

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe 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



Zimbabwe 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. Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe through the [African human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found violations of Charter rights when the State arrested journalists and forcibly closed an independent newspaper company after it refused to register with the government under a newly enacted media law.. See ACommHPR, [Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights & Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe v. Zimbabwe](#), Communication No. 284/03, 6th Extraordinary Session, 3 April 2009.

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

Zimbabwe has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted missions to Zimbabwe, including a fact-finding mission in [2002](#) and a mission on prisons and conditions of detention in [1997](#).

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

Zimbabwe 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 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)

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

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

Zimbabwe has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific [invitations](#) from Zimbabwe to conduct a visit within the State.

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

Last updated: September 15, 2017