




Access Guide to UN Human Rights Standards for Members of the European Parliament



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
Regional Office Europe



Cover Picture: The Hemicycle of the European Parliament in Strasbourg
Credit: EPA Images

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FOREWORD

**BY THE ACTING REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

This web-based publication is meant as a reference tool for Members of the European Parliament and staff on information about and useful contacts for the international human rights framework and, more generally, to raise awareness about the normative work of the United Nations and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies. Due to the number of ongoing conflicts in the world, a section on international humanitarian law and the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross has been included.

The stated commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and the ambition of the European Union to be a leader on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, both internally and externally, requires it to draw on the range of international human rights law and other norms applicable to its Member States, and also applicable to non-European Union Member States in its bilateral and multilateral relations.

The Charter of the United Nations adopted in 1945, together, with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted in 1948, and the Geneva Conventions adopted in 1949, provide the backbone and are foundational building blocks of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The UDHR has inspired a rich body of legally binding international human rights treaties, norms, guiding principles, declarations, mechanisms and institutions which complement other internationally agreed multilateral frameworks. At a time of multiple crises and challenges in our increasingly interconnected world, human rights can provide the compass to navigate and find solutions to such polycrises, and to improve the lives of people and the state of our planet.

The modest objective of this publication is to raise awareness about the full spectrum of human rights law and other norms, and to make known that there is a wealth of concrete recommendations that exist and on which Parliamentarians can

draw when carrying out their important work. The European Parliament is the European Union's only directly elected institution through which Europeans exercise their right to participate in European Union affairs, as enshrined in article 21 of the UDHR. Indeed, if human rights are to become a reality for everyone, Parliamentarians have an important role to play in exercising their specific powers in legislating and setting the budget for, and monitoring, the European Union decision-making process by applying a human rights lens.

The preparation of this Guide benefited from consultations with Members of the European Parliament, their assistants and members of their support teams, parliamentary committee secretariats, and representatives of United Nations partners and civil society through questionnaires and interviews. I would like to thank those who gave generously of their time to help to inform the Guide's preparation. With a view to improving its effectiveness, feedback on the Guide is very much welcomed.

We hope that this publication can serve to build bridges and nurture the ongoing cooperation and synergies between the European Union, the United Nations Human Rights Office and the United Nations family at large, in their joint commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the world. We count on your support.

Elena Kountouri Tapiero



Acting Regional Representative for Europe Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

4 September 2024



Introduction

The European Parliament has a dual role of contributing to the protection of human rights in the European Union and contributing to the promotion of human rights in non-European Union states. United Nations human rights standards are relevant to both these functions.

The promotion of human rights in non-European Union Member States requires attention to the international (United Nations) and regional human rights standards that bind them. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020–2027 “sets the level of ambition and defines the priorities of the EU and its Member States [for human rights and democracy] in relations with all third countries.” Human rights and democracy are to be “promoted consistently and coherently in all areas of EU external action (e.g. trade, environment, development, counter-terrorism)”.¹ The Action Plan also acknowledges the importance of ensuring “the coherence of the EU’s internal and external policies” in the promotion of human rights and democracy. Taken together, these objectives emphasize the central importance of United Nations human rights standards which will constitute an essential element, if not the basis, of third country international human rights obligations.² The Action Plan also includes numerous references to United Nations human rights instruments and mechanisms and support for and partnerships with United Nations entities, and calls for “cooperation with multilateral human rights institutions and UN human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures”.³

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- 1 European Union, *EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020–2027* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024), p. 9. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/Action-Plan-EN_2020-2027.pdf.
 - 2 For countries in Africa and the Americas, and for European and Central Asian countries not Member States of the European Union, regional human rights treaties also constitute a central element of their international human rights obligations.
 - 3 European Union, *EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020–2027* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024), p. 10. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/Action-Plan-EN_2020-2027.pdf.

For the European Parliament to fulfil its role in contributing to the promotion of human rights, Parliamentarians should have a sound knowledge and understanding of these institutions and mechanisms. While the protection of human rights in the European Union is focused largely on the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, article 53 of the Charter preserves the level of protection established in international agreements to which the European Union or all the Member States are party.⁴ This gives the United Nations human rights standards ongoing direct relevance to the European Parliament's responsibility for the protection of human rights in the European Union. All European Union Member States are party to seven of the nine core United Nations [human rights treaties](#), and the European Union is party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁵

In the view of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, “[I]nternational rights instruments may also function as minimum standards and are in any event sources of interpretation [of the Charter of Fundamental Rights].”⁶

International human rights law, as defined in United Nations human rights instruments and

interpreted and applied by United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms is complex and widely dispersed. No short publication can adequately summarize this vast body of law,⁷ and finding the right information needed for timely practical engagement in a fast-paced parliamentary environment will be daunting. Fortunately, there is also a vast network of human rights knowledge, expertise and practical expertise in academia, civil society, national governments, the European Council, Commission and Parliament secretariats, and the United Nations. This Guide aspires to serve as an entry point for Members of the European Parliament, their assistants and advisers to the rich resources offered by the United Nations to support them in identifying, understanding and working with relevant United Nations human rights standards and international humanitarian law. Annex 3 of this Guide provides links to information available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for a wide variety of human rights issues.⁸

This Guide should be used in conjunction with the following OHCHR publications: *Making a Difference: An Introduction to Human Rights*,⁹ *The European Union and International Human Rights*

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- 4 Article 53 provides: “Nothing in this Charter shall be interpreted as restricting or adversely affecting human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognised, in their respective fields of application, by Union law and international law and by international agreements to which the Union or all the Member States are party, including the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and by the Member States’ constitutions.” See also European Union, “Explanations (*) relating to the Charter of Fundamental Rights”, *Official Journal of the European Union* C303 (2007), 17–35, p. 33. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:303:0017:0035:en:PDF>.
 - 5 No Member States are party to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 19 are party to the Convention for the Protection of all Persons Against Enforced Disappearance, and all but two are party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. See [Annex 1](#) for European Union Member State adherence to the core United Nations human rights treaties.
 - 6 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in Law and Policymaking at National Level: Guidance* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020), p. 23–24. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-charter-guidance_en.pdf. See also the table of correspondences between the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and United Nations Human Rights Instruments in [Annex 2](#).
 - 7 Numerous monographs address specific rights themes, and many general textbooks and even whole encyclopaedias devoted to human rights. For example, see Christina Binder and others, eds., *Elgar Encyclopedia of Human Rights* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022).
 - 8 These address 36 separate issues and are grouped under the issue areas of civic space and democracy; development and living in dignity; equality and non-discrimination; justice and the rule of law; peace and security; and human rights indicators. See [Annex 3](#).
 - 9 United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, *Making a Difference: An Introduction to Human Rights* (Brussels, 2019). <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/2019%20Making%20a%20Difference%20EN.pdf>. *Making a Difference* is available in English, French and Spanish at <https://europe.ohchr.org/resources/publications>.

Law¹⁰ and *Future of Europe: International Human Rights in European Integration*.¹¹ Each of these documents is available on the OHCHR website.¹²

Making a Difference is a tool that explains the basic tenets of human rights in an easy-to-understand and accessible format. It equips the reader with a concise explanation of human rights, as well as the international human rights framework and mechanisms. *Making a Difference* is for readers without a specific human rights background. However, even readers already familiar with human rights will find this publication a useful resource for references, case studies and illustrations. *Making a Difference* is divided into six complementary parts. Part I introduces the reader to basic human rights concepts. Part II describes the international, regional and national human rights protection mechanisms and systems. Part III gives a brief overview of civil, cultural, economic, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Part IV covers the human rights protection of specific groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. Part V sheds light on cross-cutting human rights issues such as business and human rights, transitional justice and human rights in conflict situations. Part VI briefly explains the links between human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Making a Difference* can be read in its entirety, or it can serve as a resource for anyone interested in basic information about specific human rights topics.¹³

The European Union and International Human Rights Law examines how gaps have emerged

between the European Union and its Member States in the ability to promote and protect human rights within policy areas that are solely or partially within the competence of the European Union yet are the subject of Member State legal obligations under United Nations human rights treaties. The publication explores options for avoiding the existence of a two-tier system of protection and promotion in the European Union and closing existing gaps, to allow Member States to fulfil their obligations under the United Nations human rights treaties while acting in conformity with European Union law. While this 2011 publication is somewhat dated, much of its analysis remains relevant.¹⁴

Future of Europe examines the importance of better aligning European Union lawmaking and policymaking with the requirements of international human rights law as defined in United Nations human rights instruments, in order to reduce risks of conflicts between obligations under European Union law and international human rights law, or European Union Member State violations of international human rights obligations ostensibly rooted in an act adopted by the European Union. The study assesses the reality of the gap between human rights commitments at Member State and European Union levels to identify the opportunities of better alignment. It discusses options to better link European Union lawmaking and policymaking to United Nations human rights instruments, thereby ensuring that the standards developed by United Nations human rights mechanisms and their findings are better taken into account.¹⁵

10 Israel de Jesús Butler, *The European Union and International Human Rights Law* (Brussels, United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, 2011). https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/EU_and_International_Law.pdf.

11 Olivier De Schutter, *Future of Europe: International Human Rights in European Integration* (Brussels, United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, 2023). <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/FutureOfEurope.pdf>.

12 United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, *The Case for a Human Rights Approach to the Rule of Law in the European Union* (Brussels, 2020), examines how to approach the rule of law through the prism of human rights and the core principles of accountability, inclusion, participation and transparency. The report considers how the mechanisms, procedures and findings of the United Nations human rights system could meaningfully bolster European Union efforts to safeguard the rule of law in its Member States. <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Publication.pdf>. The table of contents is reproduced in Annex 7.

13 See Annex 4 for the table of contents of *Making a Difference*.

14 See Annex 6 for the table of contents of *The European Union and International Human Rights Law*.

15 See Annex 5 for the table of contents of *Future of Europe*.



The Hemicycle of the European Parliament in Strasbourg
Credit: EPA Images

1.



United Nations human rights standards and their interpretation

The United Nations [human rights standards](#) are embodied in nine [human rights core treaties](#), key conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and other treaties and numerous non-treaty instruments (declarations, principles, guidelines, United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, etc.).

In the current European Union context, a particularly important legally non-binding instrument is the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), which are the global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights involving business activity, and provide the internationally accepted framework for enhancing standards and practices with regard to business and human rights. The treaties and other instruments have been interpreted and applied by a wide variety of United Nations mechanisms, such as the human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures, commissions of inquiry, and other bodies such as the ILO's supervisory mechanisms. The largest part of this substantial body of standards and related interpretative material is readily available on the Internet.

While not a human rights instrument in the narrow sense, the 1951 [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#) and its 1967 Protocol are key legal documents that define the term "refugee", and outline refugees' rights and the international standards of treatment for their protection.

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

The texts of human rights treaties and a large collection of other standard-setting instruments can be found on the OHCHR website:

[Human rights instruments](#)

Information about the status of the United Nations core human rights treaties and their optional protocols, including Member States' adherence, can be found at:

[Status of ratification interactive dashboard](#) and [Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General - Chapter IV: Human rights](#)

Information about ILO conventions, including those covered by the [ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#),¹⁶ and other instruments, can be found at:

[NORMLEX](#)

Information about the status of ILO conventions and the application of individual conventions by ILO Member States can be found at:

[ILO ratifications](#)

[ILO country profiles](#)

16 [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#) and its [Protocol of 2014](#); [Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#); [Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 \(No. 98\)](#); [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#); [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#); [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#); [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#); [Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 \(No. 155\)](#); [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#); and [Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 \(No. 187\)](#). See ILO, "ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work", no date. <https://www.ilo.org/ilo-declaration-fundamental-principles-and-rights-work> (accessed 10 September 2024); and ILO, "NORMLEX: Conventions", no date. <https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12000> (accessed 10 September 2024).

2.



United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms

There are many United Nations bodies and mechanisms that apply and interpret United Nations human rights standards, and their work contributes to understanding and applying those standards.¹⁷

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The [Human Rights Council](#) is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the main intergovernmental body within the United Nations responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe, and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It can discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the United Nations Office at Geneva in three regular sessions each year, and may convene special sessions to respond to urgent human rights situations. The Council comprises 47 Member States elected by UNGA. Other United Nations Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and national human rights institutions with A status, can participate in the Council as observers. The Council benefits from substantive, technical, and secretariat support from OHCHR.

The Human Rights Council has a number of subsidiary bodies, mechanisms and entities, as established in the

¹⁷ Occasionally other bodies at the international (e.g. the International Court of Justice) and national (national human rights institutions) levels interpret United Nations human rights standards, but their activity will not be examined in this Guide.

Council's [institution-building package \(resolution A/HRC/RES/5/1\)](#) of 2007, or established through resolutions of the Council, its predecessor the [Commission on Human Rights](#) or UNGA. These include:

The Universal Periodic Review

The [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) is a State-led mechanism that conducts a peer review of the human rights situation of each United Nations Member State once every 4.5 years. It is carried out by the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council. In each review, the State under review reports on the actions it has taken to improve its human rights situation and overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. It also receives recommendations from United Nations Member States for improvement. In addition to the national reports of States under review, the UPR is informed by compilations of stakeholder information and United Nations system reports. Since the first periodic review in 2008, all 193 United Nations Member States have been reviewed three times. The [fourth cycle](#) of reviews began in November 2022, at the forty-first session of the UPR Working Group, and will conclude in 2027. The State national reports, United Nations system compilation reports, summary reports of information provided by other relevant stakeholders, reports of the UPR Working Group and the Human Rights Council UPR outcome decisions for all cycles of review can be found for each United Nations Member State in all United Nations official languages¹⁸ on the UPR country

web pages on an OHCHR website [database](#) and in the [Universal Human Rights Index](#).¹⁹

Special Procedures

The [Special Procedures](#) of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.²⁰ They are appointed for a three-year thematic mandate, renewable once, and for a one-year country mandate, renewable for up to six years.²¹ As of 1 August 2024, there are 46 [thematic](#) and 14 [country](#) mandates.²² The Special Procedures undertake [country visits](#), act on individual cases of alleged violations and concerns of a broader nature by sending [communications](#) to States and other entities; contribute to the development of international human rights standards; and engage in advocacy, raise public awareness and provide advice for technical cooperation.²³ Special Procedures mandate holders regularly address [thematic issues and crises](#) of common interest through individual or joint actions. These issues include new technologies, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), migration, and climate change. The Special Procedures receive support from the Special Procedures branch of OHCHR. Additional information about the work of Special Procedures, country visits, and the thematic activities of Special Procedures can be found [here](#).

18 Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

19 See page 23 below.

20 Special Procedures are either individual experts (referred to as "Special Rapporteur" or "Independent Expert") or Working Groups comprised of five experts, one from each of the five UN regional groups.

21 Special Procedures experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

22 As of 1 August 2024, there are country-specific mandates for Afghanistan, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran, Mali, Myanmar, Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Russian Federation, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syria mandate is inactive for as long as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic remains active.

23 OHCHR publishes an annual directory of Special Procedures mandate holders with summary information about all mandate holders. For the most recent edition published in June 2023, see OHCHR, *Directory of Special Procedures Mandate Holders* (Geneva, 2023). <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/SP/VisualDirectory.pdf>.

The OHCHR Secretariat prepares an [annual report](#) and a related addendum that provide updated information on the system of Special Procedures as a whole, its achievements, as well as [facts and figures](#) on, for example, country visits and thematic reports. It gives a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by special procedures on a yearly basis, individually and as a system, including country visits, communications, thematic reports, follow-up activities, joint actions, development of international standards, and advocacy.

Advisory Committee

The [Advisory Committee](#) serves as the Human Rights Council's "think tank", providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues at the Council's request. The Advisory Committee has prepared numerous thematic [reports and studies](#) and provided them to the Council for its consideration.

Complaint procedure

The [complaint procedure](#) allows individuals and organizations to bring to the attention of the Human Rights Council consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and fundamental freedoms occurring in any part of the world, and under any circumstances. The procedure is confidential throughout, unless the Human Rights Council sitting in a closed meeting decides to take up consideration of a complaint in public.

Investigative bodies and other mechanisms

Investigative bodies mandated by the Human Rights Council have taken numerous forms since the Council was created in 2006, including fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry. Most have been established to investigate alleged violations in specific countries. However, one – the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement – is thematic.²⁴

Other [mechanisms](#) include designated experts, intergovernmental working groups, expert mechanisms and forums.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE (SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN & CULTURAL ISSUES)

The [Third Committee](#) deals with a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. The Committee hears and interacts with Human Rights Council Special Procedures and chairs of the human rights treaty bodies and working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council and UNGA. It also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, protection of children, Indigenous issues, treatment of refugees, promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination, and addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control.

24 As of 1 August 2024, the active investigative mechanisms of the Human Rights Council are: [Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus](#), [Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan](#), [Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran](#), [Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua](#), [Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine](#), [UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel](#), [Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela](#), [Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar](#), [International team of experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan](#), [Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic](#) and the [International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the context of Law Enforcement](#).

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES²⁵

Each of the nine United Nations core human rights treaties²⁶ creates a committee of independent experts of recognized competence in human rights, nominated and elected by State parties to monitor the implementation of the provisions of that specific treaty.²⁷ The Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) created a different kind of treaty body with a preventive mandate focused on preventing torture and ill treatment by visiting places of detention and examining the treatment of people held in States party to OPCAT.²⁸

While the working methods of the nine core instrument treaty bodies differ slightly, their functions are generally similar. These human rights treaty bodies receive and consider reports submitted periodically by State parties detailing how they are implementing the treaty provisions nationally, issue guidelines to assist States with the preparation of their reports, adopt general comments²⁹ interpreting the treaty provisions, and organize discussions on themes related to the treaties. Most, but not all, treaty bodies also consider complaints (communications) from individuals alleging that their rights have been violated by a State party, provided that the State has accepted the complaints procedure.

Some treaty bodies may also consider inter-State complaints, and conduct inquiries into serious or systematic violations of the treaty in a State. The treaty bodies meet in Geneva, although some have sessions outside Geneva. All the treaty bodies receive support from the human rights treaties branch of OHCHR.

The treaty body reporting process generates considerable country-specific information about the implementation of treaties in individual State parties through the State party report, civil society shadow reports and the concluding observations of the treaty body. [General comments](#) provide authoritative interpretation of treaty provisions, and views (decisions) under the optional [complaint procedures](#)³⁰ address specific problems with implementation, and interpret and apply relevant treaty provisions.

Some treaty bodies fulfil functions that are unique to them. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances is mandated to act on requests for [urgent actions](#) on alleged disappearances. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination administers [early warning measures and urgent action procedures](#), through which it aims at preventing existing situations escalating into conflicts and responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention.

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- 25 OHCHR, "What the treaty bodies do", no date. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/what-treaty-bodies-do> (accessed 10 September 2024); OHCHR, *The United Nations Human Rights Treaty System: Fact Sheet No. 30/Rev.1* (New York and Geneva, United Nations, 2012). <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FactSheet30Rev1.pdf>.
- 26 [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#),* [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#),* [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#),* [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#),* [Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#),* [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#), [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#),* and [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#). The core instruments marked with an asterisk are complemented by one or more optional protocols.
- 27 [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#), [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), [Human Rights Committee](#), [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#), [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), [Committee against Torture](#), [Committee on Migrant Workers](#), [Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#), [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) and [Committee on Enforced Disappearances](#).
- 28 The unique functions of the [Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture](#) are comparable to those of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- 29 CEDAW adopts general recommendations, which are the equivalent of general comments adopted by the other committees.
- 30 OHCHR, *Individual Complaint Procedures Under the United Nations Human Rights Treaties: Fact Sheet No. 7/Rev.2* (New York and Geneva, United Nations, 2013). <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/FactSheet7Rev.2.pdf>.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The [High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) is the principal human rights official of the United Nations. The High Commissioner is accountable to the United Nations Secretary-General and is responsible for all the activities of OHCHR, as well as its administration.

The High Commissioner:

- carries out the functions specifically assigned to them by UNGA in its [resolution 48/141](#) of 20 December 1993 and subsequent resolutions of policymaking bodies;
- advises the United Nations Secretary-General on the policies of the United Nations on human rights;

- ensures that support is given to the projects, activities, organs and bodies of the human rights programme; and
- represents the Secretary-General at meetings of human rights organs and at other human rights events and carries out special assignments as decided by the Secretary-General.

In accordance with UNGA resolution 48/141, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General and approved by UNGA, with due regard to geographical rotation, for a fixed term of four years with possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years.

[Volker Türk](#) of Austria is the current High Commissioner for Human Rights, the eighth High Commissioner to lead OHCHR.³¹ He took up his duties on 17 October 2022.

Vision statement offered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:



31 In his 2024 vision statement, which was informed by extensive consultation during the [Human Rights 75 Initiative](#), Türk sets out eight recommendations to guide OHCHR's future work. Volker Türk, *Human Rights: A Path for Solutions. Vision Statement Offered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (Geneva, OHCHR, 2024). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/human-rights-path-solutions>.

MANDATE



A diagram of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3.



ILO supervisory procedures

International labour standards are backed by a [supervisory system](#) comprised of independent legal experts and tripartite bodies to help ensure that countries implement the Conventions they ratify.

[Regular supervision](#) supports Member States in giving effect to labour standards in pursuit of decent work and sustainable development. The regular system of supervision is based on the examination by two ILO bodies of reports on the application of ratified ILO conventions in law and in practice sent by Member States, and on observations in this regard sent by workers' and employers' organizations.

The [Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#) is an independent body composed of 20 high-level national and international legal experts, who are charged with examining the application of ILO conventions, protocols and recommendations by ILO Member States. The Committee addresses "[observations](#)" and/or "[direct requests](#)" to ILO Member States on the application of ratified conventions. These can be accessed on the [ILO country profiles](#) website.

The annual report of the Committee of Experts consists of two volumes:

- The first volume is divided into two parts:
 - Part I contains the General Report, which includes comments on compliance by Member States with their ILO constitutional obligations.

- Part II contains observations concerning particular countries on the application of international labour standards.
- The second volume contains the [General Survey](#) on a specific subject selected by the ILO Governing Body.

[The Conference Committee on the Application of Standards](#) is a standing tripartite body of the [International Labour Conference](#). Each year it examines the annual report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. The discussions and conclusions of the situations examined by the Conference Committee are published in the Committee's General Report. Situations of special concern are highlighted in special paragraphs of its report.

The ILO supervisory system also includes [Special Procedures](#) that enable constituents to raise with the ILO alleged shortcomings in the manner States give effect to international labour standards or realize the fundamental principles of the ILO. Unlike the regular system of supervision, these three procedures are based on the submission of a representation or a complaint:

- Procedure for employers' or workers' organizations [representations under article 24](#) of the ILO Constitution on the application of ratified conventions.
- Procedure for [complaints under articles 26 to 34](#) of the ILO Constitution over the application of ratified conventions
- Special Procedure for complaints regarding freedom of association through the [Committee on Freedom of Association](#).

4.



Commission on the Status of Women

The United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of ECOSOC, it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(III\) of 21 June 1946](#). The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC expanded the Commission's mandate by deciding that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the key global policy document on gender equality, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of United Nations Member States, civil society organizations and United Nations entities gather at United Nations headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the [twenty-third special session of UNGA](#) held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work and facilitates the participation of civil society representatives.

5.



Sources of information about the implementation of United Nations human rights standards

OHCHR hosts numerous [databases](#) that provide information about human rights instruments and their interpretation by the various bodies and mechanisms.

These include:

[Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard](#)

[Universal Human Rights Index](#) and

[Universal Human Rights Index - Search](#)

The Universal Human Rights Index searchable database facilitates access to recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures and made in the UPR. Users of the database can produce overviews of recommendations by region, country, human rights theme, concerned group, and SDGs and targets, as well as perform text searches and advanced searches by using filters.

[Universal Periodic Review](#)

In this country-focused database, one can access information and documents about all States reviewed under the UPR. This includes national reports and other documents submitted by States, United Nations system

reports and summary reports of information provided by other stakeholders.³²

[Special Procedures database](#)

In this database, one can access documents and information pertaining to country visits of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

[Special Procedures communications](#)

In this database, one can access communications³³ sent by Special Procedures to States and other actors, such as business enterprises and international organizations, since 2011, and replies received by the Special Procedures.

[United Nations treaty bodies database](#)

This database contains a wide range of information related to the work of the human rights treaty bodies.³⁴ It includes calendars for State party reporting and treaty body consideration of reports, lists of issues prior to reporting, State party common core documents, and more.

[United Nations treaty bodies database - document search](#)

In this database, one can access information and documents pertaining to the [core United Nations human rights treaties](#)³⁵ and their related treaty bodies. Documents found there include State party reports to treaty bodies and related materials, concluding observations following treaty body consideration of State party reports, jurisprudence from the consideration of individual complaints, general comments³⁶ on treaty provisions, and a wide range of additional material.

[OHCHR JURIS database](#)

In this database, one can access jurisprudence emanating from the United Nations human rights treaty bodies that receive and consider complaints (communications) from individuals.

[Press releases, public statements, speeches](#)

In this searchable database, one can access the latest news, statements, speeches and much more from the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Procedures, the human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms.

32 The NGO [UPR Info](#) also offers an online [database](#) with UPR recommendations and States' voluntary pledges made throughout the first three cycles of the UPR. The database is fully searchable across several categories: State under review, recommending State, regional group, organization, response, UPR cycle, thematic issues and type of action. The information is available in English and French.

33 Communications are letters sent by the Special Procedures to Governments and others, such as intergovernmental organizations, businesses, militaries and security companies. OHCHR, "What are communications?", no date. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/what-are-communications>. (accessed 10 September 2024).

34 The human rights treaty bodies are listed in footnote 27.

35 The human rights treaties are listed in footnote 26.

36 Each of the treaty bodies publishes its interpretation of the provisions of its respective human rights treaty in the form of "general comments" or "general recommendations" (CEDAW). These cover a wide range of subjects, from the comprehensive interpretation of substantive provisions, such as the right to life or the right to adequate food, to general guidance on the information that should be submitted in State Party reports relating to specific articles of the treaties. OHCHR, "General comments: Treaty bodies", no date. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/general-comments> (accessed 10 September 2024).

OTHER UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENT DATABASES

[United Nations Official Document System](#)

The Official Document System is an online database with full text of digitally created United Nations documents published from 1993 onward, including documents of the United Nations Security Council, UNGA, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights.

OHCHR's [Charter-based Body Database](#) can be used to find Human Rights Council resolutions. It also includes other documents of the Human Rights Council, its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, and their subsidiary and parent bodies. Human Rights Council documents can also be found by session on the [website](#) of the Council.

UNGA resolutions can also be found on a dedicated [database](#) of the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT EXPERTISE

There are many United Nations officials with OHCHR and other United Nations entities represented in Brussels who have extensive general or specialized knowledge of human rights. They are valuable sources of information and guidance, and they are able to call on the specialized knowledge and expertise of their colleagues at their organizational headquarters.

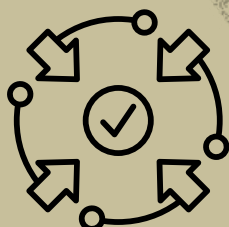
OTHER EXPERTISE

[National human rights institutions](#) (NHRIs) play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of international human rights standards at the national level. Individually and through the [European Network of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (ENNHRI), the [Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (GANHRI) and other regional networks,³⁷ they have acquired a wealth of expertise and practical experience with United Nations human rights standards and their application at the national level.

Human rights civil society organizations in Brussels and beyond are also a rich repository of knowledge and experience with United Nations human rights standards.

37 The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions ([APE](#)), the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions ([NANHRI](#)) and the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the American Continent ([RINDHCA](#)).

6.



The impact of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms

A perpetual question about human rights bodies and mechanisms concerns their impact, which is often a challenge to assess. The [OHCHR Report 2023](#) provides numerous examples of the activities and impact of OHCHR, including in each of its 95 field presences.³⁸ A compilation of examples of how [Special Procedures](#) make a difference in efforts to promote and protect human rights at all levels is available on the OHCHR website. Illustrative [treaty body impact stories](#) for 2022 and 2023 are posted on another OHCHR web page. OHCHR also maintains a web page devoted to good practices that illustrate how the [UPR](#) has been able to advance the promotion and protection of human rights and to secure greater compliance, in law and in practice, with international human rights norms and commitments made by States in United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms.³⁹ Information is also available on the impact achieved through the support of the [Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance](#), which channels voluntary funding to projects aimed at implementing UPR recommendations.

Human rights indicators are essential in the implementation of human rights standards and commitments, to support policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency. OHCHR has developed a framework of [human rights indicators](#) to respond to the demand for appropriate statistical indicators to further human rights. This framework is being applied by national governments, national human rights institutions and NGOs worldwide.

38 OHCHR, *Report 2023* (Geneva, United Nations, 2023). See also OHCHR, “Valued milestones amidst persistent crises – UN Human Rights’ 2023 results”, 13 June 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2024/06/valued-milestones-amidst-persistent-crises-un-human-rights-2023-results> (accessed 10 September 2024).

39 UPR Info has also published several studies into the impact of the UPR. “UPR Info publications”, no date. <https://upr-info.org/en/resources/upr-info-publications> (accessed 10 September 2024).

7.



International humanitarian law

The [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#) promotes respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and its implementation in national law. IHL and international human rights law are two distinct but complementary bodies of law. They are both concerned with the protection of the life, health and dignity of individuals. IHL applies in armed conflict and seeks to limit the effects of war, while human rights law applies at all times, in peace and in war. IHL is made up primarily of treaties (e.g. the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols) and customary international law.

The ICRC provides three searchable databases containing IHL-related resources. Users can search the databases collectively or individually to find and access documents related to IHL norms in both treaty and customary law, as well as their application, implementation and interpretation.

[International Humanitarian Law Databases](#)

[Treaties, States Parties and Commentaries Database](#)

[Customary IHL Database](#)

[National Practice Database](#)

8.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (2030 Agenda) seeks “to realize the human rights of all”,⁴⁰ and is grounded in human rights principles and standards, including the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [international human rights treaties](#).⁴¹

[OHCHR](#) works on the 2030 Agenda and the [SDGs](#), and many of the other United Nations entities represented in Brussels work on one or more of the SDGs.

OHCHR’s [Universal Human Rights Index](#) can be used to identify links between United Nations human rights mechanisms’ recommendations and SDGs at the recipient level. Furthermore, within the context of the UPR, OHCHR produces country-specific infographics and matrices which provide information on the relevant SDG links.⁴²

40 Preamble of UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/70/1](#).

41 *Ibid.*, para. 10.
The 2030 Agenda has its own follow-up and review mechanism in the [Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNRs), which serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. In 2023, the [European Union](#) was the first supranational entity that produced a VNR, and all European Union [Member States](#) have submitted at least one VNR.

42 See the rubrics for matrix of recommendations and infographic under the entry for each country at United Nations Human Rights Council, “Documentation by country”, no date. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/documentation> (accessed 10 September 2024).

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has published an online [Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals](#). The guide is a searchable database illustrating the links between the SDGs and a wide range of international and regional human rights and labour standards. The guide illustrates the human rights basis for the 17 SDGs by making concrete links between the 169 targets and the relevant range of:

- international and regional human rights instruments;
- international labour standards; and
- key environmental instruments, some of which have human rights dimensions.

The guide is a valuable tool to:

- understand the linkages between the SDGs and human rights, labour standards and environmental treaties and instruments;
- develop a human rights-based approach to sustainable development programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and
- understand the linkages between regional and international human rights instruments and environmental treaties.



A visual representation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

9.

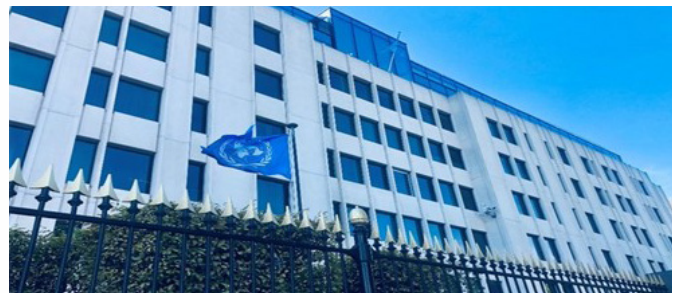


The United Nations team in Brussels

The United Nations Brussels team brings together 30 United Nations entities. The team is led by the Director of the United Nations/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Brussels and the Representative of the United Nations System to the European Union. The [United Nations in Brussels](#) endeavours to present a unified voice to the European Union. The team, supported by the United Nations Coordination Office, works to build understanding and support for United Nations system activities and global agendas, such as the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), within the European Union institutions and among the wider public in Europe. In the words of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres,

It is important to underline that human rights are the responsibility of each and every United Nations actor and that a culture of human rights must permeate everything we do, in the field, at regional level and at Headquarters.⁴³

Many of the United Nations entities represented in Brussels work on and with human rights within the parameters of their organizational mandates. United Nations and other entities located in Brussels which are active on human rights issues are listed as follows.



The UN House in Brussels, hosting many of the UN agencies.

43 United Nations, *The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights* (New York and Geneva, 2020), p. 4. https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Aspiration_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

[OHCHR](#) is the leading United Nations entity on human rights. The [High Commissioner](#) and the Office are mandated by UNGA in resolution [A/RES/48/141](#) to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all human rights, which are reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and [treaties and other international human rights standards](#) embodying those rights. The mandate of the High Commissioner and their Office requires them to:

- **Promote and protect all human rights.** They speak out objectively in the face of human rights violations and help elaborate the standards that are used to evaluate human rights progress worldwide.
- **Help empower people.** Their research, education and advocacy activities contribute to the increased awareness and engagement by the international community and the public on human rights issues.
- **Assist governments.** Through their field presences, they help prevent abuses and contribute to defusing situations that could lead to conflict. Their monitoring and analysis feeds sensitive decision-making and development programming. They also provide capacity-building and legal advice to thousands, supporting the development and judicious enactment of laws and policies the world around. Further, they support engagement by the European Union and its Member States with human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies.

- **Inject a human rights perspective into all United Nations programmes.** They mainstream human rights into all United Nations programmes to ensure that peace and security, development, and human rights – the three pillars of the United Nations – are interlinked and mutually reinforced.

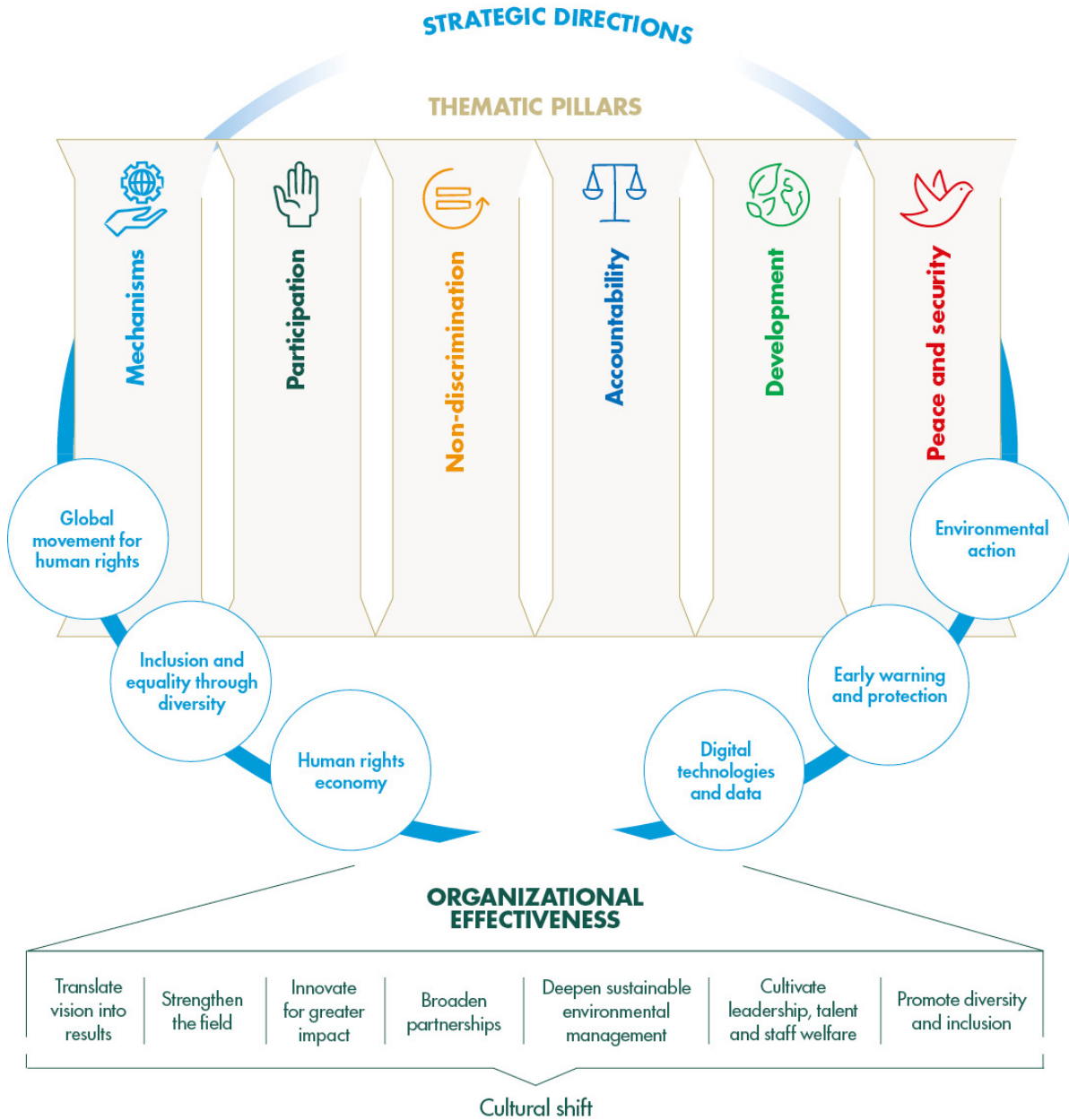


Mr. Volker Türk, current High Commissioner for Human Rights. Credit: Anthony Headley/OHCHR

Operationally, OHCHR works with governments, legislatures, courts, national institutions, civil society, regional and international organizations, and the United Nations system to develop and strengthen capacity, particularly at the national level, for the protection of human rights in accordance with international norms. In 2023, in addition to its Geneva headquarters and its New York office, OHCHR operated in 95 [field presences](#) globally, consisting of 12 regional offices, 19 country offices, 44 human rights advisers, 11 human rights components in United Nations peace operations and 9 other types of field presences.⁴⁴

44 The activities and accomplishments of the individual field presences are described in detail in OHCHR, *Report 2023*, p. 127–291. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/annual-report/ohchr-report-2023>. A global map of the OHCHR field presences as of 30 June 2024 is available in OHCHR, *Management Plan 2024–2027* (Geneva, 2024), p. 60–61. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/management-plan/un-human-rights-management-plan-2024-2027>.

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



OHCHR [Organizational Management Plan](#).

Institutionally, OHCHR is committed to strengthening the United Nations human rights programme and to providing it with the highest quality support. OHCHR is committed to working closely with its United Nations partners to ensure that human rights form the bedrock of the work of the United Nations.

OHCHR publishes an [annual report](#) on its accomplishments, and a quadrennial [Management Plan](#) setting out a framework based on six pillars⁴⁵ and global targets to guide planning, monitoring and reporting efforts by OHCHR over the next four years. OHCHR has voluminous [thematic](#) and [country-specific](#) information available on its main website. Similarly, numerous [publications](#) are available online, including a self-assessment toolkit on [Parliaments and Human Rights](#).⁴⁶

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP has a [representation office in Brussels](#), which supports the partnership with the European Union, Belgium and other relevant partners. The office's Director is also appointed by the Secretary-General as the Representative of the United Nations System in the European Union and Director of the United Nations Office in Brussels.

UNDP sees human rights as the necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. As such, [human rights](#) are central to UNDP support to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as other commitments agreed by Member States.

Addressing the root causes of human rights violations is necessary to anticipate, prevent and recover from crises. In crisis and fragile contexts, supporting human rights promotion and protection is a vital investment to promote peace, justice and inclusive institutions, and governance approaches throughout the spectrum of UNDP development assistance.

UNDP is committed to delivering on the Secretary-General's [Call to Action](#), and supporting national and international efforts to address pressing human rights challenges, including the implications of the [Triple Planetary Crisis](#), through support to Member States to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations as a critical tool to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind. UNDP upholds human rights standards and principles in its programming while also recognizing that human rights – as highlighted in [Our Common Agenda](#) – are a critical problem-solving tool for contemporary development challenges.

45 The six pillars are the international human rights mechanisms, the core human rights principles of participation, nondiscrimination and accountability, and human rights in the United Nations' other pillars of development and peace and security. Ibid., p. 32.

46 Inter-Parliamentary Union and OHCHR, *Parliaments and Human Rights*.

At the request of Member States, UNDP has supported over 100 governments as they strengthen national human rights systems and uphold their human rights obligations, including as they implement recommendations from the United Nations human rights mechanisms in development policy, in areas such as [implementation](#) of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Through its policy interventions, UNDP aims to create enabling environments where human rights can thrive, contributing to the overall goal of achieving peaceful, sustainable and inclusive development. UNDP also actively participates in global human rights fora, advocating for the integration of human rights in all aspects of United Nations work.

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

The mission of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, by working for and with United Nations Member States to promote justice and the rule of law and build resilient societies.

The [UNODC Strategy 2021-2025](#) underscores UNODC's commitment to human rights across its various mandate areas.⁴⁷ The Strategy embeds human rights as a cross-cutting theme into all its programmes, spanning normative and policy work, research and technical assistance delivery. Moreover, the Strategy underscores UNODC's commitment to human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as the protection of children and harnessing the transformative power of youth.

In implementing its mandates and supporting States to prevent and address crime, corruption, drugs and terrorism, and in coordination with the entire United Nations system, UNODC works systematically to promote human rights-based approaches through its programmes around the world. The [UNODC Pledge for the Human Rights 75 Initiative](#) pledges to help strengthen attention to human rights in the context of its work, reaching 70 countries in the next 5 years through the delivery of technical assistance and development of tools covering its various thematic areas of work.

Moreover, UNODC has published numerous tools on its mandate areas that promote human rights, including:

⁴⁷ UNODC, *UNODC Strategy 2021-2025* (Vienna, 2021). <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/strategy/full-strategy.html>.

- Serena Forlati, [Issue Paper: The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and International Human Rights Law](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2022).
- Marika McAdam, [Toolkit on Mainstreaming Gender and Human Rights in the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2023).
- Marika McAdam, [UNODC Toolkit for Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Human Rights Into Criminal Justice Interventions to Address Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2021).
- Giulia Melotti and others, [Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2017).
- Ulrich Garms, Lara Wilkinson and Amrita Kapur, [Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2019).
- Miri Sharon and Alan Paterson, [Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes: Practical Guidance and Promising Practices](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2019).
- Ben Saul and Jeanne Sulzer, [Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism](#) (Geneva, New York and Vienna, Inter-Parliamentary Union, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNODC, 2021).

- UNODC, [Knowledge Tools for Academics and Professionals: Module Series on Anti-Corruption. Module 7: Corruption and Human Rights](#) (Vienna, United Nations, 2017).
- UNODC, [Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum Module 4: Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism](#) (New York, United Nations, 2014).
- UNODC, ["Teaching module series: Cybercrime. Module 3: Legal frameworks and human rights"](#), no date (accessed 12 September 2024).

Additional tools and resources can be found on the website for [UNODC and Human Rights](#).

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UN WOMEN

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or [UN Women](#), is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It delivers programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.

Since the signature of their Memorandum of Understanding in 2012, UN Women and the European Union have established a solid and long-standing partnership to promote gender equality and women's empowerment at global, regional and national levels. The UN Women Brussels Liaison Office engages in policy dialogue and exchanges, joint programming development and joint advocacy with European institutions. Under the partnership with the European Parliament, the UN Women Brussels Liaison Office engages in public hearings and exchanges of views, provides technical expertise on gender equality and gender mainstreaming upon request of Members of the European Parliament, and remains available for partnering on events and advocacy activities such as the Gender Equality Week in the European Parliament.

UN Women supports United Nations Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs a reality for women and girls, and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- [Governance and participation in public life](#): Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.
- [Women's economic empowerment](#): Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.
- [Ending violence against women and girls](#): All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.
- [Women, peace and security, humanitarian action, and disaster risk reduction](#): Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the United Nations system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the SDGs and a more inclusive world.

Working for the empowerment and rights of women and girls globally, UN Women's main roles are:

- to [support intergovernmental bodies](#), such as the [CSW](#) including in its role in the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms;
- to help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it and to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and
- to lead and coordinate the United Nations system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

UN Women publishes an [annual report](#). In 2023, it published [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023](#),⁴⁸

48 GINETTE AZCONA AND OTHERS, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023* (New York, UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023-en.pdf>.

which provides a comprehensive analysis of gender equality progress across all 17 SDGs. An [Intersectionality Resource Guide and Toolkit](#)⁴⁹ and an action kit on [Engaging Parliaments in Gender Responsive Budgeting](#)⁵⁰ are available on its main website.

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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) promotes sound [environmental governance](#) – the rules, policies and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment. This includes through advancing the [right to a healthy environment](#), promoting [environmental rule of law](#) and supporting the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the Rio+20 outcome document, “[The future](#)

[we want](#)”. Building robust governance systems makes it possible to safeguard the environment and human rights, and work towards all 17 United Nations SDGs.

UNEP supports the recognition, advancement and implementation of human rights related to the environment in a multifaceted approach, including through the [Environmental Rights Initiative](#), a package of rights-based work undertaken by UNEP and partners dedicated to promote, protect and respect human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

UNEP and the United Nations Human Rights Office [cooperate](#) to promote and protect environmental and human rights on the basis of a cooperation agreement.

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49 United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN Women, *Intersectionality Resource Guide and Toolkit: An Intersectional Approach to Leave No One Behind* (New York, 2022). <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Intersectionality-resource-guide-and-toolkit-en.pdf>.

50 Kevin Deveaux and Geoff Dubrow, *Action Kit: Engaging Parliaments in Gender Responsive Budgeting* (New York, UN Women, 2022). <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Action-kit-Engaging-parliaments-in-gender-responsive-budgeting-en.pdf>.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ([UNRWA](#)) works to advance the human development of Palestine refugees through development and humanitarian services that encompass primary and vocational education, primary health care, relief and social services, infrastructure and camp improvement, microfinance, and emergency response, including in situations of armed conflict.

UNRWA recognizes that Palestine refugees are best protected through the realization of their human rights, including their rights to health, education, food, shelter, culture and non-discrimination. While the primary responsibility to protect, respect and fulfil human rights lies with States, UNRWA serves a key role, both as a provider of core services and as an advocate on behalf of the Palestine refugee population with duty bearers.

The protection of Palestine refugees lies at the core of UNRWA's mandate. [UNGA](#) acknowledges the protection mandate of UNRWA by recognizing in its resolutions "the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees."

The Agency's protection mandate specifically addresses the rights of vulnerable groups – including women, children and persons with disabilities – and UNGA has encouraged UNRWA to further address their needs and rights in its operations in accordance with relevant international instruments, including the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#) (CEDAW) and the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

In line with the [United Nations Call to Action for Human Rights](#), UNRWA's protection work is primarily guided by the principle that the fulfilment of human rights is essential in addressing the causes and impacts of complex protection crises.

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)) is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. It leads international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

People forced to flee are often deprived of their fundamental human rights. Citizens normally look to their own governments to guarantee their human rights and physical security. When people

are forced to flee, it is often because they can no longer rely on their government to protect them – or because their own government is persecuting them. They can be deprived of their fundamental human rights in their homeland, during their flight to safety and while displaced from home.

UNHCR works to improve, laws, regulations, policies and practices to ensure displaced and stateless people are treated fairly and are able to [access rights](#) and services in dignity, including the right to seek safety, the right to health care and the right to a nationality.

UNHCR operates the [Refworld](#) database, which is the leading source of legislation, case law and UNHCR guidance on refugees and stateless and internally displaced persons.

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

The United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) is the United Nations organization mandated to protect the rights of every child, everywhere, especially the most disadvantaged. As expressed in its mission statement, "UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children."

UNICEF is the only organization specifically named in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) as a source of expert assistance and advice. The Convention provides UNICEF with guidance as to the areas to be assessed and addressed and is a tool to measure the progress achieved in those areas.

Active in over 190 countries, UNICEF's working relationship with States Parties, its global credibility, and its considerable technical and financial support to States and civil society place UNICEF in a privileged position to advance children's rights by strengthening the monitoring and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By promoting the ratification and supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, UNICEF helps strengthen laws and policies and improves understanding of the Convention at all levels of society.

Numerous [resources](#) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child are available on the UNICEF website. Among them is [Empowering Children to Empower the Future: Rethinking Children's Rights Governance in the European Union](#).⁵¹

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The United Nations Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)) is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Its mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Its work is grounded in human rights and respect for culture. It aims to ensure sexual and reproductive rights and choices for all, especially women and young people, so that they can access high-quality sexual and reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning, maternal health care and comprehensive sexuality education.

UNFPA promotes gender equality and empowers women, girls and young people to take control of their bodies and their futures. It works with partners in more than 150 countries to provide access to a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services. Its goal is to end unmet need for family planning, preventable maternal death, and gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage and female genital mutilation, by 2030.

UNFPA publishes an annual [State of World Population](#) report.⁵² Numerous human rights-related [publications](#) are available on the UNFPA website. These include The [Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#),⁵³ a [Toolkit for Advancing Human Rights-Based Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health](#),⁵⁴ [Advancing Rights, Transforming Lives](#) (on UNFPA strategic engagement with the United Nations human rights system to advance sexual

51 UNICEF, *Empowering Children to Empower the Future: Rethinking Children's Rights Governance in the European Union* (New York, 2024). <https://www.unicef.org/eu/media/2601/file/EU%20Governance%20Report%20PDF.pdf>.

52 Ian McFarlane and others, *Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. State of World Population 2024* (New York, UNFPA, 2024). <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/swp2024-english-240327-web.pdf>.

53 Howard S. Friedman, Alexandra Trant and Gretchen Luchsinger, *Navigating Megatrends: The ICPD Programme of Action for a Sustainable Future. ICPD30 Think Piece: The Future of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* (New York, UNFPA, 2024). https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2.%20SRHR%20ICPD30%20ThinkPiece_050724_FINAL_WEB_V2%20%281%29.pdf.

54 Rebecca Brown and others, *Toolkit for Advancing Human Rights-Based Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health* (New York, UNFPA, no date). https://www.unfpa.org/modules/custom/unfpa_global_uhc/assets/pdfs/SRHR-Full-Toolkit-final-240513.pdf.

and reproductive health and rights),⁵⁵ and *A Guide in Support of National Human Rights Institutions*.⁵⁶ *Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Private Sector* further addresses the topic of business and human rights.⁵⁷ Other recent publications include *Believe in Better: Shaping the Future Through the Meaningful Engagement of Young Persons with Disabilities*,⁵⁸ *Technical Note: Developing Anti-FGM Laws Aligned with Human Rights*⁵⁹ and the support tool *Human Rights-based Approach to Family Planning*.⁶⁰

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disasters have wide-ranging impacts on human rights, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and inequalities while also creating new ones. At the same time, violations of human rights contribute to vulnerability and exposure, increasing disaster risk. A human rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) grounds DRR policies and interventions in human rights standards and principles and thus protecting the populations most at risk (such as women, children and persons with disabilities), integrating DRR into legal and policy frameworks, and promoting the active participation of affected communities in DRR planning and implementation, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. This approach aligns with the emphasis on inclusive and accessible DRR in the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction ([UNDRR](#)) plays a crucial role in aligning DRR efforts with the Sendai Framework and human rights principles. UNDRR provides policy guidance to ensure DRR strategies protect all individuals, especially the most at risk. It helps build the capacity of national and local governments to integrate human rights-based

- 55 UNFPA and Universal Rights Group, *Advancing Rights, Transforming Lives: Strategic Engagement with the United Nations Human Rights System to Advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* (New York, 2023). <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Advancing%20Rights%20Transforming%20Lives%20UNFPA%202023.pdf>.
- 56 UNFPA, *A Guide in Support of National Human Rights Institutions: Country Assessments and National Inquiries on Human Rights in the Context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Well-being* (New York, 2019). https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_PUB_2019_EN_Support_of_national_human_rights_report_29_online.pdf.
- 57 UNFPA, *Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Private Sector: The Case for Action and Accountability in the Workplace* (New York, 2024). <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Policy%20Paper.pdf>.
- 58 United Nations Youth Office, Youth2030 Joint Working Group and Task Team on Young People with Disabilities, *Believe in Better: Shaping the Future Through the Meaningful Engagement of Young Persons with Disabilities* (New York, United Nations Youth Office, UNFPA, Center for Inclusive Policy and Youth2030 Task Team on Youth with Disabilities, 2024). https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/BB_218x280_EN_26.04.pdf.
- 59 Kerstin Schinnerl, *Technical Note: Developing Anti-FGM Laws Aligned with Human Rights* (New York, UNFPA and UNICEF, 2023). <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/23-088-UNFPA%20TechNote%20DevFGMLaw%20240124.pdf>.
- 60 UNFPA, *Human Rights-Based Approach to Family Planning: UNFPA Support Tool* (New York, UNFPA, 2023). <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-HRBAtoFP-SupportTool-v231207.pdf>.

approaches into their DRR strategies. Additionally, UNDRR advocates for the importance of human rights in DRR, raises awareness among stakeholders, monitors and evaluates DRR strategies to ensure they meet human rights standards, and fosters partnerships between governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. It also supports research and knowledge-sharing on best practices for integrating human rights and DRR. UNDRR supports the implementation of the [Sendai Gender Action Plan](#) and implements gender-responsive and disability-inclusive early warning systems in support of the United Nations Secretary-General's [Early Warnings for All \(EW4ALL\)](#) initiative.

Resources:

- UNDRR, [Human Rights and Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#) (New York and Geneva, 2023).
- UNDRR, [Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#) (New York and Geneva, 2024).
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, "[General comment No.6 on equality and non-discrimination](#)", 26 April 2018 (CRPD/C/GC/6), paras. 43–46 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.
- Ilan Kelman and Carina Fearnley, [Inclusive Early Warning Early Action: Checklist and Implementation Guide](#) (Geneva, UNDRR, 2023).

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The [ILO](#) is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights,⁶¹ pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.

The only tripartite United Nations agency, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 Member States to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

Since 1919, the ILO has maintained and developed a system of [international labour standards](#) aimed at promoting opportunities for people to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity. International labour standards are an essential component in the international framework for ensuring that the growth of the global economy provides benefits to all.

International labour standards are [legal instruments](#) drawn up by the ILO's constituents (governments, employers and workers), setting out basic principles and rights at work. They are either conventions or protocols, which are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by Member States or Recommendations, which serve as non-binding guidelines.

[Region- and country-specific](#) information is available on the ILO's website, including [ratification](#) by country of ILO conventions. Issues specifically related to application of ratified ILO conventions can be found on the [ILO country profiles](#).

The ILO's [Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy](#) provides direct guidance to enterprises

(multinational and national) on social policy and inclusive, responsible and sustainable workplace practices. The ILO operates a [practical helpdesk](#) that businesses can contact directly with specific inquiries about the application of international labour standards in their specific business operations.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

FAO's [mission](#) calls for:

- the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
- the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and

61 Tim de Meyer, "International labour standards as human rights", 17 November 2022. <https://www.ilo.org/resource/article/international-labour-standards-human-rights> (accessed 12 September 2024).

- the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

FAO plays a key role in the advancement of the [right to adequate food](#) at the global, regional and national level.

FAO's [Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food in the Context of National Food Security](#) are a practical tool to help implement the right to adequate food and are founded on human rights principles, adopted by the FAO Council in November 2004.⁶² While not legally binding, they provide policy recommendations to States and other stakeholders on relevant issues, including access to natural resources, education, legislation and markets.

Numerous [resources](#) relevant to the right to food are available on the FAO website.

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Established in 1951, the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is part of the United Nations system, as a related organization.

IOM supports migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration and, as such, is a key source of advice on migration policy and practice. The organization works in emergency situations, developing the resilience of all people on the move, and particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as well as building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility.

The Organization is guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including upholding [human rights](#) for all. Respect for the [rights](#), dignity and well-being of migrants remains paramount.

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62 FAO, *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*. Adopted by the 127th Session of the FAO Council November 2004 (Rome, 2005). <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/307a8e6b-c478-49ba-8a29-f97c825d5770/content>.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Founded in 1948, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable, so that everyone, everywhere, can attain the highest level of health. It leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage, directs and coordinates the world's response to health emergencies, and promotes healthier lives, from pregnancy care to old age.

A principle set out in the preamble to the [Constitution](#) is that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

WHO supports country efforts to integrate [human rights](#) into health systems, programmes and policies. To achieve this, WHO provides [guidance on human rights](#) in the context of health issues, such as HIV, maternal and child health, mental health and others. WHO also provides support to countries to strengthen national health systems to ensure that services are universally available, accessible, acceptable and of high quality. WHO's political leadership on the right to health focuses on supporting countries to review laws, policies and practices to ensure they support the right to health. WHO's human rights work aligns with the SDGs.

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Pursuant to Article I of its [Constitution](#), the purpose of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is to "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations".

[Human rights](#) guide all UNESCO programmes and activities, and contribute to its mission of advancing education, culture, sciences and communication across the globe. UNESCO integrates human rights throughout its programmes and works in close cooperation with its Member States, United Nations entities, human rights institutions, and UNESCO partners and networks.

This commitment underpins the [2003 UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights](#)⁶³ and the [integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance](#),⁶⁴ which affirm the relevance of the [human rights-based approach](#) to UNESCO's work.

The rights falling within UNESCO's competence⁶⁵ are essentially the following (each article mentioned here refers to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights):

- the right to education (article 26);
- the right to share in scientific advancement (article 27);
- the right to participate freely in cultural life (article 27); and
- the right to information, including freedom of opinion and expression (article 19).

These rights may imply the exercise of other rights, the most noteworthy of which are:

- the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (article 18);
- the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers (article 19);
- the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production (article 27); and
- the right to freedom of assembly and association (article 20) for the purposes of activities connected with education, science, culture and information.

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme ([UN-Habitat](#)) is mandated by UNGA to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. UN-Habitat is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the United Nations system. UN-Habitat works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. UN-Habitat promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty.

As such, UN-Habitat's mandate is human rights-based at its core, with a strong focus specifically on the different aspects of the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate housing and to safe drinking water and sanitation, the impact of spatial equity on human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination in participation in local-level decision-making and, more recently, human rights in cities as

63 UNESCO, *Strategy on Human Rights* (Paris, 2003). <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000145734/PDF/145734eng.pdf.multi>.

64 UNESCO General Conference, "Development of an integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", thirty-second session, Paris, 1 September 2003 (32C/13). <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000131202>.

65 UNESCO, "Examination of communications relating to human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence (104 Procedure)", 3 July 2024. <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/cr-committee/104-procedure> (accessed 13 September 2024).

part of the digital transformation. This is done both at normative level through research and the development of tools and approaches for the support of Member States, and at implementation level through technical advice and capacity assistance. UN-Habitat also has an important role convening partners, including national and local authorities, urban professionals, human rights practitioners, civil society, the private sector and academia through, for example, the World Urban Forum.

Resources:

- Livia Schaeffer Nonose and Milou Jansen, [Mainstreaming Human Rights in the Digital Transformation of Cities: A Guide for Local Governments](#) (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2022).
- Elin Andersdotter Fabre and others, [Her City: A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design Together with Girls](#), third edition (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2021).
- Sonja Ghaderi and Tessy Aura, [Human Rights in Cities Handbook Series. Volume 1: The Human Rights-Based Approach to Housing and Slum Upgrading](#) (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2017).

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OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict ([SRSG CAAC](#)) serves as the leading United Nations advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. The mandate of the Special Representative was created by UNGA [resolution A/RES/51/77](#), following the publication of a report entitled [Impact of Armed Conflict on Children](#).⁶⁶

The role of the Special Representative is to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict, raise awareness, promote the collection of information about the plight of children affected by war and foster international cooperation to improve their protection. The Special Representative reports yearly to [UNGA](#) and the [Human Rights Council](#), and raises challenges faced by children in war in the United Nations Security Council, as well as with relevant governments, to maintain a sense of urgency among key decision makers, as well as to secure political and diplomatic engagement. Since 1999, the systematic engagement of the United Nations [Security Council](#) has firmly placed the situation of children affected by armed conflict as an issue affecting peace and security.

The SRSG CAAC focuses primarily on those situations of armed conflict or of concern identified in the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. Reports, resolutions and other documents related to the work of the SRSG CAAC are available in its [virtual library](#).

66 Graça Machel, *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children: Report of the Expert of the Secretary-General, Ms. Graça Machel, Submitted Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 48/157*, UNGA fifty-first session, 26 August 1996 (A/51/306). <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n96/219/55/pdf/n9621955.pdf>.

Sitting at the junction of the human rights, peace and security, development, and humanitarian agendas, the children and armed conflict agenda is one of cooperation, and it has strong links to other thematic agendas such as youth, peace and security, protection of civilians, and women, peace and security. Recognizing these links and building bridges between different agendas is fundamental to its success. At the same time, maintaining the specificity of the children and armed conflict agenda, as a topic in its own right, is equally important.

In 2018, the Special Representative opened a Europe Liaison Office based in Brussels to liaise on all matters related to children and armed conflict that fall under the remit of SRSG CAAC.

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UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE FOR WESTERN EUROPE

The mission of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) is to communicate the values, history and mandate of the United Nations and its actions in building a more peaceful, fair and sustainable world. UNRIC represents the United Nations [Department of Global Communications in Western Europe](#), and engages with partners, civil society, media, public institutions, think-thanks, academia, the private sector and the creative community. UNRIC also provides support to United Nations agencies located in Brussels and works together with European Union institutions.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

As part of the wider International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the [ICRC](#) promotes respect for IHL and its implementation in national law. It is a neutral, independent organization that provides humanitarian protection and assistance to people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

The ICRC's Brussels delegation covers the organization's engagement with the European Union, NATO and Belgium. The ICRC advocates for the correct application and consideration of matters relating to IHL in European Union decision-making. The European Union provides funding for ICRC and both organizations work together on the promotion of IHL to wide audiences. The delegation can assist with any queries related to IHL.

The [Red Cross EU Office](#) can assist with any queries relating to European Union national societies (beyond IHL activities), and the work

of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The IFRC is a membership organization that coordinates the 191 national societies, and acts before, during and after natural disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

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Annexes

ANNEX 1: EU AND EU MEMBER STATE RATIFICATION OF THE CORE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES⁶⁷

| | CERD | ICCPR | ICESCR | CEDAW | CAT | OP CAT | CRC | CMW | CRPD | CED |
|----------------|------|-------|--------|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Austria | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Belgium | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Bulgaria | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Croatia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Cyprus | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Czechia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Denmark | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Estonia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Finland | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| France | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Germany | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Greece | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Hungary | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Ireland | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Italy | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Latvia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Lithuania | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Luxembourg | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Malta | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Netherlands | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Poland | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Portugal | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Romania | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Slovakia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Slovenia | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Spain | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Sweden | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| European Union | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

Not presently ratified
 Ratification

- CERD: [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
- ICCPR: [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- ICESCR: [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- CEDAW: [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)
- CAT: [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)
- OP CAT: [Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)
- CRC: [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- CMW: [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#)
- CRPD: [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- CED: [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#)

67 United Nations, "Treaty collection: Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General", no date. <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&clang=en> (accessed 12 September 2024).

ANNEX 2: TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS⁶⁸

| European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights | References to United Nations human rights in the Explanations Relating to the Charter of Fundamental Rights (2007/C 303/02) | Other correspondences in United Nations human rights instruments |
|--|---|--|
| TITLE 1. DIGNITY | | |
| Art. 1. Human dignity | Preamble of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights | UDHR, arts. 1, 22 and 23(3) ICCPR, art. 10 ICESCR, art. 13 MWC, art. 17(1) CRPD, art. 17 |
| Art. 2. Right to life | | ICCPR, art. 6 CRC, art. 6 CRPD, art. 10 |
| Art. 3. Right to the integrity of the person | | ICCPR, art. 7 CEDAW, art. 16 (as regards reproductive health) CRPD, art. 17 |
| Art. 4. Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment | | UDHR, art. 5 ICCPR, art. 7 CAT, arts. 1 and 16 CRC, arts. 19 and 37(a) MWC, art. 10 |
| Art. 5. Prohibition of slavery and forced labour | | UDHR, art. 4 ICCPR, art. 8(1) and (2) MWC, art. 11 ILO Convention, Nos. 29 and 105 and the 2014 Protocol to C29 |
| TITLE 2. FREEDOMS | | |
| Art. 6. Right to liberty and security | | UDHR, art. 9 ICCPR, art. 9 CRC, art. 37 (b), (c) and (d) CRPD, art. 14 MWC, art. 16 |
| Art. 7. Respect for private and family life | | UDHR, art. 12 ICCPR, art. 17 CRC, art. 16 ICERD, art. 5 CRPD, art. 22 CEDAW, art. 16 MWC, art. 14 |
| Art. 8. Protection of personal data | | UDHR, art. 12 ICCPR, art. 17 CRC, art. 16 |
| Art. 9. Right to marry and to form a family | | UDHR, art. 16 ICCPR, art. 23 CEDAW, art. 16 |

⁶⁸ This chart is based on the tables in De Schutter, *Future of Europe*, pp. 5–9, and European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights*, pp. 82–93.

| TITLE 2. | | FREEDOMS (CONTINUED) |
|--|--|---|
| Art. 10. Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion | | UDHR, art. 18 ICCPR, art. 18 CRC, art. 14 ICERD, art. 5 MWC, art. 12 |
| Art. 11. Freedom of expression and information | | UDHR, art. 19 ICCPR, art. 19 CRC, arts. 13 and 17 CRPD, art. 21 ICERD, art. 5 MWC, art. 13 |
| Art. 12. Freedom of assembly and of association | | UDHR, arts. 20 (assembly and association), 21 (political participation) and 23(4) (trade unions) ICCPR, arts. 21 (assembly), 22 (association) and 25 (political participation) ICESCR, art. 8 (association) CRC, art. 15 ICERD, art. 5 ILO Convention No. 87 |
| Art. 13. Freedom of the arts and sciences | | UDHR, art. 27 ICCPR, art. 19(2) and (3) ICESCR, art. 15 |
| Art. 14. Right to education | | UDHR, art. 26 ICESCR, arts. 13 and 14 CRC, arts. 28 and 29 CRPD, art. 24 CEDAW, art. 10 ICERD, art. 5 |
| Art. 15. Freedom to choose an occupation and right to engage in work | | UDHR, art. 23(1) ICCPR, art. 8(3)(a) ICESCR, art. 6 ICERD, art. 5(e) CRC, art. 32 CRPD, art. 27 CEDAW, art. 11 MWC, arts. 11, 25, 26, 40, 52 and 54 ILO Convention No. 122 |
| Art. 16. Freedom to conduct a business | | |
| Art. 17. Right to property | | UDHR, arts. 17 (right to property) and 27 (right of everyone to the protection of moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author) ICESCR, art. 15(1)(c) (right of everyone to the protection of moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author) ICERD, art. 5(d) MWC, art. 15 |
| Art. 18. Right to asylum | | Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951 (referred to in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, art. 78) UDHR, art. 14 CRC, art. 22 |
| Art. 19. Protection in the event of removal, expulsion or extradition | | ICCPR, arts. 7 and 13 Prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens MWC, arts. 10 and 22(1) and 56 non-refoulement ICERD, art. 5 CAT, art. 3(1) CRC, art 22 |

| TITLE 3. | | EQUALITY |
|---|---|--|
| Art. 20. Equality before the law | | UDHR, art. 7 ICCPR, arts. 2(1), 14 and 26 ICESCR, art. 2(2) ICERD, art. 5 CEDAW, art. 2 CRPD, art. 5(1) CRC, art. 2 |
| Art. 21. Non-discrimination | | UDHR, art. 7 ICCPR, arts. 2(1) and 26 ICESCR, art. 2(2) ICERD, art. 5 CEDAW, art. 2 CRPD, art. 5(1) CRC, art. 2 ILO Convention No. 111 |
| Art. 22. Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity | | UDHR, art. 27(1) ICCPR, art. 27 ICESCR, art. 15(1)(a) CRC, art. 30 CRPF, art. 30 ICERD, art. 5(e) |
| Art. 23. Equality between women and men | | UDHR, art. 7 ICCPR, arts. 2(1), 3 and 26 ICESCR, arts. 2(2) and 3 CEDAW, arts. 3 and 8 ILO Convention No. 100 |
| Art. 24. The rights of the child | "This article is based on the New York Convention on the Rights of the Child [...] ratified by all the Member States, particularly articles 3 [best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children], 9 [separation of the child from his/her parents], 12 [views of the child to be given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child] and 13 [freedom of expression] thereof." | CRC ICCPR, art. 24 CPRD, art. 7 |
| Art. 25. The rights of the elderly | | |
| Art. 26. Integration of persons with disabilities | | CRPD, especially art. 19 (right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, and to full inclusion and participation in the community) |
| TITLE 4. | | SOLIDARITY |
| Art. 27. Workers' right to information and consultation within the undertaking | | |
| Art. 28. Right to collective bargaining and action | | ICESCR, art. 8(1)(d) (right to strike) ILO Convention No. 98 |
| Art. 29. Right of access to placement services | | ICESCR, art. 6(2) CEDAW, art. 10 |
| Art. 30. Protection in the event of unjustified dismissal | | ICESCR, art. 6 ICERD, art. 5(e) |
| Art. 31. Fair and just working conditions | | UDHR, art. 23(1) ICESCR, art. 7 ICERD, art. 5(e) ILO Convention Nos. 155 and 187 |

| TITLE 4. SOLIDARITY (CONTINUED) | | |
|---|--|--|
| Art. 32. Prohibition of child labour and protection of young people at work | | ICESCR, art. 10(3) CRC, art. 32 ILO Convention Nos. 138 and 182 |
| Art. 33. Family and professional life | | ICESCR, art. 10 ICCPR, art. 23(1) CEDAW, arts. 5 and 11(2)(c) and (d) |
| Art. 34. Social security and social assistance | | UDHR, arts. 22 and 25 ICESCR, arts. 9–11 CRC, art. 26 CEDAW, art. 13 ICERD, art. 5(e) CRPD, art. 28 |
| Art. 35. The right to health care | | UDHR, art. 25 ICESCR, art. 12 CRC, art. 24 CRPD, art. 25 CEDAW, art. 12 |
| Art. 36. Access to services of general economic interest | | |
| Art. 37. Environmental protection | | ICESCR, art. 12(b) |
| Art. 38. Consumer protection | | |
| TITLE 5. CITIZENS' RIGHTS | | |
| Art. 39. Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament | | UDHR, art. 21 ICCPR, art. 25 ICERD, art. 5(c) CEDAW, art. 7 CRPD, art. 29 |
| Art. 40. Right to vote and stand to stand as a candidate at municipal elections | | UDHR, art. 21 ICCPR, art. 25 ICERD, art. 5(c) CEDAW, art. 7 CRPD, art. 29 |
| Art. 41. Right to good administration | | |
| Art. 42. Right of access to documents | | |
| Art. 43. European Ombudsman | | |
| Art. 44. Right to petition | | |
| Art. 45. Freedom of movement and of residence | | UDHR, art. 13 ICCPR, art. 12(1) CRPD, art. 10 CRC, art. 10 ICERD, art. 5(d) |
| Art. 46. Diplomatic and consular protection | | |

| TITLE 6. | | JUSTICE |
|---|--|--|
| Art. 47. Right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial | | UDHR, arts. 8 and 10 ICCPR, arts. 2(3), 9(5) and 14 CAT, art. 14 CRC, arts. 37(d) and 40 CRPD, art. 13 ICERD, art. 6 MWC, arts. 16(6) and 18 |
| Art. 48. Presumption of innocence and right of defence | | UDHR, art. 11 ICCPR, art. 14 CRC, art. 40(2)(b) MWC, art. 18(2) and (3) |
| Art. 49. Principles of legality and proportionality of criminal offences and penalties | | UDHR, art. 11(2) ICCPR, art. 15 CRC, art. 40(3) MWC, art. 19(1) |
| Art. 50. Right not to be tried or punished twice in criminal proceedings for the same criminal offence | | ICCPR, art. 14(7) MWC, art. 18(7) |
| TITLE 7. GENERAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER | | |
| Article 52. Scope and interpretation of rights and principles | | UDHR, art. 29(2) ICESCR, art. 4 ICCPR, arts. 18(3), 19(3), 21 and 22(2) |
| Article 53. Level of protection | | ICESCR, art. 5(2) ICCPR, art. 5(2) |
| Article 54. Prohibition of abuse of rights | | UDHR, art. 30 ICESCR, art. 5(1) ICCPR, art. 5(1) |

ABBREVIATIONS USED

UDHR: [UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

ICESCR: [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

ICCPR: [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)

ICERD: [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)

CEDAW: [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)

CRC: [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

CAT: [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)

MWC: [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#)

CRPD: [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

ILO Convention No. 29: [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\) and Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930](#)

ILO Convention No. 87: [Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 98: [Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 \(No. 98\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 100: [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 105: [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 111: [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 138: [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 155: [Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 \(No. 155\)](#)

ILO Convention No. 182: [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#)

ANNEX 3: INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS THEMES⁷⁰

CIVIC SPACE AND DEMOCRACY

Civic space and human rights defenders

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/civic-space-and-human-rights-defenders>

Democracy, right to participate and the electoral process

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/democracy-right-participate-and-electoral-process>

Digital space and human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/digital-space-and-human-rights>

Freedom of assembly and association

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/freedom-assembly-and-association>

Freedom of opinion and expression

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/freedom-expression-and-opinion>

DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING IN DIGNITY

Business and human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/business-and-human-rights>

Sustainable development through human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/sustainable-development-through-human-rights>

Right to development

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/right-development>

Climate change, environment and human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/climate-change-and-environment>

Education and cultural rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/education-and-cultural-rights>

⁷⁰ Taken from OHCHR, "Topics", no date. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/topics>. (accessed 12 September 2024).

Health

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/health>

Land and housing

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/land-and-housing>

Poverty, the right to food and social protection

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/poverty-right-food-and-social-protection>

Water and sanitation

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/water-and-sanitation>

Coercive measures

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/coercive-measures>

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Albinism

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/albinism>

Children and youth

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/children-and-youth>

Freedom of religion

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/freedom-religion>

Indigenous peoples

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/indigenous-peoples>

LGBTI people

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/lgbti-people>

Migration

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/migration>

Minorities

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/minorities>

Older persons

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/older-persons>

Persons with disabilities

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/persons-disabilities>

Racism, xenophobia and intolerance

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/racism-xenophobia-intolerance>

Gender equality and human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/gender-equality-and-womens-rights>

JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Administration of justice and law enforcement

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/administration-justice-and-law-enforcement>

Death penalty

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/death-penalty>

Detention

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/detention>

Disappearances and executions

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/disappearances-and-executions>

Slavery and trafficking

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/slavery-and-trafficking>

Terrorism and violent extremism

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/terrorism-and-violent-extremism>

Torture

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/torture>

PEACE AND SECURITY

Conflict prevention, early warning and security

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/conflict-prevention-early-warning-and-security>

Humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/humanitarian-emergencies-and-conflict-situations>

Transitional justice and post-conflict peacekeeping

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/transitional-justice-and-post-conflict-peacekeeping>

HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATORS

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-and-mechanisms/human-rights-indicators>

ANNEX 4: MAKING A DIFFERENCE: AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS⁷¹

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| Human rights law | 8 | b) Human Rights Treaty Bodies | 30 |
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| Human rights-based approach | 14 | i. African Union | 36 |
| Human rights impact assessment | 16 | | |
| Gender integration/mainstreaming | 17 | | |

71 United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, *Making a Difference: An Introduction to Human Rights* (Brussels, 2019). <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/2019%20Making%20a%20Difference%20EN.pdf>.

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| b) Asian Region | 41 | 8) Freedom of opinion and expression | 89 |
| i. Association of Southeast Asian Nations | 41 | 9) Freedom of peaceful assembly and association | 90 |
| c) European Region | 43 | 10) The right to participate in public affairs | 92 |
| i. Council of Europe | 43 | 11) Protection of private and family life and the right to privacy | 94 |
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| 2) Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment | 76 | 5) Human rights defenders | 138 |
| 3) The right to be free from enslavement | 80 | 6) National, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities | 142 |
| 4) The prohibition of human trafficking | 81 | | |
| 5) The right to liberty and security | 84 | | |
| 6) Freedom of movement | 87 | | |

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| Chapter II Preventing violations of fundamental rights through compatibility checks and impact assessments | 13 | | |

⁷² Olivier De Schutter, *Future of Europe: International Human Rights in European Integration* (Brussels, United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, 2023). <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/FutureOfEurope.pdf>.

ANNEX 6: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW⁷³

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73 Israel de Jesús Butler, *The European Union and International Human Rights Law* (Brussels, United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, 2011). https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/EU_and_International_Law.pdf.

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74 United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, *The Case for a Human Rights Approach to the Rule of Law in the European Union* (Brussels, 2020). <https://europe.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Publication.pdf>.



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