Venezuela

Venezuela 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, Venezuela 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. Venezuela has denounced its ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights and withdrawn its acceptance of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.


Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued precautionary measures and provisional measures to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Venezuela.

Venezuela has ratified the following regional human rights treaties:

- American Convention on Human Rights (denounced)
- 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
United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Venezuela 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, Venezuela’s policies and practices are monitored by UN treaty bodies. It has accepted the complaints procedure of five treaty bodies.

Venezuela 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)
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)

Venezuela has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: ICCPR, CRPD, CRC, and CEDAW.

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

Venezuela has also ratified optional protocols and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit complaints against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRPD and CERD. Additionally, Venezuela has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD, allowing those treaty bodies to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations.

Venezuela has not extended a standing invitation to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations from Venezuela to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on torture visited Venezuela in June 1996 and published a report in December 1996.

For more information on Venezuela’s engagement with UN human rights bodies, visit http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/VEIndex.aspx.

Last updated: February 15, 2018