

UNIT 4: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REGIMES

Learning Objectives

Human Rights Networks

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the UN human rights bodies that complement the treaties;
- Be familiar with the Commonwealth statements and activities related to human rights;
- Be familiar with the regional (African, Inter-American and European) human rights standards and mechanisms.

Introduction and Overview

While there are standards, as explained in Unit 3, these can't exist alone. There are committees to keep an eye on whether countries are fulfilling the obligations they have committed to themselves, but more is needed at both an international and regional level. Therefore, as explained in this Unit, the United Nations has other human rights bodies and mechanisms to complement the treaties and treaty-bodies. Regional organizations in Africa, Europe and the Americas have charters and conventions, and mechanisms to ensure that they are followed.

UN Institutional Mechanisms to Protect Human Rights

In principle, human rights have been accorded preeminence in the UN system. The UN Charter, declares: "We the peoples of the United Nations determined... to reaffirm faith

in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small... and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". However, despite this proclamation, real politik has often determined the direction of human rights in UN corridors and sometimes obstructed their causes. Nevertheless, the United Nations has been instrumental in developing legally-binding, universal standards in the form of treaties and associated treaty-monitoring bodies. These mechanisms are constantly evolving to better respond to violations.

Charter-Based Bodies

The Charter of the United Nations permits it to establish bodies to take note of emerging human rights issues, discuss and debate them, and evolve new standards around them. These are known as charter-based bodies.

The most important of these specifically for human rights, is the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission is made up of representatives of member-states and meets once a year. It provides policy guidelines, studies human rights problems and investigates violations, develops new international norms, and monitors the observance of human rights around the world. It has the power to criticize a state that violates human rights whether or not they have ratified any of the human rights treaties. Individuals and groups can send information to the Commission on violations of human rights, which they will investigate if it fits into their criteria for complaints. There are a number of proposals for reform of the Commission in the recommendation of the UN's recent High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, including the publication of an annual global human rights report as well as changes to membership. The March 2005, report of the UN Secretary General titled, *In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all* contains proposals to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller standing Human Rights Council. As yet no change has happened.

The Commission can set up 'special procedures', which refers to working groups or individuals (Special Reporters or Independent Experts) mandated to address specific country situations (currently no Commonwealth countries) or thematic issues. Thematic mandates include: Special Reporters on housing, right to food, freedom of religion, freedom of opinion and expression, independence of judges, and indigenous peoples; Working Groups on arbitrary detention, and disappearances; and many more. There are currently over 30 special procedure mechanisms and all serve in their personal capacity. Their mandates vary, but they usually examine, advise, and publicly report on their specific area, and regularly conduct studies, respond to individual complaints, and promote their area of concern. From time to time they will also conduct country visits – this occurs either following a request from the relevant special procedure or at the invitation of the country concerned, and is reported back to the Commission. Some countries have extended standing invitations to all thematic special procedures of the Commission.

The **Sub-Commission on Human Rights** is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Rights. Whereas the members of the Commission itself represent their countries, members of the Sub-commission are elected by the Commission and are independent experts who act in their personal capacity. They undertake studies on human rights topics and make recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights. There are currently six working groups of the Sub-Commission.

Creating Global Standards

Many transnational corporations have long resisted submitting to the global human rights regime. Yet in a globalizing world their activities play a critical role in development and impact on millions of lives. While these entities may bring money, technology, market access and outward linkages they can also create dependencies and weaken emerging in-country enterprise, bringing little benefit to local people. Their power, the complexity of their ownership, and breadth of their operations also creates difficulties in making them accountable.

Recent work of the sub-commission's Working Group on Transnational Corporations has looked at bringing them into the human rights regime. Four years expert work, including consultations with trade unions, employers, governments, non-governmental organizations and other specialized agencies has culminated in the unanimous adoption by the Sub-Commission of the UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights. The UN Norms set out in a single, succinct statement, a coherent and comprehensive list of the human rights obligations of companies – they do not create new legal obligations, but show how existing obligations under international law are relevant to companies. The norms have been submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is a focal point for all human rights activities in the UN and serves as the Secretariat for the Human Rights Commission and related bodies. The High Commissioner him/herself is the UN Secretary-General's personal representative on human rights and is, authorised to provide constant encouragement to the international community and States to uphold the universally agreed standards. The website of the OHCHR is a key resource for parliamentarians on the latest in human rights standards and trends.

Some other **charter-based bodies** relevant to human rights are:

- **General Assembly (GA):** This is the equivalent of a parliament for the UN and is important to human rights as it can discuss violations, pass resolutions and establish bodies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The General Assembly also adopts documents that become the human rights standards described in Unit 4. The Third Committee of the GA particularly deals with human rights issues.
- **Security Council:** This is a key UN body, which has passed state-building resolutions related to human rights, such as the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and the establishment of special tribunals to deal with heinous violations. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, for

instance, was set up following a Security Council resolution of 1993 to prosecute certain types of crime committed in the former Yugoslavia since 1991. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was also set up in 1994, and aims to prosecute the people responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda.

- **The International Court of Justice (ICJ):** This institution was set up in 1945 under the UN Charter as a world court. It settles disputes submitted by States in accordance with international law and also gives legal advice to authorized agencies.
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** This group coordinates the work of UN specialized agencies and other bodies, and makes policy recommendations. Part of ECOSOC's area of responsibility is to encourage universal respect for human rights, particularly through its subsidiary bodies. As well as the Commission on Human Rights, these include the Commission on the Status of Women to make recommendations on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields.

UN Specialized Agencies are bodies set up by the UN to work on specific areas. Human rights are a cross-cutting issue across all Specialized Agencies. The agencies include:

- **The International Labor Organization (ILO):** This organization focuses on labor issues and has adopted over 150 labor conventions which are the basis of international labor standards and can be ratified by ILO member states.
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** This UN organization promotes collaboration among nations through education, science and culture, which includes some work aimed at the promotion of human rights. Its Committee on Conventions and Recommendations receives complaints from groups or individuals about human rights violations in the educational, scientific, and cultural or information fields committed in member states.

- **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP):** This program works to help develop the capacities required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which includes the integration of human rights with sustainable development.
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** This program is mandated by the UN General Assembly to advocate for the rights of children. It is guided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and is also involved in monitoring the Convention.
- **The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** This is the agency mandated to assist refugees as per the requirements of the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- **The World Health Organization (WHO):** This group aims to help all people attain the highest possible level of health, and includes work on human rights.
- **The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):** This organization works on nutrition and standards of living, agricultural productivity, and conditions for rural people including issues of rights.

Monitoring Human Rights Internationally

One of the most exciting recent examples of an international desire to engender greater protection of human rights is the *International Criminal Court* (ICC), a permanent international criminal court set up to promote the rule of law and ensure that the gravest international crimes do not go unpunished. The ICC was set up under the **Rome Statute**, which was adopted in 1998 and came into force in 2002. It is designed to be complementary to national criminal jurisdictions. Anyone who commits a crime under the Statute after 2002 can be prosecuted by the Court. The establishment of the ICC shows huge progress in global human rights at a conceptual and practical level as regimes and groups, guilty of committing genocide and crimes against humanity will now be liable in an international court. Though the ICC has been established by a process independent of the United Nations, the Rome Statute contains provisions that allow cases to be referred to the Court by the UN Security Council

The Commonwealth and Human Rights

As a voluntary association of states that had been earlier linked administratively to the United Kingdom, members of the Commonwealth have many commonalities in their legal and parliamentary systems. They also have a common stated commitment to

human rights. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is a Commonwealth summit every two years where broad policy direction is agreed, and the statements that have come out of these meetings partly relate to human rights. Some of these include:

The CHOGM Statements

Declaration of Commonwealth Principles (1971): This outlines the set of principles that bring together Commonwealth member states. These include the liberty of the individual and equal rights for all citizens, recognition of the need to act to bring about a more equitable society and a commitment “to foster human equality and dignity everywhere, and to further the principles of self-determination and non-racialism”.

Lusaka Declaration on Racism (1979): This is the main Commonwealth statement against all forms of racism, including the right to live freely in dignity and equality, the right to equality before the law, the right to remedies and protection against discrimination, and freedom of cultural diversity.

Harare Commonwealth Declaration (1991): This declaration is the most significant of the CHOGM statements. It says that to be a member of the Commonwealth at all, countries must abide by the Harare Declaration. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was established in 1995 by the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Program to ensure this.

Fancourt Declaration on Globalization and People-Centered Development (1999): This expresses concern that while globalization can offer benefits for wealth creation and human development, the benefits are not shared equally.

Coolum Declaration: The Commonwealth in the 21st Century: Continuity and Renewal (2002): This declaration includes a commitment to democracy, the rule of

law, good governance, freedom of expression and the protection of human rights, as well as respect for diversity, and work to eliminate poverty.

Aso Rock Commonwealth Declaration on Development and Democracy: Partnerships for Peace and Prosperity (2003): As well as a more general commitment to human rights, this declaration includes a list of specific objectives to be promoted, including machinery to protect human rights and the right to information.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) is made up of a rotating group of Foreign Ministers who look into “serious or persistent violations of the principles” contained in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration. While the Harare Declaration refers to a broader concept of human rights, CMAG has taken a narrow interpretation of its remit, mostly reviewing political values with a focus on the unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government. CMAG looks into the problem and recommends action, which are usually negotiations with the government. If changes do not occur, the Group can recommend to the Heads of Government that the country should be suspended or expelled from the Commonwealth. Currently, no country is suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth, although Pakistan, which had been suspended until 2004, is still on the agenda of CMAG. Other countries that have previously been suspended include Zimbabwe, before it withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2003, Fiji Islands and Nigeria.

These declarations provide the policy direction for the association and its member countries, which, as well as being implemented in-country, also form the basis for work by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth. Sections of the Commonwealth Secretariat that are particularly relevant to human rights include: the Human Rights Unit, the Political Affairs Division, and the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division.

The CHOGM declarations also contain significant promises relating to furthering human rights in-country and exhortations to countries to commit to international treaties.

However, there is no peer review mechanism and the biennial meetings do not at present review implementation of human rights commitments.

The Foreign Minister of a country, as well as the Head of Government, usually attends CHOGMs. Commonwealth Foreign Ministers also meet separately once a year. Other parliamentarians are involved in other Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings, which occur on a regular basis. These include: Law, Finance, Women's Affairs, Youth, Education and Health Ministers. Human rights issues are often covered in their deliberations and final statements. While their statements are not in themselves binding on the Commonwealth, they do provide useful guidelines to Commonwealth states on the topic discussed and are sent to CHOGM for endorsement.

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals commit the international community to an expanded vision of development.

1. Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Parliamentarians are also involved in the Commonwealth through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which conducts a number of activities aimed primarily at Members of Parliaments, legislatures and parliamentary officials. The Association, with a total membership nearing 15,000 parliamentarians promotes democracy, good governance and human rights. It pays

special attention to gender sensitization and women's empowerment, in addition to capacity building for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Regional Structures for Human Rights

The universal concepts of human rights have been further expanded and expressed in a way that is owned by a specific region. Africa, Europe and the Americas each have a human rights charter for their region, along with associated mechanisms to ensure

compliance with the rights to which the states have agreed. Asia and Pacific both have draft regional charters developed by civil society as part of their advocacy designed to trigger a State-sponsored regional mechanism; however this is yet to come to fruition. In this section, therefore, we will briefly explore the human rights structures available specific to the African, European and Inter-American regions.

African Human Rights Mechanisms

The African Union (AU) comes out of a previous regional body, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established in 1963. The OAU evolved into the AU in 1999, which aims to take a stronger role both on the continent and internationally, focusing on economic integration and social development as a means to political unity. The most important body of the AU is the Assembly, which is made up of the Heads of Government of all member states. A Pan-African Parliament was established in 2004. At this stage it has consultative and advisory powers only, although it is hoped it will develop into an institution with full legislative powers. The human rights mandate and activities of the AU, which are carried out by a variety of bodies, come from the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Adopted by the member states of the OAS in 1981 and in force in 1984, African Charter on Human and People's Rights, also known as the Banjul Charter, is the youngest of the regional mechanisms. It is also the most widely accepted of the regional charters, with 53 ratifications or accessions.

The African Charter is particularly noteworthy for specifically recognizing and guaranteeing the rights of individuals and groups, the first human rights instrument to do so. In its provisions, it covers a variety of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights, as well as the right to self-determination, development and the environment.

The role of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights is to promote and protect human and people's rights on the African continent and to interpret the Banjul

Charter when required by states or AU institutions. It is made up of eleven independent experts who usually meet twice a year. While it is part of the AU Secretariat, it is not based in Addis Ababa like the rest of the AU, but to prevent political interference, is based in Banjul, the Gambia.

In its role to promote human rights, the Commission researches and publishes on the topic, organises seminars and conferences, and supports human rights institutions in-country. It also develops guidelines related to specific rights issues to be used as a basis for national legislation.

The Commission also has a role in protecting human rights and, towards that aim, the Charter requires States to report on progress, and has set up procedures for complaints from states and individuals.

In terms of reporting, countries are required to submit a report on steps taken to implement the Charter every two years. The Commission has a working relationship not only with States but also NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions. NGOs with observer status can prepare 'shadow' reports on the human rights situation in their countries to provide an alternative view.

Inter-state complaints—that is, if one State believes another is violating its obligation under the Charter—can be referred to the Commission. The aim is to secure a friendly settlement. Complaining States are in fact encouraged to approach the other one directly to try to settle the matter without involving the Commission, but the Commission is there to investigate and reach an amicable solution if needed.

Complaints of violations are also accepted from individuals. The country concerned is notified of the complaint and an investigation process is put in place. In some cases, if there is a suggestion that it is part of a series of violations, the Commission must draw the Assembly's attention to it and an in-depth study may be undertaken.

The final recommendations of the Commission are not in themselves legally binding on States. However, these are included in the annual reports of the Commission, which are submitted to the Assembly and, if adopted, they become binding. Unfortunately there is no way for the Commission to supervise implementation of its recommendations, and although the Secretariat does send reminder letters to countries, much is left to goodwill.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights came into force in 2004; however the Court is yet to be established. Once operational it will complement the work of the Commission to ensure protection of the rights in the Charter. However, unlike the Commission, the Court will be able to issue binding and enforceable decisions. Under the Protocol, cases taken to the Court can relate to any instrument that has been ratified by that State, such as CEDAW or ICCPR or other international treaties, and therefore, in theory, the Court provides an important judicial mechanism to ensure human rights compliance. Cases will be able to be submitted to the Court by the Commission, States, and African intergovernmental organisations; and the Court will also be able to allow cases by individuals or NGOs with observer status before the Commission. Details of the establishment of the Court are yet to be decided, although there is a possibility that it will be integrated with a Court of Justice of the African Union, to be established to resolve disputes (not necessarily on human rights) between member countries.

In 2003, the African Union adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. As well as calling for an end to violence, endorsing affirmative action and including a range of economic and social rights, the Protocol explicitly sets forth the reproductive right of women to medical abortion in certain circumstances and explicitly calls for the legal prohibition of female genital mutilation--two firsts in international law. States' periodic reports to the Commission on their implementation of the African Charter should also include measures taken towards realising the rights in this Protocol.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was prepared in recognition of the special need to protect the human rights of the child. As well as articulating these rights, it also sets up a committee – the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child – to monitor compliance with the Charter and lay down rules and principles on protecting child rights. The Committee accepts complaints of violations of the Charter. States must report to the Committee every three years.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an instrument that can be acceded to by members of the African Union and is designed as an African self-monitoring mechanism. On accession, a State prepares a time-bound Programme of Action for implementing the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. Under the APRM, the State also commits itself to be inspected by a team of governance experts to determine whether it conforms to the agreed policies, standards and practices, which include observing the rule of law, and respecting human rights. This process of peer review promotes mutual accountability and compliance with best practice.

Inter-American Human Rights Mechanisms

The Organization of American States (OAS) was established in 1948 by the Charter of the Organization of American States as the main regional body including North, South and Central America. The OAS is responsible for the overall development and oversight of regional human rights standards and mechanisms and it has established bodies for this specific purpose. This human rights system provides recourse to people in the region who have suffered violations by the State and who have been unable to find justice in their own country. As well as the Charter of the OAS, the mandate for regional human rights work comes primarily from the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the more recent American Convention on Human Rights.

The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man adopted in 1948 lays out not just the human rights of individuals but also their corresponding duties to participate respectfully in society. While originally adopted as a declaration and not as a legally

binding treaty, the American Declaration is now considered a source of international obligations for OAS member states. Over time, however, States decided that this system needed to be strengthened and in 1960 agreed to prepare an American Convention on Human Rights, and an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

While the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was established in 1960, the current statute under which it works was adopted in 1979. The Commission is based in Washington DC, USA and investigates themes of human rights concern as well as individuals' complaints of violations, which can involve visits to the country concerned. In investigations, the Commission uses the American Convention if the State has ratified it, and otherwise uses the American Declaration. It also promotes human rights in the region, and makes recommendations to member countries. The Commission also submits cases to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

The American Convention on Human Rights was adopted in 1969 and entered into force in 1978. It strengthens the regional human rights system by making the Commission more effective, creating a Court, and changing the legal nature of the instruments upon which the system is based. While many countries have ratified the Convention, fewer have accepted the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, examining communications from one State about alleged violations by another.

There have also been protocols to the Convention, available for ratification. These are: the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted in 1988, to provide a balance to the Convention's focus on civil and political rights; and the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty, adopted in 1990.

The Inter-American Court on Human Rights is a crucial organ of the regional human rights system as it is an independent judicial institution that applies and interprets the Convention. It was established in 1969 by the adoption of the Convention (although the statute it works under was adopted in 1979 and more recent rules of procedure were adopted in 2003) and is based in San Jose, Costa Rica. Hearings of the Court are public,

along with the decisions, although deliberations remain secret. In its advisory role in interpreting the Convention, the Court is available to all States, although in adjudicating cases, the Court has jurisdiction only when the particular State involved has accepted the Court's binding jurisdiction.

Over time, other instruments have been adopted in the Inter-American region to better protect specific areas of human rights concern. These are the: Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, which entered into force in 1987; the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, which entered into force in 1996; and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, which entered into force in 1995.

European Human Rights Mechanisms

The European Union (EU) is the main regional body for Europe and is made up of five main institutions: the European Parliament (elected by the people of the member states); the Council of the European Union (representing the governments of the member states); the European Commission (the general Secretariat of the EU); the Court of Justice (which ensures compliance with the law); and the Court of Auditors (which oversees the EU budget). These are supported by other bodies, including those with a specific mandate related to human rights.

The European Union also engages in dialogues and sometimes opens criticism regarding the human rights situation in other non-member countries. The General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Commission for instance, has expressed deep concern about human rights violations and media restrictions in Zimbabwe. Guidelines exist for its human rights dialogues with third countries, such as that which has recently started taking place with India. In 2004 for instance, the EU highlighted their intention to engage India on the International Criminal Court, abolition of the death penalty, the Convention against Torture, gender discrimination, child labour, labour rights, Corporate Social Responsibility and religious freedom.

The most important human rights document in the region is the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which was developed by the Council of Europe, entered into force in 1953 and has 45 ratifications. The Convention focused on civil and political rights, but the more recent European Social Charter, which focuses on socio-economic rights, complements it. As well as listing rights, the Convention also sets up a mechanism for ensuring that States fulfill their obligations under the Convention. The original three bodies (the European Commission of Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe) have since 1998 been simplified and amalgamated into a single European Court of Human Rights. As well as shortening the length of proceedings, this strengthened the judicial character of the system by making it fully compulsory and abolishing the Committee of Ministers' adjudicative role.

The European Court of Human Rights has been working under its current format since 1998 and has amassed considerable human rights jurisprudence. Any State that has ratified the Convention or any individual who believes their rights under the Convention have been violated can lodge a complaint directly with the Court. Final judgments are binding on the country concerned and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is responsible for supervising whether the State takes adequate measures for the judgment.

In 2000, to further strengthen the human rights regime in the region, the European Union adopted the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The Charter – unlike the Convention – is an EU document and the EU itself is bound by the provisions as well as member countries. It also covers some additional areas, not covered in the Convention, although it states that any rights in the Charter that correspond with those in the Convention should have the same meaning and scope, to avoid discrepancies between the two documents. Although the Charter relates just to members of the European Union rather than to any State within the broader geographic region that has ratified it, it is still an important document – particularly as it, for the first time in the European Union's history, sets out in one text the whole range of civil, political,

economic and social rights of European citizens and all people resident in the EU. It covers six areas: dignity, freedoms, equality, solidarity, citizens' rights, and justice.

Unit 4 Questions

Please answer each of the following questions. If you are taking this course in a group you may then meet to discuss your answers.

1. Which charter-based bodies of the United Nations promote and protect human rights?
2. Is the Commonwealth active on human rights?
3. Which regions have human rights mechanisms and how do they work?

Relevant Internet Resources

Office for the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/>

International Service for Human Rights
<http://www.ishr.ch/>

United Nations
<http://www.un.org/>

Commonwealth Secretariat
<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/>

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
<http://www.cpahq.org/>

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
<http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/>

African Commission for Human and People's Rights
<http://www.achpr.org/>

Organization for American States
<http://www.oas.org/main/english/>

Inter-American Commission for Human Rights
<http://www.cidh.org/>

European Union

<http://europa.eu/>

European Court for Human Rights

<http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/>

