

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
+41 22 917 9000
InfoDesk@ohchr.org

Petitions and complaints

petitions@ohchr.org

Donor and external relations

dexrel@ohchr.org

Civil society

civilsociety@ohchr.org

Publications

publications@ohchr.org

Media

press-info@ohchr.org

 www.ohchr.org

 [unitednationshumanrights](https://www.facebook.com/unitednationshumanrights)

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working for your RIGHTS

"Human rights are the fundamental basis for sustainable development and peace. They build strong and successful societies. States owe their people justice, equality and dignity, under the rule of law."

**High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**



Universal ideals

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) represents the world's commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the full range of rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



This mandate ensures the Office has a central role in safeguarding the integrity of the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights, and development.

In its 30 articles, the Declaration describes the human rights that everyone is entitled to enjoy: from the right to life, liberty and security; to the right to adequate healthcare and education.

The Declaration also states that everyone, without distinction of any kind, is entitled to enjoy all of its rights and freedoms. All of the rights in the Declaration are indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and universal.

These ideals have become the foundation of binding international treaties. Countries that commit to these treaties are obliged to enact national laws and policies that reflect the human rights principles they embody.

Our priorities

The Office has identified six thematic priorities for the four year period from 2014 to 2017.

- ▶ Strengthening international human rights mechanisms
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere
- ▶ Widening the democratic space
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity



How we work

International human rights law underpins all of the work of the Office: setting human rights standards; monitoring and reporting; technical cooperation and advisory services to countries; global advocacy; and building partnerships with local Governments and civil society.



Governments have the main responsibility for protecting the human rights of people within their countries. The UN Human Rights Office assists them in meeting their obligations by advising them on national legislation to ensure it meets international standards; working with local authorities to guarantee minimum standards of detention for people in prisons; and facilitating access to justice and transitional justice processes to fight impunity and strengthen accountability.

Further, the Office speaks out publicly to highlight both human rights violations and best practices.

It also acts as the secretariat to the Human Rights Council, the key United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights. Representatives of 47 Member States of the United Nations sit on the Council, each of them elected by the General Assembly for three years with the possibility of one renewal.

The Council addresses violations; works to prevent human rights abuses; responds to emergencies; serves as an international forum for human rights dialogue; and makes recommendations to the General Assembly for developing international human rights law.

The Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) assesses the human rights records of all 193 Member States every four years. The Office provides advice and expertise to States to enable them to implement the recommendations made by the UPR and human rights mechanisms.

The Office also assists the Council's Special Procedures, the independent human rights experts who investigate and report on 41 specific human rights thematic mandates - such as water and sanitation, food, involuntary disappearances, migrants, torture and human trafficking - and 14 country mandates.

Likewise, it supports the 10 committees of experts that monitor countries' compliance with the treaties they have ratified.

Global presence

Over time, the UN Human Rights Office has increased its presence on the ground. It cooperates with human rights, academic and research institutions, and NGOs to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness.

Human rights officers deploy to humanitarian or other crises, and investigations into serious human rights abuses.

The UN Human Rights Office supports 64 field presences: 15 country offices, 12 regional offices, 24 human rights advisers and 13 human rights representatives serving with United Nations peace missions.

Funding

The Office draws approximately 40 percent of its funding from the United Nations budget and the remainder from voluntary contributions, primarily from Member States.

For 2014 - 2015, the UN Human Rights Office has been allocated US\$173.4 million from the United Nations regular budget, compared with US\$177.3 million in 2012 - 2013.

The Office's share of the overall United Nations regular budget is just 3%. In 2014, voluntary contributions amounted to US\$123.7 million. Around half of the donations to the Office fund its work on the ground, and what is left supplements the limited resources available from the United Nations regular budget.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein assumed his functions as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 1 September 2014. Zeid has served as Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and is the sixth High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Zeid has lengthy experience with international criminal justice, international law, UN peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building, international development, and counter-nuclear terrorism.

Human rights in numbers

30

The Human Rights Council has held 30 Sessions since its creation in 2006.

1,000,000

Facebook is OHCHR's fastest growing social media platform with 1,000,000 followers by April 2015.

443

By July 2015 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was available in 443 languages.

112

By the end of 2014, 112 countries had participated in the second round of the UPR.

