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](https://www.oas.org/en/human-rights/). 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](https://www.oas.org/en/human-rights/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 submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: ICCPR, CEDAW, and CERD.

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 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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