

UN Human Rights Council: urgent appeal to adopt the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

We the undersigned organizations of civil society, and individuals from all regions in the world, welcome the draft Optional Protocol to the ICESCR (Optional Protocol) which is before the Human Rights Council at the current session. The draft Optional Protocol was transmitted by an Open-Ended Working Group following five years of work. We welcome the fact that a majority of UN member states have constructively engaged in the negotiation process. We consider the agreed text is a compromise by all sides and we strongly believe that there should be no further attempts to limit or weaken the text, which could hinder individuals from having access to an effective remedy.

The Optional Protocol presents a historic opportunity for the international community to rectify the imbalance between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, which has particularly denied the poorest and most marginalized the ability to demand respect for and protection of their rights. As the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted, *the optional protocol will send a strong and unequivocal message about the equal value and importance of all human rights.*

In the year of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we urge all countries to support and co-sponsor the resolution of the Human Rights Council endorsing the Optional Protocol in order to ensure its swift transmission for adoption by the General Assembly.

The international community should mark this historic year by taking a significant step towards achieving the promise of the UDHR and give greater effect to the right to a remedy for violations of economic, social and cultural rights.

A copy of this appeal letter has been sent to governments with over 700 signatures from NGOs and individuals in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Middle East. More signatures are being received.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS	COUNTRY
ACAT België-Vlaanderen	Belgium
ACAT-Littoral du Cameroun	Cameroon
Action For Social Rights	Sierra Leone
ActionAid International	Ireland
ADES/CN/AIFF	Martinique (Overseas Department of France)
Alerta Vida ONG	Argentina
Al-Haq (Palestinian Human Rights Organization)	Occupied Palestinian Territory
Alianza De Los Barrios Tizic, Tecpancalco, Atenchincalca Y Teopancalco A.C.	Mexico
Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)	Jordan
Amnesty International	UK
Amnesty International Belgium	Belgium
Amnesty International Bermuda	Bermuda (British Overseas Territory)
Amnesty International Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Amnesty International Ghana	Ghana
Amnesty International Ireland	Ireland
Amnesty International Mexico	Mexico
Amnesty International Netherlands	Netherlands
Amnesty International Paraguay	Paraguay
Amnesty International Philippines	Philippines
Amnesty International Swiss section	Switzerland
Amnesty International Togo	Togo
Amnesty International Turkey	Turkey
Amnesty International Uruguay	Uruguay
Amnesty International, Swedish section	Sweden
Amnistía Internacional - Uruguay	Uruguay
ANTIGONE	Greece
Asociación Qukumatz	Guatemala
Asociación Comité de Víctimas de Familiares de Violaciones a los Derechos Humanos (CODEFAM)	El Salvador
Asociación Hay Un Niño En Tu Camino	Paraguay
BIND	Philippines
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee	Bulgaria

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada
Casa Amiga Centro de Crisis A.C.	Mexico
Cauce Ciudadano A.C.	Mexico
Center for Reproductive Rights	USA
Centro de Capacitación Social de Panamá	Panama
Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales (CDES)	Ecuador
Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas, AC	Mexico
Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez A.C.	Mexico
Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDHA)	Argentina
Centro de Estudios de la Mujer Honduras	Honduras
Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos "Joel Arriaga Navarro" A.C.	Mexico
Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral	Mexico
Children's Rights Alliance	Ireland
CIFRAD-TOGO	Togo
Coalition Malienne des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme (COMADDH)	Mali
Colectivo de Mujeres por la Equidad, la Salud y la Educación, A.C.	Mexico
Colectivo Los Ángeles	Mexico
Comhlámh	Ireland
Comisión Colombiana de Juristas	Colombia
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (CDHES)	El Salvador
Comisión Ecuémica de Derechos Humanos – CEDHU	Ecuador
Community Law Centre (University of the Western Cape)	South Africa
Community Legal Centre Group, NSW Australia	Australia
Conseil National pour les libertes en Tunisie	Tunisia
Consultoria Agraria General Julian Medina	Mexico
Coordinación Feminista Olimpia de Gouges	Mexico
Coordinación Nacional de Mujeres por un Milenio Feminista	Mexico
Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay (CODEHUPY)	Paraguay
Coordinadora Nacional de Derehcos Humanos	Peru
CORE, Centre for Organisation Research & Education	India
Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)	Australia

DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C.	Mexico
DEMUS, Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer	Peru
Economic and Social Rights Centre (Hakijamii)	Kenya
Economic Justice and Development Organization (EJAD)	Pakistan
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights	Egypt
El CECTEC - Centro de Educación, Capacitación y Tecnología Campesina	Paraguay
El Programa Venezolano de Educación Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA)	Venezuela
Espacio DESC –Capitulo Mexicano de la PIDHDD	Mexico
Ezquerria y Asociados	Mexico
Fair Trade Resource Network	USA
FIAN - Mexico	Mexico
FIAN - PHILIPPINES	Philippines
FIAN Andhra Pradesh	India
FIAN Austria	Austria
FIAN Belgium	Belgium
FIAN Brazil	Brazil
FIAN Ecuador	Ecuador
FIAN France	France
FIAN Germany	Germany
FIAN Ghana	Ghana
FIAN Honduras	Honduras
FIAN Karnataka	India
FIAN Mexico	Mexico
FIAN Nepal	Nepal
FIAN Netherlands	Netherlands
FIAN Norway	Norway
FIAN Philippines	Philippines
FIAN Sweden	Sweden
FIAN Switzerland	Switzerland
FIAN Tamil Nadu	India
FIAN Uttar Pradesh	India
FIAN West Bengal	India
Fédération internationale des droits de l'Homme (FIDH)	France

Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)	Argentina
Foro de Mujeres del Mercosur	Paraguay
FORUM MENSCHENRECHTE	Germany
Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	Ireland
Gays and lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)	Zimbabwe
Grupo de Estudios Sobre Educación En cárceles- Argentina	Argentina
Grupo Tacuba, A.C.	Mexico
Habitat International Coalition (HIC)	International
Human Rights Council of Australia	Australia
Icelandic Human Rights Centre	Iceland
INCIDE Social, A.C.	Mexico
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF)	India
Initiatives: Women In Development	India
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti	USA
Instituto Mexicano de Cultura Arte y Desarrollo Humano A.C.	Mexico
Instituto Mexicano Para el Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C.	Mexico
Integrante de la ACDM por CLADEM – Paraguay	Paraguay
INTERIGHTS	UK
International Alliance of Inhabitants	Italy
International Commission of Jurists	Switzerland
International Institute on Peace Education	USA
International Service for Human Rights	Switzerland
Irish Penal Reform Trust	Ireland
JC International English School Nepal	Nepal
JONCTION	Senegal
Jóvenes Unidos en Solidaridad.A.C.	Mexico
Justiça Global	Brazil
Kingsford Legal Centre	Australia
Koorie Women Mean Business Incorporated	Australia
Kuña Roga	Paraguay
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre (LHAHRDEV)	Nigeria
Land Center for Human Rights (LCHR)	Egypt

L'association pour le droit à la langue du pays d'accueil	France
Le Mouvement des Peuples pour l'Education aux Droits Humains (PDHRE/DPEDH-MALI)	Mali
Ligue de droits de l'homme (LDH)	France
Ligue des droits et libertés	Canada
Ligue Française des droits de l'homme	France
Ligue Tunisienne pour la défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH)	Tunisia
Lutheran World Federation	Switzerland
Maison des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun	Cameroon
Medact	UK
Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples	France
Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)	Nigeria
National Association of Community Legal Centres Australia	Australia
National Union of Domestic Employees – NUDE	Trinidad and Tobago
Network Movement for Justice and Development	Sierra Leone
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum	Pakistan
Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO)	Lebanon
Peacework Development Fund	Czech Republic/USA
People's Health Movement - USA	USA
Peoples Health Movement (PHM) Bangladesh	Bangladesh
People's Movement for Human Rights Learning	USA
PIDHDD – Uruguay	Uruguay
Plataforma DhESCA	Brazil
PRODUSSEP, A. C.	Mexico
Prosalus NGO	Spain
Protection International	Belgium
RADAR- Colectivo de Estudios Críticos en Derecho	Mexico
Rape Crisis Network Ireland	Ireland
Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles "Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos"	Mexico
Rencontre pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme (RPDH)	Congo-Brazzaville
Réseau d'Alerte et d'Intervention pour les Droits de l'Homme	France
RIFONGA	Benin
Ririki Intervencion Social SC	Mexico

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)	Nepal
SAHRiNGON Tanzania Chapter	Tanzania
Servicio Sudamericano de Noticias	Argentina
Shelter for the Poor	Bangladesh
Social Rights Advocacy Center	Canada
Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination Guyana	Guyana
Terre des Hommes France	France
The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)	USA
The Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) \ L'Alliance canadienne féministe pour l'action internationale (AFAI)	Canada
The Tandem Project - WUNRN	International
Toxina Labs	Mexico
Uganda Environmental Education Foundation(UEEF)	Uganda
Unión de Mujeres de Ixtlahuacan	Mexico
UNSA - French Trade Union	France
Voluntariado Sociedad sin Fronteras México	Mexico
Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)	Nepal
Workers Rights Forum	Bangladesh
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)	Switzerland
Zi Teng	Hong Kong
Zubaida Noor/The NET	Pakistan
Amnesty International Austria	Austria
International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)	USA