

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

A Status Report 2010



Edited by Dr Purna Sen
Research by Jena Patel

Commonwealth Secretariat




IN MEMORIAM: GUY BENTHAM 1958–2010

For his enabling of the first edition of this report
and his constant encouragement and support of
the work of the Human Rights Unit

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

A Status Report 2010

Edited by Dr Purna Sen
Research by Jena Patel

Commonwealth Secretariat 

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

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The Publications Section
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0)20 7747 6534

Fax: + 44 (0)20 7839 9081

Email: publications@commonwealth.int

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List of Abbreviations

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
CEDAW OP	Optional Protocol to the 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
CRC OPAC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
CRC OPSC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRPD OP	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
HRC	Human Rights Council (United Nations)
HRU	Human Rights Unit (Commonwealth Secretariat)
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICCPR OP	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR OPDP	Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
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
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
SPT	Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (United Nations)
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
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword

Declarations about values and human rights are hollow if they are not backed by deeds. The Commonwealth's clear commitment to human rights – restated by its Heads of Government in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 – cannot be taken to mean that all its members have achieved them and are observing them to the letter. But it does mean a determined commitment to pursue the goal. All members are journeying on the same path, and the information we present here is testimony to the continued work being done across the Commonwealth to advance in upholding and protecting human rights.

Within the last two years, since the publication of the first edition of this volume, Bangladesh and Seychelles have established National Human Rights Commissions, and Mozambique, Papua New Guinea and Swaziland have taken big steps towards doing so. Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles and Uganda have now ratified all eight of the main human rights conventions. The newest UN Human Rights Instrument – the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability – has also seen much support, with a quick succession of ratifications from Commonwealth members. However, there are still gaps: 17 of our members, for instance, have yet to ratify the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

These pages chart human rights commitments and achievements made by each Commonwealth country since 2008. The information documented has also expanded to include the ratification status of the seven human rights related Optional Protocols, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

I hope it will be both useful and encouraging reading, as the Commonwealth continues on its collective journey towards the full realisation of one of its most cherished principles: the human rights of our citizens.

Kamalesh Sharma
Commonwealth Secretary-General
London, December 2010

Introduction

Since the publication of the first Human Rights in the Commonwealth Status Report in 2008 the Commonwealth Secretariat has continued working with member states and stakeholders to support progress on the protection of human rights. Between November 2008 and October 2010, 39 Commonwealth states have participated in at least one human rights initiative delivered by the Secretariat and 22 new ratifications have been made to the main human rights treaties. The Commonwealth Heads of Government affirmed in 2009 their ongoing commitment to human rights as a core value of the association.

Heads made reference to the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights increase access to education, work and healthcare. They promise that all citizens can vote, practice a religion of their choosing or petition their government for change. New issues in human rights continue to be brought to the forefront of international thought. Climate change and its impact on human rights, especially for those in developing countries, is a new area that has been given attention in recent years. Since the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities came into force in 2008, disability rights have also received more thought and an increased commitment from states. Efforts to protect human rights will always need revision and renewed thought – but the underlying

principles of non-discrimination and equality remain relevant and need to be promoted.

This 2010 edition of the Status Report is the second that surveys key baseline information on human rights efforts across all Commonwealth members. It focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities and records many inspiring stories that detail the positive steps taken over the past two years to promote the opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy the same rights as others. Cyprus has established a dedicated department to ensure persons with disabilities do not face social exclusion. Uganda announced a new programme which will provide grants to increase the income of persons with disabilities. Guyana has launched a national strategy for persons with disabilities and New Zealand reviewed the effectiveness of its Sign Language Act. All these initiatives will help to create societies in which persons with disabilities enjoy independent lives and where they are full citizens.

This publication marks two years of progress made by Commonwealth states in protecting human rights. The information on each country's formal engagements with the international human rights instruments has been updated and new data on the human rights Optional Protocols has been included. Updated quantitative analysis of the country data shows where each region stands with their legal commitments.

There are also some changes from the first edition. A new methodology has been adopted to assess treaty reservations. This has allowed for a more accurate overview of each state's international legal commitments. Other information

has been updated as states have made more detailed information available. Changes have made the publication more accessible; formatting has been modified and text size increased to allow greater legibility for readers with low vision. A country page has also been added for Rwanda, the Commonwealth's newest member state.

I hope this publication will be of practical use for all of those working in the Commonwealth.

Dr Purna Sen
Head of Human Rights
Commonwealth Secretariat

International Human Rights Optional Protocols

In addition to the eight core international human rights treaties currently in force, this publication includes the ratification status and information about the seven main Optional Protocols. These protocols establish mechanisms and additional legal commitments which aim to ensure that the rights set out in the core international human rights treaties are fully realised.

Upon ratification a state may choose to place a reservation on articles contained within an Optional Protocol. When Optional Protocols establish individual complaint mechanisms, the Committee cannot investigate complaints that relate to treaty articles with reservations against them.

Information contained in the 2008 edition of this publication on the core international human rights treaties can be found on pages 141–146.

The seven human rights Optional Protocols are:

- [Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR OP\)](#)
- [Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty \(ICCPR OPDP\)](#)

-
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW OP)
 - Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)
 - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC OPAC)
 - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC OPSC)
 - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD OP)

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR OP)

(came into force: 1976)

The ICCPR OP is open to signature and ratification by those states that are party to the ICCPR. The Human Rights Committee monitors the implementation of the ICCPR. The Protocol establishes an individual complaints mechanism that allows the Committee to receive and consider individual complaints. The Protocol gives individuals whose countries have accepted both the treaty and the Protocol the recourse to remedy when their state violates the rights protected by the ICCPR. All domestic remedies must have been exhausted or be unavailable for a case to reach the Committee. The Protocol also allows third parties to bring a complaint to the Committee on behalf of individuals.

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR OPDP)

(came into force: 1991)

The ICCPR OPDP is open to signature and ratification by those states that are party to the ICCPR. The Protocol commits states actively to progress towards the abolition of the death penalty within their borders. States may only enter a reservation permitting the use of the death penalty in time of war and only after a conviction has been made for a serious crime of a military nature committed during wartime. State parties are required to provide regular updates to the Human Rights Committee on the measures being taken to abolish the death penalty.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW OP)

(came into force: 2000)

The CEDAW OP is open to signature and ratification by those states that are party to CEDAW. The Protocol permits the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which monitors CEDAW, to receive and consider individual complaints by women or by a third party acting on their behalf. The Protocol also establishes an inquiry procedure permitting the Committee to inquire into situations of grave or systematic violations of the rights contained in CEDAW.

Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)

(came into force: 2006)

The OPCAT is open to signature and ratification by those states that are party to CAT. The Protocol established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). The SPT has a mandate to visit places of detention to examine treatment by speaking privately to individuals in custody, lawyers, doctors, government officials and other relevant persons. The Subcommittee can recommend measures to be taken to improve the treatment of detainees in places such as police stations, prisons and mental health institutions. OPCAT also requires state parties to establish independent national preventative mechanisms for the prevention of torture, which the SPT may assist and advise to strengthen.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC OPAC)

(came into force: 2002)

The CRC OPAC expands on the provisions to protect children made in the CRC to increase the protection of children during times of armed conflict. The Protocol directs state parties to take all feasible measures to ensure that those under the age of 18 do not take part in direct hostilities, and that voluntary recruitment is ensured for those under the age of 18. As such, each state is required to submit a binding statement upon ratification declaring the age at which it will permit voluntary recruitment into its national armed forces and a description of the measures it has adopted to ensure that recruitment is not forced. Within

two years of ratifying the Protocol a state must submit an initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child detailing efforts it has taken to give effect to the Protocol. Thereafter, a state is required to submit information relevant to the Protocol within its CRC reports. A state not party to CRC may still ratify the Protocol, and in such cases is required to submit a report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child every five years.¹

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC OPSC)

(came into force: 2002)

The CRC OPSC expands on the provisions made in the CRC to protect children against sexual and non-sexual exploitation. The Protocol creates an obligation on states to criminalise activities related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and to punish perpetrators of these offences. The Protocol also obliges a state to provide child victims legal, medical and financial support. Within two years of ratifying the Protocol a state must submit an initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child detailing the efforts it has made to give effect to the Protocol. Thereafter a state is required to submit information relevant to the Protocol within its CRC reports. A state not party to CRC may still ratify the Protocol, and in such cases is required to submit a report to the Committee on the rights of the child every five years.²

¹ All Commonwealth states are party to the CRC. Therefore the date of the last report shown for this Optional Protocol in the country pages that follow is the submission date of the initial report.

² Ibid

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD OP)

(came into force: 2008)

The CRPD OP is the newest Protocol and is open to signature and ratification by those states that are party to CRPD.

The Protocol allows the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which monitors the CRPD, to receive and consider individual complaints when all domestic recourse has been exhausted. The Protocol also allows third parties to bring a complaint to the Committee on behalf of individuals.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

The Rome Statute established and governs the International Criminal Court (ICC), which sits in The Hague, Netherlands.

The ICC is a permanent international judicial body that is charged with the power to try individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. The Rome Statute recognises the need to end impunity over crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights which, by their threat to international peace and security, make them of the most serious concern to the international community. The court is designed to compliment national legal frameworks and exercise its jurisdiction in those cases where a state is unable or unwilling to prosecute.

The Court is composed of four organs: the Presidency, the Judicial Divisions, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry.

- The Presidency is responsible for the administration of the court and is composed of three elected judges who each serve a three-year term.
- The Judicial Divisions consist of 18 judges who are assigned to one of three divisions: Pre-Trial, Trial, or Appeals.

-
- The Office of the Prosecutor is responsible for receiving information on crimes, which they examine and investigate. The Prosecutor heads the Office and is elected by states parties to the Rome Statute.
 - The Registry is responsible for all non-judicial aspects of the Court's administration.

The Court also has an Office of Public Counsel for Victims and an Office of Public Counsel for the Defence. The former provides support to victims to ensure their effective participation in court proceedings, and the latter represents and protects the rights of the Defence to enable a fair trial.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The UN International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) defines a disability as a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which may hinder a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.³ The principle of equality is contained within this definition, seeking to ensure this for persons with a disability of any kind.

According to current estimates, 650 million people live with a disability, making them the world's largest minority. In many parts of the world persons with disabilities are subject to severe social stigma. This has created a culture of marginalisation and routine discrimination, forcing people to live under the misguided belief that their lives are shameful and not worthy of respect.

Many people with disabilities are subject to aggravated forms of discrimination based on their gender, race, ethnicity, social status or age as well as their disability. Women and girls with disabilities are often subject to higher rates of violence, neglect and exploitation than those without. Most children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school. There is also an unarguable connection between poverty and disability, with an estimated 20 per cent of the world's poorest people living with a disability.

³ UN document. Please see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Convention.aspx>

When the CRPD came into force in 2008 it set an international standard that recognises the equal worth and dignity of all persons living with a disability. The convention emphasises the right of all persons to live autonomously and to live in a society which actively encourages their participation in all spheres of life. Most importantly, the convention recognises that persons with disabilities should enjoy these rights on an equal footing with others. This requires states to take action to ensure that these obligations are met.

It means ensuring equal opportunities in education and in the work place. It means publishing information in accessible formats such as Braille, audio or large print and allocating funding to develop inclusive cultural and leisure activities. Most importantly, it means changing the way that persons with disabilities are perceived and treated in society.

As of 2010 95 states are party to CRPD, and 22 per cent (23 countries) of these states are members of the Commonwealth. The effort to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights as others has begun, but the challenge remains to fulfil the promise.

Human Rights and Climate Change: A Commonwealth Perspective

The Human Rights Unit has published a discussion paper on human rights and climate change.⁴ It notes that in the debates on climate change, three key paradigms have emerged with regard to people and the environment. The first has as its focus the damage being done to the planet, which includes desertification and the increase in emissions of greenhouse gases. People are regarded as the perpetrators while the planet is the victim. The second paradigm acknowledges that people harm the planet, but also that people themselves are harmed by their results of their activities. It focuses on the impact of climate change on people and on the sustainability of their livelihoods. In the third paradigm the debate has started to focus on rights and responsibilities, particularly the impact of climate change on the adherence to and protection of human rights.

In 2008, Maldives initiated a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council, calling for a study to be conducted on the link between climate change and human rights. The resolution was supported by 79 states, with almost a third being Commonwealth states. The study was discussed at the

⁴ Sen (2009) *Human Rights and Climate Change: An approach that puts people in the forefront of the debate*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat. Available at:

<http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/human-rights-and-climate-change-755-p.aspx>

Human Rights Council in March 2009 and is essentially a compilation of evidence and information on the rights dimensions of climate change.

Key human rights impacted upon by climate change include:

- The right to life – natural disasters resulting from climate change are expected to increase deaths; vulnerable groups such as women and children will be most impacted upon.
- The right to health – it is expected that many people will be affected by increased malnutrition, disease levels and injuries as a result of extreme weather events.
- The right to adequate housing and shelter – rising sea levels, intensified storm patterns and flooding have already caused displacement and will continue to do so.

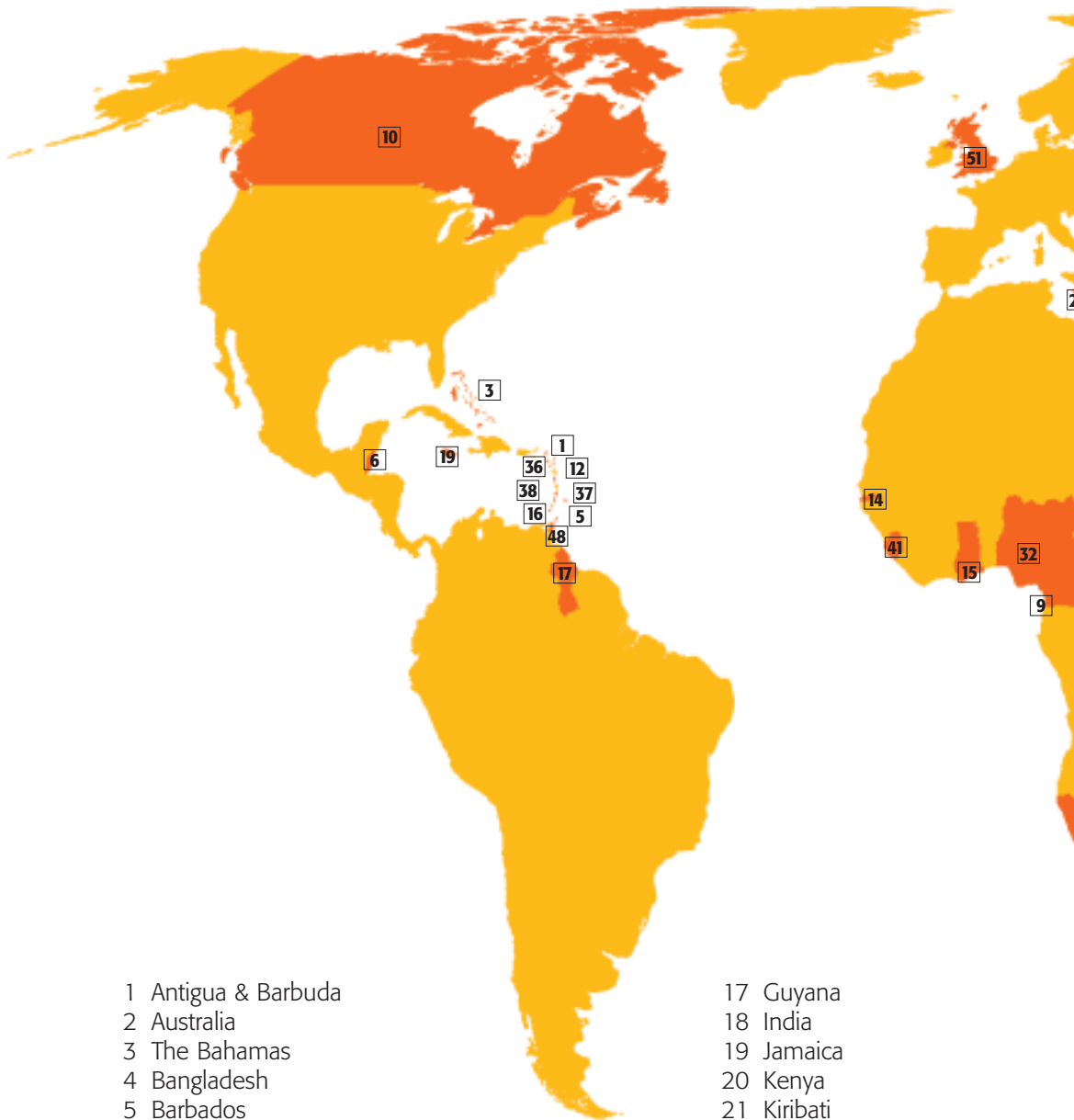
The human rights lens brings into sharp focus the important principles of voice (those affected by the impact of climate change should be able to relate their experiences); participation (those affected should be involved in a constructive and meaningful way in the decisions and discussions that affect them); and accountability (the decision-makers should be accountable to those who feel the impacts of their decisions).

Climate change and its impact on human rights is a key Commonwealth issue. Of the Commonwealth's 54 member states, 32 are small states, including 25 small island states. Many in the Commonwealth are already feeling the impacts of rising sea levels, contaminated water, depleted marine resources and erosion of shorelines. Small states

are particularly vulnerable to climate change not only due to their size but also their remoteness, isolation, poverty, susceptibility to natural disasters and environmental change, and limited human capacity.

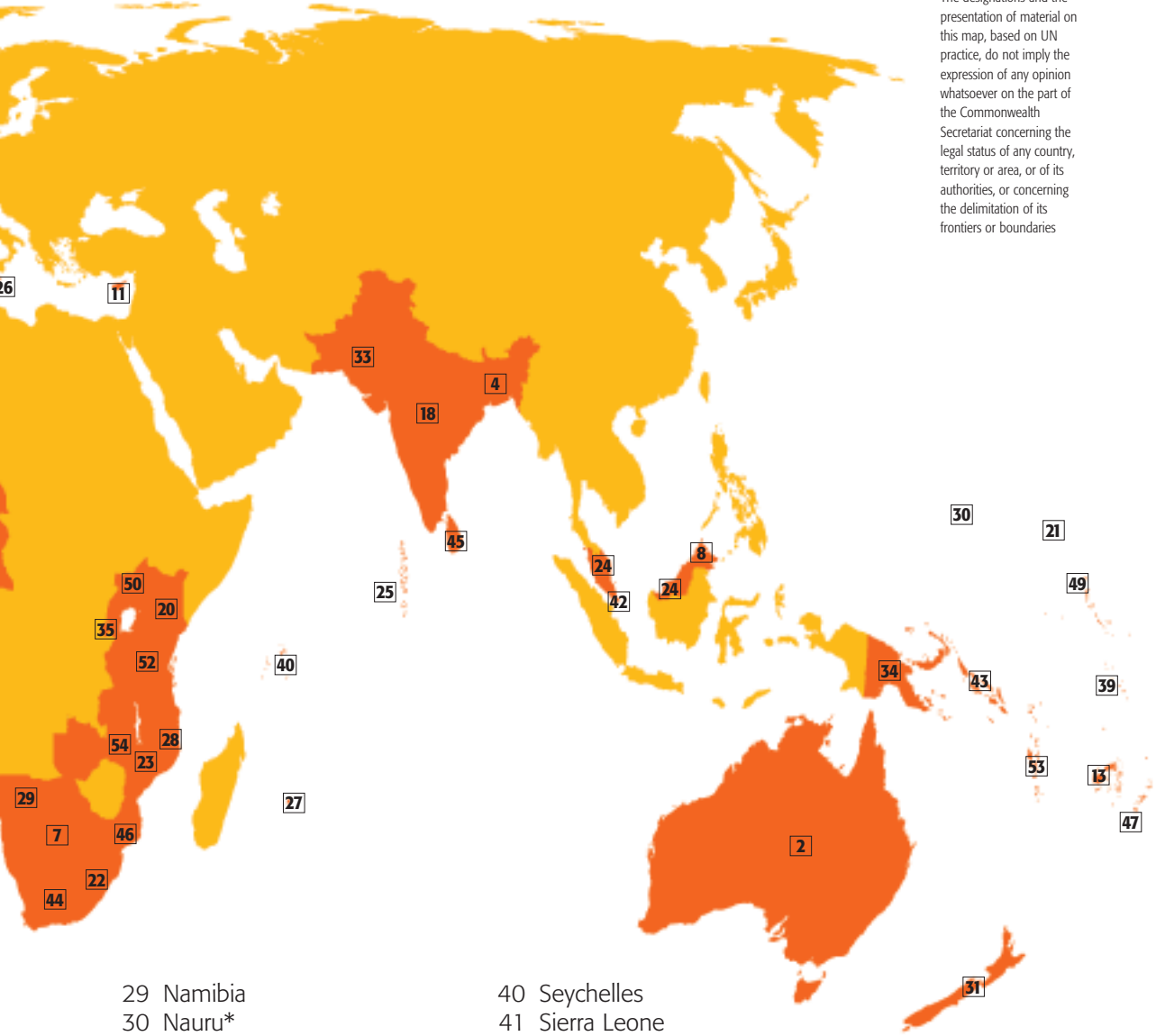
The Commonwealth has committed itself to addressing this issue through the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan 2007 as well as the Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles 2009. The Commonwealth is well placed to play a role in the following types of interventions: promoting a human rights approach to climate change negotiations; planning for internal and international displacement; and supporting the rights of indigenous peoples. Already the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) has identified climate change as an issue requiring action. A Working Group on Climate Change has been established.

Commonwealth Map



- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 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 membership of the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009) | |
| 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 Seychelles | 51 United Kingdom |
| 30 Nauru* | 41 Sierra Leone | 52 United Republic of Tanzania |
| 31 New Zealand | 42 Singapore | 53 Vanuatu |
| 32 Nigeria | 43 Solomon Islands | 54 Zambia |
| 33 Pakistan | 44 South Africa | |
| 34 Papua New Guinea | 45 Sri Lanka | |
| 35 Rwanda | 46 Swaziland | |
| 36 St Kitts & Nevis | 47 Tonga | |
| 37 St Lucia | 48 Trinidad & Tobago | |
| 38 St Vincent and the Grenadines | 49 Tuvalu | |
| 39 Samoa | 50 Uganda | |

*Commonwealth member in arrears



Human Rights in the Commonwealth at a Glance

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	-	-	-	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-		
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-		
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	01 Aug 1989	05 Jun 2006	19 Jul 1993	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Sep 1994	n/a	-	n/a		
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-		
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	05 Oct 1993	-	30 Apr 2002	25 Oct 1988		
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Feb 2003	-	-	03 Mar 2006		
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	0		
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	-	-	18 Jun 2001		
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a		
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a		

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1995.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:
Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



ROME STATUTE (PREAMBLE)

*...grave crimes threaten the
peace, security and well-being
of the world...*



AUSTRALIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	13 Aug 1980	25 Sep 1991	02 Oct 1990	10 Dec 1975	
DATE LAST REPORT	07 Aug 2007	n/a	n/a	07 Aug 2007	
RESERVATIONS	3	0	0	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	28 Jul 1983	04 Dec 2008	08 Aug 1989	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	09 Mar 2009	n/a	07 Apr 2005	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	17 Dec 1990	26 Sep 2006	08 Jan 2007	30 Sep 1975	
DATE LAST REPORT	25 Jun 2009	25 Jun 2009	25 Jun 2009	08 Jan 2010	
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	1	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	17 Jul 2008	21 Aug 2009	01 Jul 2002	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Australian Human Rights Commission established 1986.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva



The Government of Australia revises National Standards for Disability Services

Between April and July 2010 over 1,100 people throughout Australia, including people with a disability, family members, carers and service providers participated in consultations to support a revision of the National Standards for Disability Services. The revision is designed to highlight areas of service provision for persons with disabilities which are in need of improvement.



THE BAHAMAS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	23 Dec 2008	-	-	23 Dec 2008	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	06 Oct 1993	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Jul 2009	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	4	-	-	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	20 Feb 1991	-	-	05 Aug 1975	
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Jun 2003	-	-	29 Aug 2003	
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Bahamas makes important steps in ending domestic violence

In December 2008 the Bahamas enacted the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act 2007 in order to eliminate gender-based violence.

BANGLADESH

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	06 Sep 2000	-	-	05 Oct 1998
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	06 Nov 1984	02 Sep 2000	05 Oct 1998	-
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Dec 2002	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	03 Aug 1990	06 Sep 2000	06 Sep 2000	11 Jun 1979
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Sep 2007	16 Nov 2004	12 Dec 2005	01 Mar 2000
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	30 Nov 2007	12 May 2008	23 Mar 2010
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission, established 2010.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK



The Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission becomes operational

In July 2010 the Bangladesh parliament passed the enabling ordinance for the National Human Rights Commission, making it fully operational. The Commission will have a regional presence, with district chapters that can receive allegations, conduct preliminary investigations and commission trials.

BARBADOS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	05 Jan 1973	05 Jan 1973	-	05 Jan 1973	
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Jul 2006	n/a	n/a	16 Feb 1983	
RESERVATIONS	1	0	-	3	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	16 Oct 1980	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Nov 2000	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	09 Oct 1990	-	-	08 Nov 1972	
DATE LAST REPORT	12 Sep 1996	-	-	29 Jun 2004	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	10 Dec 2002	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1981.

No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT: Barbados Human Rights Seminar, September 2010, Barbados; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Barbados establishes Human Rights Unit

Following their appearance at the UPR in December 2008 Barbados set up a dedicated Human Rights Unit within their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

BELIZE

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	10 Jun 1996	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	3	-	-	-	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	16 May 1990	09 Dec 2002	17 Mar 1986	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Aug 2005	n/a	18 Apr 1991	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	2	0	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	02 May 1990	01 Dec 2003	01 Dec 2003	14 Nov 2001	
DATE LAST REPORT	28 Feb 2003	-	-	-	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	14 Nov 2001	-	-	05 Apr 2000	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1999.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



ROME STATUTE (PREAMBLE)

...all peoples are united by common bonds, their cultures pieced together in a shared heritage...



BOTSWANA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	08 Sep 2000	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	13 Oct 2006	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	2	-	-	-	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	13 Aug 1996	21 Feb 2007	08 Sep 2000	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Oct 2008	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	2	1	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	05 Oct 1993	-	30 Apr 2002	25 Oct 1988	
DATE LAST REPORT	10 Jan 2003	-	-	23 Mar 2005	
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	11 Mar 2003	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1997. The Office makes reference to human rights in its mission statement.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Botswana establishes The Office for People with Disabilities in the Office of the President

In March 2010 Botswana established The Office for People with Disabilities in the Office of the President. The office is mandated to develop and implement policies and programmes to create a wholesome physical and social environment which allows persons with disabilities to maximise their potential in private and public life.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	24 May 2006	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	3	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	27 Dec 1995	-	21 Nov 2006	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Dec 2001	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	4	-	0	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police Trainers, June 2009, Malaysia; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



CRPD ARTICLE 12 (1)

*... persons with
disabilities have the
right to recognition
everywhere as
persons before
the law...*



CAMEROON

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	27 Jun 1984	27 Jun 1984	-	27 Jun 1984
DATE LAST REPORT	25 Nov 2008	n/a	n/a	26 Nov 2008
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	23 Aug 1994	07 Jan 2005	19 Dec 1986	-
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Mar 2007	n/a	09 Jan 2009	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	11 Jan 1993	-	-	24 Jun 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	03 Apr 2008	-	-	26 Nov 2008
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, established 2006.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (NHRI participation)



Cameroon launches human rights awareness raising campaign

In October 2010 Cameroon's National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms launched a human rights promotion and protection sensitisation campaign. The campaign aims to raise awareness on eight specific themes which include HIV/AIDS, torture, corruption, education, persons with disabilities, human dignity, rights of women and rights of detainees.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	19 May 1976	19 May 1976	25 Nov 2005	19 May 1976
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Oct 2004	n/a	n/a	17 Aug 2005
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	10 Dec 1981	18 Oct 2002	24 Jun 1987	-
DATE LAST REPORT	17 Aug 2007	n/a	11 Oct 2004	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	13 Dec 1991	07 Jul 2000	14 Sep 2005	14 Oct 1970
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Nov 2009	16 Sep 2004	03 Feb 2009	03 Feb 2006
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	11 Mar 2010	-	07 Jul 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	1	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Canadian Human Rights Commission, established 1978.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (NHRI participation)



Canada ratifies CRPD

In March 2010 Canada ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



CYPRUS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	02 Apr 1969	15 Apr 1992	10 Sep 1999	02 Apr 1969
DATE LAST REPORT	28 Dec 1994	n/a	n/a	20 Jul 2007
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	01 Aug 1989	05 Jun 2006	19 Jul 1993	-
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Mar 2004	n/a	29 Jun 2001	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	07 Feb 1991	02 Jul 2010	06 Apr 2006	21 Apr 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	03 Aug 2009	-	-	07 Nov 2000
RESERVATIONS	0	1	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	07 Mar 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Institute for the Protection of Human Rights within the Office of the Law Commissioner.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Seminar; November 2008, UK

Cyprus establishes a department for social inclusion for persons with disabilities

In January 2009 Cyprus established the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The new department is mandated to establish a reliable and credible database for the assessment of disability, restructure the vocational training and rehabilitation sector for persons with disabilities, and modernise social benefit schemes. In July 2009 a bill was also laid before the House of Representatives for the introduction of a quota system in recruiting persons with disabilities into places of work.



DOMINICA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	17 Jun 1993	-	-	17 Jun 1993
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	15 Sep 1980	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Jan 2009	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	13 Mar 1991	20 Sep 2002	20 Sep 2002	-
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Jan 2003	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	12 Feb 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:
None.



CRPD ARTICLE 25

... States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability...



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	-	-	-	28 Aug 1995
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	-	-	-	13 Aug 1993
DATE LAST REPORT	14 Jan 2009	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	-	-	11 Jan 1973	-
DATE LAST REPORT	12 Jun 1996	-	-	20 Jun 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	5
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	29 Nov 1999
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Fiji Human Rights Commission, established 1999.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all ordinary crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

None.



Fiji Cabinet endorse National Policy on Persons Living with Disabilities

In November 2009 Fiji's Cabinet endorsed a National Policy on Persons Living with Disabilities. The policy provides a framework for addressing disability in Fiji and aims to develop a more inclusive society, create greater awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and identify priority areas for action to dismantle barriers hindering the full participation of people with disabilities in the social and economic life of the Fiji Islands.

5 In December 2006 following a military takeover of the democratically elected government, Fiji was part suspended from the Commonwealth. In September 2009 Fiji was fully 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	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	22 Mar 1979	09 Jun 1988	-	29 Dec 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	25 Apr 1983	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	1	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	16 Apr 1993	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Apr 2003	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	08 Aug 1990	-	08 Apr 2010	29 Dec 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Nov 1999	-	-	30 Oct 1980
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	28 Jun 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	n/a	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1999. The Office has a specific human rights brief within its mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



The Gambia discusses draft national disability policy
In July 2009 The Gambian Ministry of Health and Social welfare organised a meeting for relevant stakeholders from around the country to discuss a draft national disability policy. The policy document aims to promote equal opportunities for enhanced empowerment, participation and protection of the rights of the persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, age and type of disability. The document is also designed to help the department put in place necessary structures and a programme of activities that will address the welfare of persons with disabilities.

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	07 Sep 2000	07 Sep 2000	-	07 Sep 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	02 Jan 1986	-	07 Sep 2000	-
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Feb 2005	n/a	26 Nov 2009	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	05 Feb 1990	-	-	08 Sep 1966
DATE LAST REPORT	19 Mar 2004	-	-	05 Jun 1998
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	07 Sep 2000	-	-	20 Dec 1999
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, established 1993.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI and state participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (NHRI and state participation)



Ghana strengthens child labour monitoring

In August 2010 Ghana's Minister of Employment announced the creation of a new database system for monitoring and tracking information on child labour issues. The Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) is designed to facilitate effective child-labour interventions by identifying child labourers and linking them to sustainable alternatives such as schooling and skills training.



GRENADA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	06 Sep 1991	-	-	06 Sep 1991	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	30 Aug 1990	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Mar 2010	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	05 Nov 1990	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	26 May 2008	-	-	-	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi



Grenada hosts UPR Training

In September 2010 Grenada hosted the Commonwealth & OHCHR Regional UPR Seminar in the Caribbean, facilitating the training of nine countries preparing to undergo UPR.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	15 Feb 1977	05 Jan 1999	-	15 Feb 1977
DATE LAST REPORT	01 Feb 1999	n/a	n/a	28 Jun 1995
RESERVATIONS	2	1	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	17 Jul 1980	-	19 May 1988	-
DATE LAST REPORT	10 May 2010	n/a	05 Dec 2008	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	14 Jan 1991	11 Aug 2010	30 Jul 2010	15 Feb 1977
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Apr 2010	-	-	20 Dec 2004
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	07 Jul 2010	-	-	24 Sep 2004
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: The 1999 Constitutional reform in Guyana made provision for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva



Guyana launches national strategy for persons with disabilities.

At a seminar in March 2010 Guyana's Minister of Health launched a National Rehabilitation Services Strategy. The strategy is the result of collaborative work between the Pan American Health Organization, WHO, the Guyana Ministry of Health, and the Director of Rehabilitation Services. A seminar was organised to introduce the new strategy and to promote understanding about community-based rehabilitation. It is hoped that the strategy will produce concrete interventions that will result in real and meaningful improvements for persons with disabilities in Guyana.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	10 Apr 1979	-	-	10 Apr 1979
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 1995	n/a	n/a	23 Dec 2006
RESERVATIONS	2	-	-	2
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	09 Jul 1993	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Oct 2005	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	11 Dec 1992	30 Nov 2005	16 Aug 2005	03 Dec 1968
DATE LAST REPORT	10 Dec 2001	-	-	26 Jan 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	01 Oct 2007	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Human Rights Commission, established 1993.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva



State level conference held in Rajasthan on mainstreaming disability

In September 2010 a state-level conference on mainstreaming disability in development was held in Rajasthan. The state government announced plans to conduct a survey to find out how many people in the state have a disability. The state will also provide unique identification numbers and certificates so that persons with disabilities can access relevant benefits.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	03 Oct 1975	-	-	03 Oct 1975	
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Jul 2009	n/a	n/a	06 Jan 2010	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	19 Oct 1984	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	13 Feb 2004	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	14 May 1991	09 May 2002	-	04 Jun 1971	
DATE LAST REPORT	16 May 2000	-	-	13 Apr 2001	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	25 Sep 2008	30 Mar 2007	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Public Defenders, established 2000.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:
Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Jamaica works towards a Human Rights Charter

Jamaica has introduced to Parliament a Constitutional Amendment Bill which will establish a Human Rights Charter. The Charter, which is in the final stages of Parliamentary acceptance, is due to be in force in early 2011 and proposes that Parliament shall pass no law and establish no organ of the state which abrogates, abridges or infringes the fundamental rights of citizens. It will also place an obligation on the state to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms for all persons in Jamaica.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	01 May 1972	-	-	01 May 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	22 Aug 2010	n/a	n/a	07 Sep 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	09 Mar 1984	-	21 Feb 1997	-
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Oct 2006	n/a	06 Jun 2007	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	30 Jul 1990	28 Jan 2002	-	13 Sep 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Sep 2005	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	19 May 2008	-	15 Mar 2005
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, established 2002.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi (NHRI and state participation)



Death Penalty in Kenya deemed unconstitutional

In July 2010 the Court of Appeal in Kenya declared that the mandatory death penalty for murder is inconsistent with the spirit of the Kenyan Constitution. The judgment raises important questions on the application of the death penalty in the country.



KIRIBATI

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	17 Mar 2004	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	11 Dec 1995	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Aug 2005	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	3	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi



Kiribati finalises action plan on disability

Kiribati is currently finalising its National Action Plan on Disability. The policy has been developed in response to the growing need to address disability issues in the wider community.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	09 Sep 1992	06 Sep 2000	-	09 Sep 1992
DATE LAST REPORT	08 Apr 1998	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	22 Aug 1995	24 Sep 2004	12 Nov 2001	-
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Aug 2010	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	10 Mar 1992	24 Sep 2003	24 Sep 2003	04 Nov 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Apr 1998	-	-	15 Jun 1998
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	16 Sep 2005	02 Dec 2008	-	06 Sep 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1993. The Office has a specific reference to human rights within its mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi



Lesotho ratifies CRPD

In December 2008 Lesotho ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By acceding to the CRPD Lesotho elevated disability beyond social welfare or charity to being a central issue of human rights and social development. The ratification also means Lesotho is now state party to all eight main human rights treaties and the Rome Statute.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	22 Dec 1993	11 Jun 1996	-	22 Dec 1993
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	12 Mar 1987	-	11 Jun 1996	-
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Oct 2008	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	02 Jan 1991	21 Sep 2010	07 Oct 2009	11 Jun 1996
DATE LAST REPORT	17 Oct 2007	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	27 Aug 2009	-	19 Sep 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Malawi Human Rights Commission, established 1998.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi (NHRI and state participation)



Malawi ratifies CRPD

In August 2009 Malawi ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention affirms broad protections for people with disabilities, including the right to life, freedom from discrimination, equal recognition before the law, and access to justice, education, employment and health.



MALAYSIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	05 Jul 1995	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	22 Mar 2004	n/a	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	4	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	17 Feb 1995	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Dec 2006	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	8	-	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	19 Jul 2010	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	2	-	n/a	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), established 2000.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

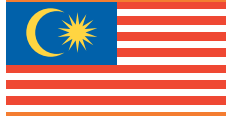
PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police Trainers, June 2009, Malaysia; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Malaysia becomes state party to CRPD

In July 2010 Malaysia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This new commitment shows that Malaysia is taking positive steps to fulfil one of its pledges as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, that is to adopt more international human rights instruments.



MALDIVES

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	19 Sep 2006	19 Sep 2006	-	19 Sep 2006	
DATE LAST REPORT	17 Feb 2010	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	1	0	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	01 Jul 1993	13 Mar 2006	20 Apr 2004	15 Feb 2006	
DATE LAST REPORT	08 Jun 2005	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	0	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	11 Feb 1991	29 Dec 2004	10 May 2002	24 Apr 1984	
DATE LAST REPORT	01 Mar 2006	22 Aug 2007	22 Aug 2007	07 Jan 2010	
RESERVATIONS	2	0	0	-	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	05 Apr 2010	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	n/a	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, established 2006.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Human Rights Leadership Seminar for Senior Police, June 2010, Maldives; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad; UPR Seminar, September 2009, Malawi (NHRI and state participation); Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police, March 2009, Maldives; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (NHRI participation)

Maldives introduces Act to protect persons with disabilities

In July 2010 a bill protecting the rights of people with special needs was ratified by the President of the Maldives. The Act sets out principles and procedures for providing protection and financial assistance to people with special needs and a council to protect their rights. The new Act also takes positive steps to domesticate the legal provisions provided for in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which the Maldives ratified in April 2010.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	13 Sep 1990	13 Sep 1990	29 Dec 1994	13 Sep 1990
DATE LAST REPORT	18 May 1993	n/a	n/a	07 Feb 2003
RESERVATIONS	6	0	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	08 Mar 1991	-	13 Sep 1990	24 Sep 2003
DATE LAST REPORT	18 May 2009	n/a	29 Sep 1998	n/a
RESERVATIONS	5	-	0	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	30 Sep 1990	09 May 2002	28 Sep 2010	27 May 1971
DATE LAST REPORT	05 May 2010	08 Nov 2005	-	06 Jul 2010
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	29 Nov 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1995.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Malta ratifies CRC Optional Protocol
In September 2010 Malta ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. By signing the Protocol Malta has made an enhanced legal commitment to criminalise activities related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and to punish perpetrators of these offences.



MAURITIUS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	12 Dec 1973	12 Dec 1973	-	12 Dec 1973
DATE LAST REPORT	27 May 2004	n/a	n/a	03 Mar 2008
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	09 Jul 1984	31 Oct 2008	09 Dec 1992	21 Jun 2005
DATE LAST REPORT	09 Mar 2010	n/a	08 Jun 1998	n/a
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	26 Jul 1990	12 Feb 2009	-	30 May 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	07 May 2004	-	-	22 Mar 1999
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	08 Jan 2010	-	05 Mar 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	3	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Human Rights Commission established 2001.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Workshop on National Action Plan on Human Rights, October 2009, Mauritius; Police and Prison Service Training, June 2009, Mauritius; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (state and NHRI participation)



Mauritius launches disability publication with the Commonwealth Secretariat

In September 2010 the Ministry of Social Security in Mauritius, with the Commonwealth Secretariat, launched a Commonwealth publication on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The publication, printed in English and Braille, advocates full and equal enjoyment of human rights for people with disabilities.

MOZAMBIQUE

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	21 Jul 1993	-	21 Jul 1993	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	21 Apr 1997	04 Nov 2008	14 Sep 1999	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	25 Jun 1999	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	26 Apr 1994	19 Oct 2004	06 Mar 2003	18 Apr 1983	
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Feb 2008	-	-	30 Jun 2006	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	1	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Enabling Ordinance passed in 2009.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa



Mozambique completes its draft National Human Rights Action Plan

In September 2010 Mozambique presented its draft National Human Rights Action Plan and discussed the appointment of members of the Mozambican Human Rights Commission in Maputo. The plans and the commission are considered major steps to strengthen the protection of human rights in the country. The National Action Plan will be presented to the Cabinet for approval.



NAMIBIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	28 Nov 1994	28 Nov 1994	28 Nov 1994	28 Nov 1994
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Oct 2003	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	01 Aug 1989	05 Jun 2006	19 Jul 1993	-
DATE LAST REPORT	24 Mar 2005	n/a	23 Aug 1996	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	05 Oct 1993	-	30 Apr 2002	25 Oct 1988
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Dec 1992	-	-	17 Jul 2007
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	04 Dec 2007	04 Dec 2007	25 Jun 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1990. The Office has a specific human rights brief within its mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago

Namibian Prison Officials learn about human rights

In July 2010 The Office of the Ombudsman in Namibia launched a training manual on human rights for prison officials. The Office also held human rights workshops for 877 correctional officers at 13 prisons. Each official received their own copy of the manual, which is a user-friendly resource that aims to build on human rights standards, principles and approaches to professional practice.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	27 Jul 1994	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	12 Nov 2001	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Pacific, September 2010



Nauru prepares for UPR

In September 2010 Nauru attended the Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Pacific. Nauru is due to undergo its review in Geneva in 2011.

⁶ Nauru is a Commonwealth member in arrears.



NEW ZEALAND

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	28 Dec 1978	26 May 1989	22 Feb 1990	28 Dec 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	26 Dec 2007	n/a	n/a	28 Apr 2009
RESERVATIONS	4	0	0	1
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	10 Jan 1985	07 Sep 2000	10 Dec 1989	14 Mar 2007
DATE LAST REPORT	08 May 2006	n/a	08 Jan 2007	n/a
RESERVATIONS	2	0	1	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	06 Apr 1993	12 Nov 2001	-	22 Nov 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	11 Nov 2008	15 Jul 2003	-	16 May 2006
RESERVATIONS	3	0	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	25 Sep 2008	-	07 Sep 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Human Rights Commission, established 1978.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva



New Zealand reviews Sign Language Act

In April 2010 New Zealand's Minister for Disability Issues announced a review of the New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006, which recognises Sign Language as an official language in New Zealand. The review will assess how government agencies are implementing the aims of the Act and suggest improvements that may be needed. The review will fully include persons who rely on Sign Language to access public information.



NIGERIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	29 Jul 1993	-	-	29 Jul 1993
DATE LAST REPORT	07 Feb 1996	n/a	n/a	07 Feb 1996
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	13 Jun 1985	22 Nov 2004	28 Jun 2001	27 Jul 2009
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Oct 2006	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	19 Apr 1991	-	27 Sep 2010	16 Oct 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	19 May 2008	-	-	23 Mar 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	27 Jul 2009	24 Sep 2010	24 Sep 2010	27 Sep 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, established 1995.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Nigeria hosts 4th CBR Africa Conference

In October 2010 Nigeria hosted the 4th Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Conference. The conference, Linking CBR with Disability and Rehabilitation, provided an opportunity for people to share information, knowledge, and experience on how disability concepts and CBR programmes can link together to help improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

PAKISTAN

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	23 Jun 2010	-	-	17 Apr 2008	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	10	-	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	12 Mar 1996	-	23 Jun 2010	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	03 Aug 2005	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	1	-	9	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	12 Nov 1990	-	-	21 Sep 1966	
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Jan 2008	-	-	04 Jan 2008	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

None.



People with disabilities in Pakistan receive special identity cards to access benefits

In August 2009 the Government of Pakistan issued special identity cards for persons with disabilities. The special ID card enables people with disabilities to access all benefits and concessions to which a person with disability is entitled, such as concessions on travel fares and free medical treatment in public sector hospitals.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	21 Jul 2008	-	-	21 Jul 2008
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	12 Jan 1995	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	20 May 2009	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	05 Oct 1993	-	30 Apr 2002	25 Oct 1988
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Apr 2003	-	-	16 Aug 1983
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	1
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Enabling Ordinance under review.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Pacific, September 2010; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police, September 2009, Papua New Guinea



Papua New Guinea is in the process of establishing a National Human Rights Institution

In October 2010 Ministers announced the completion of a bill aimed at establishing a National Human Rights Institution in Papua New Guinea. The Bill will now proceed to Parliament.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	16 Apr 1975	-	15 Dec 2008	16 Apr 1975
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Jul 2007	n/a	n/a	19 Jan 2010
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	02 Mar 1981	15 Dec 2008	15 Dec 2008	-
DATE LAST REPORT	03 Sep 2006	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	24 Jan 1991	23 Apr 2002	14 Mar 2002	16 Apr 1975
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Jun 2002	20 Jan 2010	20 Jan 2010	19 Jan 2010
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	15 Dec 2008	15 Dec 2008	15 Dec 2008	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Commission for Human Rights, established 1999.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

None.



Rwanda completes ratification of all eight main human right treaties

In December 2009 Rwanda ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Family, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The new ratifications make Rwanda state party to all eight of the main human rights treaties.



ST KITTS AND NEVIS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	25 Apr 1985	20 Jan 2006	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Jan 2002	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	24 Jul 1990	-	-	13 Oct 2006	-
DATE LAST REPORT	22 Jan 1997	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	10 Nov 2006	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Office of the Ombudsman, established 2008.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010,
Grenada



ROME STATUTE (PREAMBLE)

*... the most serious
crimes of concern to
the international
community as a whole
must not go
unpunished...*



ST LUCIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	08 Oct 1982	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	12 Sep 2005	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	16 Jun 1993	-	-	14 Feb 1990	-
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Jun 2004	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	18 Aug 2010	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner.

No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada



St Lucia becomes state party to the Rome Statute

In August 2010 St Lucia ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at the UN headquarters.

Upon ratification St Lucia became the 113th state party to the Statute and the 11th member state from the Caribbean.



ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	09 Nov 1981	09 Nov 1981	-	09 Nov 1981	
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Sep 1989	n/a	n/a	-	
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0	
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	01 Aug 1989	05 Jun 2006	19 Jul 1993	-	
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Sep 1991	n/a	-	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-	
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	26 Oct 1993	-	15 Sep 2005	09 Nov 1981	
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Dec 2000	-	-	23 Sep 2002	
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	0	
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	03 Dec 2002	
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada



St Vincent and the Grenadines launch new disability study
In March 2010 the St Vincent and the Grenadines Government announced the start of a study aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	15 Feb 2008	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	25 Sep 1992	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	11 Aug 2010	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	29 Nov 1994	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	01 Nov 2005	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	16 Sep 2002	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1988.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

None.



Samoa hosts regional OHCHR workshop on NHRIs

In April 2009 Samoa hosted a regional workshop on the establishment of national human rights mechanisms in the Pacific. At this workshop Pacific states adopted the *Samoa Declaration* which recognises the importance of establishing NHRIs which comply with international standards. Samoa has undertaken preliminary steps towards establishing a NHRI.



SEYCHELLES

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	05 May 1992	5 May 1992	15 Dec 1994	05 May 1992
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	05 May 1992	-	05 May 1992	-
DATE LAST REPORT	21 Sep 1994	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	07 Sep 1990	10 Aug 2010	-	07 Mar 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Feb 2003	-	-	03 Mar 2006
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	15 Dec 1994	02 Oct 2009	-	10 Aug 2010
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: National Human Rights Commission, established 2010.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police, August 2009, Seychelles



Three new ratifications by Seychelles

Over the past two years Seychelles has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. With these new ratifications Seychelles is now state party to all eight main human rights institutions and the Rome Statute.



SIERRA LEONE

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	23 Aug 1996	23 Aug 1996	-	23 Aug 1996
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	11 Nov 1988	-	25 Apr 2001	-
DATE LAST REPORT	11 Dec 2005	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	18 Jun 1990	15 May 2002	17 Sep 2001	02 Aug 1967
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Jul 2006	31 Mar 2008	31 Mar 2008	09 Jul 1973
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	04 Oct 2010	-	15 Sep 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Human Rights Commission, established 2006.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada (NHRI and state participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Sierra Leone ratifies CRPD

In October 2010 Sierra Leone became the 95th state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

SINGAPORE

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCP	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	05 Oct 1995	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Apr 2009	n/a	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	4	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	05 Oct 1995	11 Dec 2008	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	06 Jan 2009	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	4	0	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police Trainers, June 2009, Malaysia



Singapore ratifies Optional Protocol to CRC

In December 2008 Singapore ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. By signing the Protocol Singapore has made a commitment to ensure that those under the age of 18 do not take part in direct hostilities and that recruitment into the armed forces is voluntary for those under the age of 18.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	-	-	-	17 Mar 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	02 Jul 2001
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	06 May 2002	06 May 2002	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	10 Apr 1995	-	-	17 Mar 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Feb 2001	-	-	02 Feb 1983
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, re-established in 2008.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Pacific, September 2010; Workshop on National Action Plan on Human Rights, January 2010, Solomon Islands; Human Rights Training for Youth Leaders, September 2009, Solomon Islands



Solomon Islands approves National Action Plan on gender-based violence

In November 2009 the Solomon Islands Cabinet approved a National Policy and Action Plan on gender-based violence. The policy plan was developed by the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs in consultation with other relevant ministries.



SOUTH AFRICA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	10 Dec 1998	28 Aug 2002	28 Aug 2002	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	15 Dec 1995	18 Oct 2005	10 Dec 1998	-
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Jul 2009	n/a	28 Jun 2005	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	16 Jun 1995	24 Sep 2009	30 Jun 2003	10 Dec 1998
DATE LAST REPORT	04 Dec 1997	-	-	02 Dec 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	30 Nov 2007	30 Nov 2007	27 Nov 2000
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: South African Human Rights Commission, established 1995.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa (NHRI participation); UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK (NHRI participation)

South Africa disability framework for local government launched

In March 2009 the South African Minister of Provincial and Local Government and the South African Local Government Association announced that after an extensive process of consultations with relevant stakeholders, they had completed a disability framework for local government. The policy framework outlines specific measures local government can take to mainstream disability issues into its programmes, policies, projects and activities. The policy also seeks to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the local government workforce, so they can actively participate in service delivery.



SRI LANKA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	11 Jun 1980	03 Oct 1997	-	11 Jun 1980
DATE LAST REPORT	18 Sep 2002	n/a	n/a	09 Jun 2008
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	05 Oct 1981	15 Oct 2002	03 Jan 1994	-
DATE LAST REPORT	31 Jul 2009	n/a	14 Aug 2009	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	12 Jul 1991	08 Sep 2000	22 Sep 2006	18 Feb 1982
DATE LAST REPORT	24 Oct 2008	16 Jun 2008	-	04 Sep 2000
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	11 Mar 1996	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	19 Jun 2008	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, established 1997.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva

Sri Lanka presents Action Plan on Human Rights

In February 2010 Sri Lanka's Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights presented a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navanetham Pillay. Ms Pillay welcomed the new initiative and stressed the importance of improving the country's human rights situation in a post-conflict and post-electoral context. In developing the action plan, Sri Lanka has fulfilled its commitment to establish a National Action Plan, made at the Universal Periodic Review in 2008.



SWAZILAND

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	26 Mar 2004	-	-	26 Mar 2004
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	26 Mar 2004	-	26 Mar 2004	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	07 Sep 1995	-	-	07 Apr 1969
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 2005	-	-	01 Mar 1996
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Enabling Ordinance passed in 2009.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

National Consultative Conference on the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, June 2010, Swaziland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago

New Human Rights Commission in Swaziland

In September 2009 Swaziland announced the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission. Once the Commission is fully operational some of the functions will include investigating complaints concerning alleged violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, and investigating complaints concerning the functions of any key public service commission. The Commission shall also promote and foster strict adherence to the rule of law and principles of justice in public administration.



CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED					
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	-	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD	
DATE	6 Nov 1995	-	-	16 Feb 1972	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	-	17 Mar 1999	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	1	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE	
DATE	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



Political reform in Tonga

Tonga is embarking on a path of significant constitutional and political reform to determine a more democratic form of governance. In November 2009 the newly established Constitutional and Electoral Commission instigated the scheduling of elections in Tonga which will allow for an increase in the number of parliamentarians directly elected by the Tongan people. The government has also embarked on a reconciliation and civic education programme to explain constitutional options at the village level.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	21 Dec 1978	-	-	08 Dec 1978
DATE LAST REPORT	15 Sep 1999	n/a	n/a	28 Sep 2000
RESERVATIONS	7	-	-	1
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	12 Jan 1990	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Jan 2001	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	1	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	05 Dec 1991	-	-	04 Oct 1973
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Jul 2003	-	-	06 Oct 2000
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	-	-	06 Apr 1999
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman of Trinidad and Tobago, established 1977. No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Caribbean (with OHCHR), September 2010, Grenada; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Trinidad and Tobago host CFNHRIs

In November 2009 Trinidad and Tobago hosted a meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. This meeting had focused discussion on human rights and climate change.

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCP	ICCP OP	ICCP OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	6 Oct 1999	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Jul 2008	n/a	-	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	22 Sep 1995	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	-	-	-	-
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-	-	-
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	-	-	-	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	-	-	n/a	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for the Pacific, September 2010

Tuvalu takes lead at Copenhagen Climate Change Conference

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in 2009, Tuvalu advocated for tougher action to be taken on the issue of climate change. Speaking on behalf of the 43 member Alliance of Small States (AOSIS), Tuvalu called on world leaders to make new legal commitments to reduce the emission of green house gases.

CRPD ARTICLE 29

...States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others...



UGANDA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	21 Jun 1995	14 Nov 1995	-	22 Jul 1985
DATE LAST REPORT	12 Feb 2003	n/a	n/a	-
RESERVATIONS	0	1	0	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	22 Jul 1985	-	03 Nov 1986	-
DATE LAST REPORT	23 Mar 2009	n/a	19 May 2004	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	17 Aug 1990	06 May 2002	30 Nov 2001	21 Nov 1980
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Aug 2003	16 Aug 2007	16 Aug 2007	20 Jun 2001
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	14 Nov 1995	25 Sep 2008	25 Sep 2008	14 Jun 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	1	0	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Uganda Human Rights Commission, established 1996.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Retentionist

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago

Uganda provides grants to increase income of persons with disabilities

In April 2010 the Disability Minister of Uganda announced a new programme which will provide special grants of US\$ 30 million (roughly US\$15,000) each to 48 districts in Uganda to support income-generating activities for persons with disabilities. The guidelines for these grants include the principle of gender equity and they are designed to ensure both men and women with disabilities will benefit from the programme.



UNITED KINGDOM

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	20 May 1976	-	10 Dec 1999	20 May 1976
DATE LAST REPORT	03 Nov 2006	n/a	n/a	07 Aug 2007
RESERVATIONS	10	-	0	4
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	07 Apr 1986	17 Dec 2004	08 Dec 1988	10 Dec 2003
DATE LAST REPORT	14 Jun 2007	n/a	06 Nov 2003	n/a
RESERVATIONS	7	0	0	0
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	16 Dec 1991	24 Jun 2003	20 Feb 2009	07 Mar 1969
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Jul 2007	16 Jul 2007	-	24 Mar 2010
RESERVATIONS	3	1	0	1
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	08 Jun 2009	07 Aug 2009	04 Oct 2001
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	4	0	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Equality and Human Rights Commission, established 2007.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), October 2010, Scotland; UPR Mid-term Review Meeting, March 2010, UK; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; UPR Seminar, November 2008, UK



UK publishes accessible guide to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In the summer of 2010 The Equality and Human Rights Commission in the UK published a simple-to-understand Guide to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Guide provides an introduction to CRPD and information on understanding disability rights. There is a video of the guide in British Sign Language and with subtitles, as well as an ‘Easy Read’ version.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	11 Jun 1976	-	-	11 Jun 1976
DATE LAST REPORT	08 Oct 2007	n/a	n/a	25 Aug 2009
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	20 Aug 1985	12 Jan 2006	-	-
DATE LAST REPORT	16 Apr 2007	n/a	-	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	10 Jun 1991	11 Nov 2004	24 Apr 2003	27 Oct 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	20 Oct 2004	18 Jul 2007	18 Jul 2007	27 Oct 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	10 Nov 2009	10 Nov 2009	20 Aug 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	0	n/a

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

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPF for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa; Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Tanzanian Commission publishes new report on HIV and Disability

In early 2009 the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS carried out an assessment in selected mainland districts in order to highlight the multiple challenges that people with disabilities face in accessing HIV/AIDS service provision. The report, *The Forgotten*, makes key recommendations that include the needs to overcome stigma and discrimination at the family, community and national levels and to build a disability-friendly environment to strengthen community support for people with disabilities.

VANUATU

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED						
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR		
DATE	21 Nov 2008	-	-	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	-	n/a	n/a	-		
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	-		
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT		
DATE	08 Sep 1995	17 May 2007	-	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	02 Mar 2005	n/a	-	n/a		
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	-		
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD		
DATE	07 Jul 1993	26 Sep 2007	17 May 2007	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	27 Jan 1997	-	-	-		
RESERVATIONS	0	0	0	-		
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE		
DATE	-	23 Oct 2008	-	-		
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a		
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a		

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: None. Office of the Ombudsman, established 1995.
No specific human rights mandate.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist for all crimes

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:
None.



New ratifications by Vanuatu

In October 2008 Vanuatu ratified the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was ratified in November 2008.



ZAMBIA

CORE CONVENTIONS RATIFIED				
	ICCPR	ICCPR OP	ICCPR OPDP	ICESCR
DATE	10 Apr 1984	10 Apr 1984	-	10 Apr 1984
DATE LAST REPORT	06 Dec 2005	n/a	n/a	29 Jul 2003
RESERVATIONS	0	0	-	1
	CEDAW	CEDAW OP	CAT	OPCAT
DATE	21 Jun 1985	-	07 Oct 1998	-
DATE LAST REPORT	05 Jan 2010	n/a	15 Dec 2005	n/a
RESERVATIONS	0	-	0	-
	CRC	CRC OPAC	CRC OPSC	CERD
DATE	06 Dec 1991	-	-	04 Feb 1972
DATE LAST REPORT	29 Nov 2001	-	-	13 Jul 2004
RESERVATIONS	0	-	-	0
	MWC	CRPD	CRPD OP	ROME STATUTE
DATE	-	01 Feb 2010	-	13 Nov 2002
DATE LAST REPORT	-	-	n/a	n/a
RESERVATIONS	-	0	-	n/a

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION: Zambia Human Rights Commission, established 1997.

DEATH PENALTY STATUS: Abolitionist in practice

PARTICIPATION IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT:

Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), March 2010, Geneva; Regional Commonwealth Seminar on UPR for Southern Africa, September 2010, South Africa (NHRI participation); Meeting of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) November 2009, Trinidad and Tobago



Zambia recruits deaf teachers

In September 2010 the Ministry of Education in Zambia recruited seven of the eleven deaf graduate teachers eligible for appointment.

CRPD ARTICLE 17

...Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others...



Human Rights Initiatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat

Workshop on National Action Plan on Human Rights

Workshops on National Human Rights Action Plans are designed for countries that are in the process of drafting national policies related to human rights. The workshops provide an occasion both to share expertise on good practice for the consultation and policy development process for National Action Plans and to engage relevant stakeholders in the process. They also ensure that stakeholders, including representatives from the ministries, civil society organisations, media and other actors, are well informed about the importance and benefits of establishing a National Action Plan.

Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

Since its establishment in 2007, the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI) has grown in membership and in its substantive engagement. The Forum encourages collaboration and peer-to-peer learning among NHRIs, particularly as new NHRIs join the process. The Forum also aims to build a collective voice and collective learning on key human rights issues, for example it has established a working group on climate change and human rights. It has held two formal meetings, one at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Kampala in 2007 and the other at Port of Spain in 2009.

The CFNHRI also takes the opportunity to hold informal meetings in the margins of the international conferences and meetings of the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs.

Further details of the CFNHR can be found at:
www.commonwealthnhri.org

UPR Mid-Term Review Meeting

The UPR Mid-Term Review Meeting took place in London in March 2010. With the UPR process reaching mid-cycle the meeting provided an opportunity for states, NHRIs and NGOs to reflect and share their experiences of engaging with UPR, including good practice, challenges, lessons learnt and hopes for the future of UPR. Much like the regional seminars, the Mid-Term Review Meeting was designed to encourage dialogue on all three stages of the UPR process: preparation of the country report, the Geneva-based review and recommendations for follow-up.

UPR Seminars / Commonwealth Regional Seminars on UPR

The Commonwealth Secretariat holds regional events designed to strengthen Commonwealth countries' engagement with the UPR process. Following in the tri-partite spirit of the UPR the three key stakeholders in the UPR process – government ministries, NHRIs and NGOs – are all invited to participate.

Regional UPR Seminar events allow countries that share regional similarities and contexts to come together to discuss, develop and share effective practice and lessons learnt so far. Recognising that the UPR process continues long after the review in Geneva, opportunities are created

to discuss achievements and challenges with regards to the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations.

Commonwealth Human Rights Workshop for Police

Workshops for police trainers are designed to strengthen a culture of human rights in policing. This is done by increasing the level of awareness of human rights standards and practices. The workshops develop practical tools with participants, which they may use to apply a rights-based approach to their everyday work. Workshops also raise awareness of the international norms of ethical policing.

Human Rights Leadership Seminar for Senior Police

In June 2010 the Secretariat facilitated a pilot seminar for senior police officers. The seminar focused on the role that senior police can play in developing a human rights culture within the police service. The seminar was designed to highlight the role of modern policing in line with international human rights standards and the integration of human rights in police leadership. The project was piloted with a view to developing a module for rights-based leadership to be implemented gradually across several countries in the Commonwealth.

Human Rights Training for Youth Leaders

The Youth Leaders workshop on human rights is an awareness-raising initiative designed to engage youth workers with human rights. The training introduces those working with young people to the concept of human rights, as well as to the key UN mechanisms which seek to protect rights. The training allows youth workers to explore their own role in human rights work, and helps them to plan human rights initiatives.

Orientation Workshop for Malawi Human Rights Commission / National Consultative Conference on the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration

Any Commonwealth country that wishes to establish a national human rights institution can ask the Secretariat to facilitate consultations and workshops and bring expertise to support the process. Whether the state is just starting the process or ready to appoint commissioners, these events aim to share best practice by bringing together international experts and/ or experts from other states that already have successfully functioning institutions. The topics addressed at these events are tailored to meet the requirements of each state, but typically include the relationship management and co-operation with stakeholders, NGOs and the media, practical solutions on capacity building, and the challenges involved in delivering the mandate.

Barbados Human Rights Seminar

In September 2010, Barbados asked the Human Rights Unit to hold a seminar for all government ministries with mandates that relate to human rights. The seminar focused on promoting human rights for citizens of Barbados, touching on international human rights treaties and the recommendations Barbados received during its Universal Periodic Review. The seminar's objective was to raise awareness amongst relevant government ministries about the importance of their roles in both promoting human rights at a national level and engaging with international human rights mechanisms. Representatives from over 20 government ministries participated in the event.

The Core International Human Rights Treaties

This publication includes the ratification status of the eight core international human rights treaties in force, which 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. These treaties are:

- 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 its specialist area.

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.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
(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.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

(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 (CEDAW)

(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 goal 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 (CERD)

(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 (CRC)

(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.

International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

(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 (MWC)

(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 (CRPD)

(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.⁷ Reservations are invalid

⁷ In line with international treaty law, as codified in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT).

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.

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. 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.

Universal Periodic Review

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 intergovernmental 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 NGOs and 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.

How many Commonwealth countries have undergone their review?

In total 35 Commonwealth countries have already completed their review. In 2011 the following countries will undergo their review:

10th Session: Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Nauru, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Australia

11th Session: Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St Vincent and the Grenadines

12th Session: Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda.

At the time this publication went to print review dates for the 2nd cycle had not yet been announced.

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. In 2010, data has been included on ratifications of the Rome Statute (for the International Criminal Court) and the Optional Protocols that relate to the eight core treaties that we have chosen to review. The graphs that follow offer analyses of country information, grouped by Commonwealth region: Africa – with 19 member states, Caribbean (13) (including Canada), Europe–Asia (11) and the Pacific (11).

Figure 1: Ratification rate (%) – Treaties and Protocols

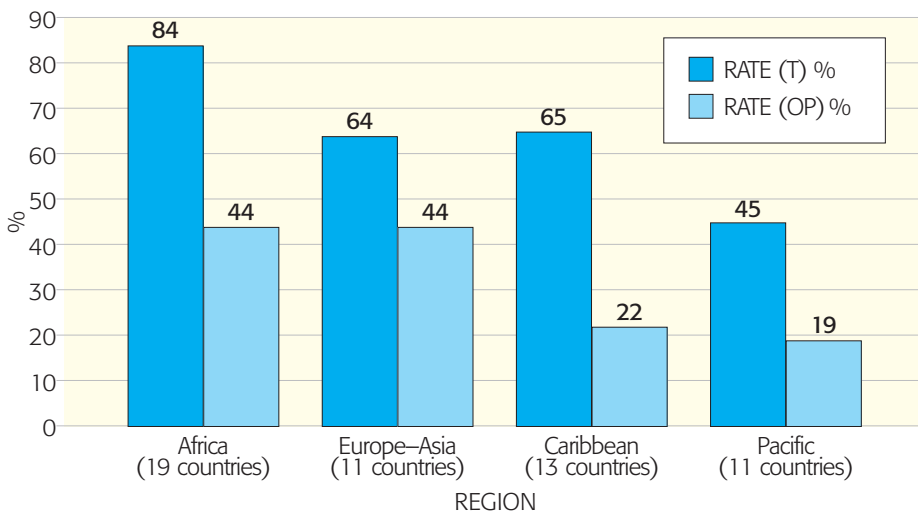


Figure 1 shows the extent of ratifications against the total possible, with regard to the nine Treaties (the eight core treaties plus the Rome Statute) and seven Optional Protocols.

Treaties: This has been calculated by considering the number of countries in each region, the nine treaties that could potentially be ratified by all, and comparing this to the actual number of ratifications. So, for Africa for example, there are 19 members and nine treaties, making the full number of potential ratifications 171. The actual number is 143 which gives an impressive rate of 84 per cent. For Europe–Asia the rate is 64 per cent, for the Caribbean it is 65 per cent and for the Pacific region 45 per cent.

Optional Protocols: This figure has been calculated in the same way, with the base figures being, for Africa, a total potential ratification of seven protocols for 19 countries, giving a sum of 133. The actual number for the region is 59, giving a rate of 44 per cent, the same as for Europe–Asia. The rate for the Caribbean is 22 per cent and for the Pacific is 19 per cent.

Figure 2 (opposite) – Ratification of treaties, by region (%)

Figure 2 shows how widely each treaty has been ratified in each region. As in 2008, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the only treaty that enjoys universal ratification in the Commonwealth, with CEDAW coming a close second. The treaty that codifies the rights of Migrant Workers and their Families has the least support. The newest treaty – on the rights of persons with disabilities – is enjoying a speedy take up.

As it was two years ago, Africa remains the region with a consistently high ratification record across all the nine treaties reviewed here.

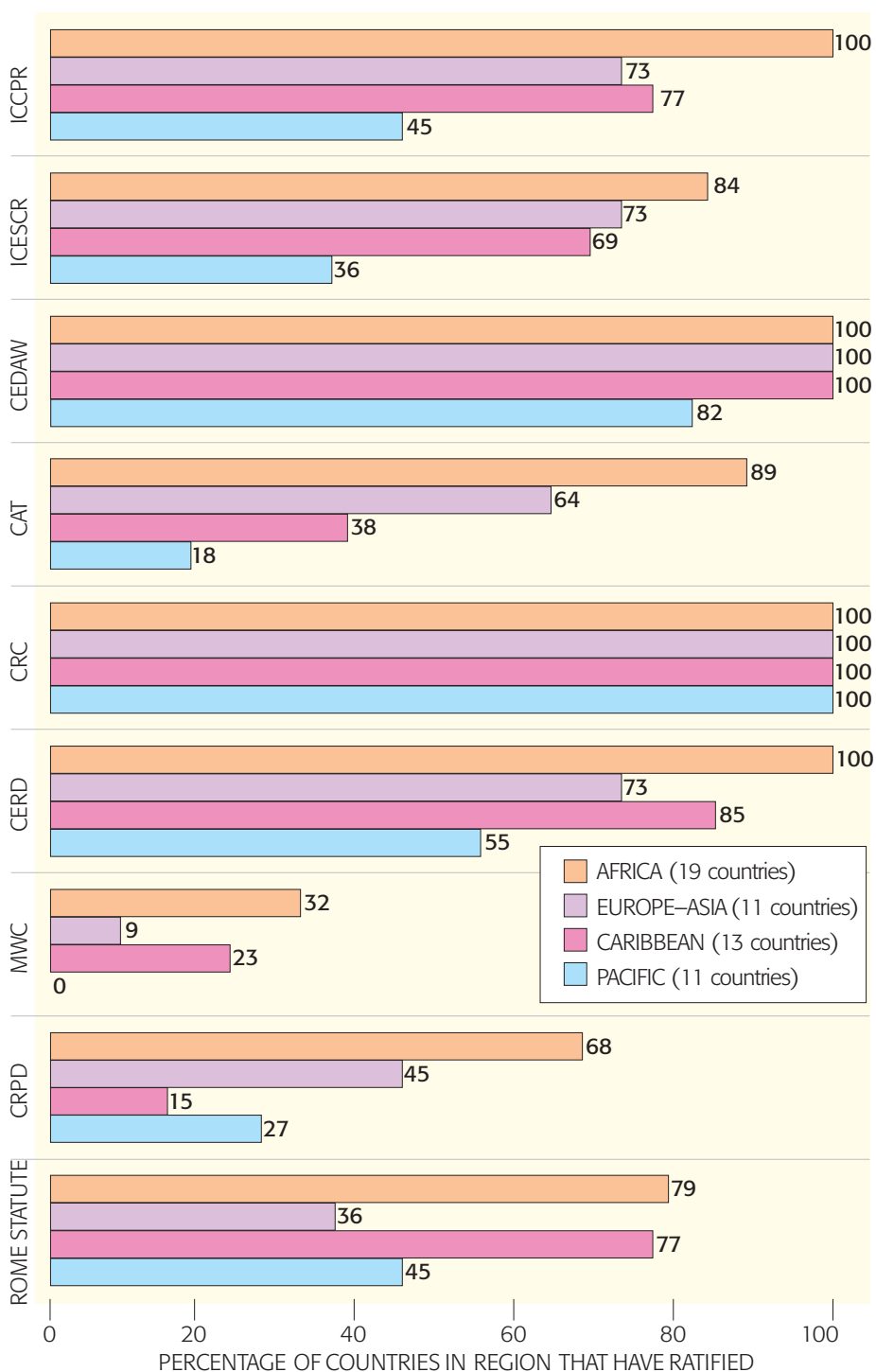


Figure 3 – Ratification of protocols (%), by region

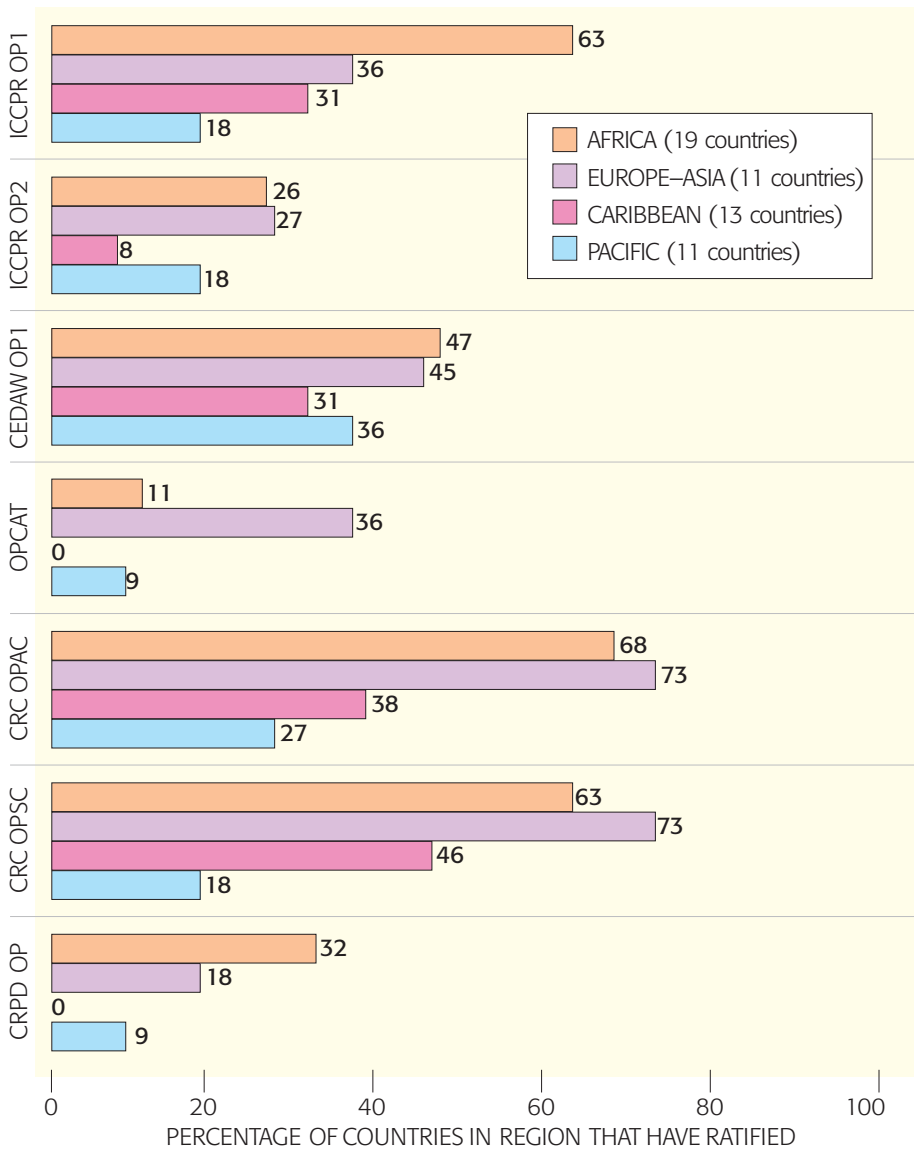


Figure 3 records the percentage of countries in each of the four Commonwealth regions that has ratified each of the seven Optional Protocols under consideration. The levels of ratification are considerably lower than for the treaties, with no region reaching above 73 per cent (Europe-Asia).

The highest rates are for the two Protocols relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: one on armed conflict and the other in relation to sexual exploitation.

Figure 4 – Highest number of ratifications, by region

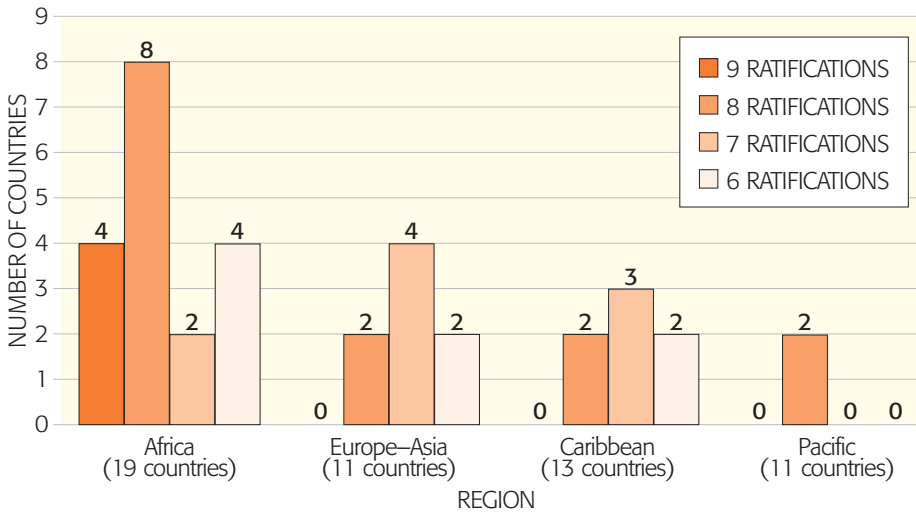


Figure 4 shows by region the countries that have the widest ratifications, across the 8 core treaties under consideration and the Rome Statute. In 2008 we noted just 1 state that had ratified all 8 core treaties – Uganda. Two years later, there are now 5 that have done so – all in Africa. These are Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles and Uganda. Of these, 4 have also ratified the Rome Statute, that is 9 in total.

In Africa there are 7 states that have ratified 8 treaties which includes the Rome Statute and 1 state that has ratified 8 treaties not including the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 7 treaties including the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 6 treaties including the Rome Statute and 2 states have ratified 6 of the core treaties, excluding the Rome Statute.

In Asia-Europe 2 states have ratified 8 treaties which includes the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 7 of the core treaties which includes the Rome Statute and 2 states have ratified 7 of the core treaties, excluding the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 6 of the core treaties, excluding the Rome Statute.

In the Caribbean 2 states have ratified 8 treaties which includes the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 7 treaties including the Rome Statute and 1 state has ratified 7 treaties excluding the Rome Statute. Two states have ratified 6 core treaties including the Rome Statute.

In the Pacific two states have ratified 8 of the treaties including the Rome Statute.

Figure 5 – Reservations (No.) against core treaties, by region

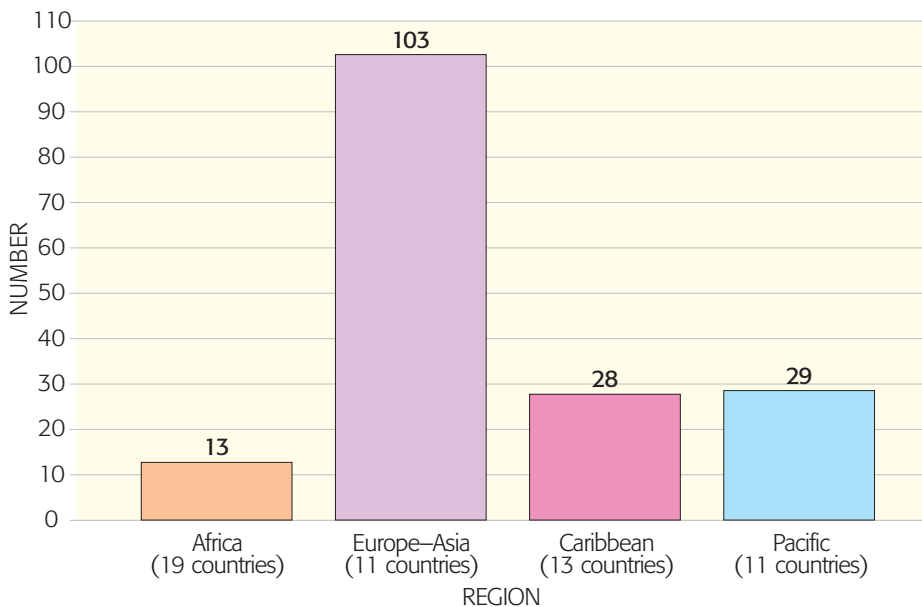


Figure 5 notes the number of reservations against the nine core treaties by region. In Africa a total of 13 reservations

have been entered, in Europe–Asia there is a total of 103, with 28 in the Caribbean and 29 in the Pacific.

Africa, with the most member states and the highest number of ratifications, has entered the smallest number of reservations. The range of reservations is 0–29, with 24 states having no reservations at all. Distribution across the range is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Distribution of reservations, by region

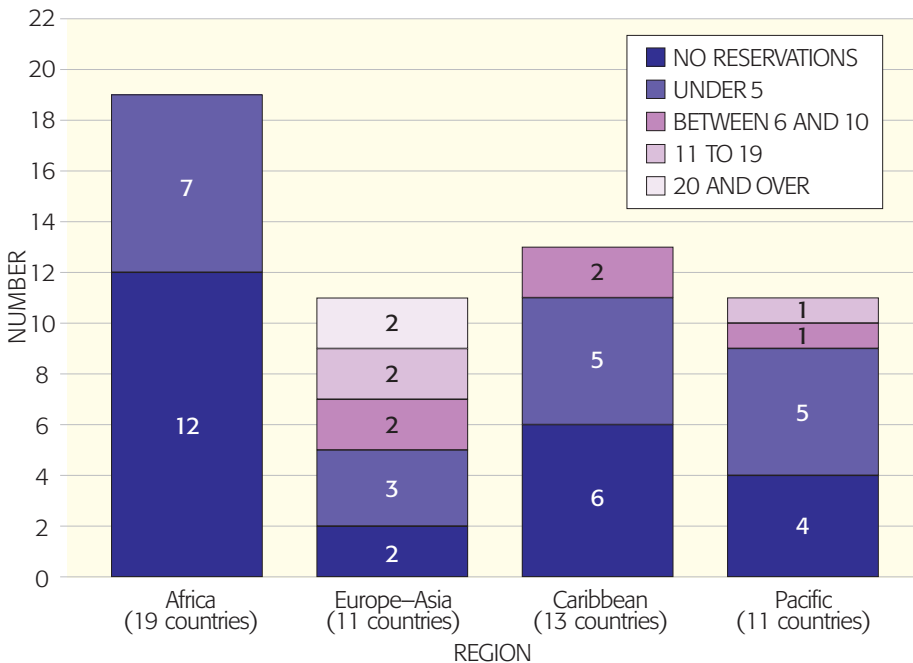


Figure 7 (overleaf) – National Human Rights Institutions (No.), by region

Figure 7 shows the spread of national institutions that have a human rights brief, across the Commonwealth. Africa has 13 such institutions, Europe–Asia has 7, the Caribbean has 1 and the Pacific has 3.

Figure 7– National Human Rights Institutions (No.), by region

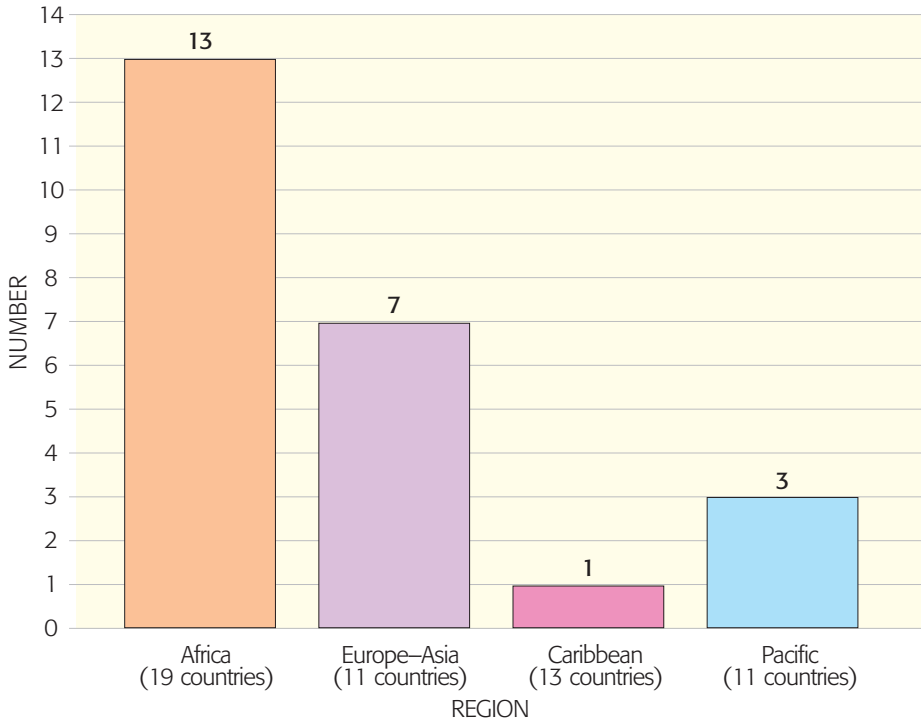
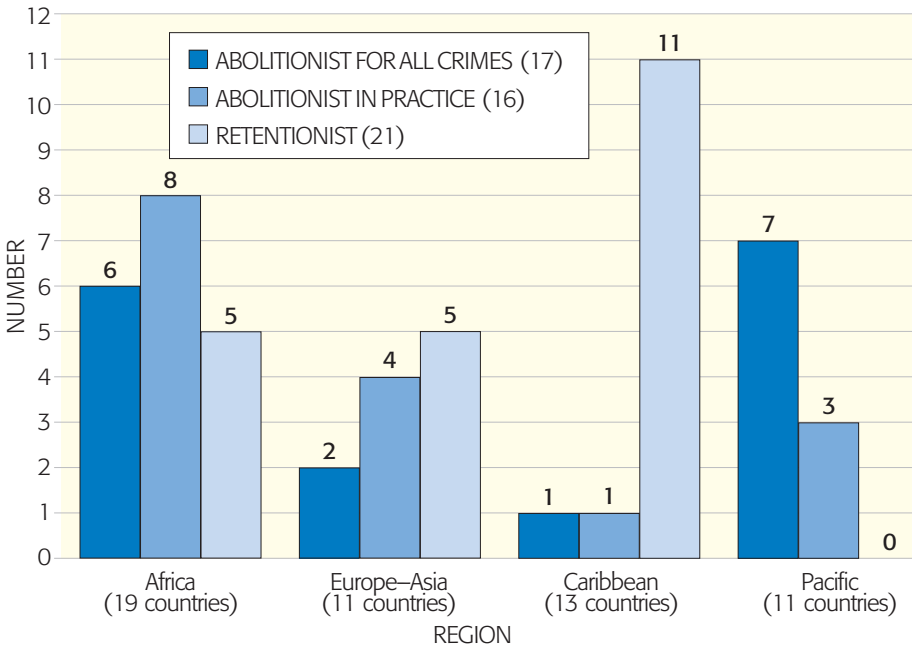


Figure 8 (opposite) – Position on the death penalty, by region

Figure 8 maps in three categories and by region the current position of Commonwealth states in relation to a significant human rights issue – the death penalty. ICCPR and its OP2 both make clear the connections between the right to life, prohibitions on cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment, and the death penalty. The three categories most commonly used in these discussions are: countries that have fully abolished the death penalty (abolitionists), those that retain the penalty on statute but have not carried out any executions in at least the previous ten years (abolitionist in practice), and those that both retain the penalty on the statute and continue to execute (retentionists).

Figure 8 – Position on the death penalty, by region



The data shows that in Africa 6 countries are abolitionist, 8 are abolitionist in practice and 5 continue to execute. In Europe-Asia, 2 are abolitionist, 4 are abolitionist in practice and 5 continue to execute. In the Caribbean, 1 is abolitionist, 1 is abolitionist in practice and 11 continue to execute. In the Pacific, 7 are abolitionist, 3 are abolitionist in practice and none continues to execute. Fiji is abolitionist for ordinary crimes only.

In total, 21 members continue to execute while 33 no longer do so.

Methodology

Methodology

All the ratification and reporting data in this publication was taken from the UN OHCHR website. Information on reservations, declarations, and statements submitted by states was also taken from the UN OHCHR website.

However, in some cases information was taken from treaty bodies reports to clarify the number of reservations made by a state.

With regards to reservations, declarations and submitted statements, the information and documentation was in some cases found to be ambiguous. A distinction between a reservation and a declaration was not always clearly made. In some cases a declaration made by a state effectively amounted to a reservation. In order to present an accurate overview of the legal commitments made by each state, in those cases where legal expertise deemed that a declaration or uncodified statement amounted to a reservation, it has been counted as such.

Reservations placed on two or more sub-articles have been counted as a single reservation if only one legal obligation is involved.

In the case of Optional Protocols which establish an individual complaint mechanism, statements submitted by the state upon ratification which serve solely to highlight

reservations made on the corresponding treaty have not been counted.

This methodology places a tighter analysis than was used previously on the reservations and declarations made by states. As such, some information contained in the first edition of this publication has been altered to reflect a more accurate account of the legal commitments made by each state.

The date given for the establishment of NHRIs is the date when each institution became a fully functioning body.

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

Main points contained within the convention

People with disabilities shall have effective enjoyment of the universal right to life, on an equal basis with others.

People with disabilities must be recognised as persons before the law, and enjoy legal capacity. They must be able to own and inherit property, and have access to credit.

They must have effective access to justice, on an equal basis with others.

They shall enjoy liberty and security of person; disability can never justify a deprivation of liberty.

The Convention allows for special measures to achieve equality for people with disabilities.

A Duty to Act

States that accept the Convention must take all appropriate measures to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

These include:

- taking account of the rights of people with disabilities in policies and programmes;
- eliminating discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices;
- training and awareness-raising through media and education, including for health and legal professionals; and

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

- involving civil society and people with disabilities when implementing the Convention

Specific groups

Women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination and realising their rights requires specific measures. Children with disabilities have the right to express their views and have them taken into account.

Their best interests must be a primary consideration.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity, including fertility. People with disabilities must be protected from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, within and outside the home.

Respect for home and family life

The Convention upholds the right of all people with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others – where to live and with whom – and with a range of support services as necessary.

People with disabilities also have the right to home and family life: to marry, found a family and decide freely on the number and spacing of their children. A child cannot be separated from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or the parent(s).

Personal mobility

The Convention states that signatories shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities.

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

Expression, participation and access to information

Persons with disabilities should be enabled to participate fully in political and public life without intimidation and with appropriate support and technical assistance. In order that people with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion:

- Public information must be made available in accessible formats and technologies (for example sign language and Braille); and these formats must be accepted in official interactions.
- People with disabilities must be free and supported to form and join nongovernmental organisations at all levels, including those representing people with disabilities.

Education

People with disabilities have the right to develop their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential.

- Children or adults cannot be excluded from the education system on the basis of disability.
- People with disabilities must be given the opportunity to learn the life and social development skills they need, including alternative means of communication.

Health

Persons with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health, through, for example:

- being provided with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to others, including in sexual and reproductive health;

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

- receiving early identification and treatment regarding their disabilities; and
- being covered by health insurance and receiving health-care and services without discrimination.

Work, employment and standard of living

Discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited with regard to all employment matters:

- Recruitment, career advancement
- Equal opportunities in employment, career advancement and return-to-work programmes
- Equal pay for equal work
- Safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment and redress of grievances
- Exercise of labour and trade union rights

People with disabilities have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, with their basic needs met.

Cultural life, leisure and sport

People with disabilities must be able to:

- access cultural materials, activities, events and media in appropriate formats;
- develop their creative, artistic and intellectual potential for personal and social enrichment;
- be recognised and supported in their cultural and linguistic identity, including deaf culture and sign languages; and
- be able to participate in mainstream and disability-specific sport.

ANNEX: International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Summary

Children with disabilities must have equal access with other children to participation in play, leisure and sport, including within the school system.

The full text of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can be found at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Convention.aspx>

The Human Rights Unit

The Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat works to increase awareness of, and respect for, 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:



HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7747 6423

Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7747 6418

Email: hru@commonwealth.int
www.thecommonwealth.org/humanrights

Human Rights in the Commonwealth 2010 presents a 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-four member countries of the association. For each country the report details the human rights instruments ratified or acceded to, together with information on the main human rights institution in the country.

The report also highlights key initiatives being taken across the Commonwealth to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities.



An extremely important publication that provides invaluable information for all those working to secure human rights across the Commonwealth.
An excellent companion to the first edition.

*Margaret Sekaggya, Special Rapporteur on the situation
of human rights defenders*

This updated publication gives an excellent overview of the progress made across the Commonwealth to protect human rights over the past two years.

*Dr Chaloka Beyani, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.*

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