

Jamaica

Jamaica 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, Jamaica 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. Jamaica 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 Jamaica to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found that Jamaica’s failure to conduct a prompt, effective, impartial, and independent investigation into the death of Michael Gayle, after he was killed by Jamaican security forces, violated his human rights. See IACHR, Report No. 92/05, Case 12.418, [Michael Gayle](#) (Jamaica), October 24, 2005.

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

Jamaica 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, Jamaica 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, Jamaica's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has not accepted the complaints procedure of any treaty bodies.

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

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

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

Jamaica has not ratified an [optional protocol](#) or made a [declaration](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of any UN human rights treaties. While certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations, Jamaica has not accepted any inquiry procedures.

Jamaica has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations from Jamaica to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment went on a mission to Jamaica in February 2010 and published a [report](#) in October 2010.

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

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