



UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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

May 2016

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## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

**27 May 2016 / [UN Rights Office Warns of Severe Lack of Funding for Human Rights Body for the Americas](#):** The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has said it is disturbed by the severe financial crisis the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is facing, warning that the Commission's capacity to respond to victims of rights violations across the Americas may be seriously diminished if it doesn't receive the necessary funding soon. The spokesperson for the OHCHR, Ravina Shamdasani said that the Commission "has provided a vital recourse for victims of human rights violations in the region and has played an important role in advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups". Ms. Shamdasani noted that the Commission is also a strategic partner for the UN Human Rights Offices in the region and a point of reference for the development of human rights standards worldwide. **Read more [here](#).**

**25 May 2016 / [On Africa Day, UN Secretary-General Urges Leveraging Economic Gains to Ensure "No African is Left Behind"](#):** Despite an uncertain global economic landscape, Africa's prospects are positive, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, urging the continent's leaders to use recent gains to address rising social and economic inequalities, "and ensure that no African is left behind". In his message to mark Africa Day, which commemorates the founding in 1963 of the African Union (AU), he stated that it is being celebrated in furtherance of the African Union's theme for this year: "Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women". The Secretary-General highlighted that both 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 share similar strategic principles, with a focus on people, prosperity, environmental sustainability, justice, human rights and mutually accountable partnerships. **Read more [here](#). Read the Secretary-Generals complete message [here](#).**

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**24 May 2016 / [World Humanitarian Summit – An Agenda for Humanity](#):** On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May, the World Humanitarian Summit was held in Istanbul, Turkey to confront the highest level of human suffering since the Second World War. In organizing the Summit the UN Secretary-

General called for humanity – people’s safety, dignity and the right to thrive – to be placed at the heart of global decision-making. According to UN figures, there are more than 125 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance worldwide. That includes refugees, displaced persons, and people who are in need of support due to climate-induced famine. The UN



Secretary-General has urged Member States in his report prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit to seize this opportunity “to recommit to protecting civilians and the human rights of all by respecting the rules” that they have already agreed upon in international humanitarian and human rights law. **Read more [here](#). Read the Report of the UN Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit [here](#).**

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**17 May 2016 / [“LGBTI Rights are Human Rights” - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia Focuses on the Health and Well-Being of LGBTI People](#):** Marking the International

Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, the United Nations today called on the global community to take action to ensure that all people have an equal right to live healthy lives free from violence, persecution, stigma, and discrimination. It is celebrated in many countries and, as in previous years, many UN agencies and UN country offices will be taking part in events to mark the Day. This year’s



focus is on raising awareness of the mental health and well-being LGBTI people. According to the UN, the lifetime prevalence of suicide attempts in gay or bisexual males is about four times that of comparable heterosexual males. It is celebrated in many countries and, as in previous years, many UN agencies and UN country offices will be taking part in events to mark the Day. **Highlights of statements and events from amongst the UN entities can be read [here](#).**

## NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

*[The [32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council](#) takes place from the 13<sup>th</sup> of June until the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. The remarks of the UN Deputy Secretary-General can be read [here](#) and the statement of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights can be read [here](#). Documents for the 32<sup>nd</sup> session, including the annotated agenda, are available [here](#).]*

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**24 May 2016 / [Human Rights Protection Must Gain New Momentum at the Humanitarian Summit – UN experts](#):** Humanitarian action that places human rights at its center is key to ensure protection for all victims, said a group of rights specialists from the largest body of independent experts in the United Nations Human Rights system. In a statement addressed to the World Humanitarian Summit, 44 Special Procedures' experts urged all participants to ensure that human rights are integrated into all aspects of the conference, including national commitments to improve the protection of all those affected by conflict, disaster and displacement – some of the world's most vulnerable people. They emphasized how human rights-based approaches to conflict prevention could reduce the number of conflicts and potentially save countless lives and “avoiding the need for costly humanitarian action”. The experts emphasized that the “objective to ‘leave no-one behind’ requires special attention to those who may be in particular situations of vulnerability - including children, youth, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, stateless persons, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, older persons, and women and girls exposed to multiple threats”. **Read more [here](#). Read the full statement from the Special Procedures' experts [here](#).**

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**13 May 2016 / [The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Concludes 89<sup>th</sup> Session](#):** The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination closed its 89<sup>th</sup> after adopting its concluding observations and recommendations on the reports of Spain, Oman, Rwanda, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Namibia on their implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Anastasia Crickley, Committee Chairperson, in her concluding remarks, stressed the crucial role of States in the implementation of the Convention, adding that the Convention would be of use only if it really addressed racial discrimination which affected so many people across the world. **Read more [here](#). The Committee's concluding observations and recommendations on the six country reports are available [here](#).**

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**13 May 2016 / [The Universal Periodic Review Working Group Reviews 14 Countries](#) (*Shared, with thanks, by Asako Nozawa*):** The 25th session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Working Group was held in Geneva from 2 to 13 May 2016, during which the 14 States had their human rights records examined (Antigua and Barbuda, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and United Republic of Tanzania). The representatives of the 14 countries came before the Working Group and shared information on steps they had taken to implement recommendations posed to them during their first review, including with the support and assistance of the United Nations where there is a presence on the ground through the UN Development Assistance Framework and programmes. They also presented developments that had occurred since the previous review and shared challenges in their follow-up action. Thematically clustered recommendations will be shared by OHCHR with UN country teams in relevant countries, with a view to supporting the integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms into the development programming. 182 States have now completed their second reviews during the second cycle of the UPR. **Read more about the 25th UPR Working Group session on the UPR Extranet [here](#) (to register for the UPR Extranet click [here](#)).**

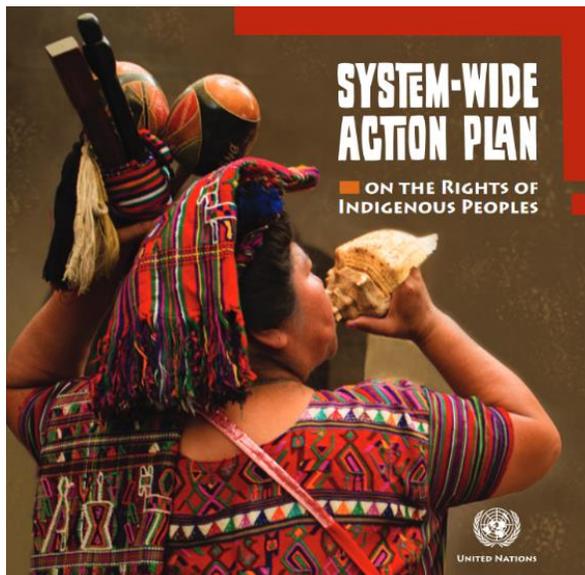
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**3 May 2016 / [UN Human Rights Expert Warns that Efforts to Counter Violent Extremism can Undermine Freedom of Expression](#):** The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, David Kaye, warned that efforts to counter ‘violent extremism’ can be the ‘perfect excuse’ for democratic and authoritarian governments around the world to restrict free expression and seek to control access to information. While recognizing that it is essential for governments and non-state actors to counter violence and its incitement, Mr. Kaye and his counterparts from the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) raise concerns in their annual Joint Declaration that programmes to counter ‘violent extremism’ (CVE or PVE programmes) risk undermining freedom of expression. The UN human rights expert said that by ‘balancing’ freedom of expression and the prevention of violence, the programmes and initiatives aimed at countering ‘violent extremism’ have – often purposely, sometimes inadvertently – put at risk or curtailed the independence of media”. **Read more [here](#). The full Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and countering violent extremism is available [here](#).**

## UN WORK IN FOCUS

**[The UN Must Work as One to Realize the Full Rights of Indigenous Peoples - UN Chief Launches UN System-Wide Action Plan at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:](#)**

At the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held from 9-20 May in New



York, the UN Secretary-General launched the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples emphasizing that it is essential that the UN works as one to realize the full rights of indigenous peoples. The purpose of the action plan is to increase the coherence of the United Nations system in addressing the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples in its work. Particular attention is paid to the United Nations system using its convening capacity to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between State actors and indigenous peoples, promoting indigenous peoples’ participation in global, regional and national processes that affect them and supporting Member States to take into account

indigenous peoples’ rights and views in line with international standards. UN Country Teams, through their work, will also promote recommendations pertaining to indigenous peoples emerging out of human rights mechanisms, including human rights treaty bodies, ILO supervisory bodies, special procedure mandates and the Universal Periodic Review. Members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues will ensure that UN Country Teams will have access to expertise, data and other relevant sources of information on the rights of indigenous peoples in the preparation of Common Country Assessments and Development Assistance Frameworks and in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda national level processes. **Read**

more [here](#). The System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is available [here](#).

## AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Webinar (15, 22 and 29 June) / [Gender Responsive Budgeting](#) / Human Rights Education Associates (HREA):** This e-learning course introduces participants to the concept, principles, tools and practical examples of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and how to use it. Starting with basics of gender equality principles, through public budgets and budgeting the course discusses how best to combine gender knowledge with knowledge of public finance to achieve de-facto gender equality and effective use of budget funds. The course will also cover different examples and case studies to show a variety of approaches in GRB around the world. **Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Further information is available [here](#).**

**Course (28 August – 9 September) / [Critical Interdisciplinary Course on Children’s Rights \(CICCR\)](#) / Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre – Ghent, Belgium:** The course maps the potential and limits of a children’s rights approach towards global and local issues concerning the human rights of children. Key themes include a multidisciplinary introduction to children’s rights, contextualizing children’s rights in (local) governance, global challenges to children’s rights in a local context (including diversity, poverty, migration and health), and critical approaches to children’s rights in research, policy and practice. **Registration is still open though the number of participants is limited to 40. Further information is available [here](#).**

## RESOURCES

### WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

**[The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs](#) / The Danish Institute for Human Rights:** This interactive database seeks to illustrate the human rights anchorage of the 17 SDGs and provides concrete links between the 169 targets and the range of human rights instruments and labour standards. It is intended to provide a human rights-based approach to the SDGs by integrating human rights into planning, implementation and the follow-up and review procedures. Human rights are indivisible and inter-dependent. Therefore, it is important that the linkages shown in this Guide should not lead to a simplistic, narrow or compartmentalized interpretation of human rights. **The database is available [here](#).**

**[Indigenous Navigator: Data by Indigenous Peoples](#) / International Labour Organization and Partners:** The Indigenous Navigator provides a framework and a set of tools for indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. The Indigenous Navigator monitors: The implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); The outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; And, essential aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Access the Indigenous Navigator [here](#).**

### [Indigenous Peoples Sustainable Development Matrix](#) / The Danish Institute for Human Rights:

The matrix illustrates the links between the SDGs and the UNDRIP. It is a tool to use UNDRIP to guide and design the specific strategies and programmes that are necessary to reach the SDGs for indigenous peoples and, to show how the data collected to monitor UNDRIP through the Indigenous Navigator can also be used to monitor implementation of the SDGs. **The matrix can be downloaded [here](#).**

## REPORTS, ARTICLES, BOOKS AND MORE

**Article / [Human Rights-Based Approaches to Mental Health: A Review of Programs](#) / Health and Human Rights Journal:** This article reviews cases where an explicitly human rights-based approach was used in mental health care settings. All studies reviewed suggest that human-rights based approaches can lead to clinical improvements at relatively low costs. The authors argue that human rights-based approaches should be utilized for legal and moral reasons, since human rights are fundamental pillars of justice and civilization. They also state that the fact that such approaches can contribute to positive therapeutic outcomes and, potentially, cost savings, is additional reason for their implementation. **The article is available [here](#).**

**Publication / [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Development Agenda](#) / The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:** In step with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, this note aims to provide general guidance and elements of a common understanding on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data, with a focus on issues of data collection and disaggregation. **The note is accessible [here](#).**

## HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

**Consolidated Reply / Belarus / Request for experiences of UN Theme Groups on the Human Rights-Based Approach or Similar Theme** (*Submitted, with thanks, by [Natallia Karkanitsa](#)*): The Consolidated Reply includes 17 responses from different UN Country Teams (UNCTs). A number of RCOs contributed and UN entities including UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, OHCHR, and UNHCR. Colleagues contributed a large number of work plan templates, toolkits and presentation materials on HRBA. Some colleagues wrote very practical suggestions and provided advice on the functioning of UN theme groups that related to the query. Many of the contributions shared how UN Theme Groups are addressing advocacy and awareness raising on human rights issues, how they are leveraging UN expertise on engagement with human rights mechanisms and even an emerging coordinating role in the context of implementation the Sustainable Development Goals. ***HuriTALK members are encouraged to actively participate in the network and pose queries to the community related to your work on human rights and development – please write to the HuriTALK Facilitator at [humanrights-talk@undg.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undg.org).*** HuriTALK members can read this and past consolidated replies [here](#).

## VACANCIES

### [Access to Justice Specialist, Kathmandu \(P-4\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 14 June 2016

### [Programme Officer, Gender, Equity and Human Rights, Geneva \(P-4\)](#)

World Health Organization (WHO)

HQ/FWC Family, Women's and Children's Health (HQ/FWC) /

HQ/GER Gender, Equity and Human Rights (HQ/GER)

Closing date: 15 June 2016

### [International Individual Consultancy to Develop a Donor Mapping and Donor Profiles related to the Child Rights agenda in Viet Nam](#)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Closing date: 15 June 2016

### [Consultant National - Evaluation à mi-parcours du Projet conjoint d'appui à la lutte contre les violations de droits de l'homme et de relance de la justice en République Centrafricaine, Bangui](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 17 June 2016

### [Human Rights Officer, Tegucigalpa, Honduras \(P-3\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: 17 June 2016

### [Human Rights Officer, Doha, Qatar \(P-3\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: 17 June 2016

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

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: 17 June 2016

### [Chief of Service, Human Rights, Mogadishu, Somalia](#)

Field Missions Administered by DPKO

Closing date: 18 June 2016

### [Proceso de análisis, seguimiento y verificación de la información recabada en el proceso de diagnóstico multidisciplinario de los cementerios priorizados, a través del apoyo a la Dirección de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio del Interior, PNUD, Colombia](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 19 June 2016

### [Seguimiento a la ejecución del presupuesto como parte del proceso de fortalecimiento a la gestión de los cementerios, y al seguimiento a la socialización del proyecto a nivel territorial, a través del apoyo a la Dirección de Derechos H, PNUD, Colombia](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Closing date: 19 June 2016

### [Project Officer/Social Services - Strengthening Human Rights in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova, Republic of \(SB4\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme

Closing date: 19 June 2016

### [Human Rights Officer, Kiev, Ukraine \(P3 - Temporary Job Opening\)](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: 19 June 2016

**[Human Rights Officer, Geneva \(P3 – Temporary Job Opening\)](#)**

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Closing date: 19 June 2016

**[Senior Human Rights Advisor, Suva, Fiji](#)**

The Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)

Closing date: 26 June 2016

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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 30 June 2016 ([humanrights-talk@undq.org](mailto:humanrights-talk@undq.org)).**

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