

# Uruguay

Uruguay 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, Uruguay 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. Uruguay 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 Uruguay to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, the Court found that Uruguay was responsible for numerous rights violations in relation to the enforced disappearance of María Claudia Gelman and the suppression and substitution of the identity of her daughter at birth, which took place in the context of Operation Cóndor, a State campaign of repression. See I/A Court H.R., [Gelman v. Uruguay](#). Merits and Reparations. Judgment of February 24, 2011. Series C No. 221.

The Commission has also issued [precautionary measures](#) to protect individuals in urgent situations of risk in Uruguay.

Uruguay 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 Forced Disappearance of Persons
- 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
- Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance
- Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

## United Nations System

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

Uruguay 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)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 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)

Uruguay has submitted a reservation that modifies its obligations under the [CRC](#).

Uruguay has also 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. Uruguay has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties Uruguay has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps it has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Uruguay has ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT, CRPD, CRC, CED, CERD, and CMW. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Uruguay has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On March 18, 2005, Uruguay extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means they are welcome to conduct visits in Uruguay. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation went on a mission to Uruguay in February 2012 and published a [report](#) in July 2012.

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

*Last updated: February 15, 2018*