INTRODUCTION

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948 lists the fundamental human rights that are common to all people. These rights include the right to life, the prohibition against slavery, torture and arbitrary arrest, equality before the law, and the freedom of movement, peaceful assembly, and participation in government. Subsequent international human rights treaties and state practice have elaborated upon and expanded these rights, thus making international human rights a large and complicated field.

There are eight main U.N. human rights treaties. Each treaty has a corresponding "treaty body" which administers the treaty, keeps track of state parties and their reservations and declarations, receives and responds to reports compiled by state parties, and often hears complaints lodged pursuant to the treaty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text of Treaty</th>
<th>Corresponding Treaty Body</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
<td>Committee against Torture (CAT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
<td>Human Rights Committee (HCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</td>
<td>Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)</td>
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REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS

These systems have their own treaties, reporting structures, and complaint systems. Below are listed the major human rights treaties for each region.
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MATERIALS

Africa

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Americas

- American Convention on Human Rights
- American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man

Europe

- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (click on the full text bullet point).

ONLINE SOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

- Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL)
- U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Human Rights Instruments
- United Nations Treaty Collection
- United Nations Treaty Series and the Status of Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General
- University of Minnesota Human Rights Library

HUMAN RIGHTS CASE LAW

International human rights courts: frequently post their decisions online. Case law from these courts can also be found in the print reporters, published in the language of the court.

National court decisions: Occasionally, human rights decisions from national courts can be located free on the web. Try www.worldlii.org

Treaty bodies (e.g. the U.N. Human Rights Committee) also hear complaints and publish decisions. Although not the same as a decision from a national or international court, these treaty body decisions are easily grouped together with other case law materials for the purposes of human rights research.
Legislationonline: direct access to international norms and standards relating to specific human dimension issues as well as to domestic legislation and other documents of relevance to these issues.

IGOs and NGOs Concerned with Human Rights

Non-governmental organizations play an important role in the development of norms, institutions, and procedures for protecting human rights.

Selected Inter-Governmental Organizations

- U.N. Human Rights Council
- U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Council of Europe
- Organization of American States
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- African Union

Selected Non-Governmental Organizations

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- Human Rights First
- International Committee of the Red Cross