

**888 (XXXIV). Report of the Commission
on Human Rights**

A

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights (eighteenth session).⁶²

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

B

PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Human Rights⁶³ and of the Committee on Periodic Reports⁶⁴ concerning the developments in human rights during the years 1957-1959,

1. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments and specialized agencies which submitted reports for the years 1957-1959;

2. Notes that while aware that the situation in a number of countries and territories with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms still continues to remain unsatisfactory both in the field of civil and political rights and in the field of social, economic and cultural rights, nevertheless, the reports contain useful information indicating that some progress was achieved in the protection of human rights during the years 1957-1959, especially with respect to certain of the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. Notes in particular that:

(a) The reports make little reference to the situation in respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories;

(b) The several constitutions or basic laws adopted during the period under review included provisions aimed at the protection of human rights;

(c) The constitutions of several new States affirm the loyalty and attachment of the people to the ideals set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(d) Steps taken in several States towards the elimination of discrimination included the enactment of legislation, the repeal of discriminatory laws, the enforcement of laws through the courts, the establishment of commissions to supervise the application of legislation, and the setting up of committees or informal conciliatory bodies to promote better relations between different groups;

(e) In several States a number of laws were adopted to improve the administration of justice, through the reform of judicial organization, the expediting of judicial process, the provision of remedial measures against wrongful administrative decisions, the extension of the

rights of the accused in criminal proceedings and the encouragement of the rehabilitation of offenders as useful members of society;

(f) Many social security systems were expanded to cover more categories of persons and to provide greater protection against a variety of contingencies;

(g) In several States educational facilities, whether at the primary, secondary, technical or vocational, or higher levels, were greatly extended and attempts made through legislative or other measures to make education available free or at reduced cost;

4. Believes that in order to meet the objectives set by the Commission in resolution 1 (XII) and the Council in resolution 624 B I (XXII) of 1 August 1956, and to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, a greater number of reports are required and more information should be given therein concerning the problems or difficulties which have been or may be encountered;

5. Decides to continue, in accordance with Council resolution 624 B I (XXII), the system of the communication by Governments of periodic reports on human rights;

6. Urges all States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to submit, in accordance with Council resolution 624 B I (XXII), reports on developments in human rights in their metropolitan areas as well as in all dependent territories, including Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, concerning the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right to self-determination and independence;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments to submit their reports as soon as possible and not later than 30 June of the year immediately following the period for which the reports are being made;

8. Requests Governments to take into full account, when drawing up their reports, the suggestions referred to in Council resolution 728 B (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 and also the suggestion of the Committee on Periodic Reports⁶⁵ that Governments should concentrate on reporting developments of particular significance and explaining why they were significant, rather than attempting to report developments relating to all the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration;

9. Invites the specialized agencies to co-operate in carrying out the task undertaken by the Commission on Human Rights as indicated in Council resolution 624 B I (XXII);

10. Invites the non-governmental organizations in consultative status to submit comments and observations of an objective character on the situation in the field of human rights to assist the Commission in its consideration of the summaries of periodic reports;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit hereafter the summaries of the triennial reports to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the Sub-Commis-

⁶² *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 8 (E/3616/Rev.1).

⁶³ *Ibid.*, paras. 55-88.

⁶⁴ E/CN.4/831.

⁶⁵ E/CN.4/831, para. 173.

sion on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for their comments.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

C

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE MATTER OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that one of the most effective ways of combating discrimination in the matter of political rights is through educational efforts on an international scale,

Considering that the triennial reporting procedure of the Commission on Human Rights provides a suitable framework within which Governments can report progress achieved and difficulties encountered in combating such discrimination,

Taking into account the important contribution made by the study submitted to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its fourteenth session,⁶⁶ by its Special Rapporteur,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Hernan Santa Cruz, for his valuable study;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to print and circulate as widely as possible the study prepared by the Special Rapporteur;

3. *Urges* all States to continue and, if necessary, to intensify their educational efforts designed to eliminate all discrimination in the matter of political rights.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

D

STUDY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

The Economic and Social Council

Approves the decision of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to undertake a study on discrimination against persons born out of wedlock and to appoint a special rapporteur to carry out this study.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

E

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION MEDIA IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII) of 12 December 1958 requested the Economic and Social Council to formulate a "programme of concrete action and measures on the international plane which could be undertaken for the development of information enterprises in under-developed countries, with an evalua-

tion of the material, financial and professional requirements and resources for the implementation of this programme",

Recalling that Council resolution 718 I (XXVII) of 24 April 1959 requested the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization to undertake a survey designed to provide the elements for the programme of concrete action desired by the General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction the survey which has been carried out by means of a series of regional meetings in Asia, Africa and Latin America,

Expressing its concern that the survey discloses 70 per cent of the population of the world to be lacking in adequate information facilities and to be thus denied effective enjoyment of the right to information,

Considering that the information media have an important part to play in education and in economic and social progress generally and that new techniques of communication offer special opportunities for acceleration of the education process,

1. *Invites* the Governments concerned to include adequate provision in their economic plans for the development of national information media;

2. *Reiterates* the invitation contained in Council resolution 819 A (XXXI) of 28 April 1961 to the Technical Assistance Board, the Special Fund, the specialized agencies concerned, the regional economic commissions and other public and private agencies and institutions to assist, as appropriate, the less developed countries in developing and strengthening their national information media;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to further the programme for development of information media including the application of new techniques of communication for achievement of rapid progress in education, to keep up to date as far as possible its survey on this subject and to report as appropriate to the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council;

4. *Transmits* to the General Assembly, in accordance with its request, the reports⁶⁷ on the survey carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the basis of a programme of concrete action for development of the information media in less developed countries:

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly:

(a) Take this programme into account in connexion with the United Nations Development Decade; and

(b) Invite the Governments of the more developed countries to co-operate with less developed countries with a view to meeting the urgent needs of the latter in connexion with this programme for the development of independent national information media, with due regard for the culture of each country.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

⁶⁶E/CN.4/Sub.2/213.

⁶⁷Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 10, document E/3437/Add.1; E/CN.4/820 and Add.1 and 2.

F

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolutions 9 (II) and 772 B (XXX), of 21 June 1946 and 25 July 1960 respectively, concerning national and local advisory committees on human rights,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,⁶⁸

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the fact that a number of Governments have submitted reports on the activities of national advisory committees on human rights and of similar bodies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit his report, as also any information which may reach him at a later date, to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies;

3. *Invites again* the said Governments to favour, in the light of conditions in their countries, the formation of the bodies referred to in Council resolution 772 B (XXX) and to encourage the activities of those already in existence: such bodies could, for example, study questions relating to human rights, consider the situation as it exists nationally, offer advice to the Government and assist in the formation of a public opinion in favour of respect for human rights.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

G

GUIDE TO NATIONAL LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OR PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the experience of nations in the protection or promotion of human rights may be profitably shared,

Recognizing that the preparation of a guide to national legal institutions and procedures for the protection or promotion of human rights would be useful,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and publish, in instalments if necessary, a guide to national legal institutions and procedures for the protection or promotion of human rights.

*1231st plenary meeting,
24 July 1962.*

889 (XXXIV). Advisory services in the field of human rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the General Assembly by resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955 authorized the Secretary-General to provide advisory services in human rights in the form of experts, fellowships and seminars,

Considering it essential that the practice of regional

seminars should be continued, since the value of these seminars is now widely acknowledged,

Noting with satisfaction that at its sixteenth session the General Assembly increased the resources for the programme to permit the provision of a number of fellowships each year in addition to the seminars,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General to the Council at its thirty-fourth session on advisory services in the field of human rights,⁶⁹

Noting further the successful beginning of the human rights fellowship programme and the interest which Governments have shown in fellowships since the General Assembly increased the resources for the programme,

Believing that the programme of advisory services is an important means towards achieving progress in the field of human rights, and that such progress will make a significant contribution to the United Nations Development Decade,

Expresses the hope that the General Assembly, at its seventeenth session, will give favourable consideration to the question of expanding the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and will consider in particular the question of awarding an additional number of fellowships.

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24 July 1962.*

890 (XXXIV). Implementation of the Supplementary Convention of 1956 on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices resembling Slavery

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 772 D (XXX) of 25 July 1960 and 826 E (XXXII) of 27 July 1961 on slavery,

Having reviewed the situation with regard to the participation of States in the International Slavery Convention of 1926 and the Supplementary Slavery Convention of 1956,

Noting that despite the appeal made in the above-mentioned resolutions, forty-eight States Members of the United Nations or of a specialized agency have not yet become parties to the International Slavery Convention of 1926, and seventy-one have not yet become parties to the Supplementary Convention of 1956,

1. *Recommends* that the General Assembly adopt, at its seventeenth session, the following draft resolution:

“ *The General Assembly,*

“ *Recalling* article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: ‘ No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms ’,

“ *Believing* that slavery, the slave trade and all institutions and practices similar to slavery should be abolished,

⁶⁸ E/CN.4/828 and Add.1.

⁶⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 20, document E/3634 and Add.1.*