

Barbados

Barbados is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Barbados is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Barbados has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Barbados to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *DaCosta Cadogan v. Barbados*, the

Commission found that Barbados' mandatory death penalty for murder violated the State's duty to protect the rights to life, humane treatment, and fair trial. See IACHR, Report No. 60/08, Case 12.480, [DaCosta Cadogan](#) (Barbados), July 25, 2008. Similarly, in *Boyce et al. v. Barbados*, the Court addressed a mandatory death sentence for murder, finding that it violated the rights to life and humane treatment. See I/A Court H.R., [Boyce et. al. v. Barbados](#). Preliminary Objection, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of November 20, 2007. Series C No. 169.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Barbados.

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

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")

United Nations System

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

Barbados 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)

Barbados has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [ICESCR](#), and [CERD](#).

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

Barbados has ratified the [Optional Protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR. Certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Barbados has not accepted any inquiry procedures.

Barbados has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Barbados to conduct a visit within the State.

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

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