



November – December 2015

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UNITED NATIONS NEWS

10 December 2015 / [Round-up of Human Rights Day Messages, Statements and Events](#): Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In his [message](#) commemorating the day, the UN Secretary-General stated “amid large-scale atrocities and widespread abuses across the world, Human Rights Day should



**OUR RIGHTS
OUR FREEDOMS
ALWAYS**

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2015

rally more concerted global action to promote the timeless principles that we have collectively pledged to uphold.” This year's Human Rights Day is devoted to the launch of a year-long campaign for the 50th anniversary of the two International Covenants on Human Rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights emphasized in a [video message](#) that “the challenges of our age are confronting us with hard choices amid mounting intolerance and inhumanity. The Covenants, together with the legal framework and jurisprudence of the expert Committees who oversee their implementation, can help us navigate these challenges.” Furthermore, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson made remarks at a [panel discussion on “Human Rights up Front”](#) on how the United Nations is improving its approach to human rights. The [DPI/NGO Briefing](#) held in observance Human Rights Day focused on the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the two covenants (the ICCPR and the ICESCR) blending discussion with various multimedia clips, and interactive performances. **Information on other events that were held on Human Rights Day 2015 are available [here](#).**

16-18 November 2015 / [The 4th Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights Focuses on Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals](#): The new role of the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals was highlighted at the fourth annual Forum on Business and Human Rights on 16-18 November 2015 in Geneva. The Forum focused on strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement, measuring and reporting on human rights, the importance of national action plans to implement the Guiding Principles, access to effective remedy, and identifying current and good practices of States and business. The Forum

also explored the linkages between the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and how States and companies can operationalize the Guiding Principles as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was attended by 2,000 participants from governments, business, the investment community, grassroots and international non-governmental organizations and academia. **Read more [here](#). Read the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights' statement on how the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can contribute to advancing the SDGs [here](#).**

17 November 2015 / [In Wake of Terror Attacks in Beirut and Paris UN Chief Stresses the Importance of Human Rights and the New Development Agenda for Achieving Peaceful and Inclusive Societies](#): The Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that counter-terrorism must tackle such root causes as bad governance, injustice and exclusion during a scheduled debate on conflict prevention held by the United Nations Security Council. This was amid added urgency fueled by the 13 November 2015 terrorist attacks in Beirut and Paris. He stated that “development that leaves people behind sows the seeds of instability and violence,” and that a “heightened focus on prevention means a sharper focus on human rights.” he said, well-targeted development assistance is needed to address risk factors such as inequality and marginalization, and “we are not yet properly integrating United Nations action across the inter-dependent pillars of our work: peace, development and human rights.” **Read more [here](#). Read the UN Secretary-Generals full statement [here](#).**

5 November 2015 / [Third Committee Concludes Human Rights Debate – Approves 6 Text Ranging from Counter-Terrorism to Ending Gender-based Violence](#): Trafficking and targeted violations against women, indigenous peoples and other groups were among the national, regional and global concerns delegates raised as the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) concluded its discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights, introduced 14 draft resolutions and approved, without a vote, 6 texts on issues ranging from counter-terrorism to efforts to end gender-based violence. Draft resolutions approved without a recorded vote were on Cooperatives in social development; Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules); Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls; Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; and the Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. **Read more [here](#).**

NEWS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

9 December 2015 / [“As the Covenants turn 50, it is time to turn norms into action” – UN experts:](#) On Human Rights Day, the 55 independent mechanisms of the Human Rights Council –‘Special Procedures’– joined a year-long campaign to promote full ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966. In a statement released they noted that “the 2030 agenda provides an excellent opportunity to develop a more holistic approach in which continued engagement will ultimately foster improvement of the

situation of human rights.” **Read more [here](#).**

8 December 2015 / [For Human Rights Day on 10 December - Human Rights Committee and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urge universal ratification of international treaties](#): UN experts have urged all States to ratify two key human rights treaties that celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2016, as a concrete commitment to the freedoms enshrined in the texts. “The two Covenants, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, set out the inalienable rights of all human beings. In the half century since the Covenants were adopted, many countries have changed their laws and policies, and the lives of countless people have improved, but the pressing challenges of our age show the continued relevance of the treaties and the need to respect them,” said Fabian Salvioli, Chair of the Human Rights Committee. The treaties were adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and have to date been ratified by 168 and 164 States respectively – eight States have ratified only one Covenant and 27 States have ratified neither. **Read more [here](#).**

26 November 2015 / [The Human Rights Record of 14 Countries Reviewed by the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review Working Group](#): The 23rd session of the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group was held in Geneva from 2 to 13 November 2015, during which the following 14 States had their human rights records examined under this mechanism (in order of scheduled review): Micronesia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nauru, Rwanda, Nepal, Saint Lucia, Oman, Myanmar, Austria, Australia, Georgia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Sao Tome and Principe. Representatives of the 14 countries came before the Working Group, and shared information on steps they had taken to implement recommendations as well as present developments that had occurred since the previous review and shared challenges in their follow-up action. **Read more [here](#).**

3 November 2015 / [UN Expert: There Is Mounting Pressure on the COP 21 Climate Summit to Adopt a Human Rights Approach to Climate Change](#): The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, warned that “climate change poses severe and distinct threats to food security, and could subject an additional 600 million people to malnutrition by 2080.” The Special Rapporteur made her recommendations in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) due to take place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. She stressed that “civil society pressure is mounting on the parties of the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change] to achieve results in Paris by adopting a human rights approach to the climate change agreement that will respect, protect and fulfill human rights of all persons, and especially those most vulnerable. Any agreement must include a clear commitment by all relevant parties to ensuring climate justice and food security for all.” **Read more [here](#).**

3 November 2015 / [UN Human Rights Expert Reliable Data Needed to Combat Racism and Discrimination](#): The United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Mutuma Ruteere, called on Governments across the world to improve data collection as a means to better assess the situation of vulnerable groups. The human rights expert presented his latest report to the General Assembly He noting that equality is at the heart of the newly adopted development agenda which, under Goal 17, calls for the collection of disaggregated data to

measure progress while leaving “no one behind,” to promote and foster non-discrimination while upholding the universality of human rights. He also stated that “the lack of disaggregated data has led to a serious information gap that limits the effective identification of population groups that are suffering discrimination. It also hinders adequate policymaking at the national, regional and international levels and promotes impunity.” **Read more [here](#). The full report of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism is available [here](#).**

UN WORK IN FOCUS

19 November 2015 / [UNDP and the Global Fund Partner to Support Human Rights in 10 African Countries](#): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Fund have signed a US\$10.5 million grant to address human rights barriers faced by vulnerable communities in Africa, and facilitate access to lifesaving health care. The grant is the first of its kind and will cover 10 countries including Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, stated that “together we need to support countries to implement laws and policies grounded in evidence and human rights in order to reduce stigma, safeguard dignity, and ensure access to essential health services for all.” The grant will focus on reaching disenfranchised populations such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who use drugs and transgender people, systematically face human rights abuses and obstacles to receiving vital health care, such as HIV and tuberculosis (TB) prevention, treatment and care. **Read more [here](#).**

AWARDS, LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Contributions / [Thematic Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation](#): In 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Léo Heller, intends to focus his thematic reports a) on the issue of gender equality in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation, and b) on development cooperation in the context of realizing the human rights to water and sanitation. **Deadline for submission is 31 January 2016. The questionnaire is available [here](#).**

RESOURCES

WEBSITE, GUIDES AND TOOLS

Tool / [LGBTI Inclusion Index](#) / UNDP: The LGBTI Inclusion Index is designed to contribute to the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Measuring inclusion and providing the necessary data and evidence base to inform sustainable development, are central to UNDP’s work to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion. The LGBTI Inclusion Index is designed to help fill the critical gap in global data on the inequalities and exclusion faced by LGBTI people.

Webpage / [Human Rights Day 2015](#) / OHCHR: OHCHR has launched the special Human Rights Day 2015 web page of the OHCHR website. Human Rights Day this year will launch a one-year celebration of the 50th anniversary of the two Human Rights Covenants - the ICCPR and ICESCR. The overall focus is on 'Freedom' recalling the four freedoms that underlie the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants – freedom from fear, freedom of speech, freedom of worship and freedom from want. **Access the webpage [here](#).**

Tool / [Linking Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) / Global Reporting Initiative: The tool highlights the connections between the GRI G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G4) and key concepts of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These include due diligence, grievance mechanisms and impact assessments – undertaken both for operations and suppliers – which are also recurring concepts throughout G4. **Read more [here](#).**

Website / [UN Human Rights Resolutions Portal](#) / Universal Rights Group: The resolution portal brings together information on every resolution, decision and Presidential Statement ever adopted by the Council. The portal provides full information on, and is searchable by: date; session; text type and number; title; agenda item; resolution topic; main sponsors; means of adoption; vote result; and resource requirements. **Access the Portal [here](#).**

REPORTS, ARTICLES AND BOOKS

December 2015, Publication / [Climate Change and Human Rights](#) / UNEP: Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights of our generation, posing a serious risk to the fundamental rights to life, health, food and an adequate standard of living of individuals and communities across the world. This report aims to support government and private decision makers by assessing the relationship between climate change and human rights law. **The publication is available to download [here](#).**

26 November 2015, Publication / [Understanding Human Rights and Climate Change](#) / OHCHR: OHCHR submission to the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change being held in Paris from 30 November until 11 December 2015. It includes OHCHR's key messages on human rights and climate change. It also explains how human rights can be integrated in climate change related actions by applying a rights-based approach to policy and development as call for by the Declaration to the Right to Development and agreed to in the UN Common Understanding on a Human Rights-Based approach to Development Cooperation. **The submission is available [here](#).**

13 November 2015, Videos / [Human Rights Education Animated Videos](#) / UNRWA: UNRWA has launched Human Rights Education animated videos on social media and UNRWA TV to communicate how it promotes human rights and empowers students to take action through its

Human Rights Education Programme that reaches half a million Palestine refugee children every year. So far they have produced three clips specifically tackling gender stereotypes, bullying, and environmental issues. **Watch the videos [here](#) (YouTube).**

12 November 2015, Video / [Testimonies of Former Indigenous Fellows](#) / OHCHR: These videos feature testimonies of former indigenous fellows who participated in OHCHR's Indigenous Fellowship Programme and how this contributed to strengthen the work they have been carrying out to advocate for the rights of their communities and the rights of indigenous peoples in general, as well as the impact it had on their personal and professional lives. The programme contributes to build the capacity and expertise of indigenous representatives on the UN system and mechanisms dealing with human rights in general and indigenous issues in particular, so they are in a better position to protect and promote the rights of their communities at the international level. **The video is available [here](#). Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).**

10 November 2015, Article / [Making Business Part of the Solution: How Can Private Sector Partnerships Support Sustainable Development?](#) / International Growth Centre (IGC): As part of a series examining the Sustainable Development Goals IGC quest blogger Takumo Yamada, Oxfam, makes the case for a more principled, rights-based approach to public-private-partnerships. The author proposes that a "rights-based business case" for sustainable development must be developed and deployed in order for the transformative aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to materialise. **Read the article [here](#).**

29 October 2015 / [The Right to Adequate Housing for Persons with Disabilities Living in Cities](#) / UN Housing Rights Programme: Building on the state of international human rights law and state obligations, the publication outlines the barriers and impediments persons with disabilities face for accessing and realizing their right to adequate housing. By taking a human rights based approach to urbanization, the publication aims to sensitize various stakeholders to the discrimination and marginalization of persons with disabilities encounter, and provides a number of recommendations for improving urban processes. **The publication is available [here](#).**

22 October 2015, Video / [What Can The SDGs Achieve?](#) / The Graduate Institute Geneva: This video includes Joachim Rucker, Ambassador of Germany and President of the Human Rights Council, discussing the importance of human rights in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Watch the full video [here](#) (YouTube).**

16 October 2015, Publication / [Migration, Human Rights and Governance: Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 24](#) / Inter-Parliamentary Union, ILO and OHCHR: This Handbook offers responses to fundamental questions on migration, such as those concerned with its root causes and possible responses in terms of good policies and practices. Chapter five focuses on the human rights-based approach to migration and the application of international law at the national level. The handbook proposes a balanced approach to make effective laws and policies

that address the human rights of migrants and the governance of migration. **The Handbook is available for download [here](#).**

HuriTALK NETWORK HAPPENINGS

Webinar Recording / [Strengthening the Human Rights Agenda: A discussion with the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council](#): The Human Rights team at UN DOCO, in collaboration with OCHCR, organized a webinar on 5 November 2015 with the Coordination Committee for Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. In the discussion, various aspects of the work of special procedures was addressed, in particular country visits, thematic expertise and follow-up activities. 60 Colleagues from a number of UN entities and over 30 UN Country Teams participated. **The recording of the webinar can be listened to [here](#).**

Call for Contributions / [Questionnaire to Thematic Report on Debt Bondage](#): The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Urmila Bhoola, will focus her next thematic report that will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2016 on debt bondage. With a view to assist the Special Rapporteur in elaborating a comprehensive report on debt bondage, she would welcome your responses in English, French or Spanish to the questionnaire. The deadline for submission is **31 January 2016**. **The questionnaire is available [here](#).**

VACANCIES

[Study on Child Rights in cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

UN Children's Fund

Closing Date: 25 December 2015

[Programme Manager, Geneva](#)

UPR Info

Closing Date: 31 December 2015

[Expert Mechanisms on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(EMRIP\)](#)

Independent Experts of the Human Rights Council

Closing Date: 11 January 2016

[Technical Officer, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Brasilia \(P3\)](#)

International Labour Organization

Closing Date: 17 January 2016

Please send your comments or contributions for the next issue for the Monthly Resource Update to the HuriTALK Facilitator by Friday 22 January 2016 (humanrights-talk@undq.org).

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