

# Rwanda

Rwanda 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



Rwanda 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, Rwanda 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. While Rwanda had also declared that individuals and non-governmental organizations could submit complaints to the Court, it withdrew

this authorization in 2016.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Rwanda through the [African human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found numerous serious or massive rights violations in the expulsion of Burundi nationals who had been living in Rwanda as refugees for many years; the arbitrary arrests, detention, extrajudicial executions, and massacre of Tutsis; and the destruction of villages. See ACommHPR, *Organisation mondiale contre la torture et al. v. Rwanda*, Communication No. 27/89-46/91-49/91-99/93, 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 31 October 1996.

Rwanda has submitted its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted multiple missions to Rwanda including promotion missions in [2000](#) and [2004](#), and a mission on indigenous populations in [2008](#).

Rwanda 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
- 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, Rwanda 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, Rwanda's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Rwanda 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 the Child (CRC)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- 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)

Rwanda has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty; Optional Protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography; and the Optional Protocol to the CAT. Rwanda has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Rwanda has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Rwanda has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Rwanda has ratified the [optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the 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. Rwanda has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On June 27, 2011, Rwanda extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Rwanda. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association conducted a mission to Rwanda in January 2014, and published a [report](#) in September 2014.

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

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