b>CONVENTIONS</b>	The human rights treaties that spell out detailed rights. These include the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.	In May 2009, the Committee against Torture will consider Israel's report on its observance of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.
<b>COUNTRY RAPPORTEUR</b>	Someone appointed by a human rights body to report on the human rights situation in a given country, either because that country's human rights record is giving cause for concern, or because that country's record is due for examination after submitting a periodic report. The Country Rapporteur is usually a member of the body itself. Confusingly, Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council can also be appointed to oversee the human rights situation in a particular country.	An example of a Country Rapporteur is the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967.

continued ►



# GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>COVENANTS</b>	The two human rights treaties made to expand upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the other is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.	The right to self-determination appears in both Covenants.
<b>CPRMW</b>	International Convention on the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	
<b>DECLARATIONS</b>	These are policy statements adopted by the various UN bodies. They are essentially statements of intent. They lay down human rights standards and they frequently lead to the drawing up of basic principles or rules and/or the appointment of a Special Rapporteur.	The best known of the declarations is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
<b>DELEGATIONS</b>	The term used to refer to those representing the government before UN bodies. NGOs may think of themselves as delegates, but are usually referred to as representatives.	UK delegations are usually made up of civil servants.
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council of the UN	
<b>FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS</b>	These are human rights that involve basic freedoms that are held to be inherent, such as freedom from torture, freedom of expression and freedom of association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects human rights and fundamental freedoms.</li> <li>• The right to join a trade union is a fundamental freedom arising from the right to freedom of association.</li> </ul>

*continued ►*

# GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	The rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. These rights include what are commonly called civil liberties (i.e. civil and political rights such as the right to vote), as well as economic and social rights and fundamental freedoms.	Freedom from torture, the right to a fair trial and the right to adequate health care are all human rights.
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS</b>	People who protect the human rights of others or campaign on human rights issues.	Both British Irish RIGHTS WATCH and the members of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission are human rights defenders.
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation	
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	Putting into practice or application.	The implementation of human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child are the responsibility of governments.
<b>INDEPENDENT EXPERT</b>	An Independent Expert is someone appointed by one of the UN's human rights mechanisms and includes thematic Special Rapporteurs.	There is an Independent Expert on Terrorism, currently Mr Robert Goldman.
<b>INSTRUMENTS</b>	The term that covers all the different documents that embody human rights standards: Declarations, Covenants, Conventions, Basic Principles, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The various types of human rights instruments are explained in <i>The Human Rights Machinery of the UN</i>.</li> </ul>

continued ►

# GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>INTER-SESSIONAL</b>	The term used to describe meetings that take place between sessions of a particular human rights mechanism.	The Human Rights Council has an intergovernmental working group which works inter-sessionally.
<b>LOBBYING</b>	Attempt/s to influence the opinions and actions of policy makers and officials	Lobbying can include writing letters or visiting the UN.
<b>MANDATE</b>	The remit and authority given to a body or officer to carry out their functions. The mandate is usually specified in a resolution passed by the authorising body.	The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women was created in 1994.
<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	The governments who belong to the UN.	Montenegro became a Member State in 2006.
<b>MISSION</b>	A visit to a Member State by a UN official. The word is also used to describe the offices maintained by Member States in Geneva and New York.	The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief undertook a mission to Northern Ireland in 2007.
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation. This includes voluntary groups, community groups, pressure groups, campaigns, charities, trade unions, and virtually any other group that is not part of the government or a political party. It does not include commercial organisations, although a group representing, for example, small businesses would be recognised as an NGO. It also probably does not include quangos appointed by the government, such as the Commission for Racial Equality. French and Spanish speakers refer to NGOs as ONGs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs are the best source of independent information concerning the human rights situation in a country.</li> <li>• Irresponsible NGOs can give others a bad name.</li> <li>• British Irish RIGHTS WATCH IS an NGO but the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is not.</li> </ul>

continued ►

## GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	The office within the UN in Geneva that deals with human rights.	Louise Arbour is the current High Commissioner for Human Rights; however, she announced her resignation in March 2008 and will be replaced in the summer of 2008.
<b>OPTIONAL PROTOCOL</b>	An addition to a human rights instrument that a State Party can ratify if they wish to, but do not have to do so. The term usually applies to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which allows individuals to complain to the Human Rights Committee about their government's failure to respect or implement the Covenant. But Optional Protocols to other treaties also exist.	Ireland ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1989, but the UK has not ratified the Protocol.
<b>PERIODIC REPORT</b>	A report made by a government to one of the Committees that monitor human rights treaties explaining how it has implemented the relevant Convention or Covenant. Such reports are made at regular intervals, usually every 2, 4 or 5 years.	The UK submitted a periodic report to the Committee Against Torture in 2004.
<b>PRE-SESSIONAL</b>	A term used to describe a meeting that takes place before the start of a session.	The Human Rights Committee has a pre-sessional meeting to discuss the questions it will put to governments appearing before it at the next-but-one session.
<b>RATIFICATION</b>	The process whereby a government agrees to be bound by a human rights treaty.	The UK has signed, but not yet ratified, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

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# GLOSSARY

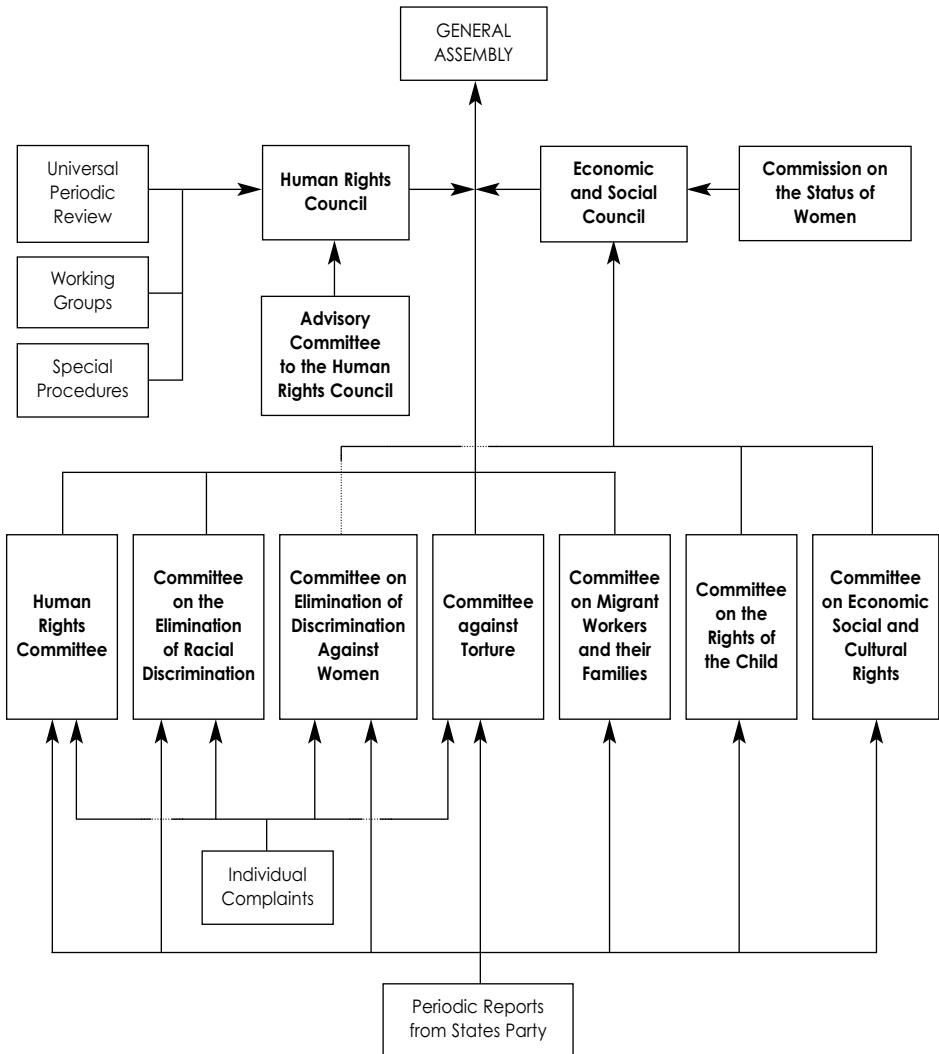
TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>REALISATION</b>	Translation into reality. When a human right is implemented so that people can actually enjoy it, it has been realised.	Some countries are more advanced than others in achieving the realisation of economic and social rights.
<b>SESSION</b>	Meeting. Usually used to describe the whole period of days or weeks during which a particular committee, working group, or other UN body meets. Sessions are often described numerically, to indicate how often the particular body has met since it was set up. Confusingly, the three-hour long sittings of such bodies each morning and afternoon are also often referred to as sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seventh session of the Human Rights Council took place in Geneva between 3 and 28 March 2008.</li> <li>• The press release for the morning session of the Human Rights Committee will be available at the afternoon session.</li> </ul>
<b>SPECIAL RAPPOREUR</b>	Someone appointed to report to a human rights body, on a particular issue or country. The Special Rapporteur will usually be a human rights expert who either serves on the body itself or is appointed by the body.	The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing is currently Ms Raquel Rolnik.
<b>SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	A Special Representative is very like a Special Rapporteur, but is appointed by the Secretary-General to the UN.	Ms Margaret Sekaggya is the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders.
<b>STATE(S) PARTY</b>	A government that has become a party to (agreed to be bound by) a UN treaty.	The UK is a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
<b>SUBMISSION</b>	A written report from an NGO describing human rights violations.	British Irish RIGHTS WATCH has made many submissions to the UN concerning human rights violations in Northern Ireland.

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# GLOSSARY

TERM	EXPLANATION	EXAMPLES
<b>THEMATIC</b>	Some of the UN working groups and rapporteurs investigate particular themes or topics within human rights, such as the right to education. Their mandate is described as thematic, as opposed to country-specific. Some have an investigative role, which means that they not only report to their parent body within the UN, but that they can actively examine complaints by raising them with the government against which the complaint is made.	There are currently 28 thematic mandate holders.
<b>TREATIES</b>	There are seven human rights treaty bodies. They include the two Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the five Conventions against torture, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, and which protect the rights of children and migrant workers. The Committees that monitor these treaties are often referred to as being treaty-based or treaty-monitoring bodies, or simply as treaty bodies.	The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is the newest treaty body (2004).
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom	
<b>UN</b>	United Nations	
<b>UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW</b>	A new mechanism created by the Human Rights Council where the overall human rights record of all Member States is reviewed by the Council within a four-year period.	The UK was the subject of a Universal Periodic Review in April 2008.
<b>VIOLATION</b>	Breach, contravention, infraction, infringement. Any failure to uphold a human right, or any denial of that right, is called a violation.	The human rights machinery of the UN is designed to deal with human rights violations.
<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>	Working parties made up of five or more members of a human rights body, appointed to investigate or study a particular country or human rights issue, or to draw up new sets of standards.	There is a Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights.

# DIAGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY



# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## OVERVIEW

The supreme governing body of the UN is the General Assembly, which includes representatives of each Member State. The focus of the UN's work on human rights is carried out by five mechanisms:

- the committees, or treaty bodies: the Human Rights Committee, which covers civil and political rights; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the five thematic committees on racial discrimination, torture, migrants' rights and women's and children's rights
- the Human Rights Council
- Special Rapporteurs,
- Independent Experts and
- Working Groups.

## HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN's human rights machinery exists in order to implement international human rights standards and monitor compliance with them by Member States. The Human Rights Committee and other committees have been set up to monitor compliance with human rights treaties and other documents developed by the UN. Chief amongst these is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1948.

All other human rights standards developed by the UN flow from the Universal Declaration, and they usually elaborate on rights set out in it. In 1976, two Covenants were adopted by the UN: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which spells out in detail the civil and political rights established by the Declaration, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which concentrates on rights relating to work, health, education and so on. Since then, various other treaties have been adopted, notably on racial discrimination, torture, the rights of the child, migrant workers and discrimination against women.

Over the years, a great many other human rights instruments have been developed, including

- sets of Basic Principles, e.g. Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
- Standard Minimum Rules, e.g. for the Treatment of Prisoners
- Codes of Conduct, e.g. for law enforcement officers
- Safeguards, e.g. for those facing the death penalty
- Guidelines, e.g. on the role of prosecutors
- Model Treaties, e.g. on the supervision of prisoners released on parole and so on. ►



# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee monitors the implementation, by Member States, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Committee receives periodic reports from all the Member States who have signed up to the ICCPR and can ask questions about their implementation of the Covenant. It then produces a report, which can be highly critical of a government's record and practices. The government cannot be forced to implement the Committee's recommendations, but its failure to do so can be embarrassing when it comes to the rest of its dealings within the UN. If it has failed to take account of the Committee's report, the Committee is likely to criticise the government more heavily when it next appears before them.

The Committee consists of 18 independent human rights experts nominated by Member States and elected by them. Members of the Committee are not supposed to participate in any consideration of a report from the government who nominated them. Currently both the UK and Ireland have independent experts on the Committee: Sir Nigel Rodley and Mr Michael O'Flaherty respectively.

Any NGO may make a written submission to the Committee when it is due to consider a periodic report from a country – see *Making a Submission*. Sessions of the Committee are open to the public and NGOs can lobby members of the Committee – see *Lobbying*. The Committee also holds a closed session during the week before the session prior to that in which a country report is due for consideration. During that week, NGOs may make written and oral representations about what questions they think the Committee should put to the government concerned.

The Committee can also consider complaints from individuals who allege that their human rights have been violated by any Member State that has agreed to be bound by the first Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. The Committee will not accept complaints against the UK's actions in Northern Ireland because the UK has not ratified the first Optional Protocol – see *Making Complaints under the Optional Protocols*. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## OTHER COMMITTEES

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (not to be confused with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the UN) monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). It is not such a powerful committee as the Human Rights Committee, although the ICCPR and ICESCR are supposed to carry equal weight. This is probably because Member States have tended to pay more attention to civil and political rights, which are more easily defined and enforced, than economic, social and cultural rights, which often carry very heavy resource implications – it is cheaper to guarantee the right to freedom from torture than it is to ensure a roof over everyone's head. Also, there is not yet any equivalent under the ICESCR of the Optional Protocol procedure for making individual complaints, although a draft is under consideration.

The other significant human rights committees are:

- the Committee Against Torture, which monitors the implementation of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- the Committee on Migrant Workers, which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

These five committees all operate along similar lines to the Human Rights Committee, with various differences of detail that are spelled out in the sections on each committee – see *also Making a Submission and Lobbying*. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council was created in 2006 and is a subsidiary body to the UN General Assembly. This means it is directly accountable to the full membership of the United Nations. It has 47 seats, which are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 each for Africa and Asia, 6 for Eastern Europe, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 for Western Europe and others. The Council meets regularly (at least three times) during the year. It replaces the Commission on Human Rights and inherited from its predecessor several mechanisms, which are explored in further detail in this chapter.

The Council's mandate is to:

- promote respect for human rights
- address violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, in any country
- help develop international human rights law
- respond to emergencies
- review the human rights record of Member States
- promote the effective coordination of human rights within the United Nations system.

The Human Rights Council assumed the following mechanisms:

- An open-ended working group to consider options regarding the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The Working Group on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances
- The Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples
- The Working Group on the right to development
- The Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
- The Working Group on the use of mercenaries
- The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee replaced the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. It will operate in a similar manner to the Sub-Commission; it will provide expertise and advice to the Human Rights Council through research as well as draw up new human rights standards and operate as a think tank for the Human Rights Council. The Committee will consist of 18 experts, who will serve for three-year periods; their selection will be carried out in consultation with national human rights institutions and civil society organisations and they will be nominated by Member States. The elections for the first members of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council took place in March 2008. The Committee will meet twice a year with the potential for additional ad hoc sessions, where necessary.

The future work of some of the eight working groups previously attached to the Sub-Commission was passed to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, with some amendments, for instance:

- The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery became the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
- The Working Group on Communications had its mandate extended for six months
- The Working Group on Indigenous Populations became the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Special Procedures, also known as Special Rapporteurs, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Independent Expert or Representative, are mechanisms which look either at specific countries or at thematic issues. The purpose of Special Procedures is to monitor, advise and report on issues relating either to the country or theme using a variety of methods including receiving individual complaints. A Special Procedure can be used even when the State has not ratified the relevant treaty or instrument; equally useful is the fact that the exhaustion of domestic systems/remedies is not necessary before they can act. Special Procedures are able to examine individuals' cases and so are of particular use to individuals or NGOs.

Mandate holders are fully independent in that they do not receive a salary from the UN; a mandate can either be fulfilled by an individual or by a working group including one member from each region.

In June 2007, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the Institution Building of the Special Procedures. This included the development of the selection processes for mandate holders, the review of mandates and a Code of Conduct that emphasised the importance of the independence of mandate holders. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## THEMATIC MANDATES

- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Right to Education
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Right to Food
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Use of Mercenaries as a Means of Impeding the Exercise of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Human Rights of Migrants
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the Adverse Effects of the Illicit Movement and Dumping of Toxic and Dangerous Products and Wastes on the Enjoyment of Human Rights
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Trafficking in Persons, Especially in Women and Children
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences
- Working Group on People of African Descent
- Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
- Independent Expert on the Question of Human Rights and Extreme Poverty
- Independent Expert to Update the Set of Principles for the Protection and the Promotion of Human Rights Through Action to Combat Impunity
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
- Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons
- Independent Expert on the Effects of Structural Adjustment Policies and Foreign Debt
- Independent Expert to Assist the High Commissioner in the Fulfilment of Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism
- Independent Expert on Minority Issues. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **AN EXAMPLE: SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS**

The Special Rapporteur is currently Mr Leandro Despouy of Argentina.

### **Mandate**

The Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers identifies and records attacks on the independence of the judiciary, lawyers and court officials, protects their independence, makes recommendations and studies important and topical questions of principle with a view to protecting and enhancing the independence of the judiciary and lawyers.

### **How this operates**

- (a) The Special Rapporteur acts on alleged violations submitted to him, on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the independence of the legal profession. The Special Rapporteur may then send allegation letters and urgent appeals to the government concerned to either clarify and/or bring to their attention these cases.
- (b) The Special Rapporteur conducts country visits upon the invitation of the government, a report of which is submitted to the Human Rights Council.
- (c) Annually, the Special Rapporteur reports on the activities of the mandate. This report will highlight key issues of concern, summarising the communications sent to, and received from, governments and including comments by the Special Rapporteur on various country situations.

### **Contact**

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the  
Independence of Judges and Lawyers  
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office  
8-14 Avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Fax: 00 41 22 917 9003

Email: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org) ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## COUNTRY MANDATES

There are currently Special Procedures in place in relation to a number of countries including:

- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti
- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967
- Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia;
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission is part of the Economic and Social Council. Established in 1946, the Commission has as its focus the promotion of women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields and the development of gender equality. The Commission has 45 members, elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of geographic distribution, who serve for four years. The Commission meets annually. The Commission prepares recommendations and reports for the Economic and Social Council on women's rights and also makes recommendations on urgent problems/issues affecting women's rights. The Commission produces "agreed conclusions" on priority themes set for each year, which provide recommendations to governments, civil society and other stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels; it may also adopt recommendations on issues. The final report of the Commission is submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

In 2008, the Commission on the Status of Women will consider the theme: Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. ►



# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The post of High Commissioner for Human Rights was established in February 1994. Its creation showed the UN's commitment to its human rights work. The Commissioner was the first high-level official to be able to take initiatives without the Commission on Human Rights having to adopt an explicit resolution beforehand. In his first report to the Commission in 1995, the first High Commissioner, José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador, recalled that the General Assembly had given his role "unprecedented moral and political authority to express ... the voice of the moral conscience of mankind".

The present High Commissioner is Louise Arbour, appointed in 2004. Her extensive career in human rights has included Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, and an appointment to the Supreme Court in Canada.

She is responsible for the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which employs all the staff working on human rights, such as Committee secretaries and assistants to Special Rapporteurs. However, her primary role is to enable the UN to have an overview of the many human rights issues arising around the world, and to respond to human rights crises. She is charged with promoting international cooperation, strengthening the implementation of human rights, preventing violations, improving human rights mechanisms, and assisting countries in the throes of transition to democracy. On her appointment, Louise Arbour set out in her plan of action a desire to build: "closer partnerships with civil society and United Nations agencies through the establishment of a civil society support function, support for human rights defenders, stepped up commitment to action activities for rights-based approaches and national protection systems and human rights guidance to the resident coordinator system".

It should be noted that in March 2008 Louise Arbour tendered her resignation and will formally step down in the summer of 2008. Her successor has not yet been announced.

In the vast majority of cases, it will be more appropriate to directly invoke one of the mechanisms described in this guide, rather than going through the High Commissioner's office. ►

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## SOME USEFUL BOOKS

The following are useful reference books for understanding the UN and international human rights. However, it should be noted that, due to the recent changes at the United Nations, such as the creation of the Human Rights Council, not all books will be up to date on this aspect of the UN.

A good general textbook is the *Guide to International Human Rights Practice* by Hurst Hannum (Editor), 4th Edition, Pennsylvania University Press, 2004. Equally useful is *International Human Rights in Context* by Philip Alston (Author), Ryan Goodman (Author), Henry J. Steiner (Editor), 3rd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2007.

See *also* Appendix C for details of very useful publications by the International Service for Human Rights, which can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.ishr.ch>.

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

Everything that is said below applies to ordinary submissions. If your case is urgent, see *Urgent Cases*.

Many of the human rights mechanisms now offer guidance on how to make a submission, which can be obtained by contacting the relevant person – see *the tables at the back of this guide* – or can be obtained from the UN website at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>.

### COMMITTEES

The very first thing to check before making a submission is that the Government has signed up to the relevant Covenant or Convention and that it has come into force domestically (*see table on each Committee*).

Secondly, read the Covenant or Convention and make sure that the issue(s) about which you want to make a submission are relevant to that particular Committee.

Although UN Committees will accept submissions sent to them at any time, they will not actually be considered until such time as the Government's next periodic report is due to be considered. It makes sense to wait until the Government's report is available, and to obtain it and read it before making your own submission so that you can counter any inaccuracies it may contain and highlight any omissions. The timetable for the consideration of a country's periodic report is usually available on the Committee's website. In the UK, the Government does not usually publicise widely the fact that a periodic report is available. As a result, it may be beneficial to contact the UK Government's Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Group and they will send you a free copy. If the report is not ready when you contact them they should put you on the mailing list but if you have not heard from them by the time they told you the report would be ready, it is worth calling them. Additionally, you can monitor Parliamentary Committees, such as the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which often open Committee inquiries into the UK's compliance with human rights treaties. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

Once the report is available, telephone the Secretary of the relevant Committee and check when the report is likely to be considered. You may be told the date of the session or you may receive the reply that no date has been set but it will not be before such-and-such a date. Either way, you will need to check with the Secretary two or three times in order to be certain of the date. Even when a report has been allocated to a particular session, the date may slip, and sometimes reports are considered rather earlier than expected if other states have failed to submit reports on time.

Your own submission need not necessarily refer to the content of the Government's report, unless you wish to correct or augment it in some way. So long as your submission is relevant to the Government's implementation of the particular Covenant or Convention under consideration by the Committee, you are free to make the points you wish, regardless of anything the Government has or has not said.

However, you need to be aware of the pattern of periodic reporting. The first report a Government ever makes to the Committee once the Covenant or Convention has come into force domestically will be very comprehensive, and the Committee's examination of the report will also be thorough. Second and subsequent reports will tend to concentrate on those areas the Committee highlighted in its questions at the previous hearing, and new areas covered in later reports or successfully raised by NGOs. If the Government has submitted a number of reports over the years, it is worth obtaining the earlier reports and the minutes of the Committee hearings from the UN website at:

**<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>.**

This will enable you to see whether the Government has consistently defaulted on an issue that you want to raise, or has ignored recommendations made previously by the Committee. The Committee's criticism tends to be stronger in such circumstances. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

Submissions should be sent to the Secretary to the Committee. Ideally, you should send multiple copies of your submission: one for each member of the Committee, one for the Secretary, and one for the representative of the Secretary-General of the UN, who attends the session. If you cannot afford to do this, the Secretary will make copies, but may only get round to doing so rather late in the day, which means members will have less time to read it. Also, if you intend to go and lobby at the session, the Secretary will remember you as having helpfully saved him/her a lot of photocopying.

Submissions should be sent two months before the Committee is due to consider the Government's report. If you send your submission in late, you run the risk that they will not be distributed to Committee members. Some of the Committees – the Human Rights Committee and the Committees on torture, children and economic, social and cultural rights – allow NGOs to attend the pre-sessional meetings at which they draw up the list of questions to be put to the Government when its report is considered. If you want to influence the questions put to the Government, you must get your submission, including your own list of questions, to the Secretary two months before the pre-sessional meeting.

Remember that not all the members speak English. In theory, the UN will translate submissions, although recent experience suggests that this is beyond their present resources. It is therefore a good idea to provide copies in French and/or Spanish if you can. Providing your own translations also means that you can be sure the submission has been translated accurately. If you are not able to provide translations, try to use English clearly and simply, especially in the summary at the beginning, so that those for whom English is not their first language can grasp the gist of it.

Depending on the Secretary in question, you may or may not receive an acknowledgement of your submission. To be on the safe side, telephone the Secretary about three weeks after sending off the submission to make sure it has been received. If it has still not been received within a month of the hearing, send it in again and check that it has arrived. ►

# MAKING A SUBMISSION

There are five golden rules about making submissions:

## 1 KEEP IT SHORT

Submissions that are more than 30 pages long, including any additional material, are unlikely to be read in full (most UN reports are now confined to a maximum of 30 pages). Ideally, submissions should be much shorter than that – 10 to 12 pages at most.

## 2 RELEVANCE

Make sure you explain how your submission relates to the Convention. Read through the Covenant or Convention and work out which articles are relevant to the issues you want to raise. When you first mention the issue in your submission, use a phrase like:

*"This practice violates Article X of the Convention"*

or

*"The use of unnecessary force during deportations is a breach of Article Y".*

Committees tend to go through the Covenant or Convention in order, so if possible make your submission in the same order and put the article number in the heading. Some issues involve more than one article, so use your judgement as to which is the main article and then mention in the text that other articles are also relevant.

## 3 ACCURACY

Check your facts, get them right, and do not exaggerate. Be as specific as you can – it is better to say:

*"X% of all people stopped by the police in London in 2008 were males under the age of 25 from the Afro-Caribbean or Asian community" than*

*"It is well known that young black men are more likely than anyone else to be stopped by the police in London."*

If members feel they cannot rely on your material, they will not take any notice of it.

## 4 KNOWLEDGE

Do not expect Committee members to have prior knowledge about your country, the issue you are highlighting, or the background to it. You will need to spell out for them things that you might take for granted. If you use acronyms or words that they may not recognise, explain what you mean – for example, "the PSNI (the Northern Ireland police)".

## 5 CLARITY

Put a short executive summary at the beginning of the submission and cross-reference it to the main body of the text. Members will read this if they read nothing else, so make sure it is very clear and that it covers all your main points, as briefly as possible. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

Always start your submission by explaining who you are. This is your opportunity to establish your credentials and to make sure the members take your submission seriously. If you are making a submission on behalf of an organisation, say something like:

*"[Name of organisation] is an independent non-governmental organisation set up in [year] in order to [set out main aims of organisation]. We have X years' experience of [e.g. researching and monitoring the issues you want to raise]."*

Next, you should summarise very succinctly, ideally in one paragraph, what your submission is about, before going into detail.

Although in theory the Committee will be examining the Government's record over the few years since the last periodic report, in practice Committee members are more concerned with the present situation. It is not worth complaining about matters that have since been put right, although it is perfectly acceptable to mention long-standing problems that have never been addressed.

It is very important to substantiate your case as far as possible. If your claims can be verified from an official source, quote it. If your concerns are shared by organisations that are better known than your own, especially another NGO with consultative status (see Appendix A), quote them. If there is a newspaper cutting that neatly sums up the facts of a case, or the reaction of the community, it can be worth including it if space permits. Photographs, official documents such as death certificates, medical reports and so on, should also be considered. If you are short of space, you can summarise the evidence but say that you have copies of the full documents and can supply them if required. Try to read your submission with a critical eye: if you think someone sceptical about you would query something you have said, or would consider something you have said to be contentious, make it clear that your point is based on factual evidence, not unsubstantiated rumour or opinion. If you agree with something that the Government has said in its report, or can praise something the Government has done (even though you may consider they have not done enough), it does no harm to say so. The more responsible, balanced, factual and accurate your submission is, the better.

If you mention named individuals in your submission, mention that you are doing so with their permission, as Committee members are often concerned about confidentiality, especially if you are dealing with a sensitive issue such as rape or sexual assault/abuse. The only exception to this is when you are referring to well-known cases that have received a lot of publicity. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

At the end of your submission, or at the end of each section, include a list of questions that you would like the Committee to put to the Government. There is no guarantee that they will in fact ask your questions, but you may well prompt them to do so, especially if you keep your questions short, specific and precise.

Make your submission look as smart as possible. Even if you cannot afford to spend very much on it, make sure that it is neatly typed, and that the spelling is correct. If you have a computer, or can gain access to one, make good use of its ability to create headings of different sizes, and use boxes and bullet points. Give your submission a cover, page numbers and an index. Make it as easy to read and to follow as possible.

If you can, use an eye-catching logo or picture on the cover. Use colour if you can. If you are restricted to a stapled document made up of photocopied pages, consider having a cover which is on coloured paper rather than white. If the report falls into distinct sections, you could use different colours to mark them out. However, stick to colours that will photocopy easily. If members can easily recognise your report as “the one with the yellow cover” or “the one with the Celtic designs” or whatever, there is a better chance that they will remember its contents.

Your submission is your property and you can do what you like with it. You can put out a press release saying that you have made the submission, and you can send copies to anyone you think should see it. You should also consider whether there are other parts of the UN human rights machinery to whom you should send your submission, for example, a relevant Special Rapporteur.

You should also consider sending the Government a copy of your submission. If you do so, their delegation will come armed to answer the points you have raised and you may feel that this is a disadvantage. However, the UN is not an adversarial arena. Indeed, the exchanges between committees and governments are usually described, not always accurately, as dialogues. The advantage of letting the Government see your submission in advance lies in the possibility that they will look at the issues you raise afresh. They may even take steps to remedy your complaint before the committee meets, or, if not, they may give the committee an assurance that they will do so. If you decide to send your submission to the Government, mention that you have done so in the submission itself and then refer to any response (or lack of one) you have had from the Government when you are lobbying at the UN. ►



## MAKING A SUBMISSION

Three Committees – Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Rights of a Child – welcome information at their pre-sessional working groups, during the drawing up of the list of issues.

If you decide to attend the session in Geneva or New York in order to lobby the Committee in person, your submission will be your starting point and the means of introducing yourself to members of the Committee. If you are not able to attend, then all you can do is hope that the Committee will have taken note of your submission and will ask the Government questions based on it and make findings or recommendations accordingly.

As a general rule, all Committees allow NGOs to attend their sessions as Observers, though accreditation should be sought from the relevant Secretariat. If you are able to be present, you will be able to take notes of the Committee's comments and recommendations. The written version is not usually available until a day or so afterwards. The easiest way to obtain a copy is from the website at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>.

However, there is often a time lag before documents are posted on the website. Otherwise, you can obtain a copy by asking a friendly NGO based in Geneva to email it to you, or by telephoning the Secretary and asking them to do so. The former is preferable to the latter, because if the session is continuing the Secretary will be busy with another country's report and may not be able to give your request any priority. Other domestic NGOs may have better access to the written version than you, in which case they may be able to help – see *Appendix A*.

The UN also produces daily press releases of committee proceedings, usually reporting the morning and afternoon meetings separately. These are usually available on the following day, although sometimes the morning reports are available by the end of the same day. These press releases summarise what has been said during the session. They are selective, so may not include the issue that is of greatest concern to you, and are not always completely accurate because they are produced so quickly, but it is always worth getting hold of them. It is also possible to obtain tape recordings of meetings. You can request the original language or the English translation. There is a charge for each cassette and it is essential to order them in advance from the Secretary to the Committee. ►

# MAKING A SUBMISSION

## INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS TO COMMITTEES

Five of the treaty bodies (Human Rights, Women, Torture, Racial Discrimination and Migrant Workers) are able to receive individual complaints. Complaints can be brought by an individual or by an NGO on behalf of an individual. However, such complaints must have exhausted all domestic remedies. Complaints must be addressed to the Petitions Team at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, apart from complaints to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which should be addressed to the Committee c/o Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

As with other complaints mechanisms, the Commission is concerned with trends and patterns of women's rights rather than individual human rights violations. Submissions can be made by individuals and NGOs to the Commission and will be screened by the Working Group on Communications. Submissions are then passed to the Commission who consider the issue in a closed meeting and then report and make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

Much of what is said above about making submissions to Committees also applies to making submissions to Special Rapporteurs, whether their mandate is thematic/investigative or reporting.

The thematic/investigative Rapporteurs all make their reports to the Human Rights Council. The actual date of the report varies, so you will need to check with the assistant to the particular Rapporteur (*see table for telephone number*) when the Rapporteur will be submitting his or her report. You should send in your submission at least two months before that in order to give the Rapporteur as much time as possible to consider it.

If you want the Rapporteur to look into a particular complaint, you can send it in at any time, but be aware that, towards the end of the year, while the Rapporteur may take the matter up, it is unlikely to appear in that year's report to the Human Rights Council.

You will probably not receive an acknowledgement and you should check with the assistant to ensure that it has been received. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

### **SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS** *continued*

In the case of individual complaints, if the Rapporteur is satisfied that it is a genuine case falling within the mandate, s/he will submit it to the government for their comments. Governments are often slow to respond: in UN jargon “transmit”. If, as will almost certainly be the case, you have heard nothing six months after sending in your submission, telephone the assistant to enquire whether the case has been transmitted to the government and whether any reply has been received. This will have a number of potential effects:

- it may galvanise the Rapporteur to transmit your submission to the government, if this has not already happened
- it may cause the Rapporteur to chase up the government, if they have not replied
- it will let the assistant know that you are interested in hearing about progress, and that you wish to see the government’s reply and to comment on it.

However, do not rely on the assistant to keep you informed – s/he will probably be far too busy. You will need to strike a balance between maintaining a visible interest in the progress of your complaint and harassing an already-harassed assistant. A monthly telephone call or email may be acceptable; more frequent calls are very unlikely to be appreciated. At the opposite extreme, if you take no interest in what is happening, you will probably never hear of your case again, unless it happens to be mentioned in the report to the Human Rights Council.

Do not expect to be told when the report to the Human Rights Council is ready. You will not be able to obtain a copy until after it has been officially submitted to the Council. In theory, but not always in practice, the report is available on the website at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx> a few days before it is due to be presented. Paper copies of reports are usually available at the UN on the morning of the day when they are to be discussed, and if you attend the Human Rights Council (or know someone else who is going), you can obtain a copy then. Copies will also be available from the documentation desk at the UN, which may have the report in advance of the actual day on which it is to be discussed.

If you are sending your submission to a Special Rapporteur with a reporting mandate, the most that you can hope for is that mention will be made of the issues it raises in his or her report to the Human Rights Council. While it may be wise to check that it has been received, there is no point in chasing progress, as in effect you are merely supplying it for information. ►

# MAKING A SUBMISSION

## **SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS** *continued*

For Special Rapporteurs with a thematic/investigative mandate, the very fact that they have questioned the government about your submission is useful. For both types of Rapporteur, a mention in their reports is especially useful, as you can quote any criticism they may make in any other context, including legal proceedings.

Those thematic/investigative Rapporteurs who are most likely to receive complaints about individuals – that is, those who cover torture, extrajudicial executions, and violence against women, and so on – have issued a model questionnaire or guidelines for use by people sending in complaints, or “communications” as the UN calls them. These can be obtained from the relevant assistant or from the UN website at:  
**<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>.**

Special Rapporteurs vary in their degree of proactivity, but the most proactive will intervene vigorously in individual cases.  
If your case is urgent, see *Urgent Cases*.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

The Human Rights Council has a number of special working groups – see **<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>** for details. Some working groups, such as the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issue guidelines and have a questionnaire for complainants to complete – contact the Secretary (*see relevant table*) for details, or look at the website.

Otherwise, what has been said about making submissions to Committees and Special Rapporteurs will be relevant. Remember to check the timetable, liaising with the Secretary to find out when the Working Group will be writing its report and sending in your submission at least two months beforehand. ►

# MAKING A SUBMISSION

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On 18 June 2007, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 5/1, which concerned the establishment of a new Complaint Procedure to address consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms occurring in any part of the world and under any circumstances. (*See Complaints about Patterns of Gross Human Rights Violations*)

Most submissions to the Human Rights Council will be made to Rapporteurs or Working Groups, but the Council has instigated a programme of Universal Periodic Reviews of the human rights record of Member States, with a mandate to “undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States; the review shall be a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs; such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies.” (General Assembly Resolution 60/251)

The aim of the review is to seek:

- the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground
- the fulfilment of the State's human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State
- the enhancement of the State's capacity and of technical assistance, in consultation with, and with the consent of, the State concerned
- the sharing of best practice among States and other stakeholders
- support for cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights
- the encouragement of full cooperation and engagement with the Council, other human rights bodies and OHCHR. ►

## MAKING A SUBMISSION

### **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL** *continued*

The review is based on information submitted by the State, a compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which contains the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures and other UN material, and information provided by “stakeholders” including NGOs. The State is encouraged to carry out consultation prior to their submission to the Universal Periodic Review. This is a good opportunity for NGOs to become involved in the process. Submissions from NGOs must be written especially for the Review, in either French, Spanish or English, conform to a page limit and cover a period of a maximum of four years. Further guidance on the nature of submissions can be found at: [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/DEC/6/102](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/DEC/6/102).

The United Kingdom is one of the first States to be reviewed, and is unlikely to be reviewed again until all Member States have been through the process in four years' time. Member States' reports to the Human Rights Council are limited to 20 pages, and NGOs' submissions to only five, so the Council's approach is likely to be very broad. NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status can address the Human Rights Council. Contact the NGO Liaison Office at the UN for further details. It is too late to make a submission about the United Kingdom this time round, but watch out for it next time, by which time the process will have bedded in. The next review should be in four years time. The timetable for the second session of the Universal Periodic Review includes: Gabon, Ghana, Peru, Guatemala, Benin, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Pakistan, Zambia, Japan, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, France, Tonga, Romania and Mali. The third session will look at: Botswana, Bahamas, Burundi, Luxembourg, Barbados, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan and Tuvalu.

# LOBBYING

## COMMITTEES

The ultimate goal in lobbying a Committee is to persuade the Committee firstly to question the government about your concerns and secondly to comment on it in their final statement.

If you want to be certain that your written submission is taken on board by a Committee, you need to go to the hearing and lobby Committee members. This is expensive both in terms of time and money, but is worth considering if the issue is very important or your organisation will be regularly using the UN human rights machinery. If you cannot afford to attend a hearing, see *below for some alternative ideas*.

The Human Rights Committee and the Committees on torture, children and economic, social and cultural rights allow NGOs to attend the pre-sessional meetings at which they draw up the list of questions to be put to the government when its report is considered. See *the tables at the end of this guide* for details. If you want to influence the questions put to the government it is well worth attending this meeting also, despite the extra cost involved. Strictly speaking, you cannot lobby at this meeting, but you can address the Committee directly and enter into a dialogue with them, which is extremely useful. Only a couple of hours will be allocated to the NGOs, so how much time you have will depend on how many NGOs attend. As a general rule, it is best to keep your presentation as short as possible in order to allow more time for discussion. If other NGOs are attending, liaise with them and coordinate your presentations so that you make the best use of the time available. Try to avoid repeating one another unless you feel that a particular point needs to be emphasised or reinforced.

The following applies to lobbying at the full hearing, although some of it will also be relevant to attendance at a pre-sessional meeting.

If you do decide to lobby, the first thing to do is to find out who else is likely to be going to the same hearing. NGOs with consultative status (see *Appendix A* for domestic representatives) will probably be able to tell you. NGOs are increasingly beginning to coordinate their lobbying, and there may well be an informal group of NGOs planning to attend a particular hearing. By getting in touch with others, you can exchange information and make sure that your lobbying activities complement each other rather than cancelling each other out. This is vitally important, as the opportunities for lobbying are very limited and you need to make the most of them. ►

# LOBBYING

## COMMITTEES *continued*

Talking to other NGOs is the best way to find out what is known about individual Committee members: what their particular interests are, how much weight they carry on the Committee, how they react to lobbying, and so on. The International Service for Human Rights – see *Appendix C* – can also provide information about Committee members, as can members of the United Kingdom's permanent mission at the UN – see *Appendix D*. The internet can also be a good source of information about Committee members' interests, in particular.

Next, find out when and where – Geneva or New York – the Committee will be discussing the item in which you are interested. If the hearing is in Geneva, find out in which building the hearing is taking place. Although the dates for the beginning and ending of a Committee session will be fixed reasonably far in advance, the date on which a particular country or item will come up for consideration can vary. You will need to liaise closely with the Committee Secretary to keep track of this, and check just before you leave to make sure that the date has not slipped. Incidentally, this makes booking cheap aeroplane tickets difficult, but there is no point in having a non-variable ticket booked months in advance for entirely the wrong dates. You will usually be reasonably safe booking a fortnight in advance, but it is risky to book much earlier than that. If you are going at a busy time of year for the UN, such as the spring season of the Human Rights Council, it is advisable to book a hotel in advance.

Make sure that you understand the Committee's procedures. This varies from one Committee to another (see *tables on each Committee* for outline details) – the following is a general description that may not apply exactly to any particular Committee. The Committee will have a standard procedure for considering periodic reports from countries. This is set out in writing and you can obtain details from the Secretary to the Committee (see *relevant table*) or the website at:

**<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>. ►**



# LOBBYING

## **COMMITTEES** *continued*

Usually, the Committee appoints one or two of its members to act as Country Rapporteur. This Rapporteur will make a particular study of the government's report and any NGO submissions. He or she, or sometimes the whole Committee or a working party made up of Committee members, will then draw up a list of questions to put to the government. This usually happens at a pre-session meeting before the full hearing, but for some Committees it may happen at the beginning of the session or at some point during the session. Sometimes, only the Country Rapporteur reads all the submissions on a particular country.

At the hearing, the Committee chairperson will invite the government delegation to introduce its report. The UK always sends civil servants as its delegation, whereas some other governments have tended to send a mixture of civil servants and government ministers. The government delegation introduces the report and updates the Committee on any developments that have occurred since it was submitted, usually many months previously. The government delegation usually begins by answering the questions that have been notified to them by the Committee in advance of the hearing. The Country Rapporteur then asks further questions, followed by other members of the Committee. The chairperson does not usually ask questions, nor does any member of the Committee who has been nominated by the government whose report is under consideration. There is little point, therefore, in lobbying either of these members. The government delegation then replies to the further questions and Committee members make final comments on their presentation. The Committee then goes into closed (private) session in order to draw up its final statement, which is then publicly read out. This whole process can happen in a single day, or can take place over two or more days, depending on the amount of time allocated. In particular, the reading out of the final statement may be deferred if time has become short. It is not unusual for the statement to be issued a week after the hearing, or right at the end of the Committee session.

As can be seen from the above description, NGOs' opportunity to be involved in Committee proceedings is limited. You may attend public sessions of Committees, but only in order to observe. You may not address the Committee and you may not attempt to communicate with Committee members inside the committee room while the Committee is in session, even by passing them notes. While the Committee is considering your own country, you may sit in the seats around the edge of the committee room; at other times, you should use the public gallery and leave those seats closest to the Committee for other NGOs whose country is under discussion. ►

# LOBBYING

## COMMITTEES *continued*

There are two opportunities for lobbying a Committee: when the Country Rapporteur or working party is drawing up the list of questions, and during the session itself. If you can find out who the Country Rapporteur is, and how to contact him or her other than care of the UN, there is nothing to stop you getting in touch in advance and offering to provide a list of draft issues on which to base questions. You can also offer to meet the Rapporteur, either at the UN or in your own or a nearby country, should s/he happen to be visiting. If the Rapporteur is visiting your country you can offer not just a meeting, but a site visit to a project that illustrates the problem you wish to highlight. Another useful tactic is to include in your written submission a list of questions you would like to see put to the government. If there is to be a pre-session meeting to draw up questions, you should consider being present as this is the best way to influence what questions are asked.

So far as lobbying during the session is concerned, timing is important. If a Committee is receiving, say, half a dozen country reports during one session and you lobby too early in the session, members' minds will be on another country altogether and you may also find yourself competing with NGOs from other countries who are engaged in lobbying on their own behalf. Equally, you cannot leave your lobbying until the actual day when your item is being discussed, because by then Committee members will have decided what additional questions to ask. Ideally, therefore, you need to be present a couple of days before your item is due for discussion, assuming that your item is not the first on the agenda.

On the first day that you attend, you can sit in the public gallery and listen to the proceedings on another item. This will help you to identify the Committee members and to gain some idea of the sort of issues that are of concern to them. Headphones are supplied to enable you to listen to translations – an English translation is always available. The acoustics are very bad in some of the rooms at the UN, so sometimes it is necessary to use the headphones even though a person is speaking English. When it comes to identifying Committee members it is useful to know that they usually sit in alphabetical order, so once you have identified one person you can usually identify his or her neighbours, bearing in mind that someone may be temporarily absent from the room or prevented from attending the session. The chairperson often addresses Committee members by name, which assists in identifying them. ►

# LOBBYING

## **COMMITTEES** *continued*

On the second day, you will have four opportunities to lobby: before the session starts, during coffee breaks, at lunchtime and after the session. Committees usually sit between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm and between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Coffee breaks are often informal and it is simply a matter of noticing that a member is slipping out of the room. You are probably best situated in the corridor outside the committee room rather than in the public gallery for these purposes. On a practical point, find out the difference, if any, between the direction of the coffee room and that of the lavatories, and accost members on their way to the former and the way back from the latter! Bearing in mind that the Committee members are still concentrating on another item, it is best to introduce yourself, saying why you have come, and ask whether you can talk to them there and then or make an appointment to see them later. Very often, if you approach someone before the start of the session, they will make such an appointment. Keep a note of appointments – otherwise you may become double-booked – and make sure that you keep them; you will not get a second chance. Obviously, you can start lobbying on the first day, if opportunity permits.

When you do get a chance to actually lobby someone, you may have as little as five or ten minutes in which to do so. You will rarely get more than half an hour at the most. Also, do not assume that the member will have read your submission. Committee members often do not receive all the papers until they physically arrive at the UN, and they often have no opportunity to read submissions until the night before the day on which they are due for consideration. Successful lobbying, therefore, consists of being able to summarise, very briefly and clearly, your major concerns, and being clear about what you are asking the member to do. It can be helpful to have a single sheet of paper, clearly laid out with good use of headings and bullet points, that summarises your concerns and the questions you would like raised. However, do not forget that you are dealing with independent experts. They will need to be convinced and do not usually accept spoon-feeding. You must be ready to answer questions and to change tack in response to the member's reactions to your initial approach. Most members are very open to being lobbied, but if someone refuses to speak to you, perhaps because they are too busy, it is counterproductive to argue. ►

# LOBBYING

## **COMMITTEES** *continued*

If there are a number of NGOs present, it is helpful to coordinate your lobbying, either meeting a member together in a group or splitting up the lobbying and exchanging information with one another. There is everything to be said for cooperating with other NGOs, and much to be lost by competing with them. It is always worth jointly requesting the Secretary of the Committee to organise an informal meeting with NGOs who can provide information on a particular country. Not all the Committee members may attend, but those who do are likely to take up your concerns if they are well presented. If such a meeting takes place at lunchtime, it is worth investing in providing sandwiches for Committee members, who are much more likely to attend if it does not mean missing their lunch. Only NGOs with consultative status can book rooms at the UN for meetings, so you will need their help.

If a Rapporteur is visiting your own country, organising a joint NGO meeting with him or her can help to deepen the Rapporteur's understanding of a range of problems and the context in which they arise.

Attending the UN and lobbying gives you a number of further opportunities for media coverage. You can press release the fact that you will be attending and that you have attended. If a Committee meeting is especially important, or of particular importance to a given publication or programme, you can sometimes persuade domestic journalists to attend the hearing and send back reports, including radio and television coverage. The UN has a press office and has good facilities for journalists. Journalists who want to film or record UN proceedings will need to liaise with the Press Office. It is also worth trying to obtain media coverage in Geneva or, especially, New York. ►

# LOBBYING

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The ultimate goal in lobbying the Human Rights Council is to persuade members to ask questions about your concerns, ideally during the session or, failing that, privately. If the government is stung into exercising its right of reply, you will know that you have been very successful. You will also want the staff of the government's permanent mission to raise your concerns with the civil servants back home.

Only NGOs with consultative status have access to the Human Rights Council. They can circulate written statements related to an item on the agenda, of 2,000 words if they have category I status (general consultative status) and 1,500 words if category II (special consultative status). They can also make oral statements of up to five minutes while the session is in progress, and can lobby members about resolutions. Member States can reply to both written and oral statements by NGOs and, of course, by Commission members.

Since the Council is made up of 47 Member States, it is one of the few places where it is possible to engage in public dialogue with the government. The United Kingdom is currently a member of the Council; however, non-Member States are entitled to attend as observers and can speak and reply to points raised.

It is worth lobbying your own country's delegation, even though they will obviously not criticise their own government publicly. Not only will what you say to them be reported back to the government at home, but comments made by other delegations will also be reported. It will do your issue no harm if a report is received saying that there was considerable concern on the floor of the UN about your particular topic.

The staff of the permanent missions of the United Kingdom at the UN (see *Appendix D* for contact details) can provide valuable information about which countries to lobby and can also perform introductions to members of other missions. The Irish mission in Geneva is often very helpful to lobbyists from Northern Ireland. Bear in mind that staff from missions are usually very busy, although they can usually find the time to answer a quick question. ►

# LOBBYING

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL *continued*

NGOs that do not have consultative status are dependent upon those that do for access to the Council. The domestic representatives of such NGOs can ask those with consultative status to raise issues on their behalf, circulate statements prepared by them, and allow them to use some of their speaking time. NGOs that are not domestic representatives will usually need to obtain the cooperation of those that are if they want access. Sometimes, though, an NGO with consultative status will deal directly with an NGO that is not their domestic representative, if that NGO can assist them on a specific issue. NGOs that want to attend sessions must be accredited by an NGO with consultative status, in order to obtain the necessary security pass.

NGOs with consultative status are usually working to a broader agenda than that which you may want to raise, and it may therefore be better to take your issue up directly with a Special Rapporteur or a Working Group (see *relevant tables*). However, if you are working with an NGO with consultative status at the Council, you will have to coordinate your lobbying through them. Such sponsoring NGOs can assist you by identifying members of the Council and introducing you, and helping you to lobby. They will probably have other NGOs to look after as well as you, though, so you may find yourself on your own, especially during agenda items that do not concern you. The general information about lobbying given above in relation to Committees will apply, especially in terms of how to approach members. As with Committees, you are not supposed to lobby members in the chamber itself, although occasionally members may approach you or pass you a note asking for information, in which case it is acceptable to have a brief, quiet discussion or to pass them a note in reply. ►

# LOBBYING

## WORKING GROUPS AND SPECIAL RAPORTEURS

It is not usually necessary or appropriate to lobby Working Groups or Special Rapporteurs. Most of their work is done on paper, and, with the exception of Working Group meetings, away from the UN.

However, Special Rapporteurs often travel considerably in pursuit of their work, and there is no harm in offering to meet them in your own or a nearby country, especially if you have referred a number of cases to them. Similarly, they will be present at the UN when they are reporting to the Human Rights Council, and it is often possible to meet them then. Such opportunities should be used to impress upon the Rapporteur and his or her assistant your own reliability as a source of information, and to gently chase progress on submissions. However, bear in mind that they are greatly overloaded and under-resourced and that a critical approach on your part may well prove counter-productive.

It is equally important to build up a relationship with the assistants to Special Rapporteurs and the Secretaries of Working Groups as it is with the Rapporteurs or Groups themselves. See *Making a Submission* for how to chase progress on a submission.

NGOs usually have one of two goals when they refer cases to Special Rapporteurs. They either want the Rapporteur to raise the case with the government, or, in very serious situations, they want to persuade the Rapporteur to undertake a mission to their country the United Kingdom to report on the situation.

Most of the Working Groups of the Council meet in closed session and do not expect to be lobbied. However, the public meetings of the Working Groups on development and the Durban Declaration are open to NGOs with consultative status.

## MAKING COMPLAINTS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS

It is possible to make individual complaints to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, but only if the government has agreed to be bound by Optional Protocols to the relevant convention. There is also an Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture which allows a sub-committee to visit countries to assess their compliance with the Convention. An Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is currently being devised, and has been some years in gestation. In practice, the United Kingdom has only ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. The UK has also acceded to but not yet ratified the Optional Protocol on women's rights. The UK's failure to sign up to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights means that UK citizens have no right of complaint directly to the Human Rights Committee about individual human rights violations.

In cases where the government has ratified the relevant Optional Protocol, people wishing to make a complaint (complainants) must have exhausted their domestic remedies. This means that they must have taken all possible legal steps within their own country that might provide them with an effective remedy for their complaint. However, if obtaining such a remedy would be "unreasonably prolonged" it need not be pursued. Complainants can only take their case to the Committees if it is not being examined under any other procedure of international investigation or settlement, such as proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice.

Complaints must be made in writing. They should include:

- the name, address, age and occupation of the complainant
- the name of the government against whom the complaint is made
- which provisions of the ICCPR (for people outside the UK whose governments have ratified the First Optional Protocol), ICAT or CEDAW are alleged to have been violated
- the facts on which the complaint is based
- what steps have been taken to exhaust domestic remedies and with what outcome
- whether the matter is being or has been considered by any other international human rights body and with what result. ►



## MAKING COMPLAINTS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS

Complaints will not be accepted if they are anonymous. An NGO or lawyer – practising or academic – can make a complaint on someone else's behalf, but must include the complainant's authority to do so.

Complaints which are incompatible with the ICCPR or CEDAW or which constitute an abuse of the right to make a complaint under the Protocols will not succeed. For example, a racist group complaining that its freedom of expression had been violated because it was prevented from circulating pamphlets that incited racial hatred would be dismissed.

There is no time limit for making a complaint, but unreasonable delay might be considered by the Committee as being an abuse of the right to make a complaint. Complaints concerning matters that arose a long time ago but about which the truth has only recently surfaced should be entertained.

If a complaint is found admissible (accepted), it is transmitted (sent) to the respondent government (the Member State against whom the complaint has been made). The government has six months to reply with an explanation, clarification, and/or a description of the remedies that it has already made available to the complainant. This reply is sent to the complainant, who has six weeks to make any final comments.

The matter is then considered by the Committee in closed (private) session. Neither the complainant nor the respondent government is present. There is no oral hearing. If a member of the Committee has any personal interest in a case, s/he will take no part in its consideration.

The Committee then expresses its views on the case. These are not legally binding but have moral and political impact. Although the proceedings of the Committee are confidential, their views are made public and a summary of their activities under the Optional Protocol is included in their annual report to the UN. While the Committee is considering a case, no publicity is allowed, but complainants are free to publicise the fact that they have won their case once the Committee's views are made public. The Committee will protect the anonymity of a complainant if asked to do so, or if the Committee itself decides to do so. ►

## MAKING COMPLAINTS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS

While a case is going through the procedures, the Committee can inform the government that, in its view, interim measures are required to avoid irreparable damage to the victim, regardless of its final views on the complaint. This might be very useful in cases of, for example, deportation or extradition. If your case is very urgent, see *Urgent Cases*.

There is no legal aid from the UN to pay for the costs of preparing a complaint. Whether legal aid is available is a matter for individual Member States.

Complaints should be sent to the Secretary of the relevant Committee (*see tables*).

Under Articles 8 and 9 of the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee has the power to conduct inquiries into allegations of grave or systematic violations, unless the government has opted out of these provisions. It should be noted that the UK has yet to ratify. If the Committee receives reliable information of grave or systematic violations, it will invite the government to make submissions. Once these submissions have been considered, the Committee can designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and make an urgent report. If it is necessary and the government agrees, the designated member(s) may visit the country concerned. The Committee then transmits its findings and recommendations to the government, which has six months to respond. Although the procedure is entirely confidential, the Committee can invite the government to report on any measures it has taken in response to the inquiry in its next periodic report to the Committee.

# COMPLAINTS ABOUT PATTERNS OF GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The Human Rights Council has adopted a new procedure under Council Resolution 5/1 to replace the 1503 procedure.

## THE 1503 PROCEDURE

The 1503 procedure was a mechanism for complaints about “situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights” in a country. Although the old 1503 procedure had been invoked against the UK in the past, the UK was not a natural target for the procedure because human rights violations there paled by comparison with those in other more oppressive countries around the world (but it has been invoked against the USA in recent years).

## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

If your case is urgent, see *Urgent Cases*. Note that many Committees, Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs have their own complaints procedures, which may be much more appropriate and easier to use effectively.

Under Resolution 5/1, like the old procedure, a Complaint Procedure has been established to address consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms occurring in any part of the world and under any circumstances.

In reality, the chances of making a successful complaint under this procedure against the UK are very slim, as the UK's human rights record is so much better than that in many other countries. However, were the UK to adopt practices such as those used in Guantanamo Bay by the USA then it is possible that the procedure could be invoked against the UK.

The Complaint Procedure is confidential, so the fact that a complaint has been made against a particular Member State and the outcome of the complaint are not made public. The UN believes that States will behave better if they are not named and shamed. However, the procedure is also supposed to be victim-oriented and conducted in a timely manner.

Two working groups – the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations – have been set up with the mandate to examine allegations and to bring to the attention of the Council consistent patterns of gross human rights violations. ►

# COMPLAINTS ABOUT PATTERNS OF GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE *continued*

Manifestly ill-founded and anonymous allegations are screened out by the Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications, together with the Secretariat, based on the admissibility criteria (see below). Communications not rejected in the initial screening are transmitted to the State concerned to obtain its response.

The Working Group on Communications is appointed by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee from among its members for a period of three years (mandate renewable once). It consists of five independent and highly qualified experts and is geographically representative of the five regional groups of the UN. The Working Group meets twice a year for a period of five working days to assess the admissibility and the merits of an allegation, including whether the communication alone or in combination with other communications appears to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations.

All admissible communications and recommendations from the Working Group on Communications are then passed ("transmitted") to the Working Group on Situations.

The Working Group on Situations comprises five members appointed by the regional groups from among the States who are members of the Council for the period of one year (mandate renewable once). It also meets twice a year for a period of five working days in order to examine the communications transferred to it by the Working Group on Communications, including the responses received from States, as well as the other information in the possession of the Council which may be relevant. The Working Group on Situations presents the Council with a report on consistent patterns of gross violations and makes recommendations to the Council on the course of action to take. It is for the Council itself to take a decision concerning each situation brought to its attention. ►

# COMPLAINTS ABOUT PATTERNS OF GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE *continued*

A communication related to a violation is admissible, unless:

- It has manifestly political motivations and its object is not consistent with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable instruments in the field of human rights law, or
- It does not contain a factual description of the alleged violations, including the rights that are alleged to be violated, or
- Its language is abusive. However, such communication may be considered if it meets the other criteria for admissibility after deletion of the abusive language, or
- It is not submitted by a person or a group of persons claiming to be the victim of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms or by any person or group of persons, including NGOs, acting in good faith in accordance with the principles of human rights, not resorting to politically motivated stands contrary to the provisions of the UN Charter and claiming to have direct and reliable knowledge of those violations. Nonetheless, reliably attested communications are not inadmissible solely because the knowledge of the individual author is second-hand, provided they are accompanied by clear evidence, or
- It is exclusively based on reports disseminated by mass media, or
- It refers to a case that appears to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights already being dealt with by a special procedure, a treaty body or other United Nations or similar regional complaints procedure in the field of human rights, or
- The domestic remedies have not been exhausted, unless it appears that such remedies would be ineffective or unreasonably prolonged.

Communications intended for handling under the Council Complaint Procedure should be sent to:

Treaties and Human Rights Council Branch

OHCHR-UNOG

1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Fax: (41 22) 917 90 11

Email: **CP@ohchr.org**

## URGENT CASES

Generally speaking, the UN human rights machinery is very slow and is therefore unsuitable for very urgent cases.

However, some of the mechanisms can and do act relatively swiftly in very serious cases, and these are explained below. It is worth reading the whole of this section, rather than just looking at one procedure, as no two urgent cases are the same and this section taken as a whole is designed to convey the UN's general approach to urgency.

Bear in mind that the UN polices activities by governments. You cannot use the urgent machinery to complain about the actions of a private person or body, a company, or a terrorist group, although it may be legitimate to complain about the government's failure to act against them.

It is important not to abuse such urgent processes as are available. Just as it is unhelpful to misuse words like "torture", it is unwise and unfair to demand urgent action in any except the most grave and pressing of cases. If you do so, you may prevent or delay action being taken in a really urgent case, and if you are found to have wasted UN time you will never succeed in getting any other case accepted as urgent. Also, bear in mind the very limited resources at the disposal of those responsible for implementing the human rights machinery at the UN.

Even where the UN does act swiftly, there is no guarantee that the action taken will succeed. All the human rights machinery is based on the concept that Member States voluntarily sign up to the various treaties and declarations etc. and that they will cooperate with any UN committee or official who asks questions about a case. Sadly, the reports of committees, Special Rapporteurs and working groups are peppered with accounts of total refusal by governments to reply to communications.

In the case of the UK, urgent action against the Government is exceptionally rare and it is possible that they would respond more positively than some other governments. However, any responsible complainant will already have done their utmost to bring the matter to the attention of the relevant domestic authorities, and will have already made use of any urgent procedure that may be available locally, such as judicial review. In such a situation, the government is unlikely to be countenancing a major human rights abuse simply because it is ignorant of what, for example, a police officer or prison governor has done, so it will probably be a policy that is being challenged. If so, the government has merely to reply politely to any enquiries made of it by the UN, to justify its position. ►

## URGENT CASES

The UN can criticise the government and call on it to change its policy, but there is no obligation on the government to comply and no method by which the UN can enforce its findings.

As is the case with many of the human rights mechanisms, embarrassment in an international arena in which the government sets itself up as a shining example to others is the most potent remedy the UN can offer. If you are pursuing an urgent action, it is therefore worth combining it with any other pressure that you can bring to bear, including diplomatic pressure and media coverage both at home and abroad.

The following mechanisms have some capacity for urgent action:

- the Special Rapporteur on Torture
- the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions;
- the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;
- the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- the Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders;
- the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief;
- the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health
- the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences
- individual Rapporteurs on particular country situations
- the Human Rights Committee.

As a general rule of thumb, these mechanisms will only act urgently in order to prevent a serious human rights violation. Once someone has actually been tortured or killed, the complaint becomes no more urgent than any other case. Inevitably, it is harder to establish the risk of a violation than an actual violation, and it is necessary to make as strong a case as possible. The following factors may help to strengthen a case:

- evidence that the person concerned has suffered violations in similar circumstances in the past
- evidence that s/he is a member of a group that has done so
- evidence that the institution involved has perpetrated violations before and/or
- evidence that an individual responsible for the person's safety is a habitual violator. ►

## URGENT CASES

As with any submission to the UN, you need to supply enough information to establish your own credentials and to substantiate your case. Much of the advice contained in *Making a Submission* will be relevant, the difference being that you will have to work much more quickly than usual. It is no good faxing or emailing a brief note and expecting the UN to respond urgently.

In all urgent cases, check that the complaint does fall within the remit of the mechanism in question (see *the relevant table*) and fax or email your submission. Mark your submission "FOR URGENT ACTION" at the top of the first page. In very serious cases, it is worth considering actually going to Geneva to deliver your petition in person. This will impress the urgency and gravity of the case upon the relevant person (or, at least, their assistant) and it will enable you to raise the case with as many appropriate people as possible.

### **SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND WORKING GROUPS**

These have all formulated criteria for urgent action and have questionnaires that ensure that they receive all the information they need in order to act quickly. Each mechanism has different criteria, which can be subject to change, so check their websites before making your complaint (see *relevant table*).

### **THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

The Human Rights Committee does not have an urgent procedure as such. However, while a case is going through its procedures, the Committee can inform the government that, in its view, interim measures are required to avoid irreparable damage to the victim, regardless of its final views on the complaint. This might be very useful in cases of, for example, deportation or extradition. It can also be invoked in cases of execution arising in other parts of the world.



# UNITED NATIONS WEBSITE MAP



**United Nations Human Rights**  
 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

ENGLISH FRANÇAIS ESPAÑOL РУССКИЙ العربية 中文

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- 60UDHR - Ms E. Roosevelt
- 60UDHR - Three members of the UN Commission on HR
- 60UDHR - Partial view of the 1st meeting
- 60UDHR - E. Roosevelt, Chairman of the Commission on HR
- 60UDHR - Professor V. M. Koretaky, greets Dr. Ch. Malik Lebanon
- 60UDHR - Radio Round-table
- Discussion on International Bill of Rights
- 60UDHR - A French translation of the Declaration of HR poster
- 60UDHR - P.C. Chang, China, Vice-chairman greets Mrs. E.D. Roosevelt, USA, Chairman
- 60UDHR - Soviet representative A. P. Pavlov, presents to the Drafting Committee of the HR Commission
- 60UDHR - Mrs. E. Roosevelt, sitting next to Professor J.P. Humphrey
- 60UDHR - Mrs. E. Roosevelt and Ambassador N. Entezam
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# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

<b>AIM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote human rights education and learning</li> <li>• Make recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international law in the field of human rights</li> <li>• Promote the full implementation of human rights obligations undertaken by States</li> <li>• Undertake a Universal Periodic Review of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments</li> <li>• Contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies;</li> <li>• Assume the role and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> </ul>		
<b>BASIS</b>	Subsidiary organ to General Assembly		
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	47 Member States elected by the General Assembly		
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by Member States		
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	Secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly; membership based on equitable geographical distribution		
<b>MEETS</b>	at least three times per year		
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly		
<b>REPORTS DUE</b>	annually		
<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government submits report</li> <li>• OHCHR submits information</li> <li>• NGOs make submissions</li> <li>• issues are considered</li> <li>• prior to the adoption of the outcome of the plenary of the Council, the State can submit replies</li> <li>• other stakeholders can make general comments</li> <li>• the Council then adopts the report</li> <li>• the outcome of the UPR is implemented, by the State and, where relevant, the stakeholders</li> </ul>		
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Human Rights Council Team Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix CH-1211, Geneva 10		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Ms Laura Dolci-Kanaan, NGO Liaison Officer		
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9656	<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9004
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:civilsocietyunit@ohchr.org">civilsocietyunit@ohchr.org</a>		
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	2008		

## MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, BY YEAR

### 2008

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Brazil	Peru
France	Republic of Korea
Gabon	Romania
Ghana	Sri Lanka
Guatemala	Ukraine
Japan	United Kingdom
Mali	Zambia
Pakistan	

### 2009

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Azerbaijan	Malaysia
Bangladesh	Mauritius
Cameroon	Mexico
Canada	Nigeria
China	Russian Federation
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Djibouti	Senegal
Germany	Switzerland
Jordan	Uruguay

### 2010

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Angola	Madagascar
Bolivia	Netherlands
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nicaragua
Egypt	Philippines
India	Qatar
Indonesia	Slovenia
Italy	South Africa

# EXAMPLE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

## 7TH SESSION (3RD-28TH MARCH 2008)

### WEEK 1

#### Monday 3rd March

AM	1030 start	High-Level segment
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PM	1300 start	High-Level segment
	1500 start	High-Level segment

#### Tuesday 4th March

AM	1000 start	High-Level segment
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PM	1500 start	High-Level segment
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#### Wednesday 5th March

AM	0900 start	High-Level segment
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PM	1200 start	Panel on HR Voluntary Goals at the request of the main sponsor according to resolution 6/26
	1500 start	Panel (continued) General Segment

#### Thursday 6th March

AM	1000 start	<b>Item 1</b>
		<b>Item 2</b> HC annual report <i>Interactive Dialogue with HC</i> <i>General debate on HC/SG reports</i>

PM	1500 start	<i>General debate on HG/SG reports (continued)</i>
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#### Friday 7th March

AM	1000 start	<b>Item 3</b> <i>Interactive dialogue</i> A Sengupta: extreme poverty J Bustamante: migrants L Zerrougui: Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
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PM	1300 start	B Mudho: economic reform O Ibeanu: toxic waste
	1500 start	A Ligabo: freedom of expression Y Ertürk: violence against Women S Huda: trafficking

continued ►

# EXAMPLE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

## 7TH SESSION (3RD-28TH MARCH 2008)

### WEEK 2

#### Monday 10th March

AM	1000 start	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b> J Gomez del Prado: Working Group on mercenaries M Nowak: torture; M Kothari: housing
PM	1500-1800	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b> S Corcuera: Working Group on disappearances J Petit: sale of children; H Jilani: HR defenders

#### Tuesday 11th March

AM	1000 start	<b>Item 3 (continued)</b> G McDougall: minority issues; P Hunt : health; J Ziegler: food * * * * Special advisor on Prevention of Genocide
PM	1500 start	<i>General debate item 3</i>

#### Wednesday 12th March

AM	0900 start	<i>General debate item 3 (continued)</i>
PM	1200 start	<b>Item 4</b> <i>Interactive dialogue</i> S Samar: Sudan; V Muntarbhorn: Korea; P Pinheiro: Myanmar
	1500 start	Follow up to Special Sessions; <i>General debate item 4</i>

#### Thursday 13th March

AM	0900 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates</b> Special Rapporteur on sale of children Special Rapporteur on Korea
PM	1200 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates (continued)</b> SRSG HR defenders Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression
	1500 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates (continued)</b> Independent Expert on minority issues Special Rapporteur on economic reform

#### Friday 14th March

AM	0900 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates (continued)</b> Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Special Rapporteur on violence against women
PM	1200 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates (continued)</b> Working Group on disappearances Working Group on mercenaries
	1500 start	<b>Review, Rationalisation and Improvement of mandates (continued)</b> Independent Expert on international solidarity

*continued* ►

# EXAMPLE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

## 7TH SESSION (3RD-28TH MARCH 2008)

### WEEK 3

#### Monday 17th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	<b>Item 5</b> Complaint Procedure: report <b>Closed Meeting</b>
<b>PM</b>	1300 start	<b>Item 7</b> J Dugard: OPT Reports further to resolution 6/18 & 6/19 Follow up to Special Session <i>General debate item 7</i>

#### Tuesday 18th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	<i>General debate item 7 (continued)</i>
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	Panel on Intercultural Dialogue on Human Rights

#### Wednesday 19th March

<b>AM</b>	0900 start	<b>Item 8</b> General Debates <b>Item 9</b> IDs and other reports D Diène: racism; P Kasanda: Working Group on African descent WG on follow up to Durban
<b>PM</b>	1200 start	Ad Hoc Committee on Complementary Standards: oral report <i>General debate item 9</i> <b>RRI</b> Special Rapporteur on Racism
	1500 start	<b>Item 10</b> <i>Interactive dialogue</i> T Pacéré: DRC Y Ghai: Cambodia G Alnajjar: Somalia

#### Thursday 20th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	C Abaka: Liberia VFTC: Oral report <i>General debate item 10</i>
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	<b>RRI</b> Special Rapporteur on DRC Independent Expert on Somalia

#### Friday 21st March

UN Holiday

continued ►

# EXAMPLE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

## 7TH SESSION (3RD-28TH MARCH 2008)

### WEEK 4

#### Monday 24th March

*UN Holiday*

#### Tuesday 25th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	<b>Item 5</b> Complaint Procedure: report <b>Closed Meeting</b> * * * * <b>Item 1</b> Appointment SP mandate holders
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	<b>Item 1</b> HRC Advisory Committee Elections

#### Wednesday 26th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	Decisions and conclusions
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	Decisions and conclusions

#### Thursday 27th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	Decisions and conclusions (continued)
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	Decisions and conclusions (continued)

#### Friday 28th March

<b>AM</b>	1000 start	Decisions and conclusions (continued)
<b>PM</b>	1500 start	<b>Item 1</b> * * * * <i>Report of the session</i>

Found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/7session/PoW190308.pdf>

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

<b>REMIT</b>	The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide expertise and advice to the Human Rights Council and carry out research, as directed by the Council, on thematic issues of interest. It has 18 experts serving in their personal capacity, who serve for 3 years; they can be re-elected, but only once.		
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2007		
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	Independent experts nominated by Member States (in consultation with national human rights organisations and civil society)		
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	Secret ballot by Human Rights Council		
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<p>The geographic distribution of members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 from African States</li> <li>• 5 from Asian States</li> <li>• 2 from Eastern European States</li> <li>• 3 from Latin American and Caribbean States</li> <li>• 3 from Western European and Other States</li> </ul>		
<b>CURRENT MEMBERS; (STATE, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)</b>	Ms Mona Zulficar	Egypt	2010
	Mr Bernards Andrews		
	Nyamwaya Mudho	Kenya	2010
	Mr Dheerujall Seetulsingh	Mauritius	2011
	Ms Halima Embarek Warzazi	Morocco	2009
	Mr Baba Kura Kaigama	Nigeria	2011
	Mr Shiqiu Chen	China	2009
	Mr Shigeki Sakamoto	Japan	2010
	Mr Ansar Ahmed Burney	Pakistan	2011
	Ms Purificacion V Quisumbing	Philippines	2011
	Ms Chung Chinsung	Republic of Korea	2010
	Mr Miguel Alfonso Martínez	Cuba	2009
	Mr José Antonio Bengoa Cabello	Chile	2010
	Mr Héctor Felipe Fix Fierro	Mexico	2011
	Mr Vladimir Kartashkin	Russian Federation	2010
	Mr Latif Hüseyinov	Azerbaijan	2011
	Mr Jean Ziegler	Switzerland	2009
	Mr Wolfgang Stefan Heinz	Germany	2010
	Mr Emmanuel Decaux	France	2011
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council		
<b>MEETS</b>	twice a year; more if necessary		
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	<p>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  Palais des Nations  United Nations  8-14 Avenue de la Paix  1211 Geneva 10  Switzerland</p>		



# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>Generally speaking, the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promotes women's rights in the fields of politics, economics, social, education and civil rights</li> <li>• makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in relation to women's rights</li> <li>• promotes the implementation of the principle of equal rights between men and women</li> <li>• is engaged in following up the Platform for Action developed by the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• women and poverty</li> <li>• education and training of women</li> <li>• women and health</li> <li>• violence against women</li> <li>• women and armed conflict</li> <li>• women and the economy</li> <li>• women in power and decision-making</li> <li>• institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women</li> <li>• human rights of women</li> <li>• women and the media</li> <li>• women and the environment</li> <li>• the girl child</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1946, expanded in 1987
<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>  (STATE, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES – ALL MANDATES EXPIRE ON 31 DECEMBER)	<b>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES</b> Belize - 2009 Brazil - 2011 Dominican Republic - 2008 Ecuador - 2010 El Salvador - 2008 Mauritius - 2008 Mexico - 2010 Paraguay - 2011 Peru - 2009 Surinam - 2008

*continued ►*

# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**CURRENT  
MEMBERS**  
  
(STATE, DATE  
MANDATE EXPIRES  
– ALL MANDATES  
EXPIRE ON 31  
DECEMBER)

## WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES

Belgium - 2011  
Germany - 2009  
Iceland - 2008  
Netherlands - 2009  
Spain - 2011  
Turkey - 2011  
United Kingdom - 2011  
United States of America - 2008

## EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES

Armenia - 2011  
Azerbaijan - 2011  
Croatia - 2009  
Hungary - 2008

## AFRICAN STATES

Cameroon - 2010  
Djibouti - 2010  
Gabon - 2011  
Ghana - 2008  
Lesotho - 2010  
Mali - 2009  
Morocco - 2009  
Namibia - 2011  
Niger - 2011  
Togo - 2010  
United Republic of Tanzania - 2009  
Zambia - 2010

## ASIA-PACIFIC STATES

Cambodia - 2011  
China - 2008  
Indonesia - 2010  
Iran - 2010  
Japan - 2009  
Kazakhstan - 2008  
Malaysia - 2010  
Pakistan - 2011  
Qatar - 2009  
Republic of Korea - 2010  
United Arab Emirates - 2010

*continued ►*

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

<b>REPORTS TO</b>	ECOSOC
<b>MEETS</b>	annually in New York for 10 days, usually in late February or early March
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Division for the Advancement of Women 2 UN Plaza DC2-12th Floor United Nations New York NY 10017 USA
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Tsu-Wei Chang
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 1 212 963 8370
<b>FAX</b>	00 1 212 963 3463
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:csw49@un.org">csw49@un.org</a>
<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw</a>

## COMMITTEES: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

<b>REMIT</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party every 3 to 5 years or as determined by the Committee</li> <li>• inter-state complaints (yet to be used)</li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the right to self-determination (Article 1)</li> <li>• non-discrimination (Articles 2(1) and 26)</li> <li>• equal rights of men and women to enjoy civil and political rights (Article 3)</li> <li>• the right to life (Article 6)</li> <li>• freedom from torture (Article 7)</li> <li>• freedom from slavery (Article 8)</li> <li>• the right to liberty (Article 9)</li> <li>• prisoners' rights (Articles 10 and 11)</li> <li>• the right to freedom of movement (Article 12)</li> <li>• limited immigration rights (Article 13)</li> <li>• the right to a fair trial (Article 14)</li> <li>• the right to family life and privacy (Articles 17 and 23)</li> <li>• freedom of conscience and religion (Articles 18 and 19)</li> <li>• freedom of assembly and association (Articles 21 and 22)</li> <li>• children's rights (Article 24)</li> <li>• minority rights (Article 27)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	18 "persons of high moral character and recognised competence in the field of human rights"; must act "impartially and conscientiously"
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to ICCPR
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to ICCPR; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; regard must be had to: geographical distribution, form of civilisation, type of legal system; half committee stands down every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually

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# COMMITTEES: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

## OUTLINE PROCEDURE

- government submits report
- NGOs make written submissions
- pre-sessional working group, entitled the Country Report Task Force, made up of 5 Committee members including Country Rapporteur, draws up list of issues to be put to government, at least one session ahead of the session at which the report is due to be considered – NGOs are allowed to make oral presentations and suggest questions for Committee to put to government
- at hearing, government presents report and replies to list of issues
- Committee members ask questions
- government replies
- final comments by Committee chair
- concluding observations of the Committee
- closed session to consider concluding observations
- public expression of concluding observations

## CURRENT MEMBERS

(NAME, COUNTRY  
OF ORIGIN, DATE  
MANDATE EXPIRES)

Mr Abdelfattah Amor	Tunisia	2010
Mr Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati	India	2010
Mrs Christine Chanet	France	2010
Mr Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo	Benin	2008
Mr Yuji Iwasawa	Japan	2010
Mr Edwin Johnson Lopez	Ecuador	2008
Mr Walter Kälin	Switzerland	2010
Mr Ahmed Tawfik Khalil	Egypt	2008
Mr Rajsoomer Lallah	Mauritius	2008
Mr Zonke Zanele Majodina	South Africa	2010
Ms Iulia Antoanella Motoc	Romania	2010
Mr Michael O'Flaherty	Ireland	2008
Ms Elizabeth Palm	Sweden	2008
Mr Rafael Rivas Posada	Colombia	2008
Sir Nigel Rodley	UK	2008
Mr José Luis Sanchez-Cerro	Peru	2010
Mr Ivan Shearer	Australia	2008
Ms Ruth Wedgwood	USA	2010

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## COMMITTEES: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	2 months prior to date set for Working Group to draw up list of questions ( <i>see outline procedure above</i> )
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mr Patrice Gillibert
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9332
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9017
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:pgillibert@ohchr.org">pgillibert@ohchr.org</a>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1976
<b>MEETS</b>	Spring (New York), Summer and Autumn (Geneva)
<b>CAME INTO FORCE UK</b>	1976 (but the UK has not ratified the first optional protocol – the second protocol was ratified in 1999)
<b>LAST UK REPORT</b>	considered July 2001
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	November 2006 – to be considered July 2008
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee</i>, Fact Sheet No. 15/Rev.1</li> <li>• <i>The International Bill of Human Rights</i>, Fact sheet No. 2/Rev.1</li> <li>• <i>Complaint Procedures</i>, Fact Sheet No. 7/Rev.1</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Human Rights Committee</i>, Dominic McGoldrick, Clarendon Press, Oxford</li> <li>• <i>The ICCPR: International Human Rights Law in Ireland</i>, Michael O'Flaherty and Liz Heffernan, Brehon Press, Dublin</li> </ul>

## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party every 4 years</li> <li>• individual complaints (not allowed by UK)</li> <li>• inter-state complaints (allowed by UK if state complaining about UK has agreed to accept complaints against itself)</li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cases of torture (Article 1)</li> <li>• cases of other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 16)</li> <li>• cases where people have been deported, returned or extradited to a country where there are substantial grounds for believing they would be in danger of torture (Article 3)</li> <li>• failure to examine complaints about torture and lesser forms of ill-treatment promptly and impartially (Article 13)</li> <li>• failure to pay compensation in cases of torture (Article 14)</li> <li>• reliance in any proceedings against victims on statements extracted from them by torture (Article 15)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	10 "experts of high moral standing and recognised competence in the field of human rights"
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to CAT
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to CAT; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; regard must be had to geographical distribution and usefulness of some members having legal experience; half committee stands down every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually
<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government submits report</li> <li>• NGOs make written submissions</li> <li>• at hearing, government presents report</li> <li>• Country Rapporteur asks questions</li> <li>• other Committee members ask questions</li> <li>• government replies</li> <li>• final comments by Committee members</li> <li>• closed session to consider views</li> <li>• public expression of Committee's conclusions and recommendations</li> </ul>

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	The Committee may also initiate a confidential inquiry if it is in receipt of reliable information containing well-founded indications of serious, grave or systematic violations of CAT by a State Party.		
<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b> (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)	Ms Essadia Belmir	Morocco	2009
	Ms Felice Gaer	USA	2011
	Mr Luis Gallegos Chiriboga	Ecuador	2011
	Mr Abdoulaye Gaye	Senegal	2011
	Mr Claudio Grossman	Chile	2011
	Ms Myrna Kleopas	Cyprus	2011
	Mr Alexander Kovalev	Russian Fed.	2009
	Mr Fernando Mariño Menendez	Spain	2009
	Ms Nora Sveaass	Norway	2009
	Mr Xuexian Wang	China	2009
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland		
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	2 months prior to date set for discussion of next periodic report		
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Mercedes Morales		
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9139		
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9022		
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:mmorales@ohchr.org">mmorales@ohchr.org</a>		
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1988		
<b>MEETS</b>	twice a year in Geneva, in May and November		
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Combating Torture</i>, Fact Sheet No. 4/Rev.1</li> <li>• <i>The Committee against Torture</i>, Fact Sheet No. 17</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The United Nations Convention Against Torture</i>, Burgers J H and Danelius H, Nijhoff, Dordrecht/Boston/London 1988</li> </ul>		
<b>OTHER REMARKS</b>	See also <i>Special Rapporteur on Torture</i>		



## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

<b>REMIT</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) • periodic reports by States Party usually due every 5 years
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equal rights for men and women to enjoy economic, social and cultural rights (Article 3)</li> <li>• employment rights (Articles 6 and 7)</li> <li>• trade union rights (Article 8)</li> <li>• social security rights (Article 9)</li> <li>• family rights (Article 10)</li> <li>• rights to an adequate standard of living (Article 11) and health care (Article 12)</li> <li>• education rights (Articles 13 and 14)</li> <li>• the right to participate in cultural life, benefit from scientific progress, and copyright and patent rights (Article 15)</li> <li>• all the above rights to be enjoyed without any discrimination (Article 2.2)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	18 "experts with recognised competence in the field of human rights"
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to ICESCR
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by ECOSOC; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; regard must be had to: geographical distribution, type of social and legal system; half committee stands down every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	ECOSOC
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually

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# COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

## OUTLINE PROCEDURE

- government submits report
- NGOs make submissions
- NGOs can request the opportunity to make oral submissions at the beginning of the pre-sessional working group, which meets in the week following each session to plan the work of future sessions. The government is not present for this. NGOs can suggest questions to be put to the government
- Usually one member of the pre-sessional working group takes responsibility for each country reporting, i.e. preparing a draft list of issues to be considered by the pre-sessional working group and drafting the Committee's concluding observations
- NGOs can also request an opportunity to make oral submissions at the first public meeting of the session itself. The government does not participate but can observe
- the country report is considered over three 3-hour meetings during the session
- Committee meets in private to consider and adopt its concluding observations

CURRENT MEMBERS  (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)			
	Mr Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim	Egypt	2008
	Mr Clement Atangana	Cameroon	2010
	Ms Rocio Barahona Riera	Costa Rica	2008
	Ms Virginia Bonoan-Dandan	Philippines	2010
	Ms Maria Virginia Bras Gomes	Portugal	2010
	Mr Chandrashekhara Dasgupta	India	2010
	Mr Azzouz Kerdoun	Algeria	2010
	Mr Yuri Kolosov	Russian Fed.	2010
	Mr Jaime Marchan Romero	Ecuador	2010
	Mr Sergei Martynov	Belarus	2008
	Mr Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay	Mauritius	2008
	Mr Eibe Riedel	Germany	2010
	Mr Andrzej Rzeplinski	Poland	2008
	Mr Walid Sa'di	Jordan	2008
	Mr Philippe Texier	France	2008
	Mr Alvaro Tirado Mejia	Columbia	2010
	Ms Barbara Elaine Wilson	Switzerland	2008
	Mr Daode Zhan	China	2008

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	at least 2 months prior to date set for discussion of report
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Wan-Hea Lee
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9154
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9046
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:wlee@ohchr.org">wlee@ohchr.org</a>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1985
<b>MEETS</b>	May and November, in Geneva
<b>CAME INTO FORCE UK</b>	1976
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	Submitted in July 2007 – to be reviewed by a pre-session working group in May 2008, to be considered in plenary in May 2009
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i>, Fact Sheet No. 16/Rev.1</li> <li>• <i>The International Bill of Human Rights</i>, Fact Sheet No. 2/Rev.1</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The ICCESR: A Perspective on its Development</i>, Matthew Craven, 1995</li> </ul>

## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party every 2 years</li> <li>• individual complaints (Article 14 – Ireland only)</li> <li>• inter-state complaints (yet to be used)</li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• racial discrimination (Article 2)</li> <li>• racial segregation (Article 3)</li> <li>• racist propaganda (Article 4)</li> <li>• equal rights (Article 5)</li> <li>• effective remedies against racism (Article 6)</li> <li>• action to combat prejudice and promote "understanding, tolerance and friendship" between races and ethnic groups (Article 7)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	18 "experts of high moral standing and acknowledged impartially" serving in a personal capacity
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to CERD
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to CERD; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; regard must be had to: geographical distribution, form of civilisation, type of legal system; half committee stands down every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly, via Secretary General
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually
<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government submits report</li> <li>• NGOs make submissions</li> <li>• at hearing, government presents report</li> <li>• Country Rapporteur asks questions</li> <li>• other Committee members ask questions</li> <li>• government replies</li> <li>• final comments by Committee members</li> <li>• open session to conduct concluding observations but closed session to adopt views on Article 14 communications</li> <li>• public expression of Committee's views</li> </ul> <p>The Committee also has early-warning and urgent-action procedures designed to prevent the escalation of any breach of CERD.</p>

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>  (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)	Mr Mahmoud Aboul-Nasr	Egypt	2010
	Mr Nourredine Amir	Algeria	2010
	Mr Alexei S. Avtonomov	Russian Fed.	2012
	Mr José Francisco Cali Tzay	Guatemala	2012
	Ms Fatima-Binta Victoria Dah	Burkina Faso	2012
	Mr Ian Diaconu	Romania	2012
	Mr Kokou Maweuena Ika		
	Kana (Diudonnè) Ewomsan	Togo	2010
	Mr Régis de Gouttes	France	2010
	Mr Huang Yong'an	China	2012
	Mr Anwar Kemal	Pakistan	2010
	Mr Morten Kjaerum	Denmark	2010
	Mr Dilip Lahiri	India	2012
	Mr José Augusto Lindgren Alves	Brazil	2010
	Mr Pastor Ellis Murillo Martinez	Columbia	2012
	Mr Chris Maina Peter	Tanzania	2012
	Mr Pierre-Richard Prosper	USA	2012
	Mr Linos-Alexander Sicilianos	Greece	2010
	Mr Patrick Thornberry	UK	2010
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland		
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	There is no formal deadline for NGO submissions, but it is advisable to allow 2 months prior to date set for discussion of periodic report.		

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Nathalie Prouvez
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9309
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9029
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:nprouvez@ohchr.org">nprouvez@ohchr.org</a>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1969
<b>MEETS</b>	February/March and August
<b>CAME INTO FORCE UK</b>	1969
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	April 2006 – Overdue
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</i>, Fact Sheet No. 12</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Using the international human rights system to combat racial discrimination</i>, Amnesty International</li> </ul>

# COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party every 4 years, or as determined by the Committee</li> <li>• individual complaints – see <i>Making Complaints under the Optional Protocols</i></li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discrimination against women (Articles 1-4)</li> <li>• sex roles and stereotyping (Article 5)</li> <li>• violence against women, trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution (Article 6)</li> <li>• women's rights to participate in public and political life (Articles 7 and 8) and social and economic life (Article 13)</li> <li>• nationality rights, especially on marriage (Article 9)</li> <li>• equal rights in education (Article 10), employment (Article 11), and health care (Article 12)</li> <li>• rights of rural women (Article 14)</li> <li>• marriage and family rights (Article 16)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	23 “experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention” serving in a personal capacity
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to CEDAW
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to CEDAW; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; form of civilisation, type of legal system and the “principle of rotation” are all considered
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly, via ECOSOC
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually
<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs must provide submissions prior to pre-session working group</li> <li>• NGOs make submissions in written and oral form at pre-session working group</li> <li>• UN bodies and specialised agencies provide written and oral information to the Committee in a closed meeting</li> <li>• questions drawn up by pre-session working group of committee</li> </ul>

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# COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

## OUTLINE PROCEDURE

*continued*

- questions sent to government 3-4 months in advance of hearing
- governments reply in writing (in time for responses to be translated into all UN languages)
- government presents report at hearing
- the Committee asks questions thematically (Articles 1-6), (Articles 7-9), (Articles 10-14) and (Articles 15-16)
- government replies
- concluding observations are made by the Committee members
- Under the Optional Protocol, the Committee may also initiate a confidential inquiry if it is in receipt of reliable information containing well-founded indications of serious, grave or systematic violations of CEDAW by a State Party.

<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>  (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)			
	Ms Ferdous Ara Begum	Bangladesh	2010
	Ms Magalys Arocha Dominguez	Cuba	2008
	Ms Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani	Algeria	2010
	Ms Saisuree Chutikul	Thailand	2010
	Ms Dorcas Coker-Appiah	Ghana	2010
	Ms Mary Shanthi Dairiam	Malaysia	2008
	Mr Cornelis Flinterman	Netherlands	2010
	Ms Naela Mohammed Gabr	Egypt	2010
	Ms Françoise Gaspard	France	2008
	Ms Ruth Halperin-Kaddari	Israel	2010
	Ms Tiziana Maiolo	Italy	2008
	Ms Violeta Neubauer	Slovenia	2010
	Ms Pramila Patten	Mauritius	2010
	Ms Silvia Pimentel	Brazil	2008
	Ms Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling	Germany	2008
	Ms Heisoo Shin	Rep. of Korea	2008
	Ms Glenda P Simms	Jamaica	2008
	Ms Dubravka Simonovic	Croatia	2010
	Ms Anamah Tan	Singapore	2008
	Ms Maria Regina Tavares de Silva	Portugal	2008
	Ms Zou Ziaogiao	China	2008
	Ms Yoko Hayashi	Japan	2010

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais Wilson United Nations CH 1211 Geneva, 10 Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	3 or 4 months prior to date set for discussion of periodic report
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Philomena Kintu
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 1212 963 3153
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:kintup@un.org">kintup@un.org</a>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1981
<b>MEETS</b>	once a year, in New York
<b>CAME INTO FORCE UK</b>	1986
<b>LAST UK REPORT</b>	2007 (fifth and sixth periodic reports of UK to be considered at its forty-first session June-July 2008)
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	2011
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: • <i>Discrimination against Women: the Convention and the Committee</i> , Fact Sheet No. 22
<b>OTHER REMARKS</b>	<i>See also Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Commission on the Status of Women</i>

# COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party, every 5 years</li> <li>• the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</li> <li>• the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict</li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-discrimination (Article 2)</li> <li>• best interests of the child (Article 3)</li> <li>• right of life, survival and development (Article 6)</li> <li>• respect for the views of the child (Article 12)</li> <li>• name and nationality (Article 7)</li> <li>• preservation of identity (Article 8)</li> <li>• freedom of expression (Article 13)</li> <li>• access to appropriate information (Article 17)</li> <li>• freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 14)</li> <li>• freedom of association and of peaceful assembly (Article 15)</li> <li>• protection of privacy (Article 16)</li> <li>• the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 37 (a))</li> <li>• parental guidance (Article 5)</li> <li>• parental responsibilities (Article 18, paras 1-2)</li> <li>• separation from parents (Article 9)</li> <li>• family reunification (Article 10)</li> <li>• recovery of maintenance for the child (Article 27, para. 4)</li> <li>• children deprived of a family environment (Article 20)</li> <li>• adoption (Article 21)</li> <li>• illicit transfer and non-return (Article 11)</li> <li>• abuse and neglect (Article 19), including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (Article 39)</li> <li>• periodic review of placement (Article 25)</li> <li>• survival and development (Article 6, para. 2)</li> <li>• disabled children (Article 24)</li> <li>• health and health services (Article 24)</li> <li>• social security and child-care services and facilities (Articles 26 and 18, para. 3)</li> <li>• standard of living (Article 27, paras 1-3)</li> <li>• education, including vocational training and guidance (Article 28)</li> <li>• aims of education (Article 29)</li> <li>• leisure, recreation and cultural activities (Article 31)</li> <li>• refugee children (Article 22)</li> </ul>

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children in armed conflicts (Article 38), including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (Article 39)</li> <li>• the administration of juvenile justice (Article 40)</li> <li>• children deprived of their liberty, including any form of detention, imprisonment or placement in custodial settings (Article 37 (b), (c) and (d))</li> <li>• the sentencing of juveniles, in particular the prohibition of capital punishment and life imprisonment (Article 37 (a))</li> <li>• physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (Article 39)</li> <li>• economic exploitation, including child labour (Article 32)</li> <li>• drug abuse (Article 33)</li> <li>• sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 34)</li> <li>• other forms of exploitation (Article 36)</li> <li>• sale, trafficking and abduction (Article 35) of children belonging to a minority or an indigenous group (Article 30)</li> <li>• sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Optional Protocol on the sale of children)</li> <li>• child soldiers (Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict)</li> </ul>
<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	18 "experts of high moral standing and recognised competence in the field covered by the Convention" serving in a personal capacity
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to CRC
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to CRC; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; the membership of half of the committee expires every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly, via ECOSOC; in addition to the biennial report to the General Assembly via ECOSOC, a report is issued at the end of each session
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	every 2 years

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### OUTLINE PROCEDURE

- government submits report; Secretariat prepares country analysis; and NGOs, relevant UN bodies and specialised agencies make submissions – as part of a constructive dialogue
- pre-sessional working group of the CRC meets in private to prepare for the next session. It receives input from NGOs, relevant UN bodies and specialised agencies and draws up a list of issues to address to reporting governments
- governments are requested to supply written answers to the list of issues before the session
- at the session, government presents report
- Country Rapporteur(s) and other CRC members ask questions
- government replies
- CRC members make preliminary oral observations
- CRC meets in private to draft concluding (in some cases, preliminary) observations in writing
- the CRC's observations are formally adopted in public during the final meeting of the session

<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>  (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)			
	Ms Agnes Akosua Aidoo	Ghana	2011
	Mr Alya Ahmed Bin Saif Al-Thani	Qatar	2009
	Ms Joyce Aluoch	Kenya	2009
	Mr Luigi Citarella	Italy	2011
	Mr Kamel Filali	Algeria	2011
	Ms Maria Herczog	Hungary	2011
	Ms Moushira Khattab	Egypt	2011
	Mr Hatem Kotrane	Tunisia	2011
	Mr Lothar Friedrich Krappman	Germany	2011
	Mr Yanghee Lee	Rep. of Korea	2009
	Ms Rosa Maria Ortiz	Paraguay	2011
	Mr David Brent Parfitt	Canada	2009
	Mr Awich Pollar	Uganda	2009
	Mr Dainius Puras	Lithuania	2011
	Mr Kamal Siddiqui	Bangladesh	2009
	Ms Lucy Smith	Norway	2009
	Ms Nevena Vuckovic-Sahovic	Serbia	2009
	Mr Jean Zermatten	Switzerland	2009

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	2 months prior to date set for discussion of report in pre-sessional working group
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Maja Andrijasevic-Boko
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9216
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9029
<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>mandrijasevic-boko@ohchr.org</b>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1990
<b>MEETS</b>	3 times a year, in Geneva
<b>CAME INTO FORCE UK</b>	1991
<b>OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS</b>	Optional Protocol on the sale on children (signed in 2000, but not ratified) Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (ratified in 2003)
<b>LAST UK REPORT</b>	2007 – considered September 2008
<b>NEXT UK REPORT</b>	2014
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Rights of the Child</i>, Fact Sheet No. 10/Rev.1</li> <li>• <i>Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children</i>, Fact Sheet No. 23</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guide for NGOs produced by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> (3rd ed, 2006), available at: <b><a href="http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=12388&amp;flag">http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=12388&amp;flag</a></b></li> </ul>
<b>OTHER REMARKS</b>	See also <i>Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography</i>

# COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

<b>REMIT</b>	<p>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CPRMW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic reports by States Party every 5 years, with an initial report 1 year after ratification</li> <li>• neither Ireland nor the UK have signed this treaty – in accordance with EU policy</li> </ul>
<b>TYPE OF ISSUES CONSIDERED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• freedom of movement (Article 8)</li> <li>• the right to life (Article 9)</li> <li>• freedom from torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment (Article 10)</li> <li>• freedom from slavery and servitude (Article 11)</li> <li>• freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 12)</li> <li>• freedom of expression (Article 13)</li> <li>• the right to a private and family life (Article 14)</li> <li>• the right to property ownership (Article 15)</li> <li>• freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention (Article 16)</li> <li>• the right to equality before a court or tribunal (Article 18)</li> <li>• the right to be free from retrospective punishment (Article 19)</li> <li>• the right not to be imprisoned for breach of contract (Article 20)</li> <li>• the right to documentation (Article 21)</li> <li>• freedom from collective expulsion (Articles 22 and 56)</li> <li>• the right to recognition before the law (Article 24)</li> <li>• the right to equality with regards to employment law and state benefit, etc. (Articles 25, 27, 28, 43 and 45)</li> <li>• freedom to associate, particularly with trade unions (Article 26 and 40)</li> <li>• the right to respect for cultural identity (Article 31)</li> <li>• the right to transfer personal effects and belongings (Article 32)</li> <li>• the right to be involved in the public affairs (including elections) of their state of origin (Article 41)</li> <li>• the right to be informed of rights under the CPRMW (Article 33)</li> <li>• the right to transfer remittances (Articles 32 and 47)</li> <li>• State Party's obligation to maintain appropriate migration services (Articles 63 and 67)</li> <li>• State Party's obligation to prevent and eliminate illegal movements and employment of irregular migrants (trafficking and smuggling) (Article 68)</li> </ul>

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

<b>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</b>	10 “experts of high moral character, impartiality and recognised competence in the field” covered by the Convention serving in a personal capacity (the number of members is due to increase to 14 once the Convention has 41 State Parties)
<b>HOW NOMINATED</b>	by States party to CPRMW
<b>HOW ELECTED</b>	by States party to CPRMW; for 4-year periods; can stand again; no more than one member per country; half committee stands down every 2 years
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	General Assembly
<b>REPORTS WHEN</b>	annually
<b>OUTLINE PROCEDURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government submits report</li> <li>• report is copied to the ILO</li> <li>• the ILO, NGOs, relevant UN bodies and specialised agencies make submissions (NGO submissions should also be copied to the NGO group – see below)</li> <li>• at the session, government presents report</li> <li>• CPRMW members ask questions</li> <li>• government replies</li> <li>• CPRMW members make preliminary oral observations</li> <li>• CPRMW meets in private to draft concluding (in some cases, preliminary) observations in writing</li> <li>• the CPRMW's observations are adopted in public during the final meeting of the session</li> </ul>

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## COMMITTEES: COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>  (NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, DATE MANDATE EXPIRES)	Francisco Alba	Mexico	2011
	José S Brillantes	Philippines	2009
	Ana Elizabeth Cubias Medina	El Salvador	2011
	Anamaría Dieguez Arévalo	Guatemala	2009
	Ahmed Hassan El-Borai	Egypt	2011
	Abdelhamid El Jamri	Morocco	2011
	Prasad Kariyawasam	Sri Lanka	2009
	Myriam Poussi Konsimbo	Burkina Faso	2011
	Mehmet Sevim	Turkey	2009
	Azad Taghizadet	Azerbaijan	2009
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland		
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	2 months prior to date set for discussion of next periodic report		
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms Carla Edelenbos		
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9241		
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9029		
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:cedelenbos@ohchr.org">cedelenbos@ohchr.org</a>		
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2004		
<b>MEETS</b>	annually, in Geneva		
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: • <i>The International Convention on Migrant Workers and its Committee</i> , Fact Sheet No. 24/Rev.1		
	Other: • NGO Group for the International Convention on Migrant Workers and its Committee at: <a href="http://www.december18.net">www.december18.net</a>		
<b>OTHER REMARKS</b>	See also <i>Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrant Workers</i>		



## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

<b>MANDATE</b>	<p>To investigate and report upon freedom of religion or belief, and to recommend remedial measures for situations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• harassment</li> <li>• arbitrary arrest and detention</li> <li>• torture and ill-treatment</li> <li>• violations of the right to life</li> <li>• desecration or destruction of places of worship, religious sanctuaries, property or cemeteries</li> <li>• abuse of anti-blasphemy laws</li> <li>• violations of the right to freedom of movement</li> <li>• violations of the right to freedom of expression</li> </ul> <p>The mandate also allows the promotion of the adoption of measures at national, regional and international levels to ensure the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of religion or belief; the identification of existing and emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief and presents recommendations on ways and means to overcome such obstacles; and the continued application of a gender perspective, through the identification of gender-specific abuses, in the reporting process.</p>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1986
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council and General Assembly
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Asma Jahangir (Pakistan)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Michael Wiener
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9159
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:freedomofreligion@ohchr.org">freedomofreligion@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief</i></li> <li>• UK Country Report, 2008: A/HRC/7/10/Add.3</li> </ul>

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS

<b>MANDATE</b>	<p>To examine, report upon, take the necessary steps to prevent, and make recommendations for the prevention of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• violations of the right to life arising from the death penalty</li> <li>• deaths in custody</li> <li>• deaths due to the use of force by law enforcement officials (e.g. police, soldiers, bailiffs, etc.)</li> <li>• death threats and fear of execution carried out without the sanction of the courts (extrajudicial executions)</li> <li>• violations of the right to life during armed conflicts</li> <li>• expulsions to a country where the person's life is in danger</li> <li>• genocide</li> <li>• failure to investigate violations of the right to life</li> <li>• failure to compensate victims of such violations</li> </ul> <p>Any of these violations by a government can happen because of their actions, omissions or collusion. Perpetrators can include governments and paramilitary groups or private individuals cooperating with or tolerated by the government.</p>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1982
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	subject to review in June or September 2008
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative, but will only entertain complaints arising since 1992. Priority is given to cases arising in the current year
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Philip Alston(Australia)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Eric Mongelard
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9447
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:emongelard@ohchr.org">emongelard@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Summary or Arbitrary Executions</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 11/Rev.1</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports referencing the UK: E/CN.4/2005/7/Add.1 and /CN.4/2006/53/Add.1</li> <li>• <i>UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Execution</i></li> </ul>

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: TORTURE

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine questions relevant to torture</li> <li>• To seek and receive credible and reliable information on such questions</li> <li>• To make urgent appeals for clarification to governments on behalf of individuals who may be, or be at risk of, being tortured – see <i>Urgent Cases</i></li> <li>• To send allegations for clarification to governments on behalf of alleged victims of torture and to make recommendations with a view to prevent further violations</li> <li>• To make fact-finding missions to countries</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1985
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	subject to review in 2008
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly on general trends falling within this mandate
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Manfred Nowak (Austria)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations UNOG-OHCHR, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	October to be sure of being in next report, but submissions can be made at any time
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Safiruddeen Syed and Ms Birgit Kainz
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9230 and 9704
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:ssyed@ohchr.org">ssyed@ohchr.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:bkainz@ohchr.org">bkainz@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Methods of Combating Torture</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 4 and UN Fact Sheet No.17</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report referencing the UK: A/HRC/4/33/Add.1</li> <li>• <i>Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</i></li> <li>• <i>Istanbul Protocol</i>, available at: <a href="http://www2.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/8istprot.pdf">http://www2.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/8istprot.pdf</a></li> <li>• <i>Torture Reporting Handbook</i>, University of Essex</li> <li>• <i>The Prevention of Torture in Europe</i>, series of handbooks by the Association for the Prevention of Torture, <a href="http://www.apt.ch">http://www.apt.ch</a></li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To investigate, record and report upon attacks on the independence of judges, lawyers and court officials</li> <li>• To record and report upon measures taken to protect and enhance the independence of judges, lawyers and court officials</li> <li>• To make concrete proposals for protecting and enhancing their independence</li> <li>• To study important and topical questions of principle relevant to the mandate and make proposals</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1994, following the work of a predecessor at the Sub-Commission, 1989-1993
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	subject to review in June 2008
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Leandro Despouy (Argentina)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Julia Raue
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9158
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9003
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:jraue@ohchr.org">jraue@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report referencing the UK: A/HRC/4/25/Add.1</li> <li>• <i>UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary</i></li> <li>• <i>UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers</i></li> <li>• <i>UN Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors</i></li> <li>• <i>Un Manual No.9 on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers</i></li> </ul>

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

<b>MANDATE</b>	<p>Violence against women, its causes and consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the family – including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women</li> <li>• in the community – including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution</li> <li>• as perpetrated or condoned by the state – including during times of armed conflict and:</li> <li>• to ensure states act to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1994
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Yakin Ertürk
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	October
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Jan Hessbruegge
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9192
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:jhessbruegge@ohchr.org">jhessbruegge@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Discrimination against Women: the Convention and the Committee</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 22</li> <li>• <i>Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 23</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports referencing the UK: E/CN.4/2001/83/Add.1 and E/CN.4/2005/72/Add.1</li> </ul>

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression</li> <li>• To investigate discrimination, threats, violence , harassment, persecution and intimidation of people exercising or promoting the right to freedom of expression or opinion, especially professionals working in the field of information</li> <li>• To seek and receive information from governments, NGOs, and others with relevant knowledge</li> <li>• To make recommendations on ways and means to better promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1993
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Ambeyi Ligabo (Kenya)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS BY</b>	September
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Renato Mariani
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<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:rmariani@ohchr.org">rmariani@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Special Rapporteur's 1995 report, E/CN.4/1995/32 explores the remit in depth, and the 1996 report, E/CN.4/1996/39, develops the theme.</li> <li>• Report referencing the UK: E/CN.4/2000/63/Add.3</li> <li>• <i>The Virtual Freedom of Expression Handbook</i>, available from Article 19, at: <a href="http://www.article19.org/publications/law/the-handbook.html">http://www.article19.org/publications/law/the-handbook.html</a></li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF RACISM

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and discrimination against black people, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, Negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance</li> <li>• To examine government measures in place to overcome forms of racism.</li> <li>• To produce recommendations, in consultation with governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs, on human rights education to the prevention of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1993
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Doudou Diène (Senegal)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	OHCHR-UNOG United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Gloria Carrera
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9120
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:gcarrera@ohchr.org">gcarrera@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Complementary International Standards: Report on the study by the five experts on the content and scope of substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance</i>, available at: <a href="http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=F207V20868Q94.82220&amp;profile=bibga&amp;uri=full=3100001~!839795~!7&amp;ri=1&amp;aspect=alpha&amp;menu=search&amp;source=~!horizon#focus">http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=F207V20868Q94.82220&amp;profile=bibga&amp;uri=full=3100001~!839795~!7&amp;ri=1&amp;aspect=alpha&amp;menu=search&amp;source=~!horizon#focus</a></li> <li>• Report referencing the UK: E/CN.4/1996/72/Add.4</li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: COUNTERING TERRORISM

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make recommendations on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism</li> <li>• To identify and promote best practices on measures to counter terrorism that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms</li> <li>• To consult with relevant sources, including governments, NGOs and individuals</li> <li>• To develop a dialogue and encourage cooperation with governments and relevant actors including UN bodies</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	2004
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2010
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Martin Scheinin (Finland)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	OHCHR-UNOG United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Sonia Cronin
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9160
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:scronin@ohchr.org">scronin@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of the Special Rapporteur's mandate by the Human Rights Council: <a href="http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_28.pdf">http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_28.pdf</a></li> <li>• Report of mission to the United States (2007): <a href="http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_28.pdf">http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_28.pdf</a></li> </ul>



# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

<b>MANDATE</b>	To investigate matters relating to the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sale of children</li> <li>• child prostitution</li> <li>• child pornography</li> </ul> To make recommendations to afford protection for the children affected
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1991
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Najat M'jid Maala (Morocco)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Thierry Del Prado
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<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:tdelprado@ohchr.org">tdelprado@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Fact Sheet No. 27</li> </ul> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Convention on The Rights of the Child</i></li> <li>• <i>Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography</i></li> <li>• <i>Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children</i></li> <li>• ILO Conventions 138 &amp; 182 concerning child labour</li> <li>• ILO Brochure: <i>The Invisible Children</i></li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: RIGHT TO EDUCATION

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To report on the status, throughout the world, of the progressive realisation of the right to education, including access to primary education, and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of this right</li> <li>• To promote, as appropriate, assistance to governments in working out and adopting urgent plans of action to secure the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years, of the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all</li> <li>• To take into account gender considerations, in particular the situation and needs of the girl child, and to promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination in education</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1998
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2010
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Vernor Muñoz Villalobos (Costa Rica)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Myriam Tebourbi
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9330
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9010
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:mtebourbi@ohchr.org">mtebourbi@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report referencing Northern Ireland: Report on Northern Ireland E/CN.4/2003/9/Add.1</li> <li>• Report referencing the UK: Report E/CN.4/2000/6/Add.2</li> <li>• See the website <a href="http://www.right-to-education.org/">http://www.right-to-education.org/</a>, which focuses on the right to education</li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: RIGHT TO FOOD

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the full realisation of the right to food and the adoption of measures at the national, regional and international levels for the realisation of the right of everyone to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger so as to be able to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities</li> <li>• To examine ways and means of overcoming existing and emerging obstacles to the realisation of the right to food</li> <li>• To continue mainstreaming a gender perspective and taking into account an age dimension in the fulfilment of the mandate, considering that women and children are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	2000
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2010
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council and General Assembly
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Olivier de Schutter (Belgium)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Frederica Donati
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9496
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9010
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:fdonati@ohchr.org">fdonati@ohchr.org</a>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: ADEQUATE HOUSING

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the full realisation of adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living</li> <li>• To identify best practices as well as challenges and obstacles to the full realisation of the right to adequate housing, and identify protection gaps in this regard</li> <li>• To give particular emphasis to practical solutions with regard to the implementation of the rights relevant to the mandate</li> <li>• To apply a gender perspective, including through the identification of gender-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the right to adequate housing and land</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	2000
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2010
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/reporting
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council and General Assembly
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Raquel Rolnik (Brazil)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Mr Bahram Ghazi
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9177
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:bghazi@ohchr.org">bghazi@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Human Right to Adequate Housing</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 21</li> <li>• <i>Forced Evictions and Human Rights</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 25</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest report on women and housing: E/CN.4/2006/</li> <li>• Issue of forced evictions is examined at: <a href="http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/evictions.htm">http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/evictions.htm</a></li> </ul>

## SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To request and receive information on violations of the human rights of migrants and their families</li> <li>• To make recommendations to prevent and remedy violations of the human rights of migrants, wherever they may occur</li> <li>• To promote the effective application of relevant international norms and standards on the issue</li> <li>• To recommend actions and measures applicable at national, regional and international levels to eliminate violations of the human rights of migrants</li> <li>• To take into account a gender perspective when requesting and analysing information, as well as to give special attention to the occurrence of multiple discrimination and violence against migrant women</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	1999
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Mr Jorge A. Bustamante (Mexico)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANT'S NAME</b>	Ms Sepideh Mohadjer
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9687
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9005
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:smohadjer@ohchr.org">smohadjer@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest report is: A/HRC/4/24/Add.1</li> <li>• Human Rights of Migrants, outline of mandate: E/CN.4/RES/1999/44</li> </ul>

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR: CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

<b>MANDATE</b>	<p>To examine and report on all contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on aspects of slavery that are not covered by existing mandates of the Human Rights Council</li> <li>• promote the effective application of relevant international norms and standards on slavery</li> <li>• request, receive and exchange information on contemporary forms of slavery from governments, treaty bodies, special procedures, specialised agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other relevant sources, including on slavery practices, and, as appropriate and in line with current practice, respond effectively to reliable information on alleged human rights violations with a view to protecting the human rights of victims of slavery and preventing violations</li> <li>• Recommend actions and measures applicable to national, regional and international levels to eliminate slavery practices wherever they occur, including remedies which address the causes and consequences of contemporary forms of slavery, such as poverty, discrimination and conflict, as well as the existence of demand factors and relevant measures to strengthen international cooperation</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	2007
<b>POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia)
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: <i>Contemporary Forms of Slavery</i> , UN Fact Sheet No. 14

*Note: The Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery replaced the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in late 2007.*

# SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek, receive, examine and respond to information on the situation and the rights of anyone, acting individually or in association with others, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms</li> <li>• To establish cooperation and conduct dialogue with governments and other interested actors on the promotion and effective implementation of the Declaration</li> <li>• To recommend effective strategies to better protect human rights defenders and follow up on these recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>MANDATE CREATED</b>	2000
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>TYPE OF MANDATE</b>	thematic/investigative
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council and General Assembly
<b>CURRENT POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Margaret Sekaggya (Uganda)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Palais des Nations, United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>ASSISTANTS' NAME</b>	Ms Mara Steccazzini and Guillaume Pfeiffle
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9140 and 9151
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:msteccazzini@ohchr.org">msteccazzini@ohchr.org</a> and <a href="mailto:gpfeiffle@ohchr.org">gpfeiffle@ohchr.org</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Fact Sheet 27 on Special Rapporteurs</li> <li>• UN Fact Sheet 29 on Human Rights Defenders</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</i> adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1998</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER REMARKS</b>	For guidelines on making submissions, see <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/complaints.htm">www.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/complaints.htm</a>

## WORKING GROUP: ARBITRARY DETENTION

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To investigate cases of deprivation of liberty imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards</li> <li>• To seek and receive information from governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and receive information from the individuals concerned, their families or their representatives</li> <li>• To act on information submitted to its attention regarding alleged cases of arbitrary detention by sending urgent appeals and communications to concerned governments to clarify and to bring to their attention these cases</li> <li>• To conduct field missions upon the invitation of government, in order to understand better the situations prevailing in countries, as well as the underlying reasons for instances of arbitrary deprivation of liberty</li> <li>• To formulate deliberations on issues of a general nature in order to assist States to prevent and guard against the practice of arbitrary deprivation of liberty and to facilitate consideration of future cases</li> </ul>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1991
<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>	Mr Aslan Abashidze (Russia) Ms Manuela Carmena Castrillo (Spain) Mr Roberto Garretón (Chile) Mr Seyed Mohammed Hashemi (Iran) Mr Malick El Hadji Sow (Senegal)
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>MEETS</b>	3 times per year
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights United Nations Office at Geneva 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mr Miguel de la Lama
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9289
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:mdelalama.hchr@unog.ch">mdelalama.hchr@unog.ch</a>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 26</li> </ul> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment</i></li> <li>• Report Referencing the UK, E/CN.4/1999/63/Add.3</li> </ul>



## WORKING GROUP: ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive and examine reports of people who have disappeared from relatives or NGOs acting on their behalf</li> <li>• To transmit those reports to governments and ask them to investigate and report back to the Working Group</li> <li>• To monitor States' compliance with the UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances</li> <li>• To visit countries in order to investigate and to make recommendations for the prevention of and remedies for disappearances</li> <li>• To pay particular attention to cases concerning human rights defenders and those cases that are most urgent from a humanitarian perspective</li> <li>• To promote communication between the families of disappeared people and the relevant government</li> </ul>
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	1980
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES/IS DUE FOR RENEWAL</b>	2011
<b>CURRENT MEMBERS</b>	Mr Santiago Corcuera Cabezut (Mexico) Mr Darko Götlicher (Croatia) Mr Saeed Rajaei Khorasani (Iran) Mr Jeremy Sarkin (South Africa) Mr Stephen J. Toope (Canada)
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>MEETS</b>	3 times a year (Geneva)
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances OHCHR-UNOG, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<b>SUBMISSIONS</b>	At any time. Submission should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity of the disappeared person</li> <li>• Date on which the disappearance occurred (at least the month and year)</li> <li>• Place of arrest or abduction, or where the disappeared person was last seen</li> <li>• Forces (State or State-supported) believed to be responsible for the disappearance</li> <li>• Action taken by the relatives or others to locate the person (inquiries with police, jail, human rights commission, habeas corpus petition, etc.). If action was not possible, please explain why</li> <li>• Identity of the person or organisation submitting the report (name and address) and whether this information should be kept confidential</li> </ul>

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## WORKING GROUP: ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

<b>SECRETARY</b>	Pending designation
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	00 41 22 917 9176
<b>FAX</b>	00 41 22 917 9006
<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>wgeid@ohchr.org</b>
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	<p>UN Factsheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 6/Rev.2</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances</i></li> <li>• <i>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</i> (not yet in force)</li> </ul>

## INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON MINORITY ISSUES

<b>MANDATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine and report on minority issues especially those that arise under the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities</li> <li>• To promote the effective application of the Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, including the protection and promotion of the identities of minorities; the right to maintain identity; the right to non-discrimination, especially when exercising their rights: states must have due regard for the legitimate interests of minorities in the implementation of national policies and programmes</li> <li>• To identify best practices and the possibilities for cooperation with the OHCHR</li> <li>• To apply a gender perspective in his/her work</li> <li>• To cooperate closely with existing UN bodies and mechanisms</li> <li>• To consider the views of NGOs on matters pertaining to the mandate</li> <li>• To guide the work of the Forum on Minority Issues</li> <li>• To submit annual reports</li> </ul>	
<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2005	
<b>MANDATE EXPIRES</b>	2011	
<b>POST HOLDER</b>	Ms Gay McDougall	
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Human Rights Council	
<b>ASSISTANTS</b>	Graham Fox	Erik Friberg
<b>EMAIL</b>	<a href="mailto:gfox@ohchr.org">gfox@ohchr.org</a>	<a href="mailto:efriberg@ohchr.org">efriberg@ohchr.org</a>
<b>UN ADDRESS</b>	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights Palais des Nations United Nations 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland	
<b>FURTHER READING</b>	UN Factsheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minority Rights</i>, UN Fact Sheet No. 18 (Rev.1)</li> </ul>	

## FORUM ON MINORITIES

The Working Group on Minority Issues was a Special Procedures mandate created in 1992 by the UN Commission on Human Rights. In September 2007 the Working Group was replaced with a Forum on Minority Issues. The Forum "shall identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities." The Forum will meet annually, for two days. The Chairperson will be nominated by members and observers of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and appointed by the President of the HRC. The work of the Forum will be reviewed after four years.

## COUNTRY MANDATES

The UN has a number of Special Procedures which examine specific countries. Each has their own country-specific mandate; further details can be found at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countries.htm>.

<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Belarus</b> Mr Adrian Severin (Romania) Mr Dimiter Chalev Tel: 00 41 22 917 9135; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9039; Email: <a href="mailto:dchalev@ochhr.org">dchalev@ochhr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Burundi</b> Mr Akich Okola (Kenya) Mr Rosevel Pierre Louis Tel: 00 41 22 917 9667; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9014; Email: <a href="mailto:plrosavel@ohchr.org">plrosavel@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Cambodia</b> Mr Yash Ghai (Kenya) Mr Naresh Perinpanayagam Tel: 00 41 22 917 9822; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9014; Email: <a href="mailto:nperinpanayagam@ohchr.org">nperinpanayagam@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Cuba</b> Ms Christine Chaneet (France) Mr Norberto Frydman Tel: 00 41 22 917 9248; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9013; Email: <a href="mailto:nfrydman@ohchr.org">nfrydman@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b> Mr Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) Mr H Stenman Tel: 00 41 22 917 9128; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9018; Email: <a href="mailto:hstenman@ohchr.org">hstenman@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Haiti</b> Mr Louis Joinet (France) Mr Norberto Frydman Tel: 00 41 22 917 9248; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9013; Email: <a href="mailto:nfrydman@ohchr.org">nfrydman@ohchr.org</a>

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## COUNTRY MANDATES

The UN has a number of Special Procedures which examine specific countries. Each has their own country-specific mandate; further details can be found at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countries.htm>.

<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Liberia</b> Ms Charlotte Abaka (Ghana) Ms Cathrine Schefu Tel: 00 41 22 917 9284; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9039; Email: <a href="mailto:cschefu@ohchr.org">cschefu@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Myanmar</b> Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (Brazil) Ms A Ryan Tel: 00 41 22 917 9323; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9018; Email: <a href="mailto:aryan@ohchr.org">aryan@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Occupied Palestinian Territories</b> Mr John Dugard (South Africa) Ms Darka Topali Tel: 00 41 22 917 9243; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9050; Email: <a href="mailto:dtopali@ohchr.org">dtopali@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Somalia</b> Mr Ghanim Alnajjar (Kuwait) Ms Gloria Nwabuogu Tel: 00 41 22 917 9394; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9059; Email: <a href="mailto:gnwabuogu@ohchr.org">gnwabuogu@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Sudan</b> Ms Sima Samar (Afghanistan) Ms Christine Saunders Tel: 00 41 22 917 9411; Fax: 00 41 22 917 9006; Email: <a href="mailto:csaunders@ohchr.org">csaunders@ohchr.org</a>
<b>COUNTRY</b> <b>SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR</b> <b>SECRETARIAT</b> <b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b> Ms Michele Picard To be appointed Available after appointment

## APPENDIX A

### DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF NGOS WITH CONSULTATIVE STATUS

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (FIDH)

##### ENGLAND

Liberty  
21 Tabard Street  
London  
SE1 4LA  
Tel: 020 7403 3888  
Fax: 020 7407 5354  
Email: [info@liberty-human-rights.org.uk](mailto:info@liberty-human-rights.org.uk)

##### IRELAND

Irish Council for Civil Liberties  
9-13 Blackhall Place  
Dublin 7  
Tel: 00 353 1 799 4504  
Fax: 00 353 1 799 4512  
Email: [info@iccl.ie](mailto:info@iccl.ie)

##### NORTHERN IRELAND

Committee on the  
Administration of Justice  
45-47 Donegall Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2BR  
Tel: 028 9096 1122  
Fax: 028 9024 6706  
Email: [info@caj.org.uk](mailto:info@caj.org.uk)

##### SCOTLAND

Scottish Human Rights Centre  
146 Holland Street  
Glasgow  
G2 4NG  
Tel: 0141 332 5960  
Fax: 0141 332 5309  
Email:  
[info@scottishhumanrightscentre.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishhumanrightscentre.org.uk)

#### INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

JUSTICE  
59 Carter Lane  
London  
EC4V 5AQ  
Tel: 020 7329 5100  
Fax: 020 7329 5055  
Email: [rsmith@justice.org.uk](mailto:rsmith@justice.org.uk)

Irish Commission of Jurists  
The Law Library, Four Courts  
Inns Quay  
Dublin 7  
Tel: 00 353 187 46842  
Fax: 00 353 1 817 5150  
Email:  
[paulanthonymcdermott@eircom.net](mailto:paulanthonymcdermott@eircom.net)

## APPENDIX B

### THE UN REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE, BRUSSELS

The Centre replaced the nine centres across Europe including London. It provides information and documentation on the UN and organises joint projects and events with partners including governments and NGOs. The Centre also makes information and materials, such as UN reports and documents, press kits and posters, available to the public.

A Reference Library, open to the public, maintains a collection of UN documents and publications in English, French and Spanish, as well as information materials available in other West European languages. UNRIC regularly responds to all inquiries by telephone, email and postal mail.

The centre is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Residence Palace  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 155  
Quartier Rubens, Block C2  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium

Tel: 00 32 2788 8484

Fax: 00 32 2788 8485

Email: **[infor@unric.org](mailto:infor@unric.org)**



## APPENDIX C

### THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) is an NGO, set up in 1984 to serve human rights defenders and to enable them to access the international human rights system. To fulfil this objective it provides analytical and practical information on UN human rights mechanisms, training, advice and support on lobbying, procedures and how to use the human rights mechanisms.

The organisation is based in Geneva, with a staff of 16 led by the Director, Professor Chris Sidoti. There is a smaller office of the organisation in New York, which focuses on the reform process and the emerging relationship between the General Assembly and the newly created Human Rights Council.

The International Service for Human Rights has its finger firmly on the pulse of human rights at the UN, from an NGO perspective, and is a very useful resource. Its analysis of what is happening within the human rights world is realistic and independent and it is well worth subscribing to its services.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)  
Rue Varembe 1, P.O. Box 16  
CH-1211, Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel: 00 41 22 733 51 23  
Fax: 00 41 22 733 08 26  
Website: <http://www.ishr.ch>

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)  
New York Office  
777 UN Plaza, 8th floor  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Tel: 00 1 212 490 2199  
Fax: 00 1 212 490 1396  
Email: [ishr@ishrny.org](mailto:ishr@ishrny.org)

## APPENDIX D

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

#### OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights appointed an NGO Liaison Officer, who provides support to NGOs. As a result, this office is a good starting point for those wishing to interact with any aspect of the human rights mechanism covered by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

NGO Liaison Officer

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

8-14 Avenue de la Paix

CH-1211 Geneva 10

Tel: 00 41 22 917 9000

Email: [ngo.liaison@ohchr.org](mailto:ngo.liaison@ohchr.org)

#### HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Human Rights Council Team

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

8-14 Avenue de la Paix

CH-1211 Geneva 10

Tel: 00 41 22 917 9256

Fax: 00 41 22 917 9011

#### UK MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Permanent Mission of UK to the United Nations (New York)

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

885 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017

Tel: 00 1212 745 9200

Fax: 00 1212 745 9316

Email: [uk@un.int](mailto:uk@un.int)

Permanent Mission of UK to the United Nations (Geneva)

Case Postale 67

37-39 Rue de Vermont

1211 Geneva 20

Switzerland

Tel: 00 41 22 918 2300

Fax: 00 41 22 918 2333

Email: [geneva\\_un@fco.gov.uk](mailto:geneva_un@fco.gov.uk) ►

## APPENDIX D

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

#### RELEVANT GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS

##### UK (INTERNATIONAL)

Human Rights, Democracy and  
Governance Group  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH  
Tel: 020 7008 3000  
Email: [HRDGGenquiries@fco.gov.uk](mailto:HRDGGenquiries@fco.gov.uk)

##### UK (NATIONAL)

Ministry of Justice  
Selborne House  
54 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1E 6QW  
United Kingdom  
Tel: 020 7210 8500  
Fax: 020 7210 0647

##### NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Office (London)  
11 Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4PN  
Tel: 020 7210 6572  
Fax: 020 7210 6535

Northern Ireland Office (Belfast)  
Block B  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland  
BT4 3SG  
Tel: 02890 520 700

### USEFUL RESOURCES

<http://www.universalhumanrightsindex.org> is a search engine that enables you to examine countries and see what the latest reports and recommendations have been.

<http://www.whatconvention.org/index.php?langue=Eng> enables you to search for which state has ratified which treaty.

## APPENDIX E

### CALENDAR

Reproduced from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

MECHANISM/SESSION NO.	DATE	LOCATION
Open-ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR/5th	4 Feb – 8 April	Palais des Nations, Room XII, Geneva, Switzerland
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination/72nd	18 Feb – 7 March	Palais Wilson, Grd floor, Geneva
Working Group on Right to Development/9th	25 Feb – 29 Feb	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Human Rights Council/7th	3 March – 28 March	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Human Rights Committee/92nd	17 March – 4 April	New York
Working Group on the use of mercenaries/4th	7 April – 11 April	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Universal Periodic Review/1st	7 April – 18 April	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions (ICC)	14 April – 16 April	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
WG on Communications (1503 procedure)/2nd	14 April – 18 April	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families/8th	14 April – 25 April	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Preparatory Committee for the Review of the Durban Conference/2nd	21 April – 2 May	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Committee against Torture/40th	28 April – 16 May	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights/40th	28 April – 16 May	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Universal Periodic Review/2nd	5 May – 16 May	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

*continued ►*

## APPENDIX E

### CALENDAR

MECHANISM/SESSION NO.	DATE	LOCATION
WG on Arbitrary Detention/51st	5 May – 9 May	Yet to be confirmed
Human Rights Council – Organisational meeting	19 May – 19 May	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights/28th	19 May – 22 May	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Pre-sessional Working Group on Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights/40th	19 May – 23 May	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Committee on the Right of the Child/48th	19 May – 6 June	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Human Rights Council/8th	2 June – 13 June	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Pre-session WG of Committee on the Rights of Child/49th	9 June – 13 June	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
WG on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances/85th	16 June – 20 June	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Human Rights Council – Organisational meeting	23 June – 23 June	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Meeting of Special Rapporteurs/Representatives/Independent Experts and Chairpersons of WG of the HRC/15th	23 June – 27 June	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Working Group on Situations (1503 procedure)/2nd	23 June – 27 June	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (OPCAT)/5th	23 June – 27 June	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Pre-sessional Working Group on Communications – Human Rights Committee/93rd	30 June – 4 July	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/41st	30 June – 18 July	New York

*continued ►*

## APPENDIX E

### CALENDAR

MECHANISM/SESSION NO.	DATE	LOCATION
Human Rights Committee/93rd	7 July – 25 July	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination/73rd	28 July – 15 August	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Human Rights Council – Organisational meeting	25 August – 25 August	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
WG on Arbitrary Detention/52nd	8 Sept – 12 Sept	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Human Rights Council/9th	8 Sept – 26 Sept	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Committee on the Right of the Child/49th	15 Sept – 3 Oct	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Preparatory Committee for the Review of the Durban Conference/2nd	6 Oct – 17 Oct	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Pre-sessional WG of Committee on the Rights of Child/50th	6 Oct – 10 Oct	Palais Wilson, Grd floor Pre-sessional Working
Group on Communications – Human Rights Committee/94th	6 Oct – 10 Oct	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Board of Trustees, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture/28th	13 Oct – 17 Oct	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Human Rights Committee/94th	13 Oct – 31 Oct	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/42nd	20 Oct – 7 Nov	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
WG on Communications (1503 procedure) /3rd	21 Oct – 31 Oct	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights/41st	3 Nov – 21 Nov	Palais Wilson, Grd floor

*continued ►*

## APPENDIX E

### CALENDAR

MECHANISM/SESSION NO.	DATE	LOCATION
Committee against Torture/41st	3 Nov – 21 Nov	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights/29th	17 Nov – 21 Nov	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (OPCAT)/6th	17 Nov – 21 Nov	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
WG on Arbitrary Detention/53rd	19 Nov – 28 Nov	
Pre-sessional Working Group on Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights/42nd	24 Nov – 28 Nov	Palais Wilson, Grd floor
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families/9th	24 Nov – 28 Nov	Palais Wilson, 1st floor
Universal Periodic Review/3rd	1 Dec – 12 Dec	Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

## APPENDIX F

### MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Model United Nations is a popular simulation of the UN General Assembly and associated bodies carried out in schools and universities globally. The initiative is divided between classroom activities and events; the latter, termed conferences, happen on a regional, national and international level. At a Model UN conference a student takes on the role of an ambassador to the UN. The aim is to engage young people with both global issues and the United Nations as well as develop skills such as conflict resolution.

The Model United Nations website offers some useful information on how to start a local Model United Nations and can be found at:

**<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/index.asp>.**

The creation of a Model United Nations in a school/university is relatively straightforward. Firstly, ensure you have permission from the senior management in your education institute. Secondly, choose a teacher or lecturer, who could act as an advisor for the project. Thirdly, as a group, write a mission statement for your group, which sets out your purpose in participating in the Model United Nations. Fourthly, ask the school/university for a suitable meeting place (permanent if possible) where you can have a computer, maps and books. Finally, advertise for team members, focusing on either some of the core skills such as public speaking experience or those who wish to develop those skills.



# APPENDIX G

## ACCREDITATION

### ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS – NGO

The process of obtaining access to the UN can take several forms, depending on the needs of the NGO and the rules of the UN:

- By applying for accreditation for a conference, summit or other event organised by the United Nations. This is issued through the Secretariat preparing the event and expires upon completion of the event. It entitles NGOs to participate in the preparation process and in the event itself, thus contributing to its outcome. Contact the UN Secretariat holding the event for further details.
- By applying for association with the Department of Public Information – see <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp> for further details.
- NGOs may receive accreditation by applying to a UN agency, programme or fund. How to do this may be found on the relevant UN website.
- International NGOs active in the field of economic and social development may seek to obtain consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Article 71 of the United Nations Charter outlines the relationship between the Economic and Social Council and NGOs, where it is understood as a "mutually beneficial working relationship". Further details of this can be found at the NGO Liaison Office, part of the United Nations Office in Geneva. See [www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch) for further details.

### ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS – MEDIA

If you are a member of the media, then the process is slightly different. The UN has a distinct application process for members of media organisations. A brief outline of this process can be found below; for further information see <http://www.un.org/media/accreditation/form/myform.asp>.

All journalists applying for accreditation must submit proof that they represent a genuine media organisation, as follows: submit a letter of assignment on official letterhead of a genuine media organisation duly signed by the Publisher/Assignment Editor or Bureau Chief, which specifies the name and functional title of the applicant and the period for which accreditation is sought at the United Nations. You may be asked to submit two recent examples of your work, e.g. issues of your publication (print media), to the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit in advance of picking up your credentials. The requirements for online media are slightly more stringent.

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