

# Zambia

Zambia 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



Zambia 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. Zambia has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Individuals or groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Zambia through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Amnesty International v. Zambia*, the Commission addressed the alleged unlawful

deportation to Malawi of two prominent political figures on the basis that they posed a "danger to peace and good order," finding that Zambia was in violation of the right to freedom from discrimination, fair trial, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and the right to the protection of the family. See ACommHPR, *Amnesty International v. Zambia*, Communication No. 212/98, 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 5 May 1999.

Additionally, the Commission has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Zambia.

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

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

Zambia 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)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Zambia has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the [ICESCR](#).

Zambia has a duty to submit **State Reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Zambia has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Zambia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

On July 16, 2008, Zambia extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Zambia. For example, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women conducted a mission to Zambia in December 2010, and published a [report](#) in May 2011.

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

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