

Human Rights Update



Newsletter of the
Human Rights Unit
of the Commonwealth
Secretariat

Issue No 7 January 2006

'We believe in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief, and in their inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which they live'

Declaration of Commonwealth Principles 1971

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Editorial

It has been a busy time in HRU since the last newsletter, with a CHOGM (including a Commonwealth Human Rights Forum, well reported elsewhere), at which the human rights values of the Commonwealth were again re-affirmed, various important projects, and the coming on board of new staff.

As the Commonwealth joined the world in observing International Human Rights day on 10 December last year, we were reminded of the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in fostering peace, equality and respect for human rights. We were also reminded of the continuing human rights problems in the world. The day was an opportunity to reflect on the efforts to promote and protect human rights globally and in the Commonwealth. To mark the occasion the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, launched the Commonwealth Manual on Human Rights Training for Police in West African Commonwealth Countries. Human rights have long been at the centre of the Commonwealth's values and its practical interventions, and the Commonwealth Secretariat's work in the field has achieved growing prominence in recent years. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in November last year, Commonwealth Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fully support the reforms taking place in the UN human rights system

In the last year the Human Rights Unit, in fulfilment of its mandate to promote the protection of human rights in the Commonwealth, has been busy on a variety of projects in addition to its advisory role within the Secretariat and with member countries and their institutions, and international agencies. The 'mainstreaming' of human rights into wider Secretariat work in all areas is also ongoing.

We saw the launch of human rights education and awareness programme for India and the finalisation of the police human rights training manual for West African Commonwealth countries among other activities. The Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting held in Accra from 17 to 20 October endorsed this work and encouraged the Human Rights Unit to replicate this work in other parts of the Commonwealth. Our relationship with human rights non governmental and international organisations was also further strengthened. Apart from boosting our networks and

collaborations with human rights NGOs we also revitalised our alliances with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights through the visit in June by the Commonwealth Secretary General. Given the direct relationship between the areas of cooperation specified in the MOU and the Human Rights Unit's work programme, the visit could not have come at a better time. After all, the Secretariat in its Strategic Plan for 2004/05 -2007/08 indicates that it "will continue to give priority to promoting international human rights standards and providing technical assistance and policy advice on strengthening human rights institutions and promoting best practices on human rights across the Commonwealth"

HRU would like to thank Saif Hameed, our intern and a young man from Pakistan who is about to commence his legal studies, for his help in compiling this edition.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Newsletter

HRU January 2006

Realising Africa's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The 5th Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions convened in Abuja, Nigeria, in November under the auspices of the Nigerian National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights. In the preamble to the Abuja Declaration which emerged from these talks, participants declared their commitment to the 2002 Kampala Declaration, and its rights-based approach to development, which guarantees equal attention to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as promoting accountability, non discrimination, and participation by all in the development process. They re-affirmed their commitment to the values enshrined in major international human rights treaties, including the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, and the *African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights*. The rights put forward in these treaties they maintained to be 'indivisible and interdependent', and therefore in need of equal attention and priority. On the understanding, however, that despite this consensus, economic, social and cultural rights continued to be marginalised in their implementation, the Conference put forward its resolutions.

Participants resolved to build their capacity to understand a 'rights-based approach to development', through the sensitisation of their governments, policy makers and society. Development strategies in their countries would be monitored to make sure that they conformed to this approach, and recommendations would be made where appropriate. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights would be made a key component of the action plans of national human rights institutions, and the state of these rights in participating countries would be monitored, with suggestions for improvement made to governments. The Conference moved for special considerations to be made for disadvantaged persons in policies and programmes, and for participants to promote the rights to education, to culture, to a standard of health and environment, to adequate housing and to participate in economic life – all as necessary parts of human development. Those gathered resolved to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993, and to work with their governments towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Conference was concluded with an agreement to establish a Permanent Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya, with the assistance of the National Commission on Human Rights of Kenya, and to hold its next biannual Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2007. The Commonwealth Secretariat was represented at the meeting by the Human Rights Adviser Jarvis Matiya.

International Human Rights Day

Every 10th December the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights leads a series of activities to commemorate International Human Rights Day. In 2004 the objective was to promote Human Rights Education, to mark the concluding year of the UN 'Decade on Human Rights Education' (1994-2004). Last year, the event focused on the issue of torture and the abuse of public power. Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon used the occasion of Human Rights Day this year to launch HRU's 'Human Rights

Training Manual for Police in Commonwealth West Africa'.

The full text of the Secretary-General's speech is included below. HRU in fulfilment of its mandate has been busy on the 10 December 2004 theme (education in human rights) in a way that touches on the 2005 theme (prevention and punishment of torture). The HRU has been working to increase the human rights capacity of police trainers, to extend 3-day Commonwealth human rights courses to police (in a pilot project with YCM Open University in India), and in ensuring human rights standards guide Secretariat technical assistance and training on counter-terrorism measures.

Torture is a violation of human rights, a violation of international law, and a violation of everything for which the Commonwealth stands.

This year's International Human Rights Day appropriately pays special attention to torture, our need collectively to keep opposing it wherever it rears its ugly head, and to champion the cause of protecting and aiding those who fall victim to torture.

The Commonwealth's 53 member states have a common commitment to human rights, including our fundamental opposition to torture, enshrined in our founding 1971 *Singapore Declaration* and 1991 *Harare Declaration*. Only two weeks ago, our association's Heads of Government met in Malta in November where they reaffirmed our unequivocal commitment to human rights and also welcomed the establishment of a new Human Rights Council in the United Nations.

We must remember and champion the rights of any person facing persecution, torture and other human rights abuses. We must acknowledge, too, that inexcusable human rights abuses continue to occur and we must use every resource available to bring such practices to an end.

Nearly five years ago, the Commonwealth made a commitment of resources by establishing a stand-alone Human Rights Unit in the Commonwealth Secretariat to protect and promote human rights. The Unit was set up to focus on four pillars of activity: to strengthen the legal framework of human rights at the national level; to set up and strengthen national and international human rights institutions; to mainstream human rights into all aspects of the Secretariat's work; and

finally, to drive home a strong political message about the need to subscribe to fundamental human rights as an indivisible single package – one cannot pick and chose some human rights and not others.

We need to get the message through to every single individual in every single Commonwealth member country that to violate human rights is to violate the core values of the Commonwealth. Human rights are a way of life, not a privilege.

The *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Trainers in Commonwealth West Africa* is a fresh contribution to achieving this aim. Recently produced with local police services, the manual provides support to police trainers in West Africa to raise the levels of understanding by police officers of the international legal context in which their work takes place. Encouragingly, there is already interest being shown in the Pacific and elsewhere by other Commonwealth police forces to use the manual too.

Most Commonwealth police officers see themselves quite justifiably as servants of the public, as protectors rather than violators of human rights. However, any institution that has a duty to protect the public undoubtedly has power. And with that power comes the responsibility to observe and uphold legal limits beyond which official action would be unlawful, and to be seen to do so. Publications such as the new manual allow everyone to be clear about the boundaries.

To attain any of our goals in the area of fundamental human rights, the bar of minimum standards – of what is deemed to be acceptable – must steadily be raised. The prohibition on State torture has crystallised into international law because of consistent denouncement of it by States the world over.

The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* entered into force 30 years ago next year, along with the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Most Commonwealth countries have ratified these cornerstones of international human rights law, but there are some that have not. All members should give 21st Century expression to our shared principles by ratifying them. It is possible to see a day where ratifying those two international conventions becomes a human rights yardstick for becoming a full Commonwealth member.

If we are truly determined to confine torture and other human rights abuses to our past, then we must be prepared to look our demons in the eye and cast them out. (Ends)

Police Manual on Human Rights Launched

The Manual on Human Rights Training for Police in Commonwealth West African countries was launched by the Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon on 8 December 2005 to mark the international human rights day. Speaking at the launch, he said that Human rights must be a fundamental cornerstone for strong and open societies and that active, entrepreneurial, energetic and self-starting societies are stifled in the absence of rights-based protections to freedom of expression and opinion.

Respect for civil and political rights, and the fulfillment of basic economic and social rights, is fundamental to the Commonwealth, along with democracy, development and respect for the rule of law.

“Human rights are a way of life, not a privilege. Respect for human rights enables meaningful participation both in democratic processes and in national economic development. Peace and progress, as well as matters of principle, are the dividend,” stated Mr McKinnon.

He said the training manual is a fresh contribution to achieving this aim. It was produced by the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat with the support of senior police officers from Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The Secretary-General noted that Commonwealth West African states, which have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, are committed to ensuring respect and promotion for the association’s fundamental values. He said the manual can be used by police trainers to develop existing standard training curricula on core policing skills.

“It incorporates knowledge of how everyday policing activities take place within a framework of internationally accepted human rights standards,” stated Mr McKinnon. “A human rights-based approach to community policing begins with

knowledge and awareness on the part of the police officers about the limits of lawful police conduct that are premised on fundamental rights. The Manual has since been distributed to various police training institutions in West Africa for use in developing and delivering human rights training programmes for police officers. The Human Rights Unit intends to replicate the project in other parts of the Commonwealth.

The 2005 Meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers

The Commonwealth Law Ministers met in Accra, Ghana, from the 17th to the 20th of October 2005. The speakers were the Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Ghana, the Chief Justice of Ghana, the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana received the Heads of Delegation on the final day of the Meeting. The deliberations of the Law Ministers mainly covered issues of civil and criminal justice, the progressive development and reform of the law, the role of law and the legal profession in supporting democracy and good governance, as well as certain areas of international law.

In relation to juvenile justice, key policies on the diversion from court proceedings, diversion from custody and the use of lawyers and judges with specialised training received general support. This provided a good starting point for the Meeting, with every Commonwealth country being a party to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

On the matter of legal education, the Law Ministers commended the Commonwealth Legal Education Association for its work on curriculum development in human rights. The Meeting also endorsed the work of the Secretariat's Human Rights Unit in its development of a model human rights curriculum, work with schools, with police, and with law enforcement officers. Ministers welcomed the creation of the Commonwealth Legal Information Institute (CommonLII) – an Internet research facility providing free access to legal information from all Commonwealth countries. With the increasing availability of legal information and materials, it is hoped that

knowledge of human rights among public decision makers will be more widely spread as well.

An important issue which needed to be addressed was that of Gender Equality in the Commonwealth. A paper was presented to the Ministers detailing the progress made under the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015. This Plan identifies four critical areas of focus:

- Gender, Democracy, Peace and Conflict
- Gender, Human Rights and Law
- Gender, Poverty Eradication and Economic Empowerment
- Gender and HIV/AIDS

It was felt important to note, however, that 'the lack of a gender perspective in the administration of the law', as stated in the Plan of Action, continued to hinder the achievements made in international and regional conventions.

Law Ministers expressed their gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross for a paper which provided information on the accession of Commonwealth member countries to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) treaties, but noted that necessary national implementing legislation was not always in place. This meant that some member states were unable to make effective domestic gains from the signing of these treaties. The Meeting advised these members to continue to accede to IHL conventions, and also to expand on model implementing legislation prepared for these treaties by the ICRC or the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Ministers also welcomed the news that a second Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on IHL was planned for 2007, and hoped that it would address this issue.

A paper prepared by the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU) argued that criminal defamation laws were unnecessary, and were frequently abused, being used in cases which did not involve the public interest. However, there were issues as to the balance of the press and the wider public interest which had not been addressed in depth, and several Ministers expressed strong disagreement with some of the arguments the paper employed. There were no alternatives presented to the abolition of criminal defamation, such as replacement by a more narrowly defined offence, alongside clear ethical standards for the media. A Model Bill on the Protection of Personal

Information, revised with the assistance of the United Kingdom Information Commissioner's office, was adopted by the Law Ministers, although a number of suggestions were made for future improvement of the Bill in any further revision. The Lord Advocate of Scotland on behalf of the United Kingdom extended an invitation to Law Ministers to hold their next conference in Scotland at a date in 2008. The Meeting gratefully accepted this invitation.

Protection of Rights of Women in Africa Enhanced

The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa came into force on 25th of November 2005 - a milestone in the protection and promotion of women's rights in Africa. Fifteen countries have ratified the Protocol - Benin, Cap Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, **Gambia**, **Lesotho**, Libya, **Malawi**, Mali, **Namibia**, **Nigeria**, Rwanda, Senegal and **South Africa**.

The drafting of the Protocol began eight years ago under the leadership of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in close collaboration with African and international women's rights organisations and the support of the International Commission of Jurists

INTERIGHTS was involved in commenting on the draft Protocol. Its main objective is to complement the African Charter in strengthening the protection of the rights of women in Africa, taking into account the cultural specificity of the continent and the special needs of African women which may not yet have been adequately addressed by the current women's rights treaties. It also includes provisions prescribing violence against women and protects women's health and reproductive rights. The Protocol will help the African Commission and African Court to better protect women's rights in Africa. (HRU thanks Commonwealth Human Rights e-News).

Internships in HRU by Saif Hameed

Since the last newsletter, the Unit has started an internship programme, to involve students wishing to gain experience in this field in a working capacity. Internees join the HRU on an unpaid basis for a term usually of two weeks. Duties

include research and assisting with the preparation of opinions and recommendations for the Unit, as well as the compilation of articles for this newsletter.

As a student interested in studying Law, with the intention of practising in my home country of Pakistan, I hoped that working at the Secretariat would give me a certain familiarity with work in a regulated, systemised environment while at the same time providing both a flavour of international involvement and an insight into the human rights situation in countries much like my own.

My time at the Unit lived up to my expectations. I think that viewed from the inside the organisation, the sheer scope of the HRU's correspondence and linkages are much more dynamic and broad than can be appreciated by an outside observer. While my main formal task was writing or compiling articles for publication the *Update*, I was provided with opportunities to consider and engage in very current and difficult human rights issues not covered in this issue, but which contributed towards broadening my horizons.

I have enjoyed working at the Secretariat very much, and I think that my internship, though short, has left me with a good basic understanding of the work of this organization. I am grateful to my colleagues at the HRU for making this a very memorable two weeks, and very much hope to be able to work with them again in the not too distant future.

Staff News

HRU is happy to welcome to the Unit Ms Rabab Fatima who takes over from Hanif Vally as the new Head of Human Rights. Ms Rabab is a national of Bangladesh and joins the Secretariat from Beijing, China where she was based at the Bangladesh Embassy as Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission. She takes up her new position from 9 January 2006.

On 1 December 2005, Mr Jolyon (Jo) Ford joined us full-time after assisting us on a temporary basis since May 2005. Jo comes to the Unit with a world of experience in matters relating to human rights, constitutional law, gender issues, and HIV/AIDS gained over a number of years in government service, academia and NGO sectors in the UK, Australia and South Africa.

STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

As of 3 June 2005

The international human rights treaties of the United Nations that establish committees of experts (often referred to as 'treaty bodies') to monitor their implementation are the following:

- (1) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which is monitored by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (2) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), which is monitored by the Human Rights Committee;
- (3) the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-OP1), which is administered by the Human Rights Committee;
- (4) the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (CCPR-OP2-DP);
- (5) the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- (6) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- (7) the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP);
- (8) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which is monitored by the Committee against Torture;
- (9) the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- (10) the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC-OP-AC) on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
- (11) the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC-OP-SC) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- (12) the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC).

The following chart of States shows which are a party (indicated by the date of adherence: ratification, accession or succession) or signatory (indicated by an 's' and the date of signature) to the United Nations human rights treaties listed above. Self-governing territories that have ratified any of the treaties are also included in the chart. As at 3 June 2005, all 191 Member States of the United Nations and 1 non-Member State were a party to one or more of these treaties.

STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS BY COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

STATE	CESCR	CCPR	CCPROP1	CCPROP2	CERD	CEDAW	CEDAWOP	CAT	CRC	CRCOPAC	CRCOPSC	MWC
Antigua & Barbuda					25 Oct 88d	31 Aug 89a		18 Aug 93a	04 Nov 93			
Australia	10 Nov 03	13 Nov 80	25 Dec 91a	11 Jul 91a	30 Oct 75*	27 Aug 83		7 Sept 89*	16 Jan 91	s:21 Oct 02	s:18 Dec 01	
The Bahamas					05 Aug 75d	5 Nov 93a			22 Mar 91			
Bangladesh	05 Jan 99a	06 Dec 00a			11 July 79a	06 Dec 84a	22 Dec 00	04 Nov 98a	02 Sept 90	12 Feb 02	18 Jan 02	s:07 Oct 98
Barbados	03 Jan 76a	23 Mar 76	23 Mar 73a		08 Dec 72a	3 Sept 81			09 Oct 90			
Belize	s:06 Sep 00	10 Sept 96			14 Dec 01	15 Jun 90	9 Mar 03	26 Jun 87a	02 Sept 90	s:06 Sep 00	s:06 Sep 00	14 Nov 01a
Botswana		08 Dec 00			22 Mar 74a	12 Sept 96a		08 Sep 00	13 April 95a	s:24 Sep 03	24 Oct 03	
Brunei Darussalam									26 Jan 95a			
Cameroon	27 Sept 84a	27 Sept 84a	27 Sept 84a		24 Jun 71	22 Sept 94		26 Jun 87a	10 Feb 93	s:05 Oct 01	s:05 Oct 01	
Canada	19 Aug 76a	19 Aug 76a	19 Aug 76a		15 Nov 70	09 Jan 82	18 Jan 03	24 Jul 87*	12 Jan 92	12 Feb 02	s:10 Nov 01	
Cook Islands									06 July 97a			
Cyprus	03 Jan 76	23 Mar 76	15 July 92	10 Sep 99a	4 Jan 69*	22 Aug 85a	26 Jul 02	17 Aug 91*	09 Mar 91		s:08 Feb 01	
Dominica	17 Sept 93a	17 Sept 93a				3 Sept 81			12 April 91	20 Oct 02	20 Oct 02a	
Fiji Islands					10 Feb 73d	27 Sept 95			12 Sept 93			
The Gambia	29 Mar 79a	22 Jun 79a	09 Sept 88a		28 Jan 79a	16 May 93		s:23 Oct 85	07 Sept 90	s:21 Dec 00	s:21 Dec 00	
Ghana	07 Dec 00	07 Dec 00	07 Dec 00		04 Jan 69	01 Feb 86	s:24 Feb 00	07 Oct 00	02 Sept 90		s:24 Sept 00	01 Jul 03
Grenada	06 Dec 91a	06 Dec 91			s:17 Dec 81	29 Sep 90			05 Dec 90			
Guyana	15 May 77	15 May 77	10 Aug 93a		17 Mar 77	03 Sep 80		18 Jun 88	13 Feb 91			
India	10 Jul 79a	10 Jul 79a			04 Jan 69	08 Aug 93		s:14 Oct 97	11 Jan 93a			
Jamaica	03 Jan 76	23 Mar 76			04 Jul 71	18 Nov 84			13 June 91	09 Jun 02	s:08 Sep 00	
Kenya	03 Jan 76	23 Mar 76			13 Oct 01a	08 Apr 84a		23 Mar 97a	02 Sep 90	12 Feb 02	s:08 Sep 00	
Kiribati									10 Jan 96a		Continued on page 10	

STATE	GESCR	CCPR	CCPROP1	CCPROP2	CERD	CEDAW	CEDAWOP	CAT	CRC	CRCOPAC	CRCOPSC	MWC
Lesotho	09 Dec 92a	09 Dec 92a	06 Dec 00a		04 Dec 71a	21 Sep 95a	s:06 Sep 00	12 Dec 01a	09 Apr 92	s:06 Sep 00	24 Oct 03	
Malawi	22 Mar 94a	22 Mar 94a	11 Sep 96		11 Jul 96a	11 Apr 87a	s:07 Sep 00	11 Jul 97a	01 Feb 91a	s:07 Sep 00	s:07 Sep 00	
Malaysia						05 Aug 95			19 Mar 95a			
Maldives					24 May 84a	31 Jul 93a			13 Mar 91	s:10 May 02	10 Jun 02	
Malta	13 Dec 90a	13 Dec 90a	13 Dec 90a	29 Mar 95a	26 Jun 71*	07 Apr 91a		13 Oct 90a	30 Oct 90	09 Jun 02	s:07 Sep 00	
Mauritius	03 Jan 76a	23 Mar 76a	23 Mar 76a		29 Jun 72a	08 Aug 84a	s:11 Nov 01	08 Jan 93a	02 Sep 90a	s:11 Nov 01	s:11 Nov 01	
Mozambique		21 Oct 93a		21 Oct 93a	18 May 83a	16 May 97a		14 Oct 99a	26 May 94		06 Apr 03a	
Namibia	28 Feb 95a	28 Feb 95a	28 Feb 95a	28 Feb 95a	11 Dec 82a	23 Dec 92a	22 Dec 00	28 Dec 94a	30 Oct 90	16 May 02	16 May 02	
Nauru		s:12 Nov 01	s:12 Nov 01		s:12 Nov 01			s:12 Nov 01	26 Aug 94a	s:08 Sep 00	s:08 Sep 00	
New Zealand	28 Mar 79	28 Mar 79	26 Aug 89a	11 Jul 91	22 Dec 72	09 Feb 85	22 Dec 00	09 Jan 90*	06 May 93	12 Feb 02	s:07 Sep 00	
Nigeria	29 Oct 93a	29 Oct 93a			04 Jan 69a	13 Jul 85	s:08 Sep 00	28 Jul 01	19 Apr 91	s:08 Sep 00	s:08 Sep 00	
Niue									19 Jan 96a			
Pakistan					04 Jan 69	11 Feb 95a			12 Dec 90	s:26 Sep 01	s:26 Sep 01	
Papua New Guinea					26 Feb 82a	11 Feb 95a			31 Mar 93			
Saint Kitts & Nevis						25 May 85a			02 Sep 90			
Saint Lucia					14 Feb 90d	07 Nov 82a			16 Jul 93			
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	09 Feb 82a	09 Feb 82a	09 Feb 82a		09 Dec 81a	03 Sep 81a		31 Aug 01a	25 Nov 93			
Samoa						25 Oct 92a			29 Dec 94			
Seychelles	05 Aug 92a	05 Aug 92a	05 Aug 92a	15 Mar 95a	06 Apr 78a	04 Jun 92a		04 Jun 92a	07 Oct 90a	s:23 Jan 01	s:23 Jan 01	01 Jul 03a
Sierra Leone	23 Nov 96a	23 Nov 96a	23 Aug 96a		04 Jan 69	11 Dec 88	s:08 Sep 00	25 May 01	02 Sep 90	15 Jun 02	18 Jan 02	s:15 Sep 00
Singapore						04 Nov 95a			04 Nov 95a	s:07 Sep 00		
Solomon Islands	17 Mar 82d				17 Mar 82d	06 Jun 02a	06 Aug 02		10 May 95a			

STATE	CESCR	CCPR	CCPROPI	CCPROP2	CERD	CEDAW	CEDAWOP	CAT	CRC	CRCOPAC	CRCOPSC	MWC
South Africa	s:03 Oct 94	10 Mar 99	28 Nov 02 ^a	28 Nov 02 ^a	09 Jan 99*	14 Jan 96		09 Jan 99*	16 Jul 95	s:08 Feb 02	30 Jul 03	
Sri Lanka	11 Sep 80 ^a	11 Sep 80 ^a	03 Jan 98 ^a		20 Mar 82 ^a	04 Nov 81	15 Jan 03 ^a	02 Feb 94 ^a	11 Aug 91	12 Feb 02		01 Jul 03 ^a
Swaziland					07 May 69 ^a				06 Oct 95			
Tonga					17 Mar 72 ^a				06 Dec 95 ^a			
Trinidad & Tobago	08 Mar 79 ^a	21 Mar 79 ^a			03 Nov 73	11 Feb 90			04 Jan 92			
Tuvalu						05 Nov 99 ^a			22 Oct 95			
Uganda	21 Apr 87 ^a	21 Sep 95 ^a	14 Feb 96		21 Dec 80 ^a	21 Aug 85		26 Jun 87 ^a	16 Sep 90	06 Jun 02 ^a	19 Jan 02 ^a	01 Jul 03 ^a
United Kingdom	20 Aug 76	20 Aug 76		10 Dec 99	06 Apr 69	07 May 86		07 Jan 89	15 Jan 92	24 Jul 03	s:07 Sep 00	
United Republic of Tanzania	11 Sep 76 ^a	11 Sep 76 ^a			27 Nov 72 ^a	19 Sep 85			11 Jul 91		24 May 03 ^a	
Vanuatu						08 Oct 95			06 Aug 93			
Zambia	10 Jul 84 ^a	10 Jul 84 ^a	10 Jul 84 ^a		05 Mar 72	21 Jul 85		06 Nov 98 ^a	05 Jan 92			

Notes:

The dates listed refer to the date of ratification, unless followed by:

an 'a' which signifies accession,

'd', which signifies succession, or

's', which signifies signature only.

* indicates that the state party has recognised the competence to receive and process individual communications of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under Article 14 of the CERD or of the Committee Against Torture under article 22 of CAT.



HUMAN RIGHTS TITLES

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

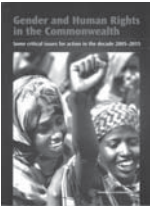


Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Practice

The Role of Judges in Implementing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *edited by Yash Ghai and Jill Cottrell*

Examines the record of jurisdictions in which attempts have been made at judicial enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights. Contributions provide insights into the methods, specificity, and limits of judicial enforcement. An Interights publication, available through the Commonwealth Secretariat.

2004, 142 pages, GBP £20.00, 1-869940-27-X/978-1-869940-27-0

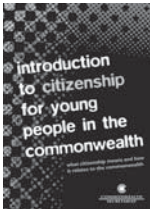


Gender and Human Rights in the Commonwealth: some critical issues for action

New Gender Mainstreaming Series on Development Issues

This book brings together papers which address a wide range of Gender and Human Rights issues, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), gender-based violence, culture and the law, indigenous peoples, trafficking and migration, land and property rights, diversity and a life cycle approach to gender and human rights.

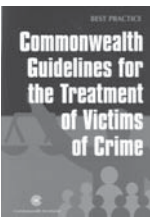
2004, 312 pages, GBP £10.99, 0-85092-808-7/978-0-85092-808-2



Introduction to Citizenship for Young People in the Commonwealth *Hanif Vally*

This publication explores the concept of citizenship, how it can and does work in practice, and how it relates to the Commonwealth. It investigates how citizenship has evolved, with the focus of moving ever closer to equity and therefore to justice.

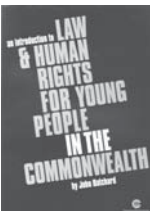
2004, 50 pages, GBP £9.50, 0-85092-769-2/978-0-85092-769-6



Commonwealth Guidelines for the Treatment of Victims of Crime *Best Practice Series*

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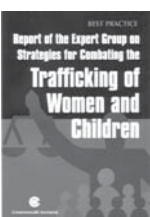
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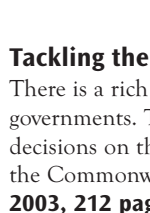
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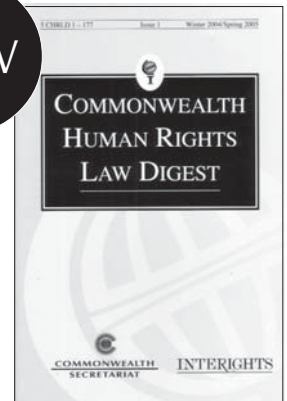
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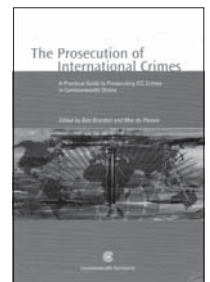
The Prosecution of International Crimes

A Practical Guide to Prosecuting ICC Crimes in Commonwealth States
edited by Ben Brandon and Max du Plessis

A new era of international justice began with the coming into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002. For the first time, a permanent international court has been established with jurisdiction to try individuals for the most serious crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The vast majority of cases will be investigated and prosecuted by domestic authorities in domestic courts. This has significant ramifications for the police, prosecutors, defence counsel and judicial authorities within States who may be called upon to investigate, prosecute, defend or adjudicate on such matters as well as render various types of assistance to the ICC.

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