



UN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY NETWORK  
**HURITALK**  
MONTHLY RESOURCE UPDATE

April - May 2015

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**UNITED NATIONS NEWS**

19 May 2015 / [World Education Forum 2015 - 'Education is a Birthright that Secures Human Rights'](#): Education is not a privilege but rather a birthright that secures human rights and fights



Photo/UNESCO

violent extremism, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in Incheon, Republic of Korea, as he opened the World Education Forum 2015. UNESCO is leading the Forum in collaboration with the UN Development Programme, the UN Population Fund, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children’s Fund, UN Women and the World Bank Group. The Forum aims to set the roadmap for global education until 2030 as the United Nations prepares to adopt a bold agenda for sustainable development this September in New

York. [Read more here](#). Visit the website of the [World Education Forum 2015 here](#).

12 April 2015 / [Human Rights are Vital for Sustainable Development, UN Chief Tells UN Crime](#)

[Congress](#): Kicking off the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon along with several other top UN officials spotlighted the critical connection between human rights and sustainable development. “There can be no sustainable development without human rights and the rule of law,” the Secretary-General stated. Hundreds of policymakers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as experts from academia, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and other UN entities, and media



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

attended the forum. **Read more [here](#). Watch a video of the UN Secretary-General's address [here](#).**

## NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

**26 May 2015 / [UN Human Rights Expert States Human Rights Must be at Core of Future Development Financing](#):** The UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and human rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, has said the Third International Conference on Financing for Development should endorse and reinforce a human rights-based approach to development. The appeal comes as States negotiate the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13-16 July 2015. "Human rights must be at the core of development financing to ensure that everybody can enjoy a decent life, free from hunger, and has access to education, health care, housing and drinking water," Mr. Bohoslavsky stressed. "The Conference should reiterate that the human being is the central subject of development and should be its active participant and beneficiary." The Independent Expert noted that private finance and businesses enterprises can make an important contribution to sustainable development. **Learn more [here](#). Read the UN Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights [here](#).**

**4-15 May 2015 / [Libya, United States and Belarus Amongst Countries Assessed at the 22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group](#)** (*Shared, with thanks, by Asako Nozawa*): The 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group took place from 4 to 15 May 2015 during which the following 14 States' human rights records were reviewed (in order of review): Belarus, Liberia, Malawi, Mongolia, Panama, Maldives, Andorra, Bulgaria, Honduras, United States, Marshall Islands, Croatia, Jamaica and Libya. Ambassador Joachim Ruecker of Germany, President of the Human Rights Council, stated in advance of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session "as we near the end of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2016, the UPR increasingly serves as a yardstick allowing us to assess the progress achieved in realizing human rights, addressing challenges and finding solutions". **Read more [here](#).**

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

**20 April 2015 / [UN Participants at UN-Habitat Event ‘Human Rights in Cities and Cities for All’ Emphasize Vital Role of Human Rights Principles in Sustainable Urbanization](#)**: UN-Habitat, with

participation of OHCHR, hosted a session on ‘Human Rights in Cities and Cities for All’ at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, 17-13 April 2015, which discussed human rights in the context of sustainable urbanization. The discussion centred on the human rights principles of participation, non-discrimination, equality, accountability to governance, empowerment of communities and which should guide the process of urbanization. Speaking at the event Uchenna



*Photo/UN-Habitat*

Emelonye, a senior human rights advisor for OHCHR, stressed that the human rights-based approach needs to be applied to housing policies and plans, and that they must be inclusive and non-discriminatory. Alioune Badiane, Director of UN-Habitat’s Programme Division, emphasized the importance of affordability as one of the components of the right to adequate housing. **Read more [here](#). Read UN-Habitat’s briefing note on [HRBA Monitoring and Evaluation](#).**

**15 April 2015 / [UN Hosts Health Leaders Working to Support Integration of Human Rights into Sexual and Reproductive Health Care](#)**: On Wednesday 15 April 2015, health leaders from around

the world convened at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, to highlight the need to ensure human rights are integrated into sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning. The meeting put focus on care that is non-discriminatory and aligned to the needs and desires of the community. Marleen Temmerman of the World Health Organization said that “access to



*An expectant mother at a maternity waiting home supported by UNFPA. UNFPA/Guadalupe Valdes*

reproductive health care – including family planning – is a human right. But the delivery of this care must also respect human rights standards, including the principle of non-discrimination.” Martha Icaza, UNFPA maternal health and intercultural expert in Panama, showcased UNFPA’s support of indigenous women in Panama who face high rates of maternal mortality due to cultural and communication barriers to sexual and reproductive health care. She said this work is “an important landmark for medicine, based on a human rights approach.” **Read more [here](#).**

**AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Online Course, 2 September – 17 November 2015 / [Child Rights-Based Approaches \(Advanced Course\)](#) / Human Rights Education Associates:** This 11-week advanced e-learning course introduces staff members of (international) development agencies and NGOs to child rights-based approaches. Participants will deepen their knowledge about project and programme development from a child rights perspective. **Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Further information on this course including registration is [here](#).**

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**Online Training, 3 June – 14 July 2015 / [Indigenous Peoples' Rights Course & Field Visit in Costa Rica](#) / Human Rights Education Associates and the University for Peace (Optional Field Visit, Amubri, Talamanca, Costa Rica: 3-9 August 2015):** There are still a few places available in this annual blended learning and field experience program on the protection and human rights of indigenous populations, which combines a 6-week e-learning course with a field visit to indigenous communities in Costa Rica. **Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Further information including registration is [here](#).**

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**Consultation / [Report on Persons with Disabilities in "Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies"](#) / OHCHR:** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking inputs into a study on the rights of persons with disabilities, article 11 of the Convention, on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies as requested by the Human Rights Council. They are interested in information including good practices of country programmes or action plans that ensure a human rights-based approach to the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a target group in situation of risk and humanitarian emergencies on an equal basis with others. **Deadline for submissions is 15 July 2015. Further information is available [here](#).**

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**Call for Papers / [Tuberculosis and the Right to Health](#) / Health and Human Rights Journal - Special Edition on Rights-Based Approaches to Tuberculosis:** Potential paper topics will focus specifically on tuberculosis (TB) and the right to health. Topics might include, amongst others: The individual rights and entitlements of people living with and vulnerable to TB; The obligations of States and non-state actors under human rights law to respect, protect and fulfill rights, including through prevention measures, and diagnosis and treatment; The role of human rights in promoting the availability, accessibility and acceptability of good quality testing and treatment for TB; The impact of stigma and discrimination in the lives of people living with and vulnerable to TB; and, The situation of key affected populations. **Deadline for submissions is 30 September, 2015. Further information on submissions is available [here](#).**

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

## [Updated Webpage of the UNDG Human Rights Working Group / UNDG-HRWG: The UNDG-](#)

HRWG, consisting of 19 UN agencies, funds and programmes, has a newly updated webpage detailing its work. This includes: Providing a policy forum for policy coherence in human rights mainstreaming across the UN development system; Making human rights expertise available to national development actors and processes, anchored in strong human rights leadership by Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams with strengthened capacity and support structures; and, Acting as the lead mechanism through which the UNDG can effectively deliver on the responsibilities and demands made on the UN development system by the Human Rights Up Front initiative. The new webpage also includes information on the work of UNDG-HRWG deployed Human Rights Advisers, the dedicated human right work of the UNDG-HRWG members and guidance and policy advice on human rights. **Read more [here](#).**



## [Updated Webpage on Human Rights and Post-2015 Development Agenda / OHCHR: OHCHR has](#)

updated its webpage on Human Rights and Post-2015 Development Agenda which emphasizes the essential role of human rights in achieving and sustaining development. The updated webpage includes a number of key messages on Post-2015 and human rights including: Key messages on accountability and the post-2015 agenda (May 2015); OHCHR and UNEP info note on the post-2015 universality (May 2015); Comments on the Draft FFD Outcome Document (May 2015); Key messages on human rights and financing for development (Apr 2015); and, Key messages on data disaggregation (Apr 2015). **The webpage is available [here](#).**

## [Global Fund Human Rights Complaints Procedure / The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis](#)

**and Malaria:** The Global Fund partnership has launched a human rights complaints procedure as part of its commitment to protect and promote human rights in the context of fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The complaints mechanism allows individuals to submit a complaint to the Global Funds Office of the Inspector General if any of five minimum human rights standards is believed to have been violated by an implementer of Global Fund grants, in line with the partnerships commitment to the highest standards of accountability. **Further information is available [here](#).**

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[The WASH Performance Index](#) / [The Gillings School of Global Public Health](#): The Gillings School of Global Public Health, has launched, via webcast, a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) Performance Index, ranking how well countries are progressing towards universal access to safe water and sanitation. The webcast featured Catarina de Albuquerque, former UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. **The webcast is available online [here](#).**



## REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOS

Video, May 2015 / [THE FACES OF LGBT “EVERYDAY HEROES” TO THE WORLD](#) / OHCHR: “FACES”,



*Shot of the “FACES” video on the NASDAQ screen in Times Square, New York, 14 May 2015.*

a video produced by the UN Human Rights Office as part of its Free & Equal campaign celebrates the contributions that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people make to families and local communities around the world. The 2 minute video features everyday people filmed in their workplaces and homes - among them a firefighter, a police officer, a teacher, an electrician, a doctor and a volunteer; as well as UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, a long-time ally of the global LGBTI community. **View the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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Video Lecture / [A Rights-Based Approach to Urban Development – Urban Jonsson](#) / UN Habitat: Urban Jonsson - Executive Director at The Owls and former regional director of UNICEF, in this lecture outlines a human rights based approach to sustainable urban development. Starting from the basic premise that 'All humans are born good', he discusses how this applies to the ongoing global efforts to achieve a sustainable urban future. **View the video on YouTube [here](#).**

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Article, 14 May 2015 / [The International Treaty on Economic and Social Rights has Positive Impacts](#) / Open Global Rights: This article examines the benefits to countries that have ratified the international treaty on economic and social rights focusing on 24 developed and 83 developing countries over a period of 25 years. The author makes a case that membership in the ICESCR reduces inequality to differing degrees in developed and developing countries. **Read more [here](#).**

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**Radio Interview / [Incremental Increases in Global Warming can Impact Human Rights – UN Radio Interview with UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment](#):** The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, John Knox, was interviewed by UN Radio about his recently co-published report on how climate change and the endangerment of human rights are interrelated. John Knox says countries need to take steps to mitigate the harm caused by climate change instead of just adapting to it once it is occurring. **Listen to the radio interview [here](#).**

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**Publication / [Recognition of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation by UN Member States at the International Level](#) / Amnesty International and WASH United** (*Shared, with thanks, by Ashfaq Khalfan*): This publication gives an overview of the most important resolutions and declarations that recognise the human rights to water and sanitation, including the positions that individual states have taken when those documents were adopted. For 77 countries, it also lists their individual positions and how these have changed over time. **The publication is available for download [here](#).**

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**Article, April 2015 / [Universal Rights, Differentiated Responsibilities: Safeguarding Human Rights Beyond Borders to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#) / Center for Economic Rights and Third World Network:** The authors examine one of the main fault lines in the post-2015 and Financing for Development (FFD) processes which is Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). Developed and developing countries disagree over how far CBDR applies, with the G77 seeing it as broadly relevant across the agenda, while the majority of ‘Global North’ countries argue it is a narrow concept that only relates to the environment and climate change mitigation. From a human rights perspective, it is clear that high-income and low-income countries do have differentiated responsibilities when it comes to financing sustainable development. **Read the full article [here](#) (PDF).**

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**Newsletter, April 2015 / [ESCR Bulletin: Bi-monthly Update on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) / OHCHR:** The OHCHR ESCR Bulletin aims at sharing news, activities, key events and new resources relevant to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), with a focus on the work of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Highlights in this edition include the launch of the publication “Home sweet home: housing practices and tools that support durable solutions for urban IDPs” which advocates a human rights-based approach. It also features a discussion around the launch of the Secretary-General’s report on social protection floors and economic and social rights and the enhanced awareness of social security as a human right. **The ESCR Bulletin is available for download [here](#).**

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**Video / [No One Should Get to Decide Who You are – Except You](#) / Open Society Foundation:** This short video produced by the Open Society Foundation outlines the obstacles that transgender people face every day. It illustrates how the majority of trans people around the world cannot obtain official documents that match their identity, and without these documents, it's nearly impossible to do basic things like enroll in school, get a job, see a doctor, travel, or vote. **View the video on YouTube [here](#).**



**No Government Should Get to Decide This**  
No one should determine your identity except you. Yet this is an obstacle transgender people face every day. The majority of trans people around the world ca...

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**Podcast / [Minority Voices](#) / Minority Rights Group International (MRG):** MRG's April 2015 Minority Voices Podcast features a report back from the jungles of Thailand, where indigenous communities are being displaced in the name of conservation, and folk music from the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. **The podcast is available for download [here](#).**

## HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

**Query / [How to Create and Maintain Civil Society Space? What Works? A Report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#):** The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has requested inputs for a report of practical recommendations on how to create and maintain the space for civil society to work freely and independently. It is expected to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2016. Input is being asked of civil society actors world-wide, all UN Member States, UN special agencies and bodies, regional organizations, etc. They are looking specifically for: a) your examples and illustrations of these and other ways to maintain space to work; b) if there are limitations, how do you continue to carry out your activities; and, c) useful links, tools, resources, guides (whatever the language). **Please send submissions by 30 June 2015 by email: [civilsociety@ohchr.org](mailto:civilsociety@ohchr.org).**

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**INFO: NEW information materials on the Treaty Body System and Treaty Body Strengthening from OHCHR available in 6 languages (Shared, with thanks, by Birgit Van Hout):** OHCHR has shared a booklet briefly describing the treaty body system and its main functions to persons who may not be familiar with it. The booklet can be downloaded [here](#) (see right column). There is also a flyer that describes the measures adopted by the General Assembly, in resolution 68/268 of April 2014, to address the challenges of under-resourcing, under-reporting and backlogs faced by the treaty bodies.



The flyer is available for download [here](#) (see bottom of page below the main text). Hard copies of the booklet can be ordered through [publications@ohchr.org](mailto:publications@ohchr.org).

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**INFO: Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme: latest developments** (*Shared, with thanks, by Ibrahim Salama*): Ibrahim Salama, Director of the Human Rights Treaty Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the latest developments related to the Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme established by the General Assembly to strengthen the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. This programme began in January 2015 and is expected to be fully operational in the coming months. **Please write to Paulo David for further information** ([pdavid@ohchr.org](mailto:pdavid@ohchr.org)).

## VACANCIES

### [National Consultant - Reporting to Treaty Bodies - Stakeholder \(Alternative\) Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(BNHRC CD Project\), Dhaka](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: Monday, 8 June 2015

### [Chief, Human Rights and Security Section, Prishtine/Pristina](#)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Closing date: Monday, 8 June 2015

### [Human Rights Officer, Warsaw](#)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Closing date: Tuesday, 9 June 2015

### [Senior Specialist on International Labour Standards and Legal Issues, Geneva \(P-5\)](#)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Workers' Activities Geneva

Closing Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2015

### [Human Rights Officer, Multiple Duty Stations \(P-3\)](#)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Closing date: Sunday, 14 June 2015

### [Human Rights Officer, Kunduz; Kabul, Afghanistan \(P-4\)](#)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Closing date: Monday, 15 June 2015

### [Human Rights Officer, Panama City \(P-3\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Wednesday, 17 June 2015

### [Coordinator, Communications Division, New York](#)

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Closing date: Thursday, 18 June 2015

**[Human Rights Officer, Gaza \(P-3\)](#)**

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: Friday, 19 June 2015

**[Human Rights Officer, Mogadiscio \(P-4\)](#)**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Closing date: Friday, 26 June 2015

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**Please send your comments or contributions for the next issue for the Monthly Resource Update to the HuriTALK Facilitator by Friday 26 June 2015 ([humanrights-talk@undg.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undg.org))!**

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