

Latvia

Latvia 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, Latvia has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the [European Court of Human Rights](#). Latvia 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 Latvia to the European Court of Human Rights. For example, the Court held Latvia responsible for violating the right to life when an individual died after receiving inadequate medical attention in a police station and when authorities failed to properly investigate his death. See ECtHR, *Jasinskis v. Latvia*, no. 45744/08, ECHR 2010, Judgment of 21 December 2010. Additionally, the Court may grant [interim measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Latvia.

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

Latvia 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, Latvia 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, Latvia's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Latvia 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)

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

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

In March 2001, Latvia extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any such mandate holders are welcome to conduct visits in Latvia. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography went on a mission to Latvia in October 2008 and published a visit [report](#) in July 2009.

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

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