

Netherlands

Netherlands 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, Netherlands has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the [European Court of Human Rights](#). Netherlands has ratified the Revised European Social Charter, and has 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 Netherlands to the European Court of Human Rights. For example, the Court found that the State violated the rights to privacy and to family life when it refused to allow a Surinamese woman who was married to a Netherlands national stay in the country. See ECtHR, [Jeunesse v. The Netherlands](#), no. 12738/10, ECHR 2014 Judgment of 3 October 2014. Additionally, the Court may grant [interim measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Netherlands.

As a State party to the Revised European Social Charter, Netherlands must submit regular reports to the European Committee of Social Rights on its implementation of the Charter's provisions. The Committee has also decided collective complaints against Netherlands. For example, the Committee found Netherlands responsible for multiple violations related to its treatment of its homeless population. See ECSR, [FEANTSA v. The Netherlands](#), Complaint No. 86/2012, Merits, 2 July 2014.

Netherlands 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 preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
- 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, Netherlands 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, Netherlands's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of five treaty bodies.

Netherlands 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 for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 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)

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

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

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

In March 2001, Netherlands extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any such mandate holders are welcome to conduct visits in Netherlands. For example, the Special Rapporteur on toxic waste visited Netherlands in 2008 and published a visit [report](#) in 2009.

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

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