

III. OHCHR PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

A. OHCHR publications

The publications programme of the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR) aims to raise awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to publicize ways of promoting and protecting them worldwide. It also encourages debate on human rights issues under review in United Nations bodies. There are five major categories of publications:

1. **Fact sheets** provide information on a wide range of human rights topics;
2. **Special issue papers** explore selected issues in greater depth;
3. **OHCHR training and educational material** consists of guides, manuals and handbooks for indigenous peoples, minorities, professional groups and educational institutions;
4. **Reference material** provides human rights practitioners with key human rights instruments and jurisprudence; and
5. **Human rights basics** inform the general public about United Nations human rights work.

1. Fact sheets

OHCHR **fact sheets** provide information on basic human rights. Some fact sheets deal with specific issues or groups; others explain United Nations human rights bodies and their procedures. Fact sheets also provide practical guidance on how to work with the United Nations human rights programme.

2. Special issue papers

Special issue papers explore selected issues in greater depth. The topics are chosen in the light of their topicality, urgency and recent developments. Some recent special issue papers are: *Good Governance Practices for the Protection of Human Rights*, *Claiming the Millennium Development Goals: a human rights approach*; *Rule-of-law tools for post-conflict States*; *Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions* (published jointly with the International Council on Human Rights Policy); and *The Rights of Non-citizens*.

The Handbook is available in digital format on the OHCHR website at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/>

There you will find the Handbook's chapters available for download, as well as links to all the references contained in the publication.

3. Training and educational material

OHCHR **training and educational materials** provide a broad overview of the United Nations human rights system as well as practical tools for training and educational programmes for different audiences, such as the police, prison officials, judges, parliamentarians, human rights monitors, election monitors and social workers, or specific groups or individuals.

The **Professional Training Series** consists of handbooks and manuals to increase awareness of international standards and is directed at audiences able to influence the national human rights situation. Although primarily designed to support OHCHR training activities, these publications also serve as practical tools for organizations providing human rights education to professional groups. Training manuals are adaptable to the needs and experience, in terms of culture, education and history, of a range of audiences within the target group. Where appropriate, information on pedagogical techniques is included to assist trainers in using the manuals.

The **Human Rights Education Series** consists of materials to support general human rights education efforts by all partners. It includes information on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, a study on human rights education and human rights treaties, a compilation of provisions of international and regional instruments dealing with human rights education and a booklet offering practical advice to educators and school teachers.

Finally, the **Guide Series** consists of information sets for specific groups or individuals, on how to seek protection of their rights through the different international and regional procedures. The Series includes the *United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Guide for Minorities*, comprising 14 pamphlets on how minorities can use United Nations human rights procedures and regional mechanisms.

4. Reference material

Reference material gives researchers and human rights law practitioners access to key human rights instruments and other essential information. Examples include compilations of human rights instruments, such as *The New Core International Human Rights Treaties*, and jurisprudence from human rights treaty bodies, such as the *Selected Decisions of the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol* or the *Selected Decisions of the Committee against Torture*.

5. Human rights basics

The purpose of this material, including posters on human rights themes, is to inform the general public about United Nations human rights work and provide answers to the most frequently asked questions about the United Nations human rights programme.

How to obtain OHCHR publications

OHCHR regularly updates its **publications list**. Most OHCHR publications are published in all six official United Nations languages: Arabic (A), Chinese (C), English (E), French (F), Russian (R) and Spanish (S).

Publications marked with a (w) are available for downloading free of charge from the **OHCHR website**. Publication titles marked with an asterisk (*) are **United Nations sales publications** and may be purchased from bookstores and distributors throughout the world.

For more information, visit the website of the United Nations bookshop in New York (readers in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and North America) or in Geneva (readers in Africa, Europe and the Middle East).



For current information on OHCHR publications, please visit the **OHCHR publications web page**.

Civil society actors wishing to receive an e-mail when new publications become available should write to **publications@ohchr.org**.



Most OHCHR publications are available online. In addition, small quantities of hard copies for specific information and training activities may be ordered from:

Publications and Information Desk
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
8–14, avenue de la Paix
CH–1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0)22 928 92 24
Fax: +41 (0)22 928 90 10
E-mail: publications@ohchr.org

When ordering an OHCHR publication you should clearly indicate:

- The purpose for which the publications are to be used. Please provide information on the training course, aims, dates, participants and so on. You are also invited to provide feedback after the training or information event by post or by e-mail
- Number of copies requested of each publication
- Name of contact person
- Name of organization (if applicable)
- Postal address
- Telephone
- Fax number
- E-mail.

To download a publications order form, please visit the OHCHR publications web page. Stocks permitting, copies will be made available for pick-up at a nearby United Nations office, wherever possible. Please note that quantities are limited and a blacked-out space on the list means that the publication is out of stock.

Commercial publishers wishing to reprint or reproduce material from OHCHR publications should send their requests to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Sales Section, Palais des Nations, 8–14, avenue de la Paix, CH–1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, e-mail: unpubli@unog.ch.

B. OHCHR Library

The **OHCHR Library** in Geneva provides comprehensive information and reference services to OHCHR partners, United Nations human rights mechanisms and experts, and OHCHR staff. It contains a unique collection of human rights documents, publications and other materials in hard copy and in electronic format. The Library, which also integrates a resource collection on human rights education and training, maintains links with United Nations and other major libraries and research institutes around the world, providing users with online search and reference services.

The OHCHR Library serves the international community but is also open to interested professionals outside the Organization. NGOs based in Geneva and already accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva are allowed easy access to the Library. Other NGO members and civil society actors may receive a temporary access badge.

The Library is open Monday to Friday in the mornings from 9.30 to 12.30 and in the afternoons from 2 to 5. Visitors must have a valid photo ID (United Nations badge, passport, identity card or driving licence). Reference books are not available for loan by the public and must be used in the Library. Library access is subject to OHCHR **Library rules and regulations**. OHCHR regrets that the Library is not accessible to unaccompanied minors.

How to contact the OHCHR Library



The OHCHR Library is located on the ground floor of the Giuseppe Motta building

(48, Avenue Giuseppe Motta, Geneva).

The Library is open Monday to Friday, from 9.30 to 12.30 in the morning and from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. Visitors must have a valid photo ID (United Nations badge, passport, identity card or driving licence).

Phone: +41 (0)22 928 97 90

Fax: +41 (0)22 928 90 65

E-mail: library@ohchr.org

C. Other OHCHR resource materials

The **OHCHR website** is a useful resource for finding publications, reference material and other documentation related to international human rights mechanisms and to OHCHR activities. The main page of the OHCHR website has search boxes that direct users to human rights information, including official documents, by country, by issue or by professional interest.

All official United Nations documentation can also be accessed online through the **Official Document System** of the United Nations.

Media centre

Statements and press releases related to OHCHR activities and United Nations human rights mechanisms may be accessed online through the media centre. Recent news, a calendar of meetings and events, statements by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and archived press releases are available from the OHCHR website.

Members of the media seeking information, interviews or comments should contact the Communications Section at:

E-mail: press-info@ohchr.org

Phone: +41 (0)22 917 97 67 (OHCHR Spokesperson)

+41 (0)22 917 93 83 (Information Officer).



To receive **news alerts** by e-mail, send a request to press-info@ohchr.org.

For information on OHCHR resources specific to particular United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, please consult the relevant chapter(s) of this *Handbook*.

The Handbook is available in digital format on the OHCHR website at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/>

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