

# Botswana

Botswana is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: African System



Botswana has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Botswana has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Botswana to the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Kenneth Good v. Botswana*, the ACHPR addressed the deportation of a professor for criticizing the Botswana government, finding that the law allowing for the deportation violated, among others, his right to non-discrimination and to a fair trial. See ACommHPR, *Kenneth Good v. Botswana*, Communication No. 313/05, 47<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 26 May 2010. Additionally, the ACHPR has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Botswana.

Botswana has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Botswana, including three promotion missions in [1996](#), [2001](#), and [2005](#), and one mission on indigenous populations in [2005](#).

Botswana has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Botswana is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Botswana's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Botswana has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Botswana has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [CAT](#), and [CRC](#).

Botswana has ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Botswana has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Botswana has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Botswana has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Botswana has also ratified the [Optional Protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of CEDAW. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Botswana has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CEDAW.

Botswana has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Botswana to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples conducted a mission to Botswana in March 2009, and published a [report](#) on that visit in June 2010.

For more information on Botswana's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/BWIndex.aspx>.

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