



Getting Involved

Accessing the UN

Issue Area	International Law	U.S. ratified?
Racial Justice	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	✓
Women's Issues	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	
Civil Rights	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	✓
Torture-Criminal Justice	Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	✓
Poverty & Quality of Life	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	
Children & Youth	Convention on the Rights of the Child *Optional Protocols	*
Disability	International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (not yet into force)	
Migration	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families -- It is the newest treaty to be adopted which held its first session in March 2004.	



Getting Involved

Accessing the UN

Find Your Committee

Human Rights are set forth in legally binding treaties and conventions, each with their own enforcement mechanisms and committee of independent experts that oversees implementation

Keep an Eye on the Committees Work & Your Countries Progress

If a country has ratified a treaty, it is obligated to report to the governing committee on its progress periodically. Depending on the rules of the committee, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) are allowed to submit written testimony, and in some committees, testify. In addition to the review process, many committees have special working groups, issue area convenings, conferences, or publish reports. Frequently these meetings are open to NGO's by special request or by getting accredited through another organization with ECOSOC status (see below).

When should my organization get involved?

It is very important to assess when it is worth your organization's time and resources to get involved in a UN process (i.e. shadow report, testimony, conference, etc.). UN meetings are generally held in New York or Geneva, which can be costly if you are not based in these areas. Also, NGO's need to get accredited to attend meetings and this can often be an arduous process. Notwithstanding some of the challenges, using the UN process can be beneficial.

EXAMPLES

✓ Hold a rally or press conference in Dag Hammarskjold

✓ Use the UN press room to hold press conferences where there is usually an audience of international reporters

✓ Lobby international delegates and work with international NGO's on resolutions and recommendations

✓ Encourage local politicians to participate or sponsor a delegation to UN meetings

✓ Use UN recommendations to help advocate for your issue by incorporating recommendations into your reports

Accreditation

NGO's are allowed to attend open meetings by requesting accreditation for that particular meeting or conference. They can also attend by getting on the list of organizations accredited with ECOSOC status.

**The HRP supports organizations wishing to attend ECOSOC meetings to conduct advocacy on U.S. issues, please contact us directly for more information:
hrp@urbanjustice.org**

