

# Lesotho

Lesotho 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



Lesotho 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, Lesotho 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.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Lesotho to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR

received a complaint alleging State interference with the right to free movement, but found it inadmissible on the basis that Lesotho was not yet a State party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights at the time of the relevant incident. See ACommHPR, [Simon B. Ntaka v. Lesotho](#), Communication No. 33/89, 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 26 October 1988.

Lesotho has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted two promotional missions to Lesotho, in [2006](#) and [2012](#).

Lesotho 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
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

## United Nations System

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

Lesotho 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 for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 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)

Lesotho has submitted a reservation that modifies its obligations under the [CEDAW](#).

Lesotho has ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Lesotho 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 Lesotho has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

On January 21, 2015 Lesotho extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs and working groups are welcome to conduct missions to Lesotho.

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

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