

# Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago 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, Trinidad and Tobago 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. In 1998, Trinidad and Tobago denounced its ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights and withdrew its acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Trinidad and Tobago to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found Trinidad and Tobago responsible for multiple rights violations, including the right to a fair trial and to judicial protection, when Dexter Lendore was denied access to counsel and mistreated, including through the denial of medical care, while imprisoned. See IACHR, Report No. 28/09, Case 12.269, [Dexter Lendore](#) (Trinidad and Tobago), March 20, 2009.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights ([denounced](#))
- 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, Trinidad and Tobago 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, Trinidad and Tobago's policies and

Trinidad and Tobago 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 the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure one treaty body.

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

Trinidad and Tobago has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, nor has it ratified the Optional Protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Trinidad and Tobago has a duty to submit **State Reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Trinidad and Tobago has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Trinidad and Tobago has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance went on a mission to Trinidad and Tobago in July 2003 and published a [report](#) in January 2004.

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

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