

Human Rights Internet (HRI)

Founded in 1976, Human Rights Internet (HRI) is a world leader in the exchange of information within the worldwide human rights community. An international non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Ottawa, Canada, HRI has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and with UNICEF and observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

On the premise that accurate information is a precondition for the effective protection of human rights, HRI's primary role is to serve the information needs of international scholars, human rights activists, asylum lawyers, and other organizations via an extensive documentation centre, computerized databases, and a Website on the internet. HRI also serves the information needs of the international human rights community with an active and extensive publications program, which includes regular publications (such as HRI's quarterly Human Rights Tribune), human rights directories, and special or occasional publications. A key objective of HRI is to support the work of the global non-governmental community in its struggle to obtain human rights for all. To this end, HRI promotes human rights education, stimulates research, encourages the sharing of information, and builds international solidarity among those committed to the principles enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights.

This report was produced by Human Rights Internet (HRI) in partnership with the Human Rights Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, Canada. The International Advisory Committee which assisted in the production of this report included: Peter Burns, Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia, a member of the UN Committee against Torture; Jane Connors, Chief of the Women's Rights Unit of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women; Osamu Shiraishi, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; and Nicole Rivard-Royer, Policy Branch, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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