

# Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a Member State of the Council of Europe (COE) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: European System



As a Member of the COE, Azerbaijan has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the [European Court of Human Rights](#). Azerbaijan has ratified the Revised European Social Charter, but has not authorized the [European Committee of Social Rights](#) to decide collective complaints against it. Its human rights policies and practices are also monitored by the [COE Commissioner for Human Rights](#), who identifies gaps in human rights protection, conducts country visits, engages in dialogue with States, and prepares thematic reports and advice.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Azerbaijan to the European Court of Human Rights. For example, the Court found violations of the prohibition on inhuman or degrading treatment and the rights to liberty and security and freedom of assembly in the case of a journalist who suffered serious injuries after he was forcibly arrested and detained when attending a party to celebrate Che Guevara's birthday. See ECtHR, [Emin Huseynov v. Azerbaijan](#), no. 59135/09, ECHR 2015, Judgment of 7 August 2015. Additionally, the Court may grant [interim measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Azerbaijan.

As a State party to the Revised European Social Charter, Azerbaijan must submit yearly reports to the European Committee of Social Rights on its implementation of the Charter's provisions.

Azerbaijan is a [party](#) to the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- European Convention on Human Rights and several of its [protocols](#)
- Revised European Social Charter
- COE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

## United Nations System

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

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

Azerbaijan has submitted a declaration that modifies its obligations under the [CRPD](#).

Azerbaijan 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. Azerbaijan has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each UN human rights treaty Azerbaijan has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Azerbaijan has taken to implement the treaty.

Azerbaijan 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, certain UN treaties establish **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Azerbaijan has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On April 15, 2013, Azerbaijan extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, welcoming any special procedure mandate holder to conduct a visit to Azerbaijan. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression went on a mission to Azerbaijan in April 2007 and published a [report](#) on that visit in February 2008.

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

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