

Ghana

Ghana 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



Ghana 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. Additionally, Ghana has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Ghana has also declared that individuals and non-governmental organizations may submit

complaints to the Court.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Ghana to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR found violations of the rights to liberty and security of person in the case of an individual who was detained for seven years without a trial for allegedly having collaborated with political dissidents. See ACommHPR, *Alhassan Abubakar v. Ghana*, Communication No. 103/93, 20th Ordinary Session, 31 October 1996. Additionally, the ACHPR has received requests for [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Ghana.

Ghana has fallen behind in its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR conducted a human rights promotion mission to Ghana in [2008](#).

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

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Ghana 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, Ghana's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of four treaty bodies.

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

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- 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 Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)

Ghana has submitted a declaration that modifies its obligations under [CAT](#).

Ghana has ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict. Ghana has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties it has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Ghana has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

On April 21, 2006, Ghana extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Ghana. For example, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery went on a mission to Ghana in November 2013 and published a [report](#) on that visit in October 2014.

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

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