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Appendices



Speak Up, Speak Out:

**A Toolkit for Reporting
on Human Rights Issues**



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Appendix A1: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Full Text:

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

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

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

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

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

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

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

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

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Article 5

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

Article 6

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

Article 7

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

Article 8

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

Article 9

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

Article 10

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

Article 11

- (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
- (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account

of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

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

Article 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

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

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

Article 19

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

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

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

Article 23

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

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

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

Article 25

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

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

Article 26

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

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

Article 29

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

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

www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/

Appendix A2: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) commits states to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to self-determination, to life, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to a fair trial.

As a covenant (treaty), it is legally binding in international law.

There are six parts and 53 articles. Parts I to III, Articles 1 to 27, describe the rights of individuals and the obligations of states. They are summarized in detail. Parts IV to VI, Articles 28 to 53, are more technical and deal with the formation of the Human Rights Committee to monitor states' progress and performance, and the relationship of the ICCPR to other international treaties and the UN.

Key terms:

Retrospective law — a law which is created after an action and which turns that action into an offense. In other words, states may not prosecute people for their actions if they took place before a law was passed.

Without distinction of any kind — in the ICCPR, this means nondiscrimination, or without any discrimination. The categories they use are “race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

All peoples have the right of self-determination (to rule themselves). They may freely decide their political status and pursue their own economic, social and cultural development.

All peoples have the right to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. People may not be deprived of their own means of subsistence.

States that have colonies (“non-self-governing and trust territories”) must promote the right of self-determination (self-rule or independence).

Part II

Article 2

States must ensure that all citizens without discrimination enjoy civil and political rights.

States undertake to make changes to their national laws to ensure civil and political rights for their citizens.

States must ensure that those whose rights have been violated have legal remedy.

Article 3

States must take steps to make sure equal right of men and women to full civil and political rights.

Articles 4 and 5

States may only limit civil and political rights during times of public emergency “which threatens the life of the nation.” But limiting rights must not involve discrimination on any grounds.

States may not limit or suspend the right to life, freedom from torture, slavery, and retroactive law; or freedom of thought, conscience or religion during times of emergency.

Part III

Articles 6 – 27 list the rights and the specific actions which must be undertaken to realize them:

Article 6

Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

In countries which have not abolished the death penalty, the death sentence may only be imposed for the most serious crimes. Anyone sentenced to death should have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence. Youth under 18 may not be sentenced to death and the death sentence shall not be carried out on pregnant women.

Article 7

The right to freedom from “torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Also, freedom from medical or scientific experimentation without consent.

Article 8

Freedom from slavery, forced employment or labor except in countries where imprisonment with hard labor may be imposed as a punishment for a crime.

Article 9

Freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention. Those arrested must

be given full information about why they have been arrested, and promptly charged and brought to court. The right to compensation for victims of unlawful arrest or detention.

Article 10

The right of prisoners to humane treatment. The right of segregation of those not yet convicted from convicted prisoners, and separation of young prisoners from adult prisoners. States must provide the possibility of rehabilitation for all prisoners.

Article 11

No one shall be imprisoned for failing to fulfill a contractual obligation.

Article 12

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement; to choose where to live; to leave the country, and to return to their country. These rights may only be restricted when necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedom of others.

Article 13

Noncitizens (aliens) who are legally in a country may only be expelled through legal means and have the right to contest expulsion.

Article 14

The right to equality before the law, and to a fair and public trial.

The article also limits publicity, saying the press and the public may be excluded from a trial for reasons of morals, public order or national security, or protect private lives (privacy) or in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.

The right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

The right of the accused to the following minimum guarantees:

- To hear charges in a language s/he understands
- Adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense and to choose a lawyer
- Prompt trial
- Legal assistance and legal aid
- To examine witnesses
- Interpretation if s/he cannot understand language used in court
- Not to be forced to testify or confess
- The right to appeal
- Compensation where there has been a miscarriage of justice

- Not to be tried or punished a second time for the same offense, whether convicted or acquitted the first time.

Article 15

The right not to be guilty of any offense committed before the law was passed, or to have the sentence increased.

Article 16

Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law, anywhere.

Article 17

The right to security in relation to privacy, family, home or correspondence, honor and reputation and the right to legal protection if security is violated.

Article 18

The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, except where laws are needed to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

The right of parents to choose the religious and moral education of their children.

Article 19

The right to freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and information.

Restrictions include where these freedoms may jeopardize

- the rights or reputations of others;
- national security, public order, public health or morals.

Article 20

Prohibits any propaganda for war; and says advocating national, racial or religious hatred that incites discrimination, hostility or violence must be prohibited by law.

Article 21

The right of peaceful assembly.

Article 22

The right to freedom of association, including the right to form and join trade unions.

Article 23

Asserts that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and is entitled to protection by society and the state.

The right to marry and to start a family; freedom from forced marriage; the right to equality of men and women in marriage; and to equality of men and women in dissolution (termination) of the marriage.

Article 24

Children's rights to protection.

The right of every child to registration, a name and nationality.

Article 25

The right to freely participate in politics, to join a political party, to vote and to stand for election.

Article 26

The right to equality before the law, and to equal protection before the law, without discrimination.

Article 27

The right of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture, to practice their own religion, or to use their own language.

Part IV

Articles 28 - 45 concern the structure and operation of the Human Rights Committee, reporting and monitoring.

Part V

Articles 46 - 47 clarify the Covenant's relation to the UN.

Part VI

Articles 48 - 53 are about ratification, entry into force, and amendment of the Covenant.

First Optional Protocol

The First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights establishes an individual complaint mechanism for the ICCPR. It is an international treaty.

The protocol sets out ways in which individuals can complain if they believe their civil and political rights have been violated. Key points are as follows:

- States agree that the UN Human Rights Committee will receive complaints from individuals or groups who claim their rights have been violated.
- People may only lodge complaints after all domestic (national) means have been tried.
- Anonymous complaints are not allowed.
- The Committee inform those against whom the complaints are made, and they must respond within six months.
- After considering both the complaint and the response, the Committee must forward its conclusions to both parties.

“Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity... to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors.”

—International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 25

Second Optional Protocol

The Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR was created in 1989 and entered into force in 1991. This protocol commits signatories (states that have signed or ratified the covenant) to abolish the death penalty within their borders. It allows for countries to make a reservation (condition) allowing execution for grave crimes in times of war.

To see the full text of the covenant, visit www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm

Appendix A3: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) commits states to work toward achieving economic, social, and cultural rights for individuals. These rights include labor rights and the right to health, the right to education, and the right to an adequate standard of living.

The Covenant is monitored by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It has five parts and 31 articles.

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

Recognizes:

- The right to self-determination and to freely decide political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development.
- The right to freely dispose of natural wealth and resources
- The right of people not to be deprived of the means of subsistence.
- Commits states to promoting self-determination (independence and self-government) of colonies.

Part II

Article 2

States undertake:

- To take steps “to achieving progressively” the full realization of rights recognized in the ICESCR, including through enacting laws.
- To ensure that cultural, economic and social rights will exercised without discrimination in terms of “race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

Recognizes the right of developing countries decide to what extent they would guarantee economic rights recognized in the ICESCR to non-nationals.

Article 3

States undertake to ensure men and women have equal economic, social and cultural rights.

Articles 4 - 6

The rights can be limited by law only in ways that are compatible with the Covenant and for the purpose of promoting general welfare.

Part III

Articles 6 - 15 list the rights enshrined in the covenant and identify where states should take steps or programs of action to achieve them.

Article 6

States recognize the right to work. To achieve this right, states should provide training and policies that promote economic, social and cultural development and productive employment.

Article 7

States recognize the right of everyone to favorable conditions of work, in particular:

- Fair wages, including equal pay for equal work, without discrimination (especially as regards women);
- A decent living for workers and their families;
- Safe and healthy working conditions;
- Equal opportunity for promotion;
- Rest, leisure, reasonable working hours, paid vacation and payment on public holidays.

Article 8

Includes:

- The right to form and join trade unions;
- The right of trade unions to establish national federations or confederations, and the right of these to form or join international trade-union organizations;
- The right of trade unions to function freely;
- The right to strike, within the national laws of the country.

Article 9

Recognizes the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.

Article 10

States recognize:

- The right of protection of families; and the right of both spouses to consent to marriage.
- That mothers need special protection for a reasonable period before and after childbirth, including paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.

- The right of protection of children, and the need to take special measures to protect children from economic and social exploitation.
- The need to set age limits for employment, and the need to punish those who employ children (to outlaw child labor).

Article 11

Recognizes:

- The right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing.
- The right of everyone to be free from hunger.
- To achieve these rights, states undertake to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food and to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies according to need.

Article 12

Recognizes the right of everyone to physical and mental health.

Steps to be taken to achieve this include:

- Provisions to reduce stillbirths and infant mortality, and for the healthy development of the child;
- Improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;
- Prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;
- Creation of conditions to ensure everyone has access to medical treatment.

Article 13

States recognize the right of everyone to education, and the steps needed to achieve the right to education.

Primary education should be compulsory and free;

Secondary education, including technical and vocational education, should be made available and accessible to all, in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

Higher education should be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity (ability), in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

Fundamental education should be encouraged or intensified for those who have not received or completed their primary education; States should develop and adequately equip a system of schools at all levels;

Parents and guardians have the right to choose schools other than those established by the government, or which conform to their religious and moral convictions, so long as the schools fulfill minimum educational standards.

Article 14

States agree to develop a plan of action to achieve free, compulsory primary education within a reasonable period.

Article 15

States recognize the rights of everyone:

- To take part in cultural life;
- To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress;
- To benefit from scientific, literary or artistic production of his or her creation.

States undertake to respect the freedom required to enable scientific research and creative activity; and to recognize the benefits of encouraging and development of international contacts and cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields.

Part IV

Articles 16 - 25 cover reporting and monitoring of the Covenant and the steps taken by the parties to implement it. The monitoring body is the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Part V

Articles 26 - 31 are technical and cover ratification, entry into force, and ways of amending the Covenant.

To see the full text of the covenant, visit www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm

Appendix A4: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading treatment came into force in June 1987. It has one Optional Protocol.

The Convention aims to make the struggle against torture and cruelty effective throughout the world.

It has three parts and 33 articles.

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

Defines torture as:

“Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person, information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.”

— *Convention Against Torture, Article 1.1*

Article 2

States agree to outlaw (prohibit) torture in their territories.

War, the threat to internal stability or any other public emergency cannot be used as justification of torture.

An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be used as a justification of torture.

Article 3

States may not return (“refouler”) or extradite a person to another state where it is believed s/he may be tortured.

Article 4

States agree that torture is a crime and will be criminalized by law. Even being complicit (knowing about) is a crime. States agree to introduce serious punishment for people guilty of torture.

Article 5

States will take responsibility for punishing torture in the following instances:

When the offenses are committed in any territory under its jurisdiction (colony) or on board a ship or aircraft registered in that state;

When the torturer is a national of that state;

When the victim is a national of that state.

Articles 6 and 7

Those who are believed to have committed torture must be arrested, and if necessary, extradited, and given a fair trial.

Article 8

Torture is an extraditable offence, and states agree to extradite torturers. The Convention may be considered the legal basis for extradition.

Article 9

States agree to assist each other in relation to investigating torture and bringing torturers to justice.

Article 10

States agree to educate and inform civil and military police, medical personnel, public officials and others involved in detaining and interrogating prisoners about the Convention and prohibition on torture.

Article 11

States will regularly and systematically review detention and interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices, with a view to preventing any cases of torture.

Article 12

States will investigate allegations of torture promptly.

Article 13

People who allege they have been tortured have the right to complain and have their cases impartially investigated. States will protect witnesses in such cases.

Article 14

Victims of torture have the right to redress and compensation. If someone is tortured to death, his or her dependants have the right to compensation.

Article 15

States agree that statements made under torture cannot be used as evidence in court.

Article 16

States agree to prevent other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which do not amount to torture as defined in the Convention when these acts are committed by or with the agreement of public officials.

Part II**Articles 17 and 18**

Establish the Committee against Torture and describe selection processes of members and structure.

Article 19

States agree to submit reports on the measures they have taken to prevent and deal with torture every four years.

Article 20

If the Committee receives reliable information suggesting torture is being systematically practiced, the state will cooperate in the Committee's investigation.

Articles 21-33

The remaining articles deal with the working of the committee and ratification of the Convention.

The Optional Protocol

There is one Optional Protocol. It was adopted in 2002 and came into force in June 2006. States who agree to the Optional Protocol agree to regular visits by independent international and national bodies to places where people are detained (“deprived of their liberty”) in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The visits will be overseen by a Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

To see the full text of the convention, visit www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm.

Appendix A5: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities aims to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. It is legally binding and commits states to ensuring that people with disabilities have full human rights and equality under the law.

The Convention was adopted in 2006 and came into force in 2008. It is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It has a preamble, 50 articles, and one Optional Protocol.

Key terms:

Multiple discrimination — when a person is subjected to discrimination on more than one ground; for example, a woman living with disabilities is discriminated against because she is a woman and because she is disabled. See Article 6.

Summary of Articles:

The preamble notes the Convention's relationship with other UN conventions and treaties. It reminds us that the UN Charter and UDHR recognize the rights of "all members of the human family." The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reaffirms the need for the disabled to be guaranteed their full rights without discrimination.

The Convention recognizes that disability is an evolving concept that is created through the interaction between people with disabilities and the attitudes and environmental barriers that prevent them from participating fully in society. In other words, people with disabilities are equal in every way to those not living with disability, but social factors create inequality.

Article 1

Explains that the purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Article 2

- "Communication" includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

- "Language" includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of nonspeaking languages;
- "Discrimination on the basis of disability" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which results in the person not being able to enjoy full rights and freedoms.
- "Reasonable accommodation" means modification and adjustments to buildings and infrastructure to ensure to persons with disabilities have equal access.
- "Universal design" means the design of products, environments, programs and services to be usable by all people without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Articles 3

There are eight guiding principles for the Convention:

- a. Respect for dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom of choice.
- b. Nondiscrimination;
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- e. Equality of opportunity;
- f. Accessibility;
- g. Equality between men and women;

Definition of "persons with disabilities":

“[T]hose who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

— Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1

- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Articles 4 – 32 define the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of states to create a legal and administrative environment for them to realize these obligations. Many of the articles repeat articles in other international conventions, including the conventions on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention Against Torture. They adapt and expand these articles to highlight the equal rights of persons with disabilities. We have therefore only listed key points below.

Article 4

States agree to abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;

States agree to take steps to prevent discrimination against the disabled by any person, organization or private enterprise;

States agree to undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, including new information and communication technologies (ICTs), and mobility aids for the disabled.

States agree to promote the Convention and to educate and inform those working with people living with disabilities about it.

States agree to consult with persons with disabilities when drafting laws and policies.

Article 5

States agree to prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee legal protection against discrimination.

To promote equality, states agree to take steps to provide reasonable accommodation.

Special measures to speed up achievement of equality will not be considered discrimination.

Article 6

States recognize that women and girls with disabilities suffer “multiple discrimination” and agree to take measures to ensure they have full and equal rights.

Article 7

States agree to ensure children with disabilities enjoy the same rights as other children.

States agree to ensure that children with disabilities have the right to freedom of expression and that their views are accepted in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children.

Article 8

States agree to take immediate steps:

- To raise awareness about disability and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;
- To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

Measures include:

- Effective public awareness campaigns
- Educating children from an early age so that they respect the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Encouraging media to portray persons with disabilities respectfully and without discrimination.

Article 9

States agree to take steps to ensure the disabled have equal access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information, ICTs, emergency services and all public facilities, including buildings, roads, transportation, schools, housing, hospitals and clinics, workplaces and all other indoor and outdoor facilities.

States agree to ensure that private entities that offer public services also create equal access for persons with disabilities.

Article 10

People with disabilities have the right to life

Article 11

The disabled have equal rights to protection and safety in times of emergency, conflict and natural disasters

Article 12

The disabled have the right of equality before the law; the right to legal support; equal rights to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit.

Article 13

The disabled must have equal access to justice.

Articles 15 and 16

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; also exploitation and abuse of women and children with disabilities.

“States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.”

-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 16 (5)

Article 17

Protection of the physical and mental integrity of the disabled person

Article 18

Liberty of movement; the right to choose where to live, and to a nationality; freedom to leave any country and the right to enter their own country.

Article 19

The right to live independently and to be included in the community, with choices equal to others; the right to support and care.

Article 20

The right to personal mobility and the states' obligation to enable and facilitate mobility.

Article 21

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information in formats and technologies that accommodate disability, like sign languages, Braille, and other means.

Article 22

Respect for privacy of disabled people and their families, communications, and information related to their health and care.

Article 23

Freedom to marry and to have relationships and to have and adopt children on an equal basis with others.

Article 24

The right to education and not to be excluded from the general education system. The right to special teaching materials and methods.

Article 25

The right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Article 26

States agree to enable persons with disabilities to maintain maximum independence, and to provide comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes for people with disabilities.

Article 27

The right to paid work on an equal basis with others.

Article 28

The right to an adequate standard of living and social protection

Article 29

The right to participation in political and public life.

Article 30

The right to participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport. In order to ensure the disabled realize this right, states agree to take steps to ensure there are cultural materials in accessible formats, including TV, films, theater and other cultural activities, and that there is access for the disabled to places where cultural performances or services take place (theaters, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, monuments and sites). States also agree to take steps to ensure the disabled can develop creative, artistic and intellectual potential.

Article 31

States undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to draft and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

Article 32

States recognize the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts to realize the Convention.

Articles 33 - 39 govern reporting and monitoring

Article 34

Sets out the terms for establishment of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for monitoring and reporting.

Article 35

States agree to report to the committee every four years.

Articles 40 - 50 deal with processes of ratification, amendment and other technical issues.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Allows states to recognize the competence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider complaints from individuals. The Optional Protocol entered into force in 2008.

For the full text of the Convention and other information, see www.un.org/disabilities/

Appendix A6: The Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted in 1989 and came into force in September 1990. It is supported by all member states of the UN General Assembly, except the US and Somalia.

The CRC draws on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It brings together children's rights expressed in the other treaties and guides the way in which all people and states should view children.

The principles in the CRC apply to children and adults. Children are defined as young people up to the age of 18, and the Convention pays special attention to children belonging to minority ethnic groups. The Convention recognizes the family as the primary site of care and responsibility for children. It says states, and those who care for children, must always act in the child's best interests.

It sets up a Committee on the Rights of the Child. States must report to this committee every five years.

The UN agency that takes responsibility for promoting the CRC and assisting states in taking steps to create an environment where children's rights are recognized, and where children can flourish, is the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The convention has four parts and 54 articles. It also has two Optional Protocols.

Parts I of the Convention lists the rights of children and the responsibilities of states to ensure they are realized. Parts II, III and IV are more technical, and deal with the creation and structure of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and ratification processes. They are not shown here.

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

Defines child to mean every human being below the age of 18.

Article 2

The rights must be granted without discrimination, to all children, "irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status." States agree to take steps to ensure children are protected

against all forms of discrimination or punishment based on discrimination.

Article 3

When taking decisions about children, the child's best interests are placed first. This applies to all decision-makers, including public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies.

States undertake to create laws and systems to ensure that children are fully protected and cared for.

States agree to ensure institutions and other child services conform with competent safety and health standards, and are properly staffed and supervised.

Article 4

States agree to take all legislative, administrative and other steps needed to implement the rights recognized in the Convention.

Article 5

States respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents/ members of the extended family or community/legal guardians to provide direction and guidance to the child "in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child" (as the child develops and matures).

Article 6

Every child has the right to life. States undertake to ensure the survival and development of the child.

Article 7

Every child has a right to be registered; to be given a name and nationality and the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

Article 8

Every child has a right to an identity and family relations as recognized by law. If a child is illegally deprived of elements of his or her identity, states will help and protect the child with a view to re-establishing his or her identity.

Article 9

States will ensure that children will not be separated from their parents against their will, except when authorities that are subject to judicial review (jurisdiction of the courts) believe separation is necessary and in the best interests of the child, for example, in situations involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents. Children separated from parents have the right to regular contact with parents, except if it is not in the child's best interests. If a par-

ent is detained, imprisoned, exiled, deported or dies through state action or while in state custody, the state must inform the child or another family member about what has happened and about the parents' whereabouts.

Article 10

If a child has to leave a state to be reunited with family members, the state will deal with the request humanely and positively; children whose parents live in different states have the right to maintain regular contact.

Article 11

States will prevent illicit (illegal) transfer of children abroad.

Article 12

Children have the right to hold and express their own views, and have the right to be heard in court.

Article 13

Children have the right to freedom of expression and information, and have a right to have access to media.

Article 14

States agree to respect the right children to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

States agree to respect the rights and duties of the parents or legal guardians, to guide the child with respect to thought, conscience and religion.

Article 15

Children have the right of freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

Article 16

Children have the right to privacy and to be protected against attacks on their honor and reputation.

Article 17

Children have the right to access to diverse media, including mass media and books in their languages.

Article 18

States recognize the right and responsibilities of both parents in bringing up a child and agree to support parents (or legal guardians) with childrearing.

Children of working parents have the right to child-care services.

“States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health.”

—Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 17

Article 19

States will protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or anyone else.

Article 20

Children who have lost their parents are entitled to special protection and help from the state, including alternative care. When considering alternatives, the state will consider continuity in the child's upbringing and the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

Article 21

Adoption processes should be in the best interests of the child.

Article 22

Refugee children should receive humanitarian aid.

Article 23

Mentally or physically disabled children have the right to a full and decent life, including dignity, self-reliance and active participation in the community. States agree to extend special care to disabled children, where possible, at no cost.

Article 24

Children have the right to health, including treatment and rehabilitation.

In particular, states agree to take steps:

- To reduce infant and child mortality;
- To ensure all children have medical and health care, especially primary health care;
- To combat disease and malnutrition through primary health care, including using technology, good nutrition, providing of clean water and avoiding the environmental pollution;
- To ensure prenatal and postnatal health care for mothers;
- To ensure access to education and information about health and nutrition, including the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;
- To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

Article 25

Children in care have the right to periodic review of their treatment and care.

Article 26

Children have the right to social security, including social insurance.

Article 27

Children have the right to an adequate standard of living. Parents or others responsible for the child are primarily responsible for ensuring that children have an adequate standard of living. If necessary, states will assist.

Article 28

Children have the right to education, including:

- Free primary education (which states should make compulsory);
- Different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education

- Higher education, on the basis of the child's capacity;
- Educational and vocational information and guidance.

States also agree to take steps to encourage regular attendance at schools and to reduce dropout rates.

Article 29

States agree that education will aim to:

- Develop the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- Develop respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter;
- Develop respect for the child's parents, cultural identity, language and values, and the national values of the country, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
- Prepare the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
- Develop respect for the natural environment.

Article 30

Children from ethnic, religious or linguistic minority groups have a right to their culture, religion and language.

Article 31

Children have a right to rest and leisure, to play and to culture and the arts.

Article 32

Children must be protected from economic exploitation and from work that is hazardous or interferes with their education, is harmful to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

States agree to:

- Provide for a minimum age at which children may work;
- Regulate hours and conditions of employment for children;
- Punish those who break laws on child labor.

Article 33

States agree to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs, and prevent the use of children to produce and traffic drugs.

Article 34

States agree to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including prostitution and use of children in the production of pornography.

Article 35

States agree to enter into national and international agreements and treaties to prevent abduction, sale and trafficking of children.

Article 36

States agree to protect children from any other form of harmful exploitation.

Article 37

No child should be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Children must never be sentenced to death or to life imprisonment.

Children may not be detained or imprisoned without trial.

Children who are imprisoned for offenses have the right to be treated with humanity and respect.

Children will be jailed separately from adults and have the right to maintain contact with family members.

Children have the right to legal representation.

Article 38

Children should be protected by international humanitarian law when there is conflict and war.

States agree to ensure that children under 15 years old do not take a direct part in hostilities.

States agree not to recruit anyone under 15 into their armed forces.

States agree to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

Article 39

States agree to support the recovery of child victims of any neglect, abuse, torture or other cruel treatment, and their reintegration into society.

Article 40

States recognize the right of children who have broken the law to special treatment that promotes the child's sense of dignity, and which strengthens the child's respect for the human rights of others.

- States agree to ensure that children will not be charged retroactively and will be:
- Presumed innocent until proven guilty
- Informed promptly of the charges
- Tried without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing
- Not be forced to give evidence or to confess

- Given the opportunity to appeal if found guilty
- Given an interpreter if the language of the court is different from the child's mother tongue.

Children below a minimum age will be presumed not to have the capacity to break the law.

States agree to consider alternatives like care, guidance and supervision orders; counselling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programs before imprisonment.

The Two Optional Protocols

In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted two Optional Protocols to the Convention. The Optional Protocols increase the protection of children from involvement in armed conflicts and from sexual exploitation.

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict establishes 18 as the minimum age for compulsory recruitment and requires states to do everything they can to prevent individuals under the age of 18 from taking a direct part in hostilities.

The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography draws special attention to the criminalization of these violations of children's rights and emphasizes the importance of public awareness campaigns and international cooperation in efforts to combat them.

For further information, visit: www.unicef.org/crc/

Appendix A7: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was adopted in 1965 and entered into force in 1969. It commits states to the elimination of racial discrimination, to outlaw hate speech and to criminalize membership in racist organizations.

The preamble stresses the dignity and equality of all human beings; the entitlement of everyone to equal rights, and everyone's right to legal protection against any discrimination and against any incitement to discrimination. It is based on the belief that:

"...any doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and that there is no justification for racial discrimination, in theory or in practice, anywhere."

— Preamble, *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

Defines racial discrimination to mean "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin," which hinders enjoyment of equal rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

It says positive, special measures aimed at advancing any particular group may be necessary (affirmative action) and that this will not be regarded as racial discrimination provided the measures do not lead to separate rights for different racial groups or become permanent.

Article 2

States agree to condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue — without delay — policies that will eliminate racial discrimination in all public institutions and offices, and to end any laws or policies which perpetuate racial discrimination. States agree not to support or defend racial discrimination by any other persons or organizations, and to encourage racial integration.

Article 3

States parties especially condemn racial segregation and apartheid and undertake to eradicate them.

(Note: The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court recognizes apartheid as a crime against humanity.)

Article 4

States parties condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas of racial or ethnic superiority, or which try to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form. States undertake to take immediate steps to eradicate promotion and acts of discrimination, in line with the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular, Article 5, including:

Making dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority and racial hatred, and incitement to racial discrimination, punishable by law.

Declaring organizations that promote racial propaganda illegal and prohibiting their operations, and punishing those who participate in such organizations.

Article 5

States agree to guarantee the equal rights of everyone to equal treatment before the law; security from violence and harm; to take part in politics and elections; freedom of movement and residence; the right to leave and return to their country of birth; the right to a nationality; marriage and choice of a spouse; to own property; to inherit; to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and opinion; the right to freedom of expression, and a range of other civil and economic, social and cultural rights, including equal pay, housing and social security.

Article 6

Those who have suffered discrimination have the right to seek reparation.

Article 7

States undertake to adopt measures in education, culture and information to combat racism and discrimination.

Part II

Articles 8 - 16: Set up and define the structures and processes of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Part III

Articles 17 - 25: These are technical and deal with signature, accession and amendment.

For the full text of the convention, visit: www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cerd.htm

Appendix A8: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the UN in 1979. CEDAW is often described as an international “Bill of Rights for women.” It addresses women’s rights to equality in political, civil, cultural, economic and social life.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women oversees the implementation of CEDAW. An Optional Protocol to the Convention entered into force in December of 2000, granting the Committee the authority to consider complaints from individuals. The Committee may also initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systemic violations of women’s rights and formulate general recommendations and suggestions.

Summary of Articles:

Article 1

Defines discrimination. See the box on page XX.

Article 2

By signing, states condemn discrimination against women and agree to take immediate steps to eliminate it, as follows:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal systems and to abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt laws that forbid discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions (like commissions or courts) to ensure that women are protected against discrimination; and
- to put an end to all acts of discrimination against women by people, organizations or enterprises.

Article 3

States must take steps (including passing laws) in social, political, cultural and economic life to ensure that women can fully develop and advance, and which guarantee that women and men have equal human rights and freedoms.

Article 4

Temporary special measures states take to speed up achievement of equality will not be considered discrimination. However, these measures should be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.

Article 5

States agree to change the social and cultural behavior of men and women in order to rid society of beliefs, customs and practices based on ideas of inequality or on stereotyped roles. Article 5 also says that family education should include a proper understanding of maternity (motherhood) as a social function and recognize the joint roles and responsibilities of men and women in raising children.

Article 6

States agree to take steps — including passing laws — to end all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Article 7

States agree to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life especially ensuring that women have equal rights

- To vote and to stand for election
- To take part in policy-making and to hold public office at all levels of government
- To take part in NGOs and other civil society organizations.

Article 8

States agree to ensure women have equal opportunity with men to represent their governments in international organizations.

Article 9

States give women equal rights with men to nationality and to choose whether to change or keep their nationality when they marry. They also grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

Article 10

States agree to ensure that girls and women have equal rights to education, including physical education and sports, at all levels: school, after school at technical colleges and universities and in adult education. They agree

- To reduce the number of girls and women who drop out of education
- To provide education on family planning
- To change teaching methods and educational content (for example, in textbooks) that stereotype women or suggest they are inferior.

Article 11

States agree to eliminate discrimination against women in work and employment. They must guarantee women equal rights to social security in cases of retirement, unemployment or sickness and to paid leave. The article stresses there should be no discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity.

Article 12:

States agree to end discrimination against women in health care and to provide women with services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the postnatal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

Article 13

States agree to take steps to end discrimination against women in all other areas of economic and social life, and to ensure they have equal rights with men in relation to family benefits; bank loans and mortgages, and the right to take part in recreation, sports and other cultural activities.

Article 14

States agree to take special note of problems faced by rural women and to recognize the roles rural women play in the economic survival of their families. They agree to take special steps to ensure that rural women also benefit from all aspects of CEDAW.

Article 15

States agree to grant women equality with men before the law, giving women and men equal status in legal and civil matters, for example, in signing contracts.

Article 16

States agree to eliminate discrimination against women in marriage and family relations, especially

- The right to choose a husband
- To agree (consent) to marriage
- To equal rights within the marriage
- To equal rights and responsibilities with men as parents, whether or not the marriage is current (for example, if there has been a divorce)
- To decide whether to have children, and the number and spacing of children
- To family planning information and to contraception
- To guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children
- To choose a family name
- To own, manage and dispose of property

Article 16 also outlaws child marriage, and requires that states agree to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

For the full text of the convention and other information, visit www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/.

Appendix A9: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is the treaty governing the protection of migrant workers. It was adopted in December 1990 and entered into force in July 2003.

The convention aims to protect migrant workers and to promote respect for migrants' human rights. It does not create new rights for migrants, but aims to guarantee that migrants receive equal treatment to citizens under the labor laws of the state where they are working. It differentiates between legal and illegal migrants, giving legal migrants more rights, but nonetheless seeks to protect the inherent rights of illegal migrants. It also encourages states to take steps to ensure migrants are protected, and to take action to outlaw human trafficking and those who encourage illegal migrancy.

The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) monitors implementation of the convention.

Summary of Articles:

Part I: Scope and definitions

Article 1

The treaty applies to all migrants and their families without discrimination.

It applies during the entire migration process, which includes preparation, departure, transit, the period of migrant work in the foreign state, and return to the state of origin.

Article 2

Defines a migrant worker as a person “who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national.” Categories include:

“**frontier worker**” — a migrant worker who returns home to a neighboring state every day or at least once a week.

“**seasonal worker**” — a migrant worker whose work depends on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year;

“**seafarer**” — a migrant worker employed on board a vessel registered in a state of which he or she is not a national, including fishermen;

“**worker on an offshore installation**” — a migrant worker employed on an offshore installation that is under the jurisdiction of a state of which he or she is not a national;

“**itinerant worker**” — a migrant worker who has to travel to another state or states for short periods because of the nature of his or her occupation;

“**project-tied worker**” — a migrant worker employed on a project in a foreign state.

“**self-employed worker**” — a migrant worker who is self-employed.

Article 3

The convention does not include:

People employed by international organizations and agencies or people employed by states and sent abroad on official business;

People employed by a state and sent abroad to participate in development programs and other cooperation programs;

People who go to live in another state as investors;

Refugees and stateless persons;

Students and trainees;

Seafarers and workers on offshore installations who do not have permission to reside and work in the state of employment.

Article 4

Defines family members to include husbands, wives, and partners whose relationship is recognized in law as a marriage; dependent children and other dependents who are recognized as members of the family.

Article 5

Draws a distinction between documented (legal) migrants, who are authorized to enter, to stay and to work in the state, and non-documented migrants, who are not authorized.

Article 6

Defines state of origin, where the migrant is a national; the state of employment, which is the state where the migrant works, and the transit state, meaning any state through which the migrant worker must travel in relation to work.

Part II: Nondiscrimination with respect to rights

Article 7

Migrant workers have equal rights with everyone else.

Part III: Human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families

Articles 8 - 17

These articles affirm that migrant workers and their families have the same rights as everyone, including freedom to travel between states and return home; to life, freedom from torture, slavery and forced labor; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom to hold opinions; freedom of expression; to unlawful arrest; privacy; not to be deprived of property; security; to due process in law and equality under the law.

Article 20

Migrant workers may not be deprived of residence or permission to work, unless residence and permission to work are conditional on a contract which they fail to fulfill.

Article 21

Migrants' identity documents may not be destroyed or confiscated except by an official, under law. If they are destroyed or confiscated, the migrant must receive a receipt. Migrants' passports may never be destroyed.

Article 22

Migrant workers may not be expelled as a group. Each case of expulsion should be examined and decided individually. Expulsion must be subject to law and the migrant be given a chance to appeal. Migrants who are expelled must be given reasonable time and opportunity to settle claims for wages and other entitlements before and after expulsion.

Article 23

Migrants have the right to appeal to diplomatic authorities of their state of origin.

Article 24

Migrants have the right to be recognized before the law.

Article 25

Migrant workers should enjoy the same treatment with respect to wages, working conditions, overtime and holidays as nationals of their state of employment.

Article 26

Migrants have the right to form and join trade unions.

Article 27

Migrants have the same right as nationals with respect to social security and reimbursements of amounts paid, depending on agreements between the states.

Article 28

Migrants have the same rights as nationals to medical care.

Article 29 - 30

Migrants' children have the right to a name, to registration of birth and to a nationality; and equal access to education with children of nationals.

Article 31

States agree to ensure migrants' cultural identity is protected and respected.

Article 32

Migrants have the right to transfer earnings and belongings on termination of their stay in the state of employment.

Article 33

Migrants have the right to be informed about their rights under the Convention and under the laws of the state of employment.

Article 34

Migrants must abide by the laws of the state of employment.

Article 35

The rights outlined are not intended to include nondocumented or irregular migrants.

Part IV: Other rights of documented migrant workers

Article 36 - 38

Before departure, migrants have a right to be informed of the conditions under which they will enter the state of employment, and about their work. If a migrant has to be temporarily absent from a state of employment, the state will authorize and facilitate that absence.

Article 39

Migrants have the right to liberty of movement and the freedom to choose residence in the state of employment.

Article 40

Migrants have the right to form associations and trade unions in the state of employment for the promotion and protection of their economic, social, cultural and other interests.

Article 41

Migrants do not lose political rights, including the right to vote, in their state of origin.

Article 42

Migrants may have political rights in the state of employment if the state grants them rights; states will facilitate migrants' participation in local government and establish institutions to take account of the special needs, aspirations and obligations of migrant workers and members of their families.

Articles 43 - 45

Migrant workers and their families will have equal access with nationals to education, housing, health, participation in cooperatives and cultural life. Families are recognized and protected as the fundamental unit of society. If families are separated, states will take appropriate measures to reunite them. States of employment will facilitate integration of children of migrant workers into the local school system, especially teaching them the local language, and will also facilitate teaching children of migrant workers their mother tongue.

Article 46 - 47

Migrant workers should be exempt from import and export duties with respect to personal household effects and equipment required for work. Migrants have the right to send money home to support their families.

Article 48

Migrants and nationals should be treated equally with respect to taxation; States will ensure they are not subject to double taxation (paying in both the state of origin and the state of employment).

Article 49

The state of employment will issue migrants with residence permission for at least the period of employment. Migrants' work and residency permits will not be terminated if they lose their employment before their permits expire, and they should be allowed to seek alternative employment.

Article 50

If a migrant worker dies or divorces, the state of employment will consider the right of family members to stay in the state of employment. Family members not allowed to stay will be granted reasonable time to settle their affairs in the state of employment.

Article 51

Migrants who lose their work before their period of employment expires and who are not freely permitted to choose their work will not lose their residence unless the residence is expressly dependent on the specific work.

Article 52

Migrant workers in the state of employment have the right freely to choose their work, subject to the following restrictions. The state of employment may:

- Restrict access to limited categories of employment
- Restrict free choice of work in accordance with national laws concerning recognition or nonrecognition of qualifications obtained in other states.

For migrants whose permission to work is limited in time, a state of employment may also:

- Make the right to choose their work freely subject to the condition that the migrant worker has lived lawfully in its territory for the purpose of work for a period of time prescribed in its national legislation that should not exceed two years;
- Limit access by a migrant worker to work if there is a policy of granting priority to its nationals. This limitation will not apply to migrants who have lived and worked legally in the country for five years.

Article 53

Migrants who have unlimited residence have the right to choose their employment. States will favorably consider applications of migrants' families who do not have the same permission to join them.

Articles 54 and 55

Migrants will have the same right as nationals with respect to:

- Protection against dismissal;
- Unemployment benefits;
- Access to public work schemes intended to combat unemployment;
- Access to alternative employment; and
- Equal treatment at work.

Migrants whose contracts have been violated have the right to address their cases with authorities in the state of employment.

Article 56

Migrant workers may not be expelled from a state of employment, except for reasons defined in the national legislation of that state.

The state of employment will not use expulsion to deprive a migrant worker of rights granted under a residence and work permit.

In considering expulsion, the state of employment will take account of humanitarian considerations and the length of time that the person concerned has already resided in the state of employment.

Part V: Provisions applicable to particular categories of migrant workers and members of their families

Articles 57 - 63

Deal with the equal rights of special categories defined in Article 2 (frontier workers, seafarers, project workers etc.) These workers are entitled to the same rights as nationals and other migrants, with some limitations, taking into account their special situations.

They also deal with the need to eradicate illegal migrancy and to outlaw agencies which encourage migrancy with false promises.

Part VI: Promotion of sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions in connection with international migration of workers and members of their families

Articles 64 - 71 cover humane treatment of migrant workers in respect to labor needs and resources, as well as the social, economic, cultural and other needs of migrant workers and members of their families, and the duties of States to provide services to ensure humane treatment of migrants.

Part VII defines and sets up structures and processes for the Committee on Migrant Workers.

Parts VIII - IX are technical and deal with ratification, accession, and amendment.

For the full text of the convention, visit www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cmw.htm

Appendix A10: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED)

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED) aims to prevent enforced disappearance, which the convention defines as

“the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.”

–ICPED, Article 2

The preamble emphasizes that enforced disappearance is an extremely serious crime which can, in some circumstances, be defined in international law as a crime against humanity and tried accordingly.

The convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 20, 2006 and opened for signature on February 6, 2007. At the time of the writing of this toolkit it had been signed by 88 countries and ratified by 29.

It has three parts and 45 articles.

Summary of Articles:

Part I

Article 1

Prohibits enforced disappearance and states that

“no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.”

Article 2

Defines enforced disappearance (as quoted above).

Articles 3 and 4

Commit states to criminalize enforced disappearance; to investigate enforced disappearance; and to bring those responsible to justice.

Article 5

States that the widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity in international law.

Article 6

Commits states to bring to justice all those involved in forced disappearance, including individuals and groups responsible for committing, ordering, or participating in enforced disappearance; those knowing about and/or consciously ignoring information about enforced disappearance; and those who failed to take steps to prevent enforced disappearance.

The treaty applies equally to all authorities — civilian, public military or other — whether acting under orders or not.

Articles 7 - 15

Commit states to:

- Ensure that criminal proceedings and punishments are appropriate to the seriousness of the crime;
- Exercise jurisdiction over the crime of enforced disappearance when the alleged offender is within its territory, even if they are not a citizen or resident;
- Establish procedures for detention, investigation and trial of alleged offenders;
- Cooperate with other states to prevent enforced disappearance, and to prosecute and extradite offenders and help and support victims of enforced disappearance, or locate and return their remains.

Article 16

States agree not to expel, return, surrender or extradite a person to another state where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to enforced disappearance.

Articles 17 - 23

Outlaw secret detention.

Commit states to treat detainees humanely, to maintain transparency with respect to the conditions under which detainees are held and to provide access to family members, legal representatives and other authorities.

“No exceptional circumstances whatsoever...may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.”

–ICPED, Article 1

Commit states to compile and maintain up-to-date registers and/or records of prisoners and detainees, and to make these available to individuals with a legitimate interest in the case as legally required. Information regarding prisoners and detainees should include:

- The identity of the person;
- The date, time and place of detention and the identity of the authority that carried out the detention;
- The authority that ordered the detention and the grounds for the detention;
- The authority responsible for supervising the detention;
- Elements relating to the state of health of the person;
- In the event of death during detention, the circumstances and cause of death and the destination of the remains;
- The date and time of release or transfer to another place of detention, the destination and the authority responsible for the transfer.

States may use this information solely for searching for the disappeared person.

States must release detainees in ways that are public and that can be verified.

Commit states to ensure that civil or military law enforcement personnel, medical personnel, public officials and others who may be involved in the custody or treatment of any person deprived of liberty know and understand the ICPED.

Article 24

Defines a “victim” as “the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance.”

Victims have the right to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of

the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person and the right to reparation and compensation. States’ legal systems must ensure that victims receive compensation and that the disappeared person receives rehabilitation.

States must guarantee citizens the right to form and participate freely in organizations and associations concerned with the fate of disappeared persons, and to assist victims of enforced disappearance.

Article 25

Criminalizes forced removal of children and protects children whose parents or legal guardians are subjected to enforced disappearance, or children born during the captivity of a mother subjected to enforced disappearance;

Commits states to search for and identify children and return them to their families of origin.

Part II

Articles 26-36

Set up the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and establish its membership and terms of reference. States must report to CED within two years on progress they have made to comply with ICPED.

Relatives may submit to CED a request that a disappeared person be sought and found. CED will then solicit a response from the state. If there are persistent reports of violations of ICPED, CED may appoint an observer to visit the state and report on findings.

Part III

Articles 37 - 45 set out processes for signature and ratification.

Read the full text of CED at www2.ohchr.org/english/law/disappearance-convention.htm

Appendix B - Useful resources: books, papers, manuals, reports

Title	Coverage	Author/Source	Date Published	Summary/Value for Journalists	Web Address
Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society	Global	Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights	2008	Introduction to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Information about fellowships, training programs, publications, resources, funds and grants. Describes UN human rights bodies and mechanisms and how they can be used.	www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Documents/Handbook_en.pdf
The Atlas of Human Rights: Mapping Violations of Freedom Worldwide	Global	Andrew Fagan; published by Earthscan (Brighton, UK)	2010	Country profiles and world data at a glance; understanding human rights abuses in different countries. Includes maps showing which countries have ratified major conventions, and chapters about human rights progress and abuses, including political, social and economic rights; judicial violations and legal restrictions; freedom of expression and censorship; conflict and migration; discrimination; women's rights and children's rights.	www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=102267
Handbook for Bloggers and Cyber-Dissidents	Global	Reporters Without Borders	2008	Guide to setting up and running a blog, including information about the value and impact of blogging on media freedom; language, styles and platforms for blogging. Useful for online and other journalists wanting to start blogging and/or improve their use of new media tools.	www.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/handbook_bloggers_cyberdissidents-GB.pdf
Journalism, Media and the Challenge of Human Rights Reporting	Global	The International Council on Human Rights Policy	2002	Discussion of role of media; political and institutional relationships; and role of human rights organizations and their relationship to media.	www.ichrp.org/files/reports/14/106_report_en.pdf
Covering Conflict Safely: Guide for Reporting in Hazardous Situations	Global	Committee to Protect Journalists	2003	Topics include protective clothing, health, legal issues, insurance, etc. The guide also lists reliable sources on conflict zone training.	www.cpj.org/reports/2003/02/journalist-safety-guide.php
To Tell You the Truth	Global	Aidan White, published by the International Journalists Federation (Brussels)	2008	A publication of the Ethical Journalism Initiative, which is a campaign by journalists to keep the principles and values of good journalism alive.	www.ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/pdfs/EJI_book_en.pdf
Covering Trauma: A Training Guide	Global	Jina Moore, published by Search for Common Ground / Radio for Peacebuilding Africa	2011	Definitions of trauma and guidelines for sensitive interviewing of trauma survivors; tips for story construction.	www.radiopeaceafrica.org/assets/texts/pdf/2011-Covering_Trauma_Color_EN.pdf
Reporting Justice: A Handbook on Covering War Crimes Courts	Global	Institute for War & Peace Reporting	2006	Good information on understanding war crimes and the international justice system, and tips on how to work in this rapidly changing environment.	www.iwpr.net/sites/default/files/reporting_justice_en.pdf
Mission Possible: A Gender and Media Advocacy Toolkit	Global	WACC	Undated	Guidebook for activists on how to advocate for improved gender coverage in media. Useful information and critique of how the media tackle gender issues.	www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/website/Advocacy_toolkit/missionpossibleeng.pdf
Central Asian Pocketbook on Freedom of Expression	Central Asia	Article 19, London	2006	Explanation of freedom of expression issues; contextualizing them in the framework of international human rights law. Useful for journalists anywhere concerned with freedom of expression.	www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/tools/central-asian-pocketbook.pdf

Title	Coverage	Author/Source	Date Published	Summary/Value for Journalists	Web Address
Women Journalists: Partners in Trade Union Leadership	Middle East and Arab World	International Federation of Journalists	2008	Good background on women in media in the Middle East and North Africa. Country reports from a human rights viewpoint, highlighting accession to CEDAW and constitutional rights in each country.	www.ifj.org/assets/docs/194/172/9016bc2-1df2aac.pdf
Gender Sensitive Reporting	Pakistan	Internews	2009	Guidebook for journalists and journalism trainers on tackling sensitive gender issues in a complex environment.	www.internews.org/research-publications/gender-sensitive-reporting
Reporting Human Rights in the Philippines: A Field Guide for Journalists and Media Workers	Philippines	The Philippine Human Rights Reporting Project	2009	Guide to international legal standards and their application in the Philippine context.	www.reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/C762CA7241F367DE-4925760A001B095C-Full_Report.pdf
Reporting for Change: A Handbook for Local Journalists in Crisis Areas	Global	Institute for War & Peace Reporting	2011	Guidebook for journalists with useful tips and exercises.	www.iwpr.net/sites/default/files/iwpr_training_manual_english.pdf
Gender, Conflict & Journalism	South Asia	By Fiona Lloyd and Ross Howard. Commissioned and published by UNESCO	2005	Thorough explanation of the ways in which conflict affects gender relations and best practices for gender sensitive reporting and reporting for peace. Clearly addresses the role of good journalism -- and good journalists -- in relation to gender violence and other forms of conflict.	unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001439/143925E.pdf
The Human Rights Based Approach to Journalism	Vietnam	UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Bangkok). Edited by Gabrielle Beman and Daniel Calderbank.	2008	Information about international human rights, human rights standards and conventions, and guides for journalists on human rights reporting and interviewing. Includes outline of a training curriculum for journalists working in Vietnam.	unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001791/179185e.pdf

Appendix B: Useful websites and online resources

Body/Resource	Summary	Web Address	Activities	Value
Amnesty International	International organization that campaigns for the end of human rights abuses worldwide	www.amnesty.org	Organizes campaigns to end human rights violations, conducts research and publishes bulletins and alerts regarding human rights abuses.	Reliable reports and information on human rights abuses around the world.
The Committee to Protect Journalists	International organization committed to protecting press freedom and the rights of journalists	www.cpj.org	Publicizes abuses against journalists and media outlets, organizes public protests, works with government officials to advocate for change. Publishes Attacks on the Press, an annual survey of press freedom around the world.	Information and background on media freedom and safety of journalists worldwide.
Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting	US NGO conducting media research and exposing and criticizing bias and censorship.	www.fair.org	Exposes bias and censorship; advocates for media diversity and fairness in reporting.	Reports demonstrating US media bias across a range of issues and countries. Good for background research.
Essex Internet Encyclopaedia of Human Rights	Project of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex	www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/publications/EIEHR.aspx	Online database of human rights and human rights history, progress, abuses.	Quick reference guide for background research and understanding.
Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)	International organization that supports human rights learning; the training of activists and professionals; the development of educational materials and programming; and community-building through online technologies	www.hrea.org Resources for Journalists: www.hrea.org/index.php?base_id=103&language_id=1&category_id=10&category_type=3&group	Organizes specialized human rights trainings via distance education for human rights defenders and development workers.	Background information on human rights issues and news about violations. Electronic Resource Centre for Human Rights Education includes free education and training materials, online forums, databases and links to other resources.
Human Rights Watch	NGO that spotlights human rights abuses through in-depth research and analysis.	www.hrw.org	Exposes human rights abuses worldwide through in-depth research and analysis and the publication of reports on human rights issues.	Reliable, in-depth research and analysis on human rights issues around the world.
Institute of War and Peace Reporting	NGO that supports and trains journalists working in situations of war, conflict, crisis and change	www.iwpr.net/	Promotes quality journalism in these areas so that people have access to the information they need.	Trainings and guides for journalists working in conflict. Materials based on experience at the front lines.
International Council on Human Rights Policy	Forum for applied research, reflection and forward thinking on international human rights policy. The Council identifies issues that hinder efforts to protect and promote human rights and proposes approaches and strategies to overcome them.	www.ichrp.org	Conducts and publishes research reports on topics including civil liberties, science, crime, media, conflict, gender, culture and others.	Excellent source for background research and deepening understanding of human rights, policy and legal issues.
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)	World's largest organization of journalists, representing around 600,000 members in more than 100 countries.	www.ifj.org	Promotes international action to defend press freedom and social justice through strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists. Represents journalists.	Information, representation and a variety of reports on media and human rights issues. Has membership and chapters in Africa, Asia & Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North America.
Ethical Journalism Initiative	Campaign of the International Federation of Journalists	ethicaljournalisminitiative.org/en	Web-based campaign "to rekindle old values in media worldwide."	Links to a variety of useful websites and resources for journalists.
JHR (Journalists for Human Rights)	Canada's largest media development NGO aiming to spread human rights awareness worldwide and empower marginalized communities to stand up for their rights.	www.jhr.ca/en/index.php	Mobilizes the media to report on human rights issues around the world; works with media outlets, educational institutions, and students to encourage them to spread rights awareness in their own communities.	Workshops and on-the-job training, ideas and resources. Grants for small media, fellowships for training and human rights reporting awards.

Body/Resource	Summary	Web Address	Activities	Value
Radio for Peacebuilding - Africa	A project of Search for Common Ground which aims to increase broadcasters' skills, especially those working with youth radio.	www.radiopeaceafrica.org/index.cfm?lang=en	Provides training, resources and other capacity-building support to radio broadcasters and civil society groups to increase communication between policy-makers and communities and create positive change in conflict-prone areas through the power of information.	Useful resources for broadcasters, including training manuals on covering trauma; assessing and reaching audiences; peacebuilding and managing rumors.
Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders)	International organization supporting media outlets, journalists and media workers	www.rsf.org	Defends journalists imprisoned or persecuted for doing their job; exposes mistreatment and torture of journalists; fights for press freedom; gives financial aid to journalists or media outlets in difficulty (to pay for lawyers, medical care and equipment), and to the families of imprisoned journalists, and works to improve the safety of journalists, especially those reporting in war zones. RSF is also an excellent source of information about media freedom and publishes useful guides and manuals.	Guides and manuals, Press Freedom Index ranking states according to media freedom, information about Internet freedom in various countries. General information about media freedom worldwide and persecution of media and journalists. Covers both traditional (radio, newspapers, film, video) and new media (online media, digital media).
Security In A Box	A collaborative effort of the Tactical Technology Collective and Front Line. It was created to meet the digital security and privacy needs of advocates and human rights defenders.	www.security.ngoinabox.org/en	Provides tools and tactics for digital security for human rights advocates and defenders	Includes a how-to booklet that addresses important digital security issues. It also provides a collection of hands-on guides, each of which includes a particular freeware or open source software tool, as well as instructions on how you can use that tool to secure your computer, protect your information or maintain the privacy of your online communications
Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)	A composite measure of gender discrimination based on social institutions. A project of the OECD Development Centre.	www.genderindex.org	Measures gender inequality in five areas: Family Code, Physical Integrity, Son Preference, Civil Liberties and Ownership Rights in 102 non-OECD countries.	Information about gender discrimination, legal issues, and statistics in 102 countries. Public database, ranking, and interactive tool to create your own customized rankings of gender discrimination
UN News	UN's official news site	www.un.org/News/	Publishes breaking news from the UN.	Up-to-date news about global issues and UN interventions, events, meetings, statements.
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	The OHCHR is the principal human rights office of the UN. The High Commissioner heads the OHCHR and spearheads the UN's human rights efforts. OHCHR is part of the UN Secretariat and has headquarters in Geneva.	www.ohchr.org Factsheets: www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/FactSheets.aspx	Leads, educates and empowers individuals and supports governments in upholding human rights. Factsheets cover the International Bill of Human Rights, each of the main individual rights and freedoms, and UN human rights conventions and bodies.	Information about UN human rights programs as well as manuals and guides on rights, human rights bodies, and international law. Particularly useful are the PDF factsheets on key human rights in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian and other languages. Also includes news and updates on human rights issues in different parts of the world.
University of Minnesota Human Rights Library	Online human rights library. Currently has more than 65,000 documents.	www1.umn.edu/humanrts	Houses one of the world's largest collections of human rights documents, available in nine languages.	A one-stop resource for all types of human rights treaties, agreements, documents and other materials.

Appendix C: Has your country signed up?

Here we include lists of countries that have NOT signed or ratified five important human rights treaties as of 2009.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

Africa

Guinea-Bissau
Sao Tome and Principe
Comoros

East Asia and Pacific

Brunei
China
Cook Islands
Kiribati
Laos
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Myanmar (Burma)
Micronesia
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Fiji
Tonga
Tuvalu

Europe and Central Asia

Holy See

Americas and Caribbean

Cuba
St Kitts and Nevis
Antigua and Barbuda
St Lucia

Middle East and North

Africa

Qatar
Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates
Oman

South Asia

Bhutan
Pakistan

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966

Africa

Botswana
Comoros
Mozambique
Sao Tome and Principe
South Africa

East Asia and Pacific

Brunei
Cook Islands
Fiji
Kiribati
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Myanmar (Burma)
Micronesia
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Samoa
Singapore
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Europe and Central Asia

Andorra
Holy See

Americas and Caribbean

Belize
Cuba
Haiti
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
United States

Middle East and North

Africa

Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates

South Asia

Bhutan

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979

Africa

Somalia
Sudan

East Asia and Pacific

Nauru
Niue
Palau
Tonga

Europe and Central Asia

Holy See

Americas and Caribbean

United States

Middle East and North

Africa

Iran

UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984

Africa

Angola
Central African Republic
Comoros
Eritrea
Gambia
Guinea-Bissau
Sao Tome and Principe
Sudan
Tanzania
Zimbabwe

East Asia and Pacific

Brunei
Cook Islands

Fiji
Kiribati
Laos
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Myanmar (Burma)
Micronesia
Nauru
Niue
North Korea
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Vietnam

Americas and Caribbean

Bahamas
Barbados
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Grenada
Haiti
Jamaica
St Kitts & Nevis
St Lucia
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

Middle East and North

Africa

Iran
Iraq

South Asia

Bhutan
Pakistan
India

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

Africa

Somalia

Americas and Caribbean

United States

Source: *The Atlas of Human*

Rights:

Mapping Violations of Freedom around the Globe by Andrew Fagan, Earthscan, Brighton (UK) 2010.

The Rome Statute

Following that is the list of the 120 countries that (as of Feb. 1, 2012) HAVE signed the Rome Statute, which created and makes them subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

The following countries HAVE signed the Rome Statute:

Africa

Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya

Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritius
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tunisia
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia

Asia/Pacific

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Cambodia
Cook Islands
Cyprus
Fiji
Japan
Jordan
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Nauru
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Samoa
Tajikistan
Timor-Leste
Vanuatu

Eastern Europe

Albania
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Georgia
Hungary
Latvia

Lithuania
Macedonia
Moldova
Montenegro
Poland
Romania
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia

Western Europe and Other States

Andorra
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
San Marino
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Latin America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Grenada
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Source: ICC website, www.icc-cpi.int/

UPDATE ALERT!

For the most up-to-date information about signatories/ratifiers of these and other UN human rights treaties, visit the UN Treaty Collection at treaties.un.org. On the left-hand side of the home page, click on "Status of Treaties." On the list of Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General, click on "Chapter IV: Human Rights." Then click on the treaty you are researching.

Appendix D: Human Rights Days

Here is a list of international human rights days recognized by the UN.

Write down these dates on your news calendar: they are useful for planning stories, features and documentaries in advance. Sometimes, a human rights story might not have immediate news value. When this happens, you can use the human rights day as the “news hook” and carry features or documentaries about the issues that day celebrates or commemorates.

Most countries also have national days to raise awareness about human rights issues. Sometimes these are linked to historical events in that country; sometimes the country’s national day is chosen to coincide with the UN day. It is useful to keep track of national days, too, and to plan stories with these days in mind.

This is a long list, and you are not likely to include all of them in your plans. Work through the list and select those which you believe are the most relevant for your country or community.

January

January 27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. To remember the victims of the World War II Holocaust, in which the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler tried to eradicate European Jews through genocide.

February

February 20: World Day of Social Justice. This day aims to promote social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries, and as fundamental values of all societies. Focus on poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all. A good day to raise awareness about ICCPR and ICESCR.

February 21: International Mother Language Day. To promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

March

March 8: International Women’s Day. To recognize women’s achievements; to highlight inequality and discrimination and to unite men and women to oppose violence against women and girls.

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On March 21, 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa. The protest was against the apartheid “pass laws” under which black people were forced to carry documents that severely

restricted their movement and employment opportunities. Apartheid ended in 1994. The day is a day of advocacy against all forms of racial discrimination

March 22: World Water Day. A day to remind people that efforts to provide clean drinking water can save lives, and to increase awareness worldwide of the importance of water conservation and the problems of pollution and water shortage.

March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The trans-Atlantic slave trade was unique within the history of slavery due to its duration (400 years), its scale (approximately 17 million people excluding those who died during transport) and the legitimization accorded to it, including under laws of the time.

April

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day. Autism is a neurological disorder affecting a person’s ability to communicate and interact with other people. Autism rates in all parts of the world are high, creating difficulties for children, their families, communities and societies. The day highlights the need to raise awareness about autism and to improve the lives of children and adults who suffer from the disorder so that they can lead full and meaningful lives.

April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. A day to advocate against the use of landmines; to highlight the plight of victims; to promote education about landmines, and to demand demining.

April 7: World Health Day. A day to raise awareness of health issues and everyone’s right to live a healthy life.

April 7: International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda. Encourages member states to remember the horrors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in which over 800,000 people were massacred in just 100 days.

April 23: World Book and Copyright Day. A day to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors, encouraging everyone — especially young people — to discover the pleasure of reading. It is also a day to celebrate freedom of expression and the right of all to education.

May

May 3: World Press Freedom Day. An opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom; to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

May 15: International Day of Families. To celebrate the family; to strengthen and support families in society and to build on their strengths as a social unit.

May 17: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. This day marks the founding of the International Telegraph Union and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It aims to promote awareness of the importance of information and communication technologies, the many ways in which they can be used creatively to promote development, and gaps in communication infrastructure and services in many parts of the world.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. An opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to “live together” better. To raise awareness about cultural rights, which are a fundamental human right.

May 22: International Day for Biological Diversity. To raise awareness about biodiversity and its relationship to environmental sustainability and climate change. Biodiversity is the number and variety of different life forms within a particular ecosystem, for example, a forest or coral reef. The greater the number and variety of life forms, the healthier the ecosystem is believed to be.

May 29: International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. UN peacekeeping helps countries torn by conflict create conditions for lasting peace. This day commends their work in many countries across the world. It is also a day to raise awareness about conflict and to promote peace.

June

June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. To acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. Also, to affirm commitment to protect the rights of children. In the last two decades over 2 million children have been killed in conflict; around 10 million child refugees have been cared for or are presently under the care of UNHCR and many hundreds of thousands die each year as a result of family violence and abuse.

June 5: World Environment Day. Global day for positive environmental action.

June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. To promote awareness about the spreading of deserts (desertification) and drought and encourage sustainable agriculture.

June 20: World Refugee Day. To highlight the plight of the world's 15 million refugees, more than three-quarters of them in

the developing world, who have been uprooted from their homes by conflict or persecution.

June 23: UN Public Service Day. To celebrate the value and virtue of public (civil) service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service to development; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector (civil service).

June 26: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. To promote a world free of drug trafficking and abuse.

June 26: UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. To put an end to torture; to encourage states to ratify the Convention on Torture; to acknowledge the suffering of the many thousands who have suffered torture at the hands of repressive regimes.

July

First Saturday in July: International Day of Cooperatives. A day to reaffirm the role of cooperatives in economic, social and cultural development. A cooperative is a group organized to work together to produce goods or run a business.

July 11: World Population Day. A day to promote understanding about rapid growth of the world's human population and the need to address issues arising from it.

August

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People. A day to mark respect for human rights and freedoms of indigenous people on the basis of equality and nondiscrimination, and to recognize the value and diversity of their distinct identities, cultures and social organization. To raise awareness of the plight of many indigenous peoples who have suffered or are suffering persecution and oppression.

August 12: International Youth Day. An opportunity to recognize the potential of youth, to celebrate their achievements and find ways of encouraging young people to take action in the development of their societies.

September

September 8: International Literacy Day. To promote literacy and numeracy. Today one in five adults is still not literate; two-thirds of nonliterate people are women. About 67.4 million children are out of school. Literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development.

September 15: International Day of Democracy. An opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. The values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage are essential elements of democracy. These values are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and further developed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

September 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. To encourage states to adhere to agreements on preserving the ozone layer. On September 16, 1987 the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed. The ozone layer is a layer in the earth's atmosphere which contains high levels of ozone. This layer absorbs most of the sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, which is damaging to life on earth. Depletion of the ozone layer has led to increases in cases of skin cancer worldwide.

September 21: International Day of Peace. A day to call for an end to war, to advocate for ceasefire and nonviolence, and to recognize those who work for world peace.

October

October 1: International Day of Older Persons. To celebrate the achievements of older people and to address their needs and right to a healthy life.

October 2: International Day of Nonviolence. To raise awareness of the effectiveness of nonviolent solutions. October 2 is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence.

First Monday in October: World Habitat Day. To reflect on the human right to shelter and the need for everyone to take responsibility for the quality of our cities, towns, villages and communities.

Second Wednesday in October: International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. To promote ways of minimizing the impact of natural disasters through early warning systems, appropriate building methods and effective relief interventions.

October 15: International Day of Rural Women. To celebrate the contribution of rural women to development and to consider ways of improving the lives of rural women.

October 16: World Food Day. To raise awareness about starvation and hunger and their causes. To consider ways of overcoming hunger.

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. A day to focus on how to end world poverty.

October 24: United Nations Day. A day for highlighting the aims and achievements of the UN. On October 24, 1945 the majority of UN members ratified the UN Charter and the UN came into being.

October 24: World Development Information Day. To promote information as a tool for development, and to encourage effective use of information and communication technologies.

October 24-30: Disarmament Week. Disarmament Week begins on the anniversary of the founding of the UN. It was called to highlight the danger of the arms race and to increase public understanding of the tasks of disarmament.

November

November 6: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. To publicize the impact of war and armed conflict on the environment: in deliberate pollution of water wells; the destruction of farmlands, crops and forests; the poisoning of soil and killing of animals. Also, to highlight the many conflicts linked to exploitation of natural resources like timber, diamonds, gold, oil, fertile land and water.

November 14: World Diabetes Day. Global awareness day on diabetes — its causes, effects and treatment, access to care and how to prevent diabetes.

November 16: International Day for Tolerance. To advance human welfare, freedom and progress, and to encourage tolerance, respect, dialog and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.

Third Sunday in November: World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and Their Families. To promote road safety and end suffering caused by traffic accidents.

November 20: Africa Industrialization Day. To highlight issues of sustainability and environmental protection while at the same time promoting industrialization in Africa.

November 20: Universal Children's Day. To promote the welfare of children everywhere. November 20 marks the day on which the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

November 21: World Television Day. To promote access to television, in recognition of the increasing impact television through news and features. It marks the start of the first World Television

Forum, where leading media figures met to discuss the importance of television and ways of cooperating to improve and extend television services, on November 21 and 22, 1996.

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. To campaign against violence against women. November 25th also marks the start of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence in which activists and civil society all over the world campaign for an end to violence against women.

November 29: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. To call for an end of occupation of Palestinian territory by Israel; to end the refugee crisis and for a political settlement between Israel and Palestine.

December

December 1: World AIDS Day. To publicize the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS. To promote treatment and openness, to discourage stigma.

December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. December 2 is the day when the General Assembly adopted the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The day celebrates the abolition of slavery and draws attention to present day forms of slavery, including sex slavery, child labor and human trafficking.

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities. To promote the rights of persons with disabilities; to encourage openness about disability and eradicate stigma and exploitation.

December 9: International Anti-Corruption Day. To raise awareness about corruption and the ways in which it undermines democracy and human rights.

December 10: Human Rights Day. Celebrating human rights for all — the day on which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted.

December 18: International Migrants Day. Globalization has seen rapid increases in international migrancy, with millions of people leaving the countries of their birth to seek work in other parts of the world. Many migrants face exploitation and exclusion in their new countries.

December 20: International Human Solidarity Day. Celebrates the unity of all people; reminds governments to respect their commitments to international agreements; raises awareness of the importance of solidarity and encourages debate on the ways in which people can unite to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially poverty eradication.

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