

# Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic 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, the Dominican Republic 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. The Dominican Republic 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 the Dominican Republic to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Luis Lizardo Cabrera v. Dominican Republic*, the Commission confirmed that the continued imprisonment and solitary confinement of Mr. Lizardo violated his due process rights. See IACHR, Report No. 35/96, Case 10.832, [Lius Lizardo Cabrera](#) (Dominican Republic), February 19, 1998. Further, in *Girls Yean and Bosico v. Dominican Republic*, the Court found that the State's refusal to issue birth certificates to children born on the State's territory, thus rendering them stateless, violated their rights to nationality, equal protection, and humane treatment. See I/A Court H.R., [Girls Yean and Bosico v. Dominican Republic](#). Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of September 8, 2005. Series C No. 130.

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

The Dominican Republic has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador")
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

## United Nations System

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

The Dominican Republic 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 on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

The Dominican Republic has ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. The Dominican Republic has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties the Dominican Republic has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps the Dominican Republic has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

The Dominican Republic has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations from the Dominican Republic to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty went on a mission to the Dominican Republic in December 2002 and published a [report](#) in January 2003.

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

*Last updated: February 15, 2018*