CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
JACOB BURNS LAW LIBRARY
CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

I. INTRODUCTION................................................................. 1

II. ENCYCLOPEDIAS, THESAURI, ETC....................................... 1

III. GENERAL TEXTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ..................................... 2

IV. COMPILATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS...................... 3
   A. Print Resources ............................................................................. 3
   B. Comprehensive Websites for Human Rights Instruments .................. 4

V. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGS BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER .............................................. 4
   A. Introduction ................................................................................. 4
   B. Human Rights Council (HRC) ....................................................... 4
   C. Human Rights Council Advisory Committee ................................... 6
   D. Commission on Human Rights (CHR) ........................................... 7
   E. Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights .... 8
   F. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) ................................ 10

VI. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY-BASED MECHANISMS .............................................. 11
   A. Introduction ................................................................................. 11
   B. Selected General Works on the UN Human Rights Treaty System ........ 11
   C. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (999 U.N.T.S. 171) ......................................................... 12
      1. Commentaries and Travaux Preparatoires on the ICCPR .................. 12
      2. The Human Rights Committee (HRC) ........................................... 13
   D. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (993 U.N.T.S. 3) ............................................... 15
      1. Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) .......... 16
   E. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1465 U.N.T.S. 85) ........................................................... 18
      1. Committee Against Torture (CAT) ................................................ 19
      1. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) ........ 21
      1. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) ................................................. 23
      2. UN Women ................................................................................. 24
      1. Committee on the Rights of the Child ........................................... 25
I. Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) (2220 U.N.T.S. 3) ................................................................. 26
   1. Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) .............................................................. 27

   1. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) ................................... 29

K. Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED) (2716 U.N.T.S. 3) .... 30
   1. Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) .................................................. 30

L. OTHER UN AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES .................... 31
   1. United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) ............................................................... 31
   2. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ............. 31
   3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) .................................... 32
   4. International Labour Organization (ILO) .............................................................. 32
   5. World Health Organization ................................................................................ 32

M. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES 32
   1. International Committee of the Red Cross ............................................................. 32

VII. REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS .......................................................... 32
   A. African Commission and Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights ............................... 32
   B. European Court of Human Rights ........................................................................ 35
   C. Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights ....................................... 39

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ............. 42
   A. General Works on Non-Governmental Organizations and Human Rights ................. 42
   B. Selected Non-Governmental Organizations and Academic Institutions ..................... 43
      1. Amnesty International ......................................................................................... 43
      2. Asian Human Rights Commission ....................................................................... 43
      3. Equipo Nizkor ................................................................................................... 43
      4. Institute for Human Rights (Abo Akademi University, Finland) ......................... 44
      5. Human Rights Watch ....................................................................................... 44

IX. PERIODICAL LITERATURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ..................................................... 44
   A. Indexes to Legal Periodical Literature ..................................................................... 44
      1. LegalTrac (1980-) ............................................................................................. 44
      2. Legal Source ..................................................................................................... 44
      3. Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP) (1985-) .............................................. 44
   B. Full-Text Sources for Legal Periodicals .................................................................. 45
      1. HeinOnline ........................................................................................................ 45
      2. LexisAdvance Law Reviews and Journals .......................................................... 45
      3. Westlaw Law Reviews & Journals .................................................................... 45
      4. JSTOR .............................................................................................................. 45
C. Non-Legal Periodicals: Bibliographic and Full Text Sources
I. INTRODUCTION

Effective research in the area of international human rights law requires skill in locating relevant international instruments coupled with familiarity with the institutions (national, international, and non-governmental) involved in defining, protecting, and promoting these important rights.

This guide introduces the novice researcher to selected primary human rights organizations and their key print and electronic research materials. Additional treatises and periodicals on the subject may be found by using JACOB, the catalog of the Jacob Burns Law Library: https://www.law.gwu.edu/library.

For additional information, please see the following research guides available from the Law Library’s website: Treaties and International Agreements (http://law.gwu.libguides.com/treaties) and Human Rights Law Resources (http://law.gwu.libguides.com/humanrights), where you can also access this guide in PDF.

To determine if a source listed in this guide is available in Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw Edge, enter the name of the source in the search box at the top of the page and then select the source from the drop-down list. To obtain Bloomberg Law, Lexis Advance, or Westlaw Edge credentials, email electronicservices@law.gwu.libanswers.com and include your GWid number.

II. ENCYCLOPEDIAS, THESAURIS, ETC.

The following titles define terms and provide basic information about human rights concepts.


Iva Caccia, Human Rights Thesaurus. (Human Rights Internet, 1993) [Location: REFERENCE (1ST FL): K3239.3 .C32 1993]


III. GENERAL TEXTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The following works offer a more detailed general treatment on the law of human rights. Additional books and other resources can be found in JACOB (https://www.law.gwu.edu/library)


IV. COMPILATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

A. Print Resources


*The Core International Human Rights Treaties* (United Nations, 2014) Available at [HeinOnline](https://heinonline.org)


B. Comprehensive Websites for Human Rights Instruments

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx

Established by General Assembly resolution 48/141 (1993), the High Commissioner for Human Rights is the UN official with principal responsibility for coordinating UN activities in this field.

- Lists of Charter and Treaty-based human rights bodies in the U.N. System:
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx

- A list of the core universal human rights instruments with links to full text:
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/UniversalHumanRightsInstruments.aspx

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/

Comprehensive site for materials concerning international human rights law. Provides treaty texts, documents from UN and regional human rights bodies, research guides, and bibliographies. Treaties are arranged by subject matter or users may search by keyword.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

A. Introduction

Article 55 of the United Nations Charter provides that the United Nations shall “promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”

“Charter-based” organs are those UN bodies with human rights responsibilities established under the authority of Article 68 of the Charter which provides that “[t]he Economic and Social Council shall set up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights, and such other commissions as may be required for the performance of its functions.”

They include the Human Rights Council (formerly the Commission on Human Rights) and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (formerly the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights).

B. Human Rights Council (HRC)

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

The Human Rights Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights, which was formally abolished on June 16, 2006. The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. It holds at least three sessions per year. The Council also holds special sessions when necessary by request of a Member of the Council with the support of one-third of the other members.


UN Document Symbol: A/HRC/
GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.:


TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Working documents**: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/-

- **Summary Records of Meetings**: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/[session]/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., A/HRC/4/SR.16: Summary record of the 16th meeting of the 4th session on 21 March 2007).

- **Sessional reports**: Issued as a supplement to the *Official Records of the General Assembly* under the series symbol A/[session]/[number] (For example, the report of the 61st session was issued as A/61/53).

Contain the texts of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council (resolutions and decisions are not published separately).

- **Press releases**: Issued under the series symbol HRC/CN/-.

- **Decisions and Resolutions**:


  Provides access to decisions and resolutions from 2006-present.

- **“Special Procedures” Documentation**:

  According to the HRC’s website, “Special procedures” are the “mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights and assumed by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world.”

  A list of country and thematic special rapporteurs can be found at (right side of the page under the “Overview” heading):

  [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm)
C. Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

Website: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx

UN Document Symbol: A/HRC/AC

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (hereinafter “the Advisory Committee”), composed of 18 experts, has been established to function as a think-tank for the Council and works at its direction. The Advisory Committee replaces the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

According to its website, “the scope of its advice should be limited to thematic issues pertaining to the mandate of the Council; namely promotion and protection of all human rights. The Committee shall not adopt resolutions or decisions, but may propose to the Council, within the scope of its work as set out by the Council, suggestions for further enhancing its procedural efficiency, as well as further research proposals within the scope of the work set out by the Council.”

TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• Working documents: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/AC/-

• Sessional reports: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/AC/[HRC session]/. Contain the recommendations adopted by the Advisory Committee during the session as well as the results of its work as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council.

• Press releases: Available on the Advisory Committee’s sessional page at:
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/Sessions.aspx

• Recommendations: See Advisory Committee’s sessional page at (2008- ):
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/Sessions.aspx
D. Commission on Human Rights (CHR)

Website: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CHR/Pages/CommissionOnHumanRights.aspx

UN Document Symbol: E/CN.4/

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

On March 27, 2006, the Commission on Human Rights concluded its sixty-second and final session. Its successor body is the Human Rights Council discussed previously. The Commission on Human Rights was established by ECOSOC resolution 5(I) in February, 1946. The Commission met annually, and, when necessary, in special session. The Commission consisted of 53 member governments elected to three-year terms by the ECOSOC, the body to which it reported the results of its work.

TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• **Working documents:** Issued under the series symbol E/CN.4/-

• **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol E/CN.4/[year]/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., E/CN.4/1998/SR.60: Summary record of the 60th meeting of the 54th session on 24 April 1998).

• **Sessional reports:** Issued as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council under the series symbol E/-. It is also issued under the Commission’s symbol E/CN.4/- . It contains the texts of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission (resolutions and decisions are not published separately).

• **Press releases:** Issued under the series symbol HR/CN/-.
• **Decisions and Resolutions**: University of Minnesota Human Rights Library (1994-1999)  
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/commission/commission.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/commission/commission.htm)

• **Reports of Country and Thematic Special Rapporteurs**: These documents include reports drafted by the various experts and rapporteurs tasked with investigating and reporting on human rights situations in various countries as well as particularly pressing human rights issues. The reports of the country and thematic special rapporteurs can be found under the “reports” heading for each session at:  
  [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CHR/Pages/PreviousSessions.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CHR/Pages/PreviousSessions.aspx)

**SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

• **Websites:**

  *Commission on Human Rights website*  

  Documents and meeting records (1991-2006); press releases and rules of procedure.

  *Human Rights Documents database*  

  *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*  
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/commission/commission.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/commission/commission.htm)

  Decisions, resolutions and reports (1994-1999)


• **Microform**: MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982-2006)

**E. Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**

**Website**: [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SC/Pages/SubCommission.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SC/Pages/SubCommission.aspx)

**UN Document Symbol**: A/HRC/Sub.1/ (Prior to 19 June 2006, documents issued under E/CN.4/Sub.2/-).

**Purpose and Organization:**

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was established by the Commission on Human Rights under authority of ECOSOC resolution 9 (II) of 21 June 1946. According to the resolution, its function is to “undertake studies, particularly in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to make recommendations to the Commission concerning the prevention of discrimination of any kind relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the protection of racial, national, religious and linguistic minorities.”

According to the Sub-Commission’s website, “[p]ursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 entitled ‘Human Rights Council’ all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, were assumed, as of 19 June 2006, by the Human Rights Council.” Note: The Sub-Commission no longer exists. For the new expert advisory mechanism of the Human Rights Council, please visit the Advisory Committee at:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx)
TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Working documents**: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/Sub.1/ (Prior to 19 June 2006, they were issued under E/CN.4/Sub.2/-).

- **Summary Records of Meetings**: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/Sub.1/[session]/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., A/HRC/Sub.1/58/SR.21: Summary record of the 21st meeting of the 58th session on 24 August 2006). Prior to 19 June 2006, they were issued under E/CN.4/Sub.2/[year]/SR. [meeting number].

- **Sessional reports**: Issued under the series symbol A/HRC/Sub.1/[session]/[no.] (Prior to 19 June 2006, they were issued under E/CN.4/- and E/CN.4/Sub.2/-). Contain the texts of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Sub-Commission. Reports are also presented to the Sub-Commission by working groups and special rapporteurs. The Law Library has a fiche collection of documents issued by the Commission [Microform: MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982-)].

- **Press releases**: Press releases of the Sub-Commission are issued under the series symbol SC/no.

- **Studies and Reports issued by the Sub-Commission**: The Sub-Commission’s website [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SC/Pages/SubCommission.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SC/Pages/SubCommission.aspx) includes a listing of the studies and reports issued by working groups and special rapporteurs under its direction.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Websites**:


  Decisions, reports, resolutions, NGO statements (selective, 1990-).

  *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/demo/subcom.html](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/demo/subcom.html)

  Decisions, reports, and documents (selective, 1993-).

  *U.N. Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 1992-)*

- **Microform**: MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982-2013)
**F. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

**Website:** [http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw)

**UN Document Symbol:** E/CN.6/

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

The CSW was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council through Council resolution 11(II). Its purpose is to provide recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women’s rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields. The Commission consists of 45 members, appointed by their respective governments and subsequently elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. The Commission meets annually.

**TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Working documents:** Issued under the series symbol E/CN.6/

- **Sessional reports:** Issued as a supplement to the Economic and Social Council’s Official Records under the series symbol E/-.. The report is also issued under the Commission’s symbol E/CN.6/-.


- **Reports:** Reports on human rights situations relevant to women’s issues are available at the Commission on the Status of Women’s website under the “Digital Library” tab at the top of the page: [http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw)

**SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Websites:**
  
  *Commission on the Status of Women website*  

  *U.N. Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 1992-)*  

  *UN Women Watch (selected documents):* [http://womenwatch.unwomen.org/](http://womenwatch.unwomen.org/)

- **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982-2013)
VI. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY-BASED MECHANISMS

A. Introduction

The treaty-based institutions of the United Nations refer to those bodies established by the 10 universal human rights treaties: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED).

The treaty-based bodies differ from their Charter-based counterparts in two ways:

• Constituencies are states that are parties to the aforementioned treaties rather than all United Nations members.

• They interpret and oversee implementation of their respective treaties and, in some cases, have jurisdiction to accept complaints from individuals for state violations of treaty provisions.


Additional works on each convention listed below can be located by conducting an “Advanced Search” in JACOB (https://www.law.gwu.edu/library), and changing the field in the search template to “Subject.” Then type the name of a convention (e.g., international covenant on civil and political rights) in the search field.

B. Selected General Works on the UN Human Rights Treaty System


Human Rights and the Universal Periodic Review : Rituals and Ritualism (Cambridge University Press 2014) Available at Cambridge Core


C. **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (999 U.N.T.S. 171)**

1. **Commentaries and Travaux Preparatoires on the ICCPR**


2. The Human Rights Committee (HRC)

Website: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx

UN Document Symbol: CCPR/C/-

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

The Human Rights Committee was established under the provisions of Article 28 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Committee consists of 18 members who are elected and serve in their personal capacity. They meet in three sessions each year in New York and Geneva. The Committee reviews reports submitted by States parties pursuant to Article 40 of the Covenant that detail the measures each state has adopted which implement the rights recognized in the Covenant. These reports and the Committee’s concluding observations can be found at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CCPR

The Committee may also entertain individual complaints of human rights violations under the First Optional Protocol the ICCPR.

GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.:


Leading Cases of the Human Rights Committee (Inst. for Human Rights 2007) [Location: SL2: K3239.5 2007]


Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (U.N. 1993- ) [Location: SL2: K3239.23.U55] (Also see the UN microfiche on LL1)


Also see the *Oxford Reports on International Law (ORIL)* database. Provides the decisions of the Human Rights Committee 1977-2015.

Also see *International Law Reports*, searchable on the Justis database for decisions of the Human Rights Committee for 1979-2015.)

Also see the UN Jurisprudence database at: [http://juris.ohchr.org](http://juris.ohchr.org)

**TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Working documents:** Issued under the series symbol CCPR/C/-.

- **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol CCPR/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CCPR/C/SR.1689: Summary record of the 1689th meeting on 24 July 1998).

- **Sessional reports:** The reports of the Committee to the General Assembly are issued as supplement number 40 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly* (A/[session]/40).

- **Press Releases:** [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc)

Find press releases on the left side of the Committee’s page under the heading “Media” at the bottom of the page.

- **Decisions and Resolutions:** Decisions and resolutions of the Committee are included in the sessional reports noted above.

**SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Websites:**

  *Human Rights Committee website*
  [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/index.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/index.htm)

  State reports/concluding observations (1997- ); communications (2000- ).

  *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/hrcommittee/hrc-page.html](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/hrcommittee/hrc-page.html)

D. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (993 U.N.T.S. 3)

GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


*Justiciability of Human Rights Law in Domestic Jurisdictions* (Cham : Springer, 2016) [Location: SL2: K3240 .J885 2016]


*The Protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa: International, Regional and National Perspectives* (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2016) Available at [CambridgeCore](#)


*Social Rights Judgments and the Politics of Compliance: Making it Stick* (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2016) Available at [CambridgeCore](#)


1. Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

   **Website:** [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/CESCRIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/CESCRIndex.aspx)

   **UN Document Symbol:** E/C.12/-

   **PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

   The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was created by ECOSOC resolution 1985/17 to supervise the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

   The Committee is comprised of 18 members who serve in their personal capacity, not as representatives of Governments. The Committee meets in three sessions each year in Geneva and its primary purpose is to monitor the implementation of the CESCR by states parties.
TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• Working documents: Issued under the series symbol E/C.12/-.

• Summary Records of Meetings: Issued under the series symbol E/C.12/[year]/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., E/C.12/1998/SR.21:

Summary record of the 21st meeting of the 18th session on 11 May 1998).

• Sessional reports: The reports of the Committee to ECOSOC are issued as supplements to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. They are issued under E/[year]/no. and E/C.12/[year]/no.

• Press releases: Issued under the series symbol HR/-.

• Decisions and Resolutions: Decisions and resolutions of the Committee are included in the sessional reports noted above.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• Websites:

  Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights website
  http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/index.htm

  States reports, concluding observations, individual complaints (1997-).

  University of Minnesota Human Rights Library
  http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/esc/esc-page.htm

  General Comments, concluding observations (1993-).

  U.N. Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 1992-)
  http://documents.un.org

  Treaty Body Database

  Audiovisual Library of International Law
  http://www.un.org/law/avl/

  Offers a procedural history, preparatory documents and other resources. Select “Historical Archives”, and on the following page select “Human Rights”, then select “International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966”

  UN Jurisprudence Database
  http://juris.ohchr.org

E. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1465 U.N.T.S. 85)

GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


Eman Hamdan, *The Principle of Non-Refoulement Under the ECHR and the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (Leiden : Brill Nijhoff, 2016) [Location: SL1: KZ6530 .H355 2016]


Also see *International Law Reports*, searchable on the *Justis* database for decisions of the Committee against Torture. Also see the *Oxford Reports on International Law* for decisions of the Committee against Torture.

1. **Committee Against Torture (CAT)**

   **Website:** [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm)

   **UN Document Symbol:** CAT/C/-

   **PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

   The Committee against Torture was created pursuant to Article 17 of the Convention against Torture to supervise the implementation of the Convention. The Committee first met in 1988.

   According to Article 17, the Committee “shall consist of ten experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field of human rights, who shall serve in their personal capacity. The experts shall be elected by the States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience.” The committee members are elected by secret ballot for a term of four years.

   **TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

   • **Working documents:** Issued under the series symbol CAT/C/-.

   • **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol CAT/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CAT/C/SR.341: Summary record of the 341st meeting on 19 May 1998).

   • **Sessional Reports:** The reports of the Committee to the General Assembly are issued as supplement number 44 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

   • **Press Releases:** Press releases are issued under the series symbol HR/-.

   **SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

   • **Websites:**

     *Committee Against Torture website*
     [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm)

     States reports, concluding observations (1997- ).

     *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*
     [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cat/cat-page.html](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cat/cat-page.html)

     General comments (1977- ); concluding observations (1992- ).

     *U.N. Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 1992- )*

     *Treaty Body Database*

GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.

Ion Diaconu, Racial Discrimination (Eleven International Pub., 2011) [Location: SL2: K3242 .D5294 2011]


1. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

   Website: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx

   UN Document Symbol: CERD/C/

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established under Article 8 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to supervise the implementation of the Convention. According to that article, the Committee shall be comprised of “eighteen experts of high moral standing and acknowledged impartiality elected by States Parties from among their nationals, who shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems.”

TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• **Working Documents:** Issued under the series symbol CERD/C/

• **Sessional reports:** The reports of the Committee to the General Assembly are issued as supplement number 18 to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

• **Summary Records of Meetings:** Summary records of meetings are issued under the series symbol CERD/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CERD/C/SR.1274: Summary record of the 1274th meeting on 20 March 1998).

• **Press Releases:** Press releases are issued under the series symbol RD/-.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• **Websites:**

   *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination website*
   http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx

   States reports, concluding observations (1997-).

   *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*
   http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/country/cerd-page.html

   General recommendations (1972-); Opinions of the Committee (1984-); concluding observations (1993-).

   *U.N. Official Documents System (ODS)* (PDF, 1992-)
   http://documents.un.org

   *Treaty Body Database*

   *UN Jurisprudence Database*
   http://juris.ohchr.org
• Commercial Databases:
  
  * Oxford Reports on International Law


• Microform: MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982-)


GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


1. **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**


   **UN Document Symbol:** CEDAW/C/-

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention. The Committee consists of “twenty-three experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems.”

**TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Working Documents:** Issued under the series symbol CEDAW/C/-.

- **Sessional reports:** Issued as Supplement No. 38 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly* (e.g., A/56/38)

- **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol CEDAW/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CEDAW/C/SR.547: Summary record of the 547th meeting on 29 January 2002)

- **Press Releases:** Press releases are issued under the series symbol WOM/-

**SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Websites:**

  *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*  

  States reports, concluding observations (1997-).

  *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*  
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cedaw/cedaw-page.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cedaw/cedaw-page.htm)

  General recommendations (1986-); concluding observations (1993-).

  *U.N. Official Documents System (ODS)* (PDF, 1992-)  

  *Treaty Body Database*  

  *UN Jurisprudence Database*  
  [http://juris.ohchr.org](http://juris.ohchr.org)
• **Commercial Databases:**

*Oxford Reports on International Law*


• **Microform:** MICROFICHE (LL1), U.N. Docs. (1982- )

2. **UN Women**

Website: [http://www.unwomen.org/](http://www.unwomen.org/)

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women’s empowerment: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The main roles of UN Women are: 1) To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms. 2) To help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it. 3) To forge effective partnerships with civil society, to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.


**GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.**


Committee on the Rights of the Child

Website: [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx)

UN Document Symbol: CRC/C/

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

According to the Committee’s website, “the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties. It also monitors implementation of two Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. On 19 December 2011, the UN General Assembly approved a third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, which will allow individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols. The Protocol entered into force in April 2014.” The Committee held its first meeting on October 18, 1991.
TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Working Documents**: Issued under the series symbol CRC/C/-.

- **Sessional Reports**: Issued under the series symbol CRC/C/-; conclusions and recommendations are published biennially as supplement number 41 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

- **Summary Records of Meetings**: Issued under the series symbol CRC/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CRC/C/SR.472: Summary record of the 472nd meeting on 3 June 1998).

- **Press Releases**: Issued under the series symbol HR/-.

SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Websites**:
  
  *Committee on the Rights of the Child website*
  
  [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx)

  States reports, concluding observations (1993- ).

  *University of Minnesota Human Rights Library*
  
  [http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/crc/crc-page.html](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/crc/crc-page.html)

  General comments (2001- ); Concluding observations (1993- ).

  *Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 1992- )*
  

  *Treaty Body Database*
  

  *UN Jurisprudence Database*
  
  [http://juris.ohchr.org](http://juris.ohchr.org)

- **Microform**: MICROFICHE (LL1) U.N. Docs. (1982- )

I. **Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) (2220 U.N.T.S. 3)**

GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


*International Law and Migration* (Cheltenham, UK : Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016)

Available from [Elgaronline](http://elgaronline.com)


[Location: SL2: K3275 .I87 2015]


1. Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)

Website: [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CMW/Pages/CMWIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CMW/Pages/CMWIndex.aspx)

UN Document Symbol: CMW/C/

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

According to their website “the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by its State parties. It held its first session in March 2004.”

According to Article 72 of the Convention, “the Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of ten and, after the entry into force of the Convention for the forty-first State Party, of fourteen experts of high moral standing, impartiality and recognized competence in the field covered by the Convention.”

TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:

- **Working Documents**: Issued under the series symbol CMW/C/-.  

- **Sessional Reports**: Issued under the series symbol CMW/C/-; conclusions and recommendations are published biennially as supplement number 48 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

- **Summary Records of Meetings**: Issued under the series symbol CMW/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CMW/C/SR.204: Summary record of the 204th meeting on 10 September 2012).

- **Press Releases**: Issued under the series symbol HR/-.
SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• Websites:

  Committee on Migrant Workers website
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CMW/Pages/CMWIndex.aspx

  States reports, concluding observations (2004-).

  University of Minnesota Human Rights Library
  http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/cmw/index.html

  Consideration of reports, concluding observations (2010-).

  Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 2010-)
  http://documents.un.org

  Treaty Body Database


GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


Eilionóir Flynn, From Rhetoric to Action : Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cambridge University Press, 2011) Available at Cambridge Core


1. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

**Website:** [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)

**UN Document Symbol:** CRPD/C

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

According to the Committee’s website, “the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is the body of independent experts which monitors implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

According to Article 34 of the Convention, “[t]he Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. “

**TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Working Documents:** Issued under the series symbol CRPD/C/-.  
- **Sessional Reports:** Issued under the series symbol CRPD/C/-; conclusions and recommendations are published biennially as supplement number 55 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly (GAOR)*.
- **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol CRPD/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CRPD/C/SR.141: Summary record of the 141st meeting on 11 April 2014).
- **Press Releases:** Issued under the series symbol HR/-.
SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:

• Websites:

  Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities website  
  http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx

  States reports, concluding observations (2009-).

  Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 2009-)
  http://documents.un.org

  Treaty Body Database

  UN Jurisprudence Database
  http://juris.ohchr.org


GUIDES TO PRACTICE, COMPILATIONS OF DECISIONS, ETC.


Lisa Ott, Enforced Disappearance in International Law (Intersentia, 2011) [Location: SL2: K3242.5 .O88 2011]


1. Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

   Website: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CEDIndex.aspx

   UN Document Symbol: CED/C

   PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

   According to its website, “the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) is the body of independent experts which monitors implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. “

   According to Article 26 of the Convention, the Committee shall be established to carry out the functions provided for under this Convention. The Committee shall consist of ten experts of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, who shall serve in their personal capacity and be independent and impartial.
The members of the Committee shall be elected by the States Parties according to equitable geographical distribution. Due account shall be taken of the usefulness of the participation in the work of the Committee of persons having relevant legal experience and of balanced gender representation.” The Committee first met on May 31, 2011.

**TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Working Documents:** Issued under the series symbol CED/C/-.  

- **Sessional Reports:** Issued under the series symbol CED/C/--; conclusions and recommendations are published biennially as supplement number 56 to the *Official Records of the General Assembly* (GAOR).

- **Summary Records of Meetings:** Issued under the series symbol CRPD/C/SR.[meeting number] (e.g., CED/C/SR.19: Summary record of the 19th meeting on October 29, 2012).

- **Press Releases:** Issued under the series symbol HR/-.

**SOURCES OF DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Websites:**
  
  *Committee on Enforced Disappearances website*  
  [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CEDIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CEDIndex.aspx)  

  States reports, concluding observations (2011- ).  

  *Official Documents System (ODS) (PDF, 2011- )*  

  *Treaty Body Database*  

  *UN Jurisprudence Database*  
  [http://juris.ohchr.org](http://juris.ohchr.org)

**L. OTHER UN AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**


   **Website:** [http://www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)  

   This site provides access to information on human rights issues relevant to children, statistical data, and special reports prepared by UNICEF and other agencies of the U.N. Most notable is their annual publication *The State of the World’s Children*.


   **Website:** [http://www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)  

   This site provides access to Executive Board documents (1995- ), General Conference documents (1995- ), and resolutions and decisions (1946- ).
3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

   Website: http://www.unhcr.org/

   The UNHCR website provides access to statistical information on refugee populations, evaluation and policy analysis reports, and REFWORLD, a collection of full-text databases offering legal and policy documents concerning refugee issues.

4. International Labour Organization (ILO)

   Website: http://www.ilo.org/

   The ILO’s website provides access to ILOLEX, its database on international labor standards as well as other international labor law resources.

5. World Health Organization

   Website: http://www.who.int


M. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

1. International Committee of the Red Cross

   Website: http://www.icrc.org

   The ICRC website offers the IHL (International Humanitarian Law) database, which provides comprehensive access to major international conventions dealing with international humanitarian law.

VII. REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

A. African Commission and Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights

   Website: http://www.achpr.org/ (African Commission)

   Website: http://www.african-court.org/en/ (African Court)

   PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:

   The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights was established by Article 30 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights which came into force on October 21, 1986. The Commission is charged with promoting the human and peoples’ rights outlined in the Charter and to ensure their protection in Africa.

   According to Article 31, the Commission consists of eleven members serving in their personal capacity chosen by secret ballot by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, from a list of persons nominated by the State Parties to Charter. The members of the Commission serve in their personal capacity and are elected to a six-year term. The Commission meets for two sessions each year in Banjul, Gambia and may also meet in emergency sessions as necessary.
Article 45 of the Charter defines the Commission's mandate to promote and protect human rights as (1) "promot[ing] Human and Peoples's Rights", (2) ensur[ing] the protection of human and peoples' rights' under conditions set by the Charter, (3) "interpret[ing] all the provisions of the Charter' when so requested by states or OAU institutions; and (4) to perform other tasks that may be committed to it by the Assembly.

Receiving communications and state reports are the most significant functions of the Commission. Each states party must submit a report every two years on the legislative or other measures taken to give effect to the rights' under the Charter. The Commission may also receive communications from states parties as well as individuals, and national and international institutions.

A protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights was adopted in 1998 which created the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. The protocol entered into force on 25 January 2004 after it was ratified by more than 15 countries. The Court has its permanent seat in Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania. The Court delivered its first judgment in 2009.

GENERAL TEXTS ON THE CHARTER, COMMISSION, AND COURT:


Use the “Subject” link in JACOB (https://www.law.gwu.edu/library) to locate additional titles by typing: “African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights” or “African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights” into the search box.

DOCUMENTS, DECISIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS:


*International Human Rights Reports*

This periodical, issued three times yearly includes decisions of the African Commission and Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The Law Library has volume 1 (1994) to date. [Location: SL2, K3239.23 .I57 (v.1, 1994- )]


Websites:

*African Commission on Human & Peoples’ Rights (University of Minnesota Human Rights Center)*

http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/comission.html

Links to the African [Banjul] Charter on Human and People’s Rights, the Commission’s rules of procedure and resolutions, and final communiques.

*African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights*

http://www.african-court.org/en/

Provides the basic documents of the Court, texts of decisions on contentious and advisory cases and other publications issued by the Court.

*Human Rights Watch: Africa*

http://www.hrw.org/en/africa
Commercial Databases:

*International Law Reports* (on Justis.com)

Decisions of the African Court and Commission from 1995-.

*Oxford Reports on International Law*


B. **European Court of Human Rights**

**Website:** [http://www.echr.coe.int/](http://www.echr.coe.int/)

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

The European Court of Human Rights is the most active and effective of the three regional human rights courts. The Court was created with the entry into force of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in September of 1953. Initially, both a Commission and a Court were created. Protocol No. 11 to the Convention, which came into force on 1 November 1998, replaced the existing, part-time Court and Commission with a single, full-time Court. Protocol No. 14, which entered into force on 1 June 2010 which was geared toward improving the efficiency of the Court.

The Court is composed of a number of judges equal to that of the number of Contracting States. Judges are elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for a non-renewable term of nine years. Judges sit on the Court in their individual capacity and do not represent any State. There is no limit on the number of judges of one nationality. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction.

**GENERAL TEXTS ON THE CONVENTION AND COURT:**


Eva Brems, *Procedural Review in European Fundamental Rights Cases* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) Available at *Cambridge Core*


Alice Donald, *Parliaments and the European Court of Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2016) Available at *Oxford Scholarship Online*

The European Convention on Human Rights and General International Law (Oxford University Press, 2018) Available at Oxford Scholarship Online


European Court of Human Rights: Remedies and Execution of Judgments (British Inst. of International and Comparative Law 2005) [Location: SL1: KJC5138 .E98 2003]


Human Rights Law in Europe: the Influence, Overlaps and Contradictions of the EU and the ECHR (Routledge, 2014) [Location: SL1: KJC5132 .H8636 2014]


The Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Council of Europe, 2018) [Location: Circ Pamphlet (Reserve): KJC5138 .I47 2018]

The International Human Rights Judiciary and National Parliaments: Europe and Beyond (Cambridge University Press, 2017) Available at: CambridgeCore


Geranne Lautenbach, Concept of the Rule of Law and the European Court of Human Rights (Oxford University Press, 2013) [Location: SL2: K3171 .L38 2013] Also available on Oxford Scholarship Online
Ingrid Leijten, *Core Socio-economic Rights and the European Court of Human Rights* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) Available at [Cambridge Core](https://www.cambridge.org/core)


Use the “Subject” link in JACOB ([https://www.law.gwu.edu/library](https://www.law.gwu.edu/library)) to locate additional titles by typing: “European Court of Human Rights” into the search box.

**Compilations of Documents, Decisions and Communications of Court and Commission**


*European Human Rights Reports* (European Law Centre 1980- ) [Location: SL1, KJC5132.A52 E89 (Library has v. 1 (1979)-present)

Freedom of Expression and Defamation : a Study of the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights (Council of Europe, 2016) [Location: CIRC PAMPHLET (1ST FL), KJC5154.A54 M34 2016]


*Tort law in the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights* (De Gruyter, 2011) [Location: SL1, KJC1640 .T67 2011]


Websites:

*Council of Europe, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law*
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/default_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/default_en.asp)

Provides secretarial support and documentation for bodies established under the European Social Charter, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

*Complete List of the Council of Europe’s Treaties* (Council of Europe Treaty Office)

This website provides the text of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as well as its 16 protocols. Charts of signatures and ratifications are also available.

*University of Minnesota Human Rights Library, Council of Europe*
[http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/euro/eurocon-humanrts.html](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/euro/eurocon-humanrts.html)

*HUDOC: Database of the Case-Law of the European Convention on Human Rights (Council of Europe)*
[http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw/HUDOC&c=#n1355308215921_pointer](http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw/HUDOC&c=#n1355308215921_pointer)

**Commercial Databases:**

*International Law Reports* (on Justis.com)


*Oxford Reports on International Law*


**C. Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights**


**Website:** [http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en](http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en) (Court)

**PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION:**

The principal human rights body of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, was established by Chapter XV of the OAS Charter and was first constituted in 1959. The Commission’s primary function according to Article 106 of the Charter, is to “promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the [OAS] in these matters.” The Commission is composed of seven members elected in a non-governmental capacity by the OAS.

The adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights in 1969 created the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is composed of seven judges who are nationals of the member states of the OAS.
General Texts on the Convention, Commission, and the Court:


*Chile and The Inter-American Human Rights System* (Institute of Latin American Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2017) [Location: SL1: KHF3003 .C45 2017]


Use the “Subject” link in JACOB (https://www.law.gwu.edu/library) to locate additional titles by typing: “Inter-American Commission on Human Rights” or “Inter-American Court of Human Rights” into the search box.

COMPILATIONS OF DOCUMENTS, DECISIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE COURT AND COMMISSION:


Isaac De Paz Gonzalez, *The Social Rights Jurisprudence in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights: Shadow and Light in International Human Rights* Available at Elgaronline


Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Serie C—Resoluciones y Sentencias / Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos = Series C—Decisions and Judgments (Secretaría de la Corte 1987- )
[Location: SL2: KDZ574.A52 I585]

[Location: SL2: KDZ574.A52 I586]

Websites:

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/

Provides access to the reports issued by the IACHR as well as other materials.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en

Inter-American Court of Human Rights Jurisprudence Finder
http://www.corteidh.or.cr/cf/Jurisprudencia2/index.cfm?lang=en

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (University of Minnesota Human Rights Library)
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr-index.html

Links to annual reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which includes its jurisprudence (1991-1999).

Inter-American Human Rights Caselaw Analyser
https://huridocs.org/innovations/inter-american-caselaw-analyser/

The website states it “enables user-friendly access to decisions issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.”

Inter-American Court of Human Rights (University of Minnesota Human Rights Library)
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iachr/iachr.html

This site provides access to the jurisprudence of the Court, including advisory opinions, decisions in contentious cases, provisional measures, resolutions, the Statute of the Court, and procedural rules.

Commercial Databases:

Oxford Reports on International Law


International Law Reports (Justis)

Microform:

*Documents of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Reports:*
MICROFICHE (LL1), Fiche 301

This collection compiles all public documents created by both the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights from their inception until 1995. All documents have been cataloged individually and are searchable in JACOB. A print index is also available [Print: MICRO INDEX SHELVES (LL1), Fiche 301]

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) undertake a number of tasks in the field of human rights: “fact-finding and monitoring in their own or in other countries, investigating and reporting on human rights abuses, lobbying national governments and international bodies, mobilizing interest groups, educating the public about human rights matters and the work of international organizations, representing clients in their dealings with national officials, courts or international bodies, and providing ideas, information and expertise to national governments and international bodies.”

A. General Works on Non-Governmental Organizations and Human Rights


**B. Selected Non-Governmental Organizations and Academic Institutions**

1. **Amnesty International**

   Website: [http://www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

   This site provides indexes to Amnesty International’s investigative reports on human rights conditions as well as their annual reports for the past two years.

   **SOURCES OF DOCUMENTS:**


   *Amnesty International: A Major Collection of Published and Unpublished Research Material* (Inter Documentation Co. 1981?-) [Location: Microfiche (LL1), Fiche 136)

   The collection includes: Amnesty International country dossiers; Amnesty International newsletters; Amnesty International annual reports; Amnesty International briefing papers; Amnesty International publications on countries; Amnesty International reports on topics and Amnesty International general publications. The set is accompanied by a guide. Our subscription ceased in 2012.

2. **Asian Human Rights Commission**

   Website: [http://www.humanrights.asia](http://www.humanrights.asia)

   This site provides access to the Commission’s written and oral statements to the UN Commission on Human Rights; press releases; and reports documenting human rights abuses in various countries.

3. **Equipo Nizkor**

   Website: [http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/eng.html](http://www.derechos.org/nizkor/eng.html)

   This site is useful for its compilation of human rights materials by country and region. Scroll to the bottom of the page for links by country.
4. Institute for Human Rights (Abo Akademi University, Finland)


   This site provides access to FINDOC, a database containing bibliographic references to human rights literature (including monographs, periodical articles and seminar reports) (1996-; updated daily). To search FINDOC see: [http://trip.abo.fi/aadb/findoc/welcomee.htm](http://trip.abo.fi/aadb/findoc/welcomee.htm). They also produce Dombase, which is a database containing English summaries of Finnish case-law pertaining to human rights. See: [http://trip.abo.fi/aadb/dombase/welcomee.htm](http://trip.abo.fi/aadb/dombase/welcomee.htm)

5. Human Rights Watch

   Website:  [http://www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

   Human Rights Watch’s site includes online versions of Human Rights Watch World Report and other topical reports.

IX. PERIODICAL LITERATURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Print and electronic versions of human rights law reviews and journals can be found using JACOB, the Library’s catalog, [https://www.law.gwu.edu/library](https://www.law.gwu.edu/library), by journal title.

A. Indexes to Legal Periodical Literature

   Note that many of the following databases may be accessed remotely via the Burns Law Library’s proxy server. For instructions on off-campus access, go to: [http://law.gwu.libguides.com/offcampusaccess](http://law.gwu.libguides.com/offcampusaccess)

1. LegalTrac (1980-)

   LegalTrac provides citations to and selected full-text of articles from more than 1,500 law journals from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand.


2. Legal Source

   Legal Source provides indexing to articles appearing in over 1,025 law reviews, journals, yearbooks and government publications as well as other materials with retrospective coverage back to 1918.


3. Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP) (1985-)

   IFLP (on HeinOnline) provides citations only to articles appearing in selected legal periodicals dealing with international law (public and private), comparative law and municipal law of countries other than the U.S., the British Isles and the British Commonwealth whose systems of law have a common basis.

B. Full-Text Sources for Legal Periodicals

1. HeinOnline

   Available at: https://gwlaw.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://heinonline.org/HOL/Welcome

   An image-based collection of legal periodicals that provides access to over 2600 law and law-related periodicals. Search by keyword, author, or citation, or browse tables of contents. Provides online access to American law reviews pre-1980s. Also see other databases such as the Foreign & International Law Resources Database, the Hague Academy Collected Courses Online, and the United Nations Law Collection for other sources of materials on human rights law.

2. LexisAdvance Law Reviews and Journals

   Available at: https://advance.lexis.com/usresearchhome (Select “Secondary Materials” then “Law Reviews and Journals.”

3. Westlaw Law Reviews & Journals

   Available at: https://1.next.westlaw.com/Browse/Home/SecondarySources/LawReviewsJournals

4. JSTOR

   Available at: http://www.jstor.org


C. Non-Legal Periodicals: Bibliographic and Full Text Sources

GWU Gelman Library: https://library.gwu.edu/

International and public policy online resources are available at the Gelman Library. They provide citations to and selected full text of government reports, trade publications, scholarly journals, reports, conference proceedings, etc. For a listing of relevant databases available, from Gelman’s homepage, click on the “Subject Databases” link. The International Relations heading offers a number of databases applicable to the topic of human rights.