

# Guyana

Guyana 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, Guyana 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. Guyana has not accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Guyana to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Daniel and Kornel Vaux*, the Commission found that Guyana violated the Vaux brothers' rights to humane treatment and a fair trial when police officers beat them to extract confessions, and a domestic court failed to exclude these confessions as evidence during trial, resulting in their conviction and sentencing to death. See IACHR, Report No. 81/07, Case 12.504, [Daniel and Kornel Vaux](#) (Guyana), October 15, 2007.

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

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

- 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, Guyana 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, Guyana's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty](#)

Guyana 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)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

[bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

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

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

Guyana 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. Guyana has accepted the inquiry procedure of the CAT.

Guyana has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Independent Expert on minority issues went on a mission to Guyana in July 2008 and published a [report](#) in February 2009.

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

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