

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

A Status Report



Edited by Dr Purna Sen  
Research by Jade Cochran

Commonwealth Secretariat



# **HUMAN RIGHTS** **IN THE** **COMMONWEALTH**

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Edited by Dr Purna Sen  
Research by Jade Cochran

Commonwealth Secretariat 

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## List of Abbreviations

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CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CFNHRI	Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
HRC	Human Rights Council (United Nations)
HRU	Human Rights Unit (Commonwealth Secretariat)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
MWC	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NHRI	national human rights institution
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VCLT	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

# Foreword

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10 December 2008 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – the first and most far-sighted statement of some of the Commonwealth's, and the world's, most basic principles.

As the Commonwealth prepares to celebrate its own 60th Anniversary in 2009, its commitment to human rights is as strong as ever. When our Heads of Government last met in Uganda in 2007, they reaffirmed their determination to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the Commonwealth.

This publication tells us how far we have come, and how far we need to go. The progress is real: in 2008 alone, eight of our member countries – Australia, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Uganda – ratified major international human rights treaties. But 19 of our member countries are still to ratify both 1966 Covenants, on Civil and Political Rights, and Economic, Cultural and Social Rights.

I warmly commend this publication, and encourage its use by Commonwealth officials in law, justice, gender – and all areas of government which concern themselves with the promotion of human rights. The right to life, the right to a vote, to food, to education, to decent work, to housing and to freedom of expression – these and others remind us that human rights are the concern of the many, not the few.

This book presents a brief country-by-country summary of where we stand. It also points to human rights initiatives that show not only the breadth of commitment across the Commonwealth, but also a range of innovative and good practices that can serve as inspiration to others.

The Commonwealth Secretariat stands ready to support member states, at this important anniversary and beyond.

Our assistance comes in many forms, from providing training on the reporting obligations of the Universal Periodic Review to strengthening national human rights institutions; from assisting in the ratification of human rights treaties to conducting human rights training for those most likely to need and use it, such as police officers.

The Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit is at your service: I encourage all of our member governments to draw on its expertise.

**Kamalesh Sharma**  
**Commonwealth Secretary-General**  
**London, December 2008**

## Introduction

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From the very inception of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, countries now in the Commonwealth have engaged in shaping and promoting human rights. Those who wrote the Declaration included Commonwealth citizens from several countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and India. In 1948 they turned their thoughts to human dignity and the elements needed to make this dignity real.

The drafters saw human dignity as the lynchpin for freedom, justice and peace in the world. They called for freedoms – of thought, religion, expression and movement. They set out rights – to work, social security, health, education and an adequate standard of living. They declared the principle of non-discrimination and called for an international order that would enable the fulfilment of rights set out in the Declaration. They were clear that dignity cannot co-exist with poverty, homelessness, lack of education or exclusion from the decision-making systems that impact on a person's life.

The values of the Commonwealth and the content of the Declaration complement each other well. In addressing poverty, we seek to improve the working conditions and opportunities of the 2 billion people of the Commonwealth; in addressing discrimination we address gender inequalities; and through the Respect and Understanding agenda we seek harmonious and respectful relations between ethnic and other social groups.

The Declaration is Universal; it applies to everyone and indicates the range of rights that have subsequently been further established in a series of treaties: economic, social, cultural, civil and political. The following pages draw on United Nations information to record, country by country, the extent of sign-up to the eight most important of these treaties by all Commonwealth states. The extent of reservations, explained overleaf, and the date of the latest engagement with the UN to discuss national progress is also noted, as is the existence or otherwise of national human rights institutions.

Laws are not the entirety of the human rights story. They are important in setting the framework but the major challenge lies in turning the promises set out in these laws into reality for the people. Positive accounts of recent initiatives to progress human rights are presented, not only to publicise good human rights work in the Commonwealth but also to inspire others to action. This publication shows how committed is this organisation to human rights and celebrates our recent successes.

The publication moves on to offer a brief quantitative analysis of the country data, by region. The leadership of the African region on both ratifications and the number of reservations is clear; the front-runner position of the Pacific region on abolition of the death penalty is striking. Africa is the region where we find the highest rate of ratifications and

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where the largest number of treaties enjoy universal regional sign-up: the Conventions on Civil and Political Rights, Discrimination Against Women, Racial Discrimination and the Rights of the Child have been ratified by all African Commonwealth countries. The one Convention that all Commonwealth countries have ratified is the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I hope this will be a useful and inspiring document for those interested in the reality and the future of human rights in the Commonwealth. The 60th Anniversary of the Declaration provides the opportunity to celebrate our successes and to re-commit to the fulfilment of human rights across the Commonwealth.

**Dr Purna Sen**  
**Head of Human Rights**



## The Core International Human Rights Treaties

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This publication focuses on the eight core international human rights treaties in force that set out international human rights standards and provide a comprehensive legal framework for states to meet their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

These eight treaties are the product of 60 years of elaboration since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Each treaty defines the substantive rights and freedoms in the area addressed by that document.

Countries become bound to a particular treaty through ratification or accession to it. Either of these two acts signals a country's concrete willingness to undertake the legal rights and obligations contained in a treaty. A country that has ratified or acceded to a treaty is often referred to as being 'party to' the treaty. Signature of a treaty by a country is an indication that the country intends to examine the treaty to determine its position towards it before ratification. While a signature does not bind a country to a treaty, it does result in an obligation to refrain from acts which might defeat the object and purpose of the treaty

The ICCPR and the ICESCR, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), make up the International Bill of Human Rights. Both the ICCPR and the ICESCR recognise the interdependence of all human rights – the principle that the human rights ideal can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

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### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *(came into force: 1976)*

The ICCPR elaborates upon and gives legal expression to the civil and political rights found in the UDHR such as the right to life, to freedom of expression and to freedom from torture. Article 2 of the ICCPR provides the basic duty imposed by the Covenant: countries party to the ICCPR must 'respect' the Covenant rights and 'ensure' that they are enjoyed by all persons on that country's territory without discrimination on any ground.

### The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

*(came into force: 1976)*

The ICESCR defines a range of economic, social, and cultural rights such as the right to decent work, to education and to health. The Covenant also specifies the steps required for the full realisation of these rights. The main difference between the ICESCR and the ICCPR is the concept of progressive realisation found in Article 2 of the ICESCR. This concept acknowledges the difficulties countries may face in realising these rights due to limited resources. The concept also restricts actions by states that worsen the enjoyment of these rights. The ICESCR places an immediate obligation on countries to take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps towards the full realisation of rights set out in the Covenant.

### International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women *(came into force: 1981)*

CEDAW is the most comprehensive and significant international treaty dealing with the rights of women and it obliges countries to eliminate all discrimination based on gender. CEDAW acknowledges that women are a disadvantaged group and its main premise is achieving equality between women and men. CEDAW sets out internationally accepted principles on women's rights in a legally binding form.

### International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination *(came into force: 1969)*

CERD is one of the oldest international human rights treaties and it builds further upon the non-discrimination provisions in the UDHR. CERD stipulates the measures that a country agrees to carry out to eliminate all racial discrimination. Countries party to CERD must not engage in, defend or support racial discrimination in any form. They must prohibit racial discrimination by any persons or organisations and encourage means to eliminate barriers between races.

### Convention on the Rights of the Child *(came into force: 1990)*

This Convention elaborates on the substantive rights found in the ICCPR and the ICESCR with a focus on the particular vulnerabilities and needs of children.

CRC is the only international human rights treaty that enjoys the support of every Commonwealth country.

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## **International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (*came into force: 1987*)

CAT formalises and restates the absolute prohibition of torture in international law. It requires that torture be made a domestic crime, that acts of torture be punished, that there be prompt and impartial investigations of any torture allegations, that statements made as a result of torture are not used as evidence in proceedings, and that an enforceable right to compensation and rehabilitation be in place for torture victims. CAT states explicitly that under no circumstances can torture be justified.

## **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** (*came into force: 1990*)

The MWC is the most far-reaching and comprehensive international treaty promoting the human rights of migrants. The Convention aims to prevent and stop the exploitation of migrant workers, in particular workers secured through illegal recruitment or who have been trafficked. The Convention's provisions address the treatment, welfare and human rights of migrant workers and set out the obligations of both sending and receiving countries.

## **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>1</sup>** (*came into force: 2008*)

The CRPD formalises the rights of persons with disabilities, emphasising empowerment and moving towards people with disabilities taking a greater role in making decisions that affect them. The Convention aims to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy the same civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as others and have the same opportunities. The Convention allows for progressive implementation and stipulates minimum measures to respect human dignity.

## **Reservations to human rights treaties**

At the time that a country adopts a treaty it can decline to accept a specific part of it. Statements that declare such exceptions are called reservations.<sup>2</sup> Reservations are invalid if their content is 'incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty' (Article 19, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)).

The use of reservations is permitted but not encouraged. Their wording should be specific and narrow and subject to regular review to ensure that they either remain pertinent or are removed. The removal of reservations is encouraged. Entering a large number of reservations raises questions as to the commitment of the relevant state to the treaty concerned and to its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had not yet been elected. Accordingly reporting dates have not yet been allocated.

<sup>2</sup> In line with international treaty law, as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)

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## Monitoring the implementation of human rights treaties through reports

Each of the eight treaties has a corresponding body which monitors the implementation of that treaty.<sup>3</sup> This monitoring is largely done through the review of reports submitted by each country to the relevant Committee. Ratification commits the relevant state to submit reports that are discussed with the Committee in a thorough and constructive dialogue on the state of human rights implementation in their country. Recommendations to the relevant state follow these discussions.

An initial report from each newly ratifying state is required within one or two years of the treaty coming into force for that country. After this initial report, the periodicity for reporting changes to every four to five years.

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<sup>3</sup> Please see footnote 1 on page 10.

## Universal Periodic Review

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### What is Universal Periodic Review?

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a new United Nations human rights mechanism that started in 2008. It will examine the human rights records of all 192 UN member states once every four years. It is an inter-governmental process where countries sitting on the Human Rights Council (HRC) assess the human rights record of each country in turn. This is a new approach, and a departure from the assessments made by the UN human rights treaty bodies, which are made up of independent experts.

The ultimate aim of the review is to improve the realisation of human rights for people of all countries through the support and encouragement of their governments in the implementation of agreed recommendations on human rights.

### On what is the review based?

The HRC reviews the human rights record of each country according to three sources: a report prepared by the country under review; a compilation of information derived from the UN human rights system; and a summary of information given by other stakeholders such as non-government organisations and national human rights institutions (NHRIs).

### What is the output of UPR?

The output of the review is a document containing (a) conclusions and recommendations made by the countries in the Human Rights Council and (b) voluntary commitments made by the country under review.

### Following the UPR...

Following the review, each country has a duty to implement the recommendations contained in the final document adopted by the Human Rights Council. During the subsequent review, four years later, each country's progress against these recommendations will be considered.

# Strengthening National Human Rights Institutions

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As the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI), I would like to applaud the significant role that national human rights institutions (NHRIs) play in the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. NHRIs are national institutions established by governments but independent from them with a mandate to preserve, promote and protect human rights. Different approaches are taken to fulfil this important aim, such as investigating human rights violations, holding governments accountable for their human rights failures and providing human rights training to key state actors.

In recognition of this important role, the CFNHRI was formed in London during the Commonwealth Conference of NHRIs in February 2007. In November 2007 at the first meeting of the Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Uganda was elected as chair.

Unique to this forum is a structure that is informal and inclusive, encompassing both Commonwealth NHRIs and other accountability mechanisms with a human rights mandate. It is complementary to and supports the activities of existing international and regional coordinating or accrediting bodies, such as the United Nations and the Asia-Pacific Forum.

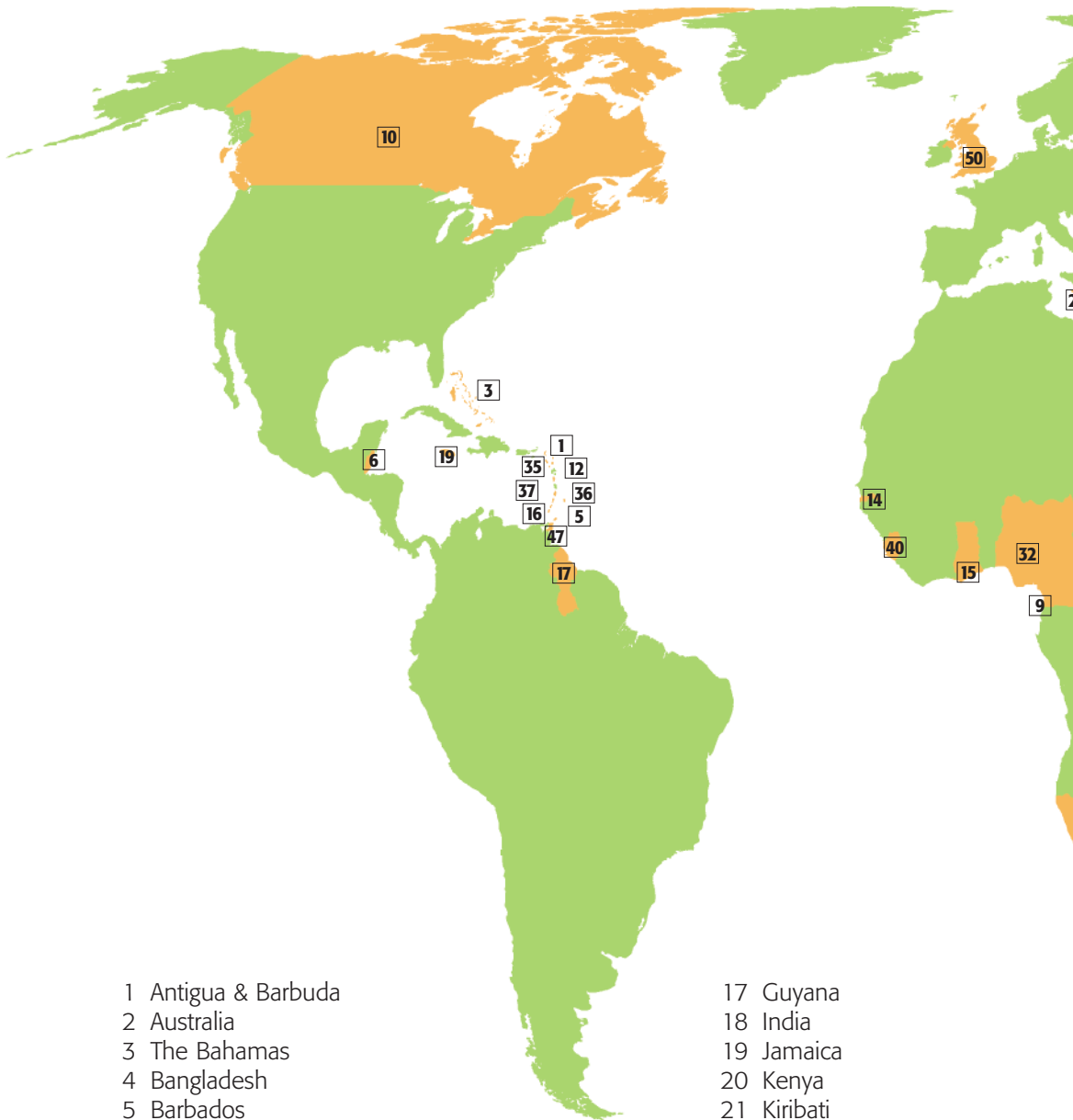
The Forum was formed to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to promote, monitor and protect human rights in the Commonwealth. This is done by using the Forum as a mechanism to share information and best practices, to ensure cooperation on matters of joint interest, and to increase dialogue between institutions and governments.

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago beckons, and it is anticipated that the Forum will be recognised as a separate entity that can participate in the CHOGM processes and interact with Commonwealth Heads of Government. It will be an opportunity to follow up on the recommendations made to the Commonwealth Heads of Governments in November 2007, which included strengthening NHRIs through increased funding, implementing their recommendations in a timely fashion, and establishing mechanisms of engagement and adequate support.

**Mrs Margaret Sekaggya**  
Chairperson of the CFNHRI

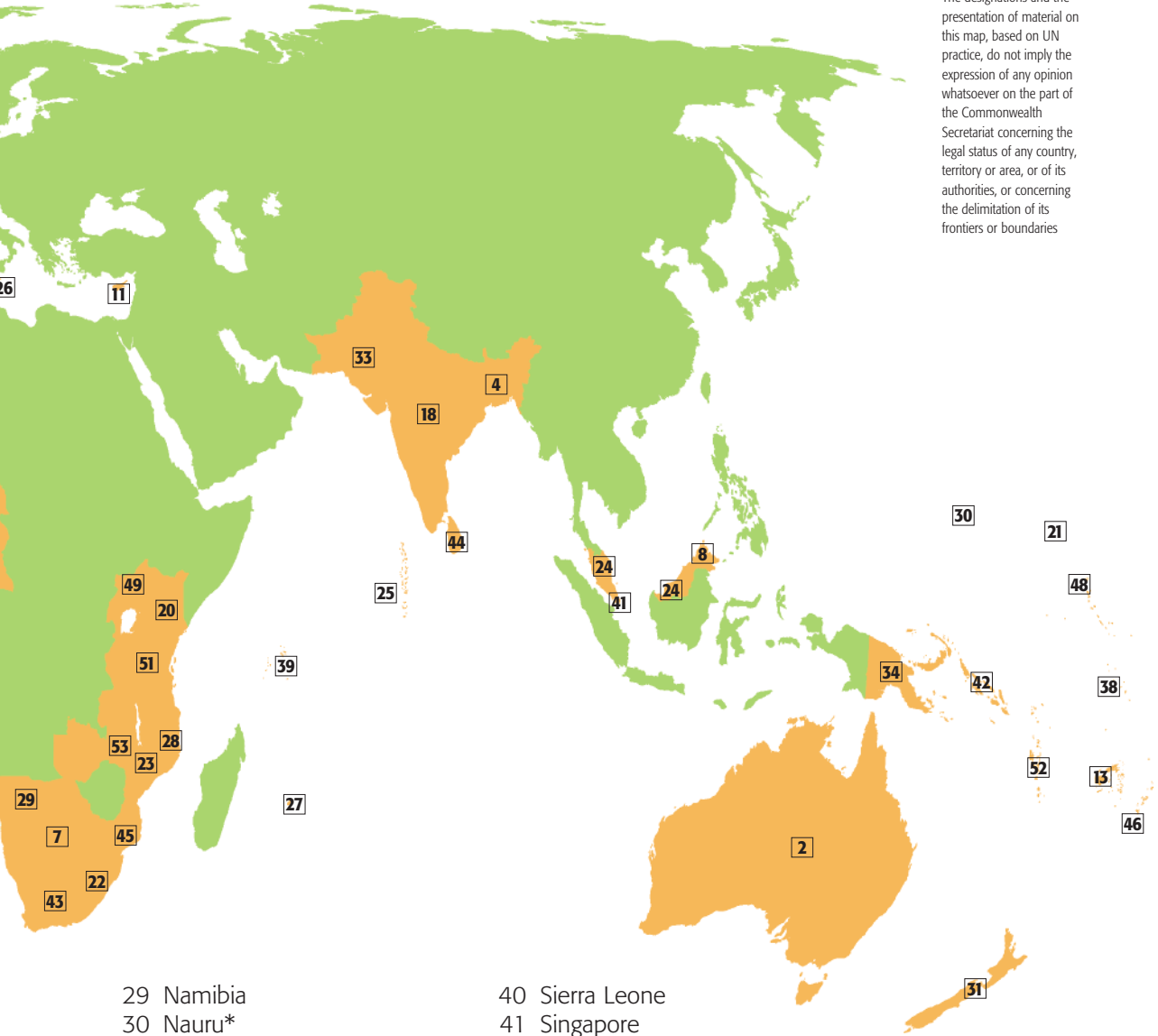
# Commonwealth Map

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- |                                                                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Antigua & Barbuda                                                                  | 17 Guyana     |
| 2 Australia                                                                          | 18 India      |
| 3 The Bahamas                                                                        | 19 Jamaica    |
| 4 Bangladesh                                                                         | 20 Kenya      |
| 5 Barbados                                                                           | 21 Kiribati   |
| 6 Belize                                                                             | 22 Lesotho    |
| 7 Botswana                                                                           | 23 Malawi     |
| 8 Brunei Darussalam                                                                  | 24 Malaysia   |
| 9 Cameroon                                                                           | 25 Maldives   |
| 10 Canada                                                                            | 26 Malta      |
| 11 Cyprus                                                                            | 27 Mauritius  |
| 12 Dominica                                                                          | 28 Mozambique |
| 13 Fiji Islands (suspended from<br>councils of the Commonwealth<br>in December 2006) |               |
| 14 The Gambia                                                                        |               |
| 15 Ghana                                                                             |               |
| 16 Grenada                                                                           |               |

The designations and the presentation of material on this map, based on UN practice, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Commonwealth Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries



- |                                  |                      |                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 29 Namibia                       | 40 Sierra Leone      |                                |
| 30 Nauru*                        | 41 Singapore         |                                |
| 31 New Zealand                   | 42 Solomon Islands   |                                |
| 32 Nigeria                       | 43 South Africa      |                                |
| 33 Pakistan                      | 44 Sri Lanka         |                                |
| 34 Papua New Guinea              | 45 Swaziland         |                                |
| 35 St Kitts & Nevis              | 46 Tonga             | 51 United Republic of Tanzania |
| 36 St Lucia                      | 47 Trinidad & Tobago | 52 Vanuatu                     |
| 37 St Vincent and the Grenadines | 48 Tuvalu            | 53 Zambia                      |
| 38 Samoa                         | 49 Uganda            |                                |
| 39 Seychelles                    | 50 United Kingdom    |                                |

\*Commonwealth member in arrears





# Human Rights in the Commonwealth at a Glance

# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	1 Aug 1989	25 Oct 1988
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	21 Sep 1994	3 Mar 2006
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	5 Oct 1993	19 Jul 1993	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	4 Feb 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1995. No specific human rights mandate

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

12th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

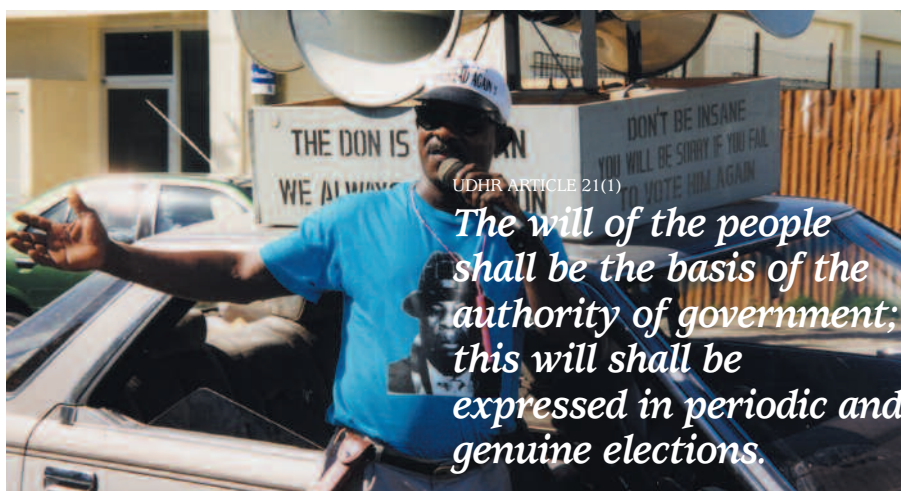
Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*



*Election campaigning in Antigua and Barbuda.*



# AUSTRALIA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	13 Aug 1980	10 Dec 1975	28 Jul 1983	30 Sep 1975
DATE LAST REPORT	7 Aug 2007	7 Aug 2007	29 Jan 2004	28 Nov 2003
RESERVATIONS	3	0	3	0

	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	17 Dec 1990	8 Aug 1989	-	17 July 2008
DATE LAST REPORT	30 Sep 2003	7 Apr 2005	-	-
RESERVATIONS	1	0	-	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Australian Human Rights Commission, established 1986

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

10th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Australia apologises to Aboriginal population

In February 2008, Australia made a formal apology for the past wrongs caused by successive governments on the indigenous Aboriginal population. Australian MPs unanimously passed a motion stating:

*'We apologise for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.'*



# THE BAHAMAS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	6 Oct 1993	5 Aug 1975
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	29 Aug 2003
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	20 Feb 1991	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	5 Jun 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	1	–	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
None				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
3rd session (2008)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Retentionist				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados				
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council Training; March 2008; London, UK				



Members of the Bahamas National Youth Choir.

UDHR ARTICLE 27(1)

*Everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community [and] to enjoy the arts...*



# THE BAHAMAS

# BANGLADESH

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	6 Sep 2000	6 Sep 2000	6 Nov 1984	11 Jun 1979
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	27 Dec 2002	1 Mar 2000
RESERVATIONS	1	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	3 Aug 1990	5 Oct 1998	–	30 Nov 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	4 Sep 2007	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Enabling Ordinance passed in 2008.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police Officers in Bangladesh; February 2008; Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Bangladesh establishes human rights commission

In September 2008, Bangladesh's caretaker government initiated the establishment of a human rights commission. According to the President of Bangladesh, Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, the Commission will 'play a significant role in establishing a culture of respect for human rights with the co-operation of all concerned, including civil society and public and private organisations'.



# BARBADOS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	5 Jan 1973	5 Jan 1973	16 Oct 1980	8 Nov 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Jul 2006	16 Feb 1983	21 Nov 2000	29 Jun 2004
RESERVATIONS	1	3	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	9 Oct 1990	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	12 Sep 1996	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1981. No specific human rights mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

3rd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council Training; March 2008; London, UK

## Barbados consults on Freedom of Information bill

In October 2008, Barbados drafted a Freedom of Information bill which is being circulated widely both online and in post offices in order to secure opinions and feedback from interest groups and a wide cross-section of society. The importance of freedom of information was articulated by the UN General Assembly at its first session in 1946: 'Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all of the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated'.



# BELIZE

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	10 Jun 1996	–	16 May 1990	14 Nov 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	5 Aug 2005	–
RESERVATIONS	3	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	2 May 1990	17 Mar 1986	14 Nov 2001	–
DATE LAST REPORT	28 Feb 2003	18 April 1991	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsmen, established 1999. No specific human rights mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

5th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs in advancing human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Belize elections commended

In March 2008, a Commonwealth Expert Group commended the government and people of Belize for the conduct of the general elections that took place the month before. The team noted that 'Belize enjoys a mature democracy and a well-functioning electoral process'. Credible elections are in line with Article 21(3) of the UDHR which states: 'The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be held in secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures'.



# BOTSWANA



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	8 Sep 2000	–	13 Aug 1996	20 Feb 1974
DATE LAST REPORT	13 Oct 2006	–	20 Oct 2008	23 Mar 2005
RESERVATIONS	2	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	14 Mar 1995	8 Sep 2000	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	10 Jan 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	1	1	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
None				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
3rd session (2008)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Retentionist				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council Training; March 2008; London, UK				

## More women parliamentarians and public servants in Botswana

Botswana has seen an increase in the participation of women in Parliament, at the cabinet level, and in public service – a development that was welcomed by the UN Human Rights Committee in April 2008.

DHR ARTICLE 21(1)

*Everyone has the right to take part in the government of [their] country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*



# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	24 May 2006	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	3	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	27 Dec 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Dec 2001	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	4	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

6th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

None

### Free schooling and healthcare in Brunei Darussalem welcomed by UN committee

Through providing free schooling and free, extensive healthcare to all of its citizens, Brunei Darussalem goes towards fulfilling the aims of Articles 25 (right to health) and 26 (right to education) of the UDHR. This has resulted in very high school enrolment rates and good health indicators for the country, and as such the measures have been welcomed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in their last report on the country.



# CAMEROON

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	27 Jun 1984	27 Jun 1984	23 Aug 1994	24 Jun 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	6 Mar 1997	27 May 1997	29 Mar 2007	12 Aug 1997
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	11 Jan 1993	19 Dec 1986	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	3 Apr 2008	19 Dec 2002	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, established 2006

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs in advancing human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms Workshop; June 2007; Yaoundé, Cameroon; A three-day workshop that trained newly appointed members and senior staff of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

### Cameroon brings human rights into the classroom

Cameroon's National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms has worked to develop human rights content for the curriculum of primary and secondary schools. A pilot initiative involved the training of teachers in 80 schools – 50 primary and 30 secondary. A manual has been developed and is being used in the 2008 academic year. This initiative is in line with Article 26 (2) of the UDHR which states: 'Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights...'



# CANADA



## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	19 May 1976	19 May 1976	10 Dec 1981	14 Oct 1970
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Oct 2004	17 Aug 2005	17 Aug 2007	3 Feb 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	13 Dec 1991	24 Jun 1987	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	3 May 2001	11 Oct 2004	–	–
RESERVATIONS	2	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Canadian Human Rights Commission, established 1978

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Apology and Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Aboriginal Canadians

June 2008 saw the first formal apology by a Canadian prime minister to the indigenous Aboriginal peoples of Canada for the government's federally funded policy of assimilation through residential schools. The Canadian government also set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to encourage reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians through restorative justice.

# CYPRUS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	2 Apr 1969	2 Apr 1969	23 Jul 1985	21 Apr 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	28 Dec 1994	20 July 2007	4 Mar 2004	7 Nov 2000
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	7 Feb 1991	18 Jul 1991	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Sep 2000	29 Jun 2001	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
National Institute for the Protection of Human Rights within the Office of the Law Commissioner				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
6th session (2009)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Abolitionist for all crimes				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
None				

## Cyprus agrees to criminalise human trafficking

In February 2008 Cyprus became party to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, committing itself to ensuring greater respect for and protection of the rights of trafficked people. In ratifying this treaty Cyprus has agreed to take action to criminalise trafficking and to offer victims assistance, protection and access to redress. The trafficking of human beings has repeatedly been called a modern-day form of slavery.

UDHR ARTICLE 4

*No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.*



# DOMINICA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	17 Jun 1993	17 Jun 1993	15 Sep 1980	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	13 Mar 1991	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Jan 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

6th session (2009)

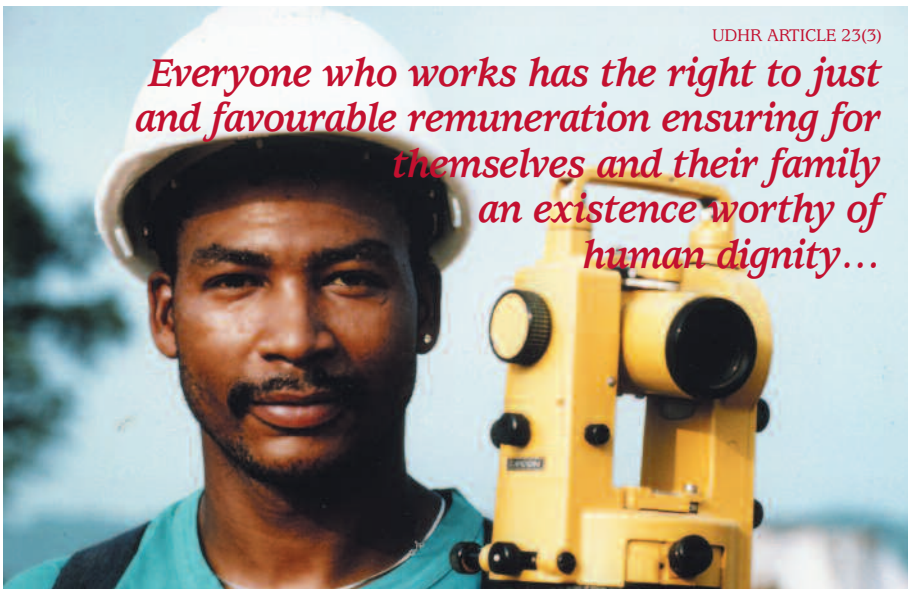
## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Manual on Human Rights Training for Police*



UDHR ARTICLE 23(3)

*Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for themselves and their family an existence worthy of human dignity...*

*A Dominican engineer prepares to survey.*

# FIJI ISLANDS<sup>4</sup>

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	28 Aug 1995	11 Jan 1973
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	29 Feb 2000	20 Jun 2006
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	1
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	13 Aug 1993	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	12 June 1996	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
Fiji Human Rights Commission, established 1997				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
7th session (2010)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Abolitionist for ordinary crimes				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
None				



Police officers ready for duty in Fiji.

#### UDHR ARTICLE 7

*All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.*

<sup>4</sup> In December 2006, following a military takeover of the democratically elected government, Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth pending the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in the country. At the time of writing this suspension continues.





# THE GAMBIA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	22 Mar 1979	29 Dec 1978	16 Apr 1993	29 Dec 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	25 Apr 1983	–	4 Apr 2003	30 Oct 1980
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	8 Aug 1990	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Nov 1999	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

7th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Human Rights Sensitisation and Training for the Media in The Gambia; March 2008; Banjul, The Gambia

UDHR ARTICLE 26(1)

*Everyone  
has the  
right to  
education...*



*Two mature students from Banjul proudly display their text books.*

# GHANA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000	2 Jan 1986	8 Sep 1966
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	23 Feb 2005	5 Jun 2002
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	5 Feb 1990	7 Sep 2000	7 Sep 2000	–
DATE LAST REPORT	19 Mar 2004	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, established 1993

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

2nd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Ghana proposes Right to Information Bill

A Right to Information Bill has been proposed in Ghana to allow for increased transparency in public policy and to reduce the potential for government corruption. This is in line with Article 19 of the UDHR which states that the right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the right to seek, receive and impart information. A Commonwealth Expert Group confirmed in 1999 that 'Freedom of information should be guaranteed as a legal and enforceable right permitting every individual to obtain information held by the executive, the legislative and the judicial arms of the state, as well as any government-owned corporation and any other body carrying out public functions'.





# GRENADA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	6 Sep 1991	6 Sep 1991	30 Aug 1990	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	26 May 2008	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	5 Nov 1990	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	24 Sep 1997	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

8th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*



UDHR ARTICLE 26(1)

*...Technical and professional education shall be made generally available...*

*Learning new skills in Grenada.*

# GUYANA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	15 Feb 1977	15 Feb 1977	17 Jul 1980	15 Feb 1977
DATE LAST REPORT	1 Dec 1999	28 June 1995	27 Jun 2003	20 Dec 2004
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	14 Jan 1991	19 May 1988	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	29 July 2002	16 Jun 2006	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION**  
None

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE**  
8th session (2010)

**DEATH PENALTY STATUS**  
Retentionist

**PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**  
Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados  
Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*



Primary and secondary students enjoy free education in Guyana.



# GUYANA



# INDIA



## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	10 Apr 1979	10 Apr 1979	9 Jul 1993	3 Dec 1968
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 1995	23 Oct 2006	18 Oct 2005	26 Jan 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	11 Dec 1992	–	–	1 Oct 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	10 Dec 2001	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	1	–	–	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

National Human Rights Commission, established 1993

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

1st session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed strengthening the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## India commended for progressive interpretation of Constitution

In May 2008, India was commended by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the important contribution made by the Indian Supreme Court to the development of international law with regards to the legal effect of economic, social and cultural rights, through the Court's progressive interpretation of the Constitution.

# JAMAICA



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	3 Oct 1975	3 Oct 1975	19 Oct 1984	4 Jun 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	6 Jan 1997	16 Aug 2000	13 Feb 2004	13 Apr 2001
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	14 May 1991	–	25 Sep 2008	30 Mar 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	16 May 2000	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Public Defender. No specific human rights mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

9th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

### Jamaica hosts human rights training for police

In June 2008, Jamaica hosted the Commonwealth Regional Training Workshop for Police Trainers in the Caribbean, facilitating the training of ten Caribbean police forces on the use of the Commonwealth 'Human Rights Training Manual'.

# KENYA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	1 May 1972	1 May 1972	9 Mar 1984	13 Sep 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Sep 2004	7 Sep 2006	16 Oct 2006	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	30 Jul 1990	21 Feb 1997	–	19 May 2008
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Sep 2005	6 Jun 2007	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, established 2002

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

8th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and to prepare for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007, Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Kenya Commission investigates post-election violence

After post-election violence in 2007–08, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights conducted an investigation of the inter-ethnic attacks, human rights violations and displacement of Kenyans. Following their investigations the Commission was able to contribute substantial evidence and information to the Waki Commission of Inquiry, a body tasked with investigating the actions of state authorities during the violence.

# KIRIBATI

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	-	-	17 Mar 2004	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	0	-
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	11 Dec 1995	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Aug 2005	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	3	-	-	-

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION**  
None

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE**  
8th session (2010)

**DEATH PENALTY STATUS**  
Abolitionist for all crimes

**PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**  
Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea



UDHR ARTICLE 1

*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.*

Children in Kiribati - free and equal.





# LESOTHO

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	9 Sep 1992	9 Sep 1992	22 Aug 1995	4 Nov 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	8 Apr 1998	–	–	15 Jun 1998
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	10 Mar 1992	12 Nov 2001	16 Sep 2005	–
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Apr 1998	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1993. The Office has a specific reference to human rights within its mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

8th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

None



UDHR ARTICLE 13 (1)

*Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.*

*Rural road-building in Lesotho.*

# MALAWI

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	22 Dec 1993	22 Dec 1993	12 Mar 1987	11 Jun 1996
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	20 Oct 2008	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	2 Jan 1991	11 Jun 1996	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	17 Oct 2007	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Malawi Human Rights Commission, established 1998

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

9th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Malawi Magistrates' Training; February 2008; Mangochi, Malawi

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

### Malawi's magistrates trained in human rights standards

In February 2008, one-third of Malawi's magistrates took part in training organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the application of international human rights standards in their work. The training stressed the relevance of the human rights framework to their work and encouraged magistrates to use international comparative case law in courts.



# MALAWI



# MALAYSIA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	5 Jul 1995	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	22 Mar 2004	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	6	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	17 Feb 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Dec 2006	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	8	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), established 2000

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs in advancing human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth



Malaysian boy watches his grandmother sew flag.

### UDHR ARTICLE 24

*Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.*

# MALDIVES

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	19 Sep 2006	19 Sep 2006	1 Jul 1993	24 Apr 1984
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	8 Jun 2005	14 Jan 1989
RESERVATIONS	1	0	2	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	11 Feb 1991	20 Apr 2004	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	1 Mar 2006	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	2	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, established 2006

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

9th session (2010)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and to prepare for the 2009 CHOGM

Human Rights Training for Civil Servants in the Maldives; March 2008; Male, the Maldives; Training that covered the importance of human rights and the human rights duties and responsibilities of civil servants in their work

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

### Maldives initiative connects human rights and climate change at the UN

In March 2008 the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution initiated by the Maldives on the subject of human rights and climate change. The resolution requests that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights conduct a detailed study in this field and report back in 2009.





# MALTA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	13 Sep 1990	13 Sep 1990	8 Mar 1991	27 May 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	18 May 1993	7 Feb 2003	1 Aug 2002	19 Jan 1999
RESERVATIONS	6	0	5	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	30 Sep 1990	13 Sep 1990	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Dec 1997	29 Sep 1998	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1995. No specific human rights mandate

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

5th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

None

### Malta ratifies new Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

In February 2008 Malta was one of the first countries to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This is a major step towards protecting trafficked people in the fight against this modern form of slavery. Malta now has formal measures to prevent and prosecute traffickers but also measures to safeguard the human rights of those who have been trafficked. Article 4 of the UDHR provides that ‘No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms’.



# MAURITIUS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	12 Dec 1973	12 Dec 1973	9 Jul 1984	30 May 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	27 May 2004	3 Mar 2008	17 Nov 2004	22 Mar 1999
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0
CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	26 Jul 1990	9 Dec 1992	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	7 May 2004	8 Jun 1998	–	–
RESERVATIONS	1	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius, established 2001

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institution; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Mauritius prepares a National Action Plan on human rights

In 2008 Mauritius prepared a National Action Plan (NAP) on human rights. The NAP seeks to develop a strong culture of human rights in Mauritius by providing better protection for individuals and promoting a greater awareness of human rights. The Mauritian NAP provides specific timeframes for the short-, medium- and long-term achievement of its objectives and will thus provide a yardstick to monitor implementation.





# MOZAMBIQUE

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	21 Jul 1993	–	21 Apr 1997	18 Apr 1983
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	25 Jun 1999	30 Jun 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	1
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	26 Apr 1994	14 Sep 1999	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Feb 2008	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

10th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

None

### UDHR ARTICLE 2

*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.*



*Celebrating in Mozambique.*

# NAMIBIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	28 Nov 1994	28 Nov 1994	23 Nov 1992	11 Nov 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Oct 2003	–	24 Mar 2005	17 Jul 2007
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	30 Sep 1990	28 Nov 1994	–	4 Dec 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Dec 1992	23 Aug 1996	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1990. The Office has a specific human rights brief within its mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

10th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Namibia commended for innovative policies to increase access to education for minorities

Namibia was commended by the UN Committee against Racial Discrimination this year for its efforts to combat racial discrimination and segregation, particularly as regards access to education. These efforts have included domestic policies on increasing access to education for marginalised communities and mobile school units to accommodate the nomadic life of the Ovahimba persons.





# NAURU<sup>5</sup>

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	–	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	27 Jul 1994	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

10th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu

UDHR ARTICLE 23(1)

*Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.*



The production line at a paper-making business in Nauru.

# NAURU

<sup>5</sup> Nauru is a Commonwealth member in arrears.

# NEW ZEALAND

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	28 Dec 1978	28 Dec 1978	10 Jan 1985	22 Nov 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Dec 2007	30 Aug 2001	8 May 2006	16 May 2006
RESERVATIONS	4	1	2	0
CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	6 Apr 1993	10 Dec 1989	–	25 Sep 2008
DATE LAST REPORT	19 Feb 2001	8 Jan 2007	–	–
RESERVATIONS	3	1	–	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Human Rights Commission, established 1978

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

5th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Community-based human rights training provided in Canada

The Human Rights Commission has been running a community development project offering a formal qualification in human rights training. Participants in the training draw on human rights issues from within their communities to learn about the domestic legislation and the human rights framework. The training has two aims: (1) that participants will provide human rights expertise and information within their communities in order to advocate for and resolve their own human rights issues and (2) that participants will nurture the use of rights-based approaches in local decision-making.







# NIGERIA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	29 Jul 1993	29 Jul 1993	13 Jun 1985	16 Oct 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	7 Feb 1996	7 Feb 1996	5 Oct 2006	23 Mar 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	19 Apr 1991	28 Jun 2001	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	19 May 2008	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, established 1995

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

4th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

### UN Secretary-General praises Nigeria's peaceful land handover

In August 2008 Nigeria were praised by the UN Secretary-General for the peaceful handover of the Bakassi land peninsula to Cameroon. The determination of both Nigeria and Cameroon to respect the rule of law following the 2002 International Court of Justice ruling on the disputed land and to address their border dispute in a way that secured lasting peace was held up as an example to the international community. Following the transfer of land the UN Secretary-General said he was confident 'that both governments will show the same resolve and dedication to making sure that the human rights of the local populations affected by this historic event continue to be protected'.



# PAKISTAN



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	17 Apr 2008	12 Mar 1996	21 Sep 1966
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	3 Aug 2005	4 Jan 2008
RESERVATIONS	–	0	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	12 Nov 1990	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	4 Jan 2008	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

2nd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Human Rights Training Workshop for Police Trainers; June 2007; Islamabad, Pakistan; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Manual on Human Rights Training for Police*

### Pakistan makes new commitments to human rights promotion and protection

In April 2008 Pakistan sent a positive signal to the international community by ratifying the ICESCR and adding its signature to the ICCPR and CAT. The ratification and signing of these three core human rights treaties is encouraging and reflects Pakistan's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in line with international standards.



PAKISTAN

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	21 Jul 2008	21 Jul 2008	12 Jan 1995	27 Jan 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	16 Aug 1983
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	1
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	2 Mar 1993	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Apr 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea. The Ombudsman has a specific Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Unit

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

11th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting to discuss how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Progress on treaty ratification in Papua New Guinea

This year Papua New Guinea became party to the ICCPR and ICESCR. This is particularly important for the promotion and protection of human rights because these covenants are the two most important human rights treaties that make up the International Bill of Rights, together with the UDHR.



# ST KITTS AND NEVIS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	25 Apr 1985	13 Oct 2006
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	18 Jan 2002	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	24 Jul 1990	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	22 Jan 1997	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION**  
None

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE**  
10th session (2011)

**DEATH PENALTY STATUS**  
Retentionist

**PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**  
Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados  
Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*



UDHR ARTICLE 28

*Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realised.*

Musicians perform in St Kitts and Nevis.





# ST LUCIA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	8 Oct 1982	14 Feb 1990
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	12 Sep 2005	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	16 Jun 1993	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	2 Jun 2004	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner. No specific human rights mandate

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

10th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados

Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*



Harvesting bananas in St Lucia.

UDHR ARTICLE 25(1)

*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care...*

# ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	9 Nov 1981	9 Nov 1981	4 Aug 1981	9 Nov 1981
DATE LAST REPORT	5 Sep 1989	28 Nov 1997	27 Sep 1991	14 Mar 2002
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	26 Oct 1993	1 Aug 2001	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	5 Dec 2000	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	-

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION**  
None

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE**  
11th session (2011)

**DEATH PENALTY STATUS**  
Retentionist

**PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**  
Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados  
Commonwealth Regional Training for Police Trainers in the Caribbean; June 2008; Kingston, Jamaica; Training that covered the use and application of the *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Training Institutions*

## Initiatives for fair trials without undue delay in St Vincent and the Grenadines

This year the UN Human Rights Committee commended the initiatives taken by St Vincent and the Grenadines to improve judicial administration in order to deal with the backlog of criminal cases. These successful initiatives help to ensure that Vincentians can exercise their right to fair trial as provided for in Article 10 of the UDHR. Article 14 of the ICCPR elaborates that this right includes trial without undue delay.



**ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

# SAMOA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	15 Feb 2008	–	25 Sep 1992	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	2 May 2003	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	29 Nov 1994	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	1 Nov 2005	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	1	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

11th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Protecting Rights in the Pacific Conference; April 2008; Apia, Samoa; Samoa hosted the Pacific regional meeting to consider a regional human rights mechanism for the Pacific, co-sponsored by the HRU and Interights

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu



### Samoa shows intent to promote, protect and realise human rights

In a strong statement affirming the country's dedication to human rights, Samoa ratified the ICCPR in February 2008. This signalled intent by the government to ensure that human rights are promoted, protected and realised for all people in Samoa, in line with international standards.

# SEYCHELLES

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	5 May 1992	5 May 1992	5 May 1992	7 Mar 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	24 Jul 1986
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	7 Sep 1990	5 May 1992	15 Dec 1994	–
DATE LAST REPORT	7 Feb 2001	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1993. The Office has a specific human rights brief within its mandate.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

11th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

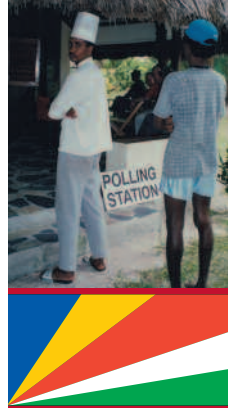
## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting to discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

## Seychelles submits national Bill to establish Human Rights Commission

In October 2008 the Seychelles submitted a Bill to its National Assembly to establish a National Human Rights Commission. The new Bill aims to set up the necessary machinery to ensure the human rights of the Seychellois are respected and to allow for investigation in any accusation of human rights violations.







# SIERRA LEONE

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	23 Aug 1996	23 Aug 1996	11 Nov 1988	2 Aug 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	11 Dec 2005	9 Jul 1973
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	18 Jun 1990	25 Apr 2001	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Jul 2006	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Human Rights Commission, established 2006

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

11th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and to prepare for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Sierra Leone's Human Rights commission goes beyond Paris Principles

The Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission became fully operational in 2008. It has been commended for having provisions that go beyond the threshold set by the Paris Principles. In addition to this the Commission has shared its experiences in conflict management and peacebuilding initiatives in post-conflict countries with other Commonwealth NHRIs in the region.

# SINGAPORE

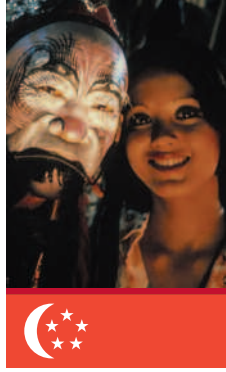
CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	5 Oct 1995	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	1 Nov 2004	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	4	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	5 Oct 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Apr 2002	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	5	–	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
None				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
11th session (2011)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Retentionist				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
None				



Waterways are important transport routes in Singapore.

UDHR ARTICLE 13(2)

*Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.*



# SINGAPORE



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	17 Mar 1982	6 May 2002	17 Mar 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	–	2 Jul 2001	–	2 Feb 1983
RESERVATIONS	–	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	10 Apr 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Feb 2001	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

11 th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
 Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu



### Solomon Islands puts prisoner rehabilitation on the agenda

In October 2008, the Solomon Islands addressed a Pacific Island conference on their work towards enhancing the rehabilitation role of prisons. The Solomon Islands presented to their Pacific neighbours their experience of giving a safe and sustainable service that focuses on the rehabilitation of prisoners.

# SOUTH AFRICA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	10 Dec 1998	–	15 Dec 1995	10 Dec 1998
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	5 Feb 1998	2 Dec 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	–	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	16 Jun 1995	10 Dec 1998	–	30 Nov 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	4 Dec 1997	28 Jun 2005	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

South African Human Rights Commission, established 1995

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

1st session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

## South African Human Rights Commission reports on social and economic rights

Together with the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the former Archbishop of the Anglican church, the South African Human Rights Commission has conducted poverty hearings throughout the country. The hearings covered all the provinces and heard of many people's experiences of poverty. In 2009, the Commission will release a report on social and economic rights, which are judicially enforceable under the South African constitution.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

# SRI LANKA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	11 Jun 1980	11 Jun 1980	5 Oct 1981	18 Feb 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Sep 2002	9 Jun 2008	7 Oct 1999	4 Sep 2000
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	12 Jul 1991	3 Jan 1994	11 Mar 1996	–
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Sep 2000	29 Mar 2004	21 Apr 2008	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, established 1996

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

2nd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Sri Lanka moves to reinstate confidence in internally displaced people

In May 2008, Sri Lanka's move to recruit local Tamil-speaking police officers in the East was welcomed by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It is hoped that this initiative will help to improve security and reinstate confidence in the 300,000 Tamil IDPs that state agencies will protect them.

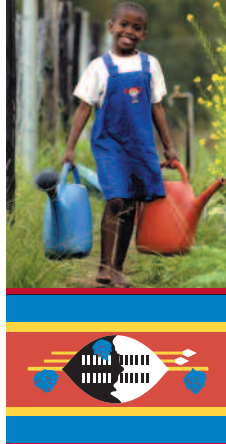


# SWAZILAND

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	26 Mar 2004	26 Mar 2004	26 Mar 2004	7 Apr 1969
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	1 Mar 1996
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	7 Sep 1995	26 Mar 2004	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 2005	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION				
None				
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE				
12th session (2011)				
DEATH PENALTY STATUS				
Abolitionist in practice				
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT				
None				

## Swaziland developing human rights commission through wide consultation

Swaziland is in the process of setting up a NHRI to monitor and investigate human rights violations. The Commission is being developed through a consultative approach between the government, the judiciary and the people of Swaziland. The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs has stated that the Commission will ‘ensure that people who cannot afford legal representation within or beyond Swaziland will have their cases heard by the commission’.



# TONGA

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	–	16 Feb 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	17 Mar 1999
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	1
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	6 Nov 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

2nd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu

### Tonga was first small island state to undergo Universal Periodic Review

In May 2008 Tonga was the first Commonwealth small island state to undergo Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva, and as a result it was the focus of international attention. While the human rights issues in Tonga were noted and changes were recommended, the international community commended the efforts taken by Tonga to participate in the UPR and interact positively with the Human Rights Council. Tonga's fulsome participation in the review and willingness thereafter to share their experiences will serve as a positive example to other small states, both within and beyond the Commonwealth.



# TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	21 Dec 1978	8 Dec 1978	12 Jan 1990	4 Oct 1973
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Sep 1999	28 Sep 2000	23 Jan 2001	6 Oct 2000
RESERVATIONS	8	1	1	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	5 Dec 1991	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Jul 2003	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

No. Office of the Ombudsman of Trinidad and Tobago, established 1977. No specific human rights mandate

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

12th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council; October 2008; Christchurch, Barbados



UDHR ARTICLE 20(1)

*Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.*

A rally in Trinidad and Tobago.







# TUVALU

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	–	–	12 Jan 1990	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	2 Jul 2008	–
RESERVATIONS	–	–	0	–
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	22 Sep 1995	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	–	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

3rd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu

### Tuvalu's gender training aims to change attitudes

The Tuvalu Department for Women's Affairs has been conducting gender training for civil servants to change attitudes on the roles of men and women. The aim of this training is to mainstream and incorporate women's and gender considerations into policies, plans, programmes and public services.

UDHR ARTICLE 21(2)

*Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in [their] country.*

# UGANDA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	21 Jun 1995	21 Jan 1987	22 Jul 1985	21 Nov 1980
DATE LAST REPORT	14 Feb 2003	–	22 May 2000	20 June 2001
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	17 Aug 1990	3 Nov 1986	14 Nov 1995	25 Sep 2008
DATE LAST REPORT	2 Aug 2003	19 May 2004	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	1	0

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Uganda Human Rights Commission, established 1996

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

12th session (2011)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Retentionist

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Uganda is first chair of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

The Ugandan Human Right Commission (UHRC) was elected as the first chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI). In this role the UHRC has taken a lead in supporting and co-hosting events over the year to strengthen the network.



# UNITED KINGDOM

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	20 May 1976	20 May 1976	7 Apr 1986	7 Mar 1969
DATE LAST REPORT	3 Nov 2006	7 Aug 2007	14 Jun 2007	28 Nov 2002
RESERVATIONS	16	9	5	1
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	16 Dec 1991	8 Dec 1988	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Jul 2007	6 Nov 2003	–	–
RESERVATIONS	2	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Equality and Human Rights Commission, established 2007

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

1st session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## UK removes its two reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In September 2008, the UK announced that it would remove its two reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Withdrawing the reservations means that (1) children seeking asylum in the UK will now be entitled to the same range of human rights set out in the CRC as British children and (2) the UK is no longer permitted to detain children with adults in custody centres.



# UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	11 Jun 1976	11 Jun 1976	20 Aug 1985	27 Oct 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	8 Oct 2007	–	16 Apr 2007	27 Oct 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	10 Jun 1991	–	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Oct 2004	–	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	–	–	–

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION**  
 Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, established 2001

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE**  
 12th session (2011)

**DEATH PENALTY STATUS**  
 Retentionist

**PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**  
 Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM  
 Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs  
 Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

**Women in Tanzania gain right to acquire, own and use land equally with men**

In July 2008 the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women credited Tanzania for introducing legal reforms aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women. The laws allow women to get a mortgage on land without the consent of their spouse and give women the right to acquire, own and use land equally with men.

UDHR ARTICLE 17

*Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.*

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



# VANUATU

## CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED

	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	-	-	8 Sep 1995	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	2 Mar 2005	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	0	-
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	7 Jul 1993	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Jan 1997	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

None

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

5th session (2009)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist for all crimes

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Pacific Regional Workshop on the Ratification of International Human Rights Instruments under the Pacific Plan; March 2007; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Commonwealth Human Rights Training Workshop for Police and for the Pacific Region; March 2007; Port Vila, Vanuatu

### Vanuatu eliminates gender disparity in primary education

In 2007 the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commended Vanuatu for eliminating gender disparity in primary education.



# ZAMBIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICESCR	CEDAW	CERD
DATE	10 Apr 1984	10 Apr 1984	21 Jun 1985	4 Feb 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Dec 2005	29 Jul 2003	12 Aug 1999	13 Jul 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	1	0	0
	CRC	CAT	MWC	CPRD
DATE	6 Dec 1991	7 Oct 1998	–	–
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 2001	15 Dec 2005	–	–
RESERVATIONS	0	0	–	–

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

Zambia Human Rights Commission, established 1997

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATE

2nd session (2008)

## DEATH PENALTY STATUS

Abolitionist in practice

## PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; October 2008; Nairobi, Kenya; Meeting that discussed the role of NHRIs in the UN Universal Periodic Review process and prepared for the 2009 CHOGM

Training on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council; March 2008; London, UK

Meeting of Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); November 2007; Kampala, Uganda; Meeting that discussed how to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to advance human rights at the national level and explored ways to enhance collaboration amongst Commonwealth NHRIs

Conference of National Human Rights Institutions; February 2007; London, UK; Meeting at which it was agreed to establish the CFNHRI to strengthen co-operation and share best practices with NHRIs in the Commonwealth

## Widespread and open participation in the preparation of Zambia's UPR report

Zambia was widely congratulated during its Universal Periodic Review session in May 2008 for the nationwide consultations that took place in the preparation of its national report and for embracing civil society as partners in the review process. This commitment to promote and protect human rights as well as to cooperate with the UPR was applauded by many.





# Regional Analysis of Commonwealth Human Rights Information

## Regional Analysis of Commonwealth Human Rights Information

The country pages summarise information for each Commonwealth member in turn, offering a snapshot for each individual state. These graphs offer an analysis of that information by Commonwealth regions: Africa, Caribbean (including Canada), Europe–Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 1. Ratification of core treaties, by region, as a percentage of potential total ratifications

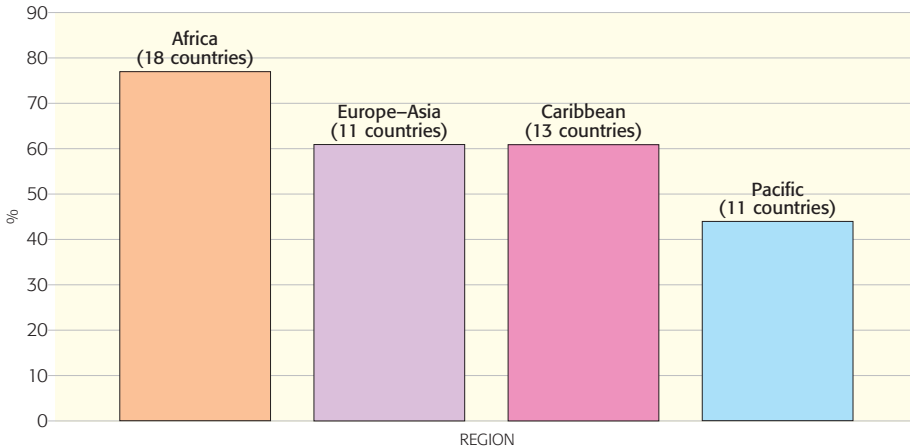


Figure 1 shows the extent of ratification of core treaties in each region as a percentage of potential total ratifications. For example, in the Africa region there are 18 countries and our focus is on 8 core treaties. This gives a total of 144 potential ratifications, the actual number is 111 ratifications. Expressed as a percentage this ratio is 77%. The rate for both the Caribbean and the Europe–Asia regions is 61% and it is 44% for the Pacific.



Figure 2. Ratification of core treaties, by region (%)

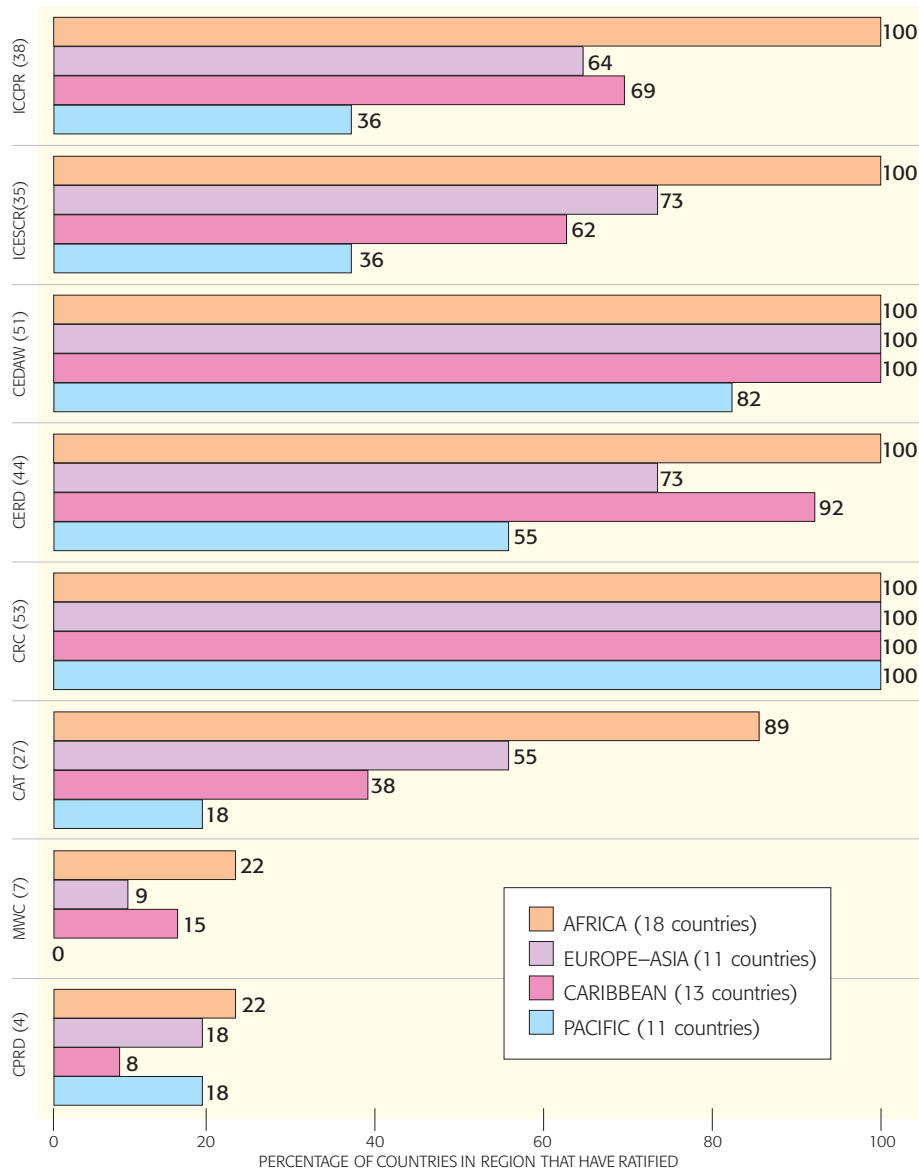


Figure 2 shows how widely each treaty has been ratified in each region. The Disabilities Convention is the latest treaty to be adopted by the United Nations, so the low ratification rate is understandable. In other cases, such as the Convention against Torture, the Commonwealth rate falls below the global average – the global ratification for this treaty sits at 76%, whereas the Commonwealth rate is 52%. The other treaties are much more firmly established however, and do enjoy higher take up. Figure 2 clearly shows that Africa is the region that has most widely taken up the treaties.

Figure 3. Highest number of ratifications, by region

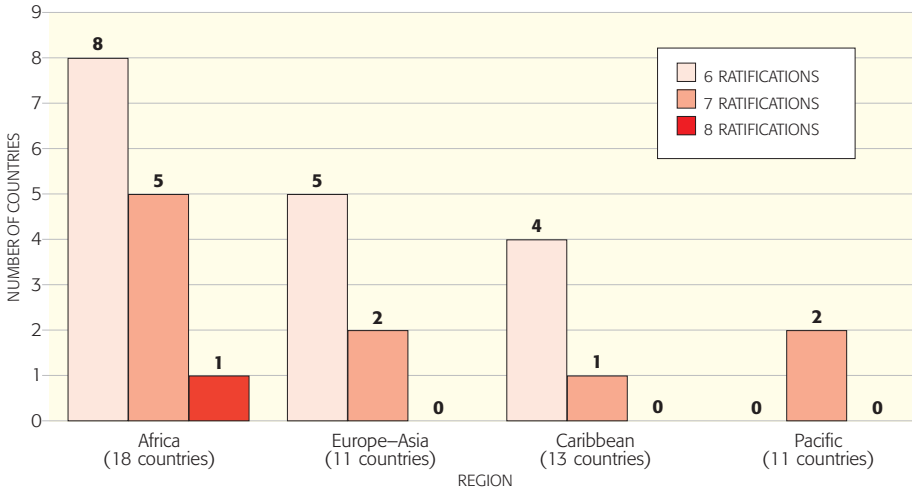


Figure 3 charts by region the countries that have the highest number of ratifications. In Africa, there are 8 countries that have ratified 6 of the core treaties, 5 have ratified 7 and one that has ratified all 8. In Europe-Asia 5 countries have ratified 6 core treaties, and 2 have ratified 7. In the Caribbean, 4 countries have ratified 6 treaties and 1 has ratified 7. In the Pacific 2 countries have ratified 7 treaties. Only 1 Commonwealth country has ratified all 8 treaties – that is Uganda.

Figure 4. Number of reservations, by region

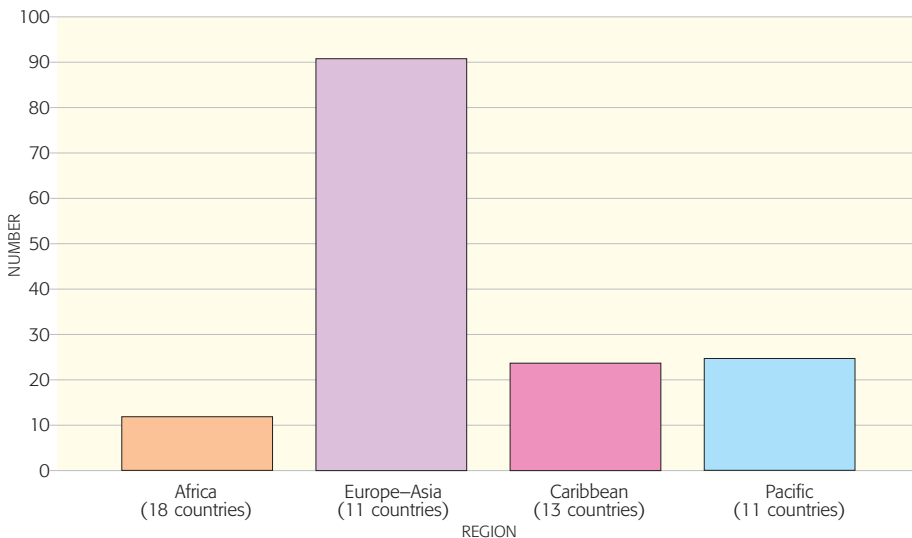


Figure 4 notes the number of reservations against all 8 treaties by region. In Africa a total of 12 reservations have been entered against the 8 treaties, in Europe-Asia 91, in the Caribbean 24, and in the Pacific 25.

Figure 5. National Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth, by region

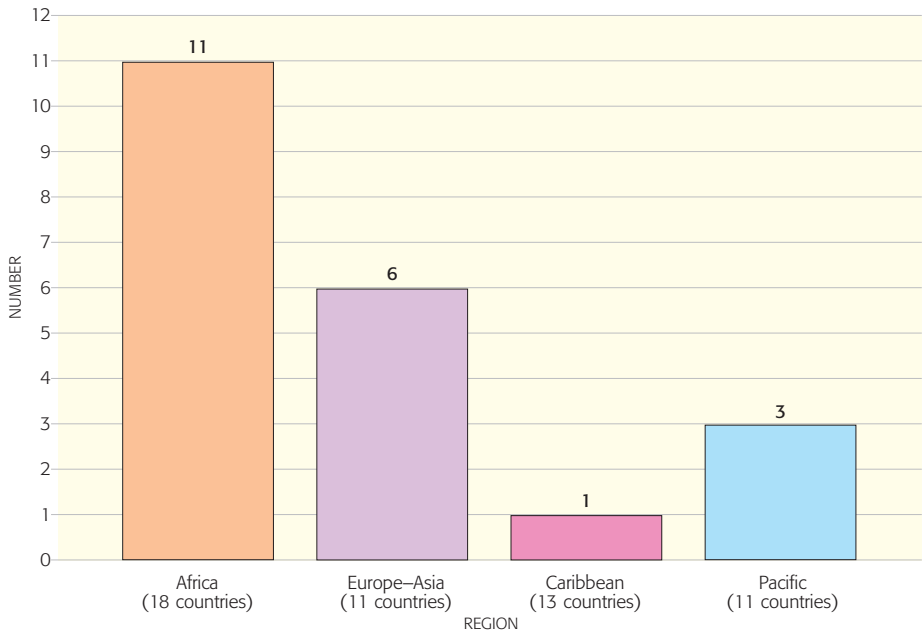


Figure 5 shows the spread of National Human Rights Institutions across the Commonwealth. Africa has 11 such institutions, Europe-Asia has 6, the Caribbean has 1 and the Pacific has 3.

Figure 6. Position on the death penalty in Commonwealth states, by region<sup>6</sup>

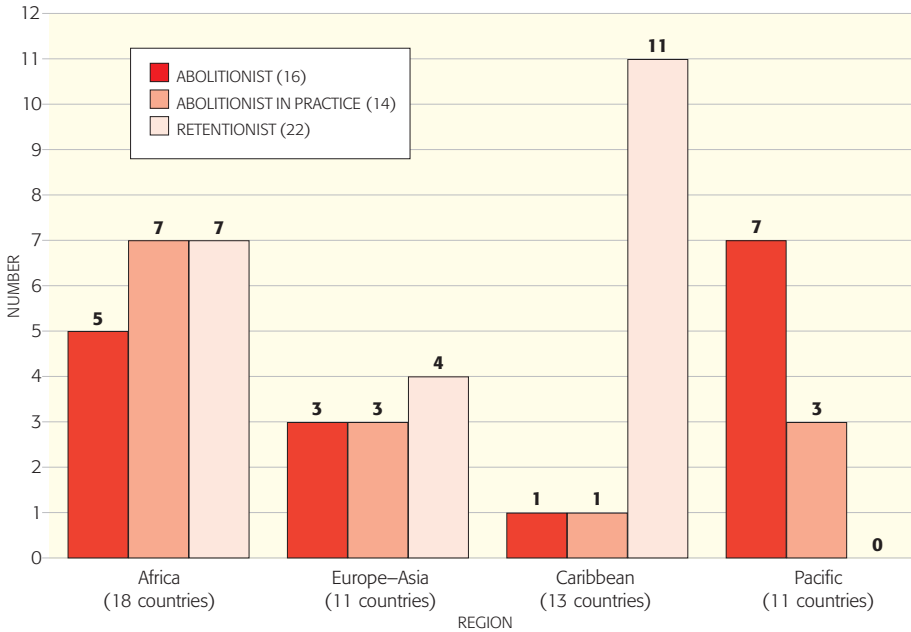


Figure 6 maps in 3 categories and by region the current position of Commonwealth states in relation to the death penalty. The three categories, which are commonly used in the field of human rights, are: countries that have fully abolished the death penalty (abolitionist); countries that retain the death penalty but have not carried out any executions in 10 years or more (abolitionist in practice); and those that retain the death penalty and carry out executions (retentionist). The data shows that in Africa 5 countries are abolitionist, 7 are abolitionist in practice and 7 are retentionist. In Europe-Asia there are 3 abolitionist countries, 3 are abolitionist in practice and 4 are retentionist. In the Caribbean 1 country is abolitionist, 1 is abolitionist in practice and 11 are retentionist. In the Pacific 7 are abolitionist, 3 are abolitionist in practice, 1 is abolitionist for ordinary crimes and none retains the death penalty.

Across the Commonwealth as a whole, 16 countries are abolitionist, 14 are abolitionist in practice, 1 is abolitionist for ordinary crimes and 22 are retentionist.

<sup>6</sup> Fiji is abolitionist for ordinary crimes. This is the only Commonwealth country in this position so has not been included in the graph.



## ANNEX: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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### Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

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## Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

## Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

## Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

## Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

## Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

## Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

## Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

## Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

## Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

## Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

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2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

#### Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

#### Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

#### Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

#### Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

#### Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

#### Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

#### Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with



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others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

## Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

## Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

## Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

## Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

## Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

## Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

## Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment,

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sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

#### Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

#### Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

#### Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

#### Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

#### Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

# Notes

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# Notes

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## The Human Rights Unit

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The Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat works to increase awareness of, respect for, and implementation of human rights in the Commonwealth. Declarations by leaders at the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting provide the mandate for the strategic framework on which the work of the Secretariat's Human Rights Unit is based. These declarations have reaffirmed the commitment of governments to the advancement of fundamental human rights as a core political value of the Commonwealth. The initiatives and activities of the Human Rights Unit continue to evolve to meet the needs and concerns of the Commonwealth.

The Human Rights Unit's programme activities support the attainment of the Secretariat's strategic goal of strengthening democracy and respect for human rights within the Commonwealth. In order to achieve this, the Human Rights Unit undertakes to:

- Advocate for, and support the efforts of member countries to improve adherence to, compliance with, and implementation of international and regional human rights conventions;
- Strengthen (or assist in the establishment of) key institutions in member countries that protect and promote human rights, through technical assistance and policy advice;
- Promote human rights education and awareness, including through targeted programmes for the uniformed services, government agencies, the judiciary, the media, and universities – with a particular emphasis on young people;
- Assist countries, upon their request, to develop coherent and comprehensive national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with national priorities;
- Develop, publish and promote best practices on human rights across the Commonwealth;
- Collaborate with other international actors and participate in the UN human rights system (including the Human Rights Council);
- Advise the Commonwealth Secretary-General on issues related to human rights; and
- Integrate human rights standards into all Divisions of the Secretariat.

### Contacts

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Website: [www.thecommonwealth.org/humanrights](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/humanrights)

*Human Rights in the Commonwealth* presents a comprehensive survey of the state of human rights, as measured by each country's formal engagement with the main international standards and norms, across the fifty-three member countries of the association.

For each country the report details the human rights instruments signed, ratified or acceded to, together with information on the main human rights institution in the country.

The report also includes articles on key human rights themes of global relevance.



*An exceedingly useful publication that will be of great value*

Bertrand Ramcharan, Former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

*This publication is an invaluable resource for all those committed to bringing home international human rights standards to the peoples and states of the Commonwealth.*

Professor Paul Hunt, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of health

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