

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 11 October 1968; ratified: 4 February 1972.
Zambia's 12th and 13th periodic reports were due 5 March 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 21 June 1985.
Zambia's third periodic report was due 21 July 1994.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 6 December 1991.
Zambia's initial report was due 4 January 1994.

THEMATIC REPORTS***Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*****Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 45)

The report refers to information indicating that Zambia has one of Africa's highest levels of child prostitution, caused to a great extent by the social adjustment programme that was dictated by the World Bank and IMF donors, and affected tens of thousands of state jobs, free education and food subsidies without any buffers to soften the impact.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 580)

The addendum to the main report notes that an urgent appeal was sent to the government in March 1996 on behalf of the editor-in-chief and the managing editor of the newspaper *The Post*, who were detained in connection with published articles critical of the government. The government replied that they had been detained after refusing to obey a summons to appear before the Privileges and Immunities Committee of the National Assembly to answer allegations of debasing the National Assembly. It stated further that there was no information to suggest they had been subjected to torture or ill-treatment; nor had they made any complaint to that effect on their release.

MECHANISMS AND REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION**States of emergency, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19/Add.1, Section I)

The report notes that a state of emergency was declared in Zambia on 4 March 1993.

OTHER REPORTS**Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR:** (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 15)

The report of the Secretary-General noted that there is neither compulsory military service nor conscription in Zambia.

HIV/AIDS, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/37, para. 6)

The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, September 1996) notes that the Network of African People Living with HIV/AIDS in Zambia prepared one of the background papers for the Consultation.

Right to development, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/21, para. 8)

The report of the Secretary-General notes information received from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) referring to a UNFPA research study being conducted in a number of countries, including Zambia, on the attitudes and views of adolescent boys and men about their sexual and reproductive behaviour, decision-making about contraception, and their role in the family.

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/40, para. 52)

The report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women's human rights throughout the UN system notes that the Human Rights Committee, with respect to Zambia, expressed concern over: the remnants of certain traditions and customs which constituted an obstacle to the effective implementation of the Covenant, particularly with regard to equality between men and women; the application of customary laws in matters of personal status, marriage, divorce and inheritance rights, which reinforced outdated attitudes concerning the role and status of women; and, the lack of measures to address adequately problems raised with regard to violence against women and the high maternal mortality rate resulting from abortion. The report notes recommendations made by the Committee, including that the government: review its laws, particularly the laws governing the status of women and women's rights and obligations in marriage, and make appropriate amendments; abrogate subsections 23 (4) (c) and (d) of the Constitution, to ensure full legal and de facto equality for women in all aspects of social and economic relationships; and, increase efforts to prevent and eliminate persisting discriminatory attitudes and prejudices against women.

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ZIMBABWE

Date of admission to UN: 25 August 1980.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Zimbabwe has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.55) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the structure of government, the system of law and the framework for the protection of human rights.

In addition to legal provisions on human rights, the Office of the Ombudsman was established by Act of Parliament in 1982. The Ombudsman is empowered to investigate administrative actions taken by ministries, government departments and statutory authorities which are alleged to have caused injustice. Actions by the defence forces, police, prison services, the President and presidential staff, the Cabinet office, the Attorney-General and judicial officers, however, may not be investigated by the Office. Neither may the Office initiate an investigation in the absence of a complaint. The Constitution protects the rights to life, freedom from slavery and forced labour, freedom from inhuman treatment and others.