

LouvainX: Louv2.01x International Human Rights

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Courseware (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/courseware)

Course Info (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/info)

Discussion (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/discussion/forum)

Wiki (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/course_wiki)

Progress (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/progress)

Reading Materials (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/pdfbook/0/)

Syllabus (/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/3517b9300b554b118f11224b8c05eb10/)

The core United Nations human rights treaties establish bodies of independent experts to supervise their implementation. These experts are elected by the States parties to the respective treaties (or, in the case of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, by the UN Economic and Social Council), following nominations by governments.

They do not, however, represent the views of the State of their nationality: as independent experts chosen on the basis of their qualifications, they sit in their individual capacity. They are also not remunerated in the exercise of their function. The treaty bodies usually hold two, or sometimes three sessions of 3-4 weeks per year, representing a total of 8 to 10 weeks of meeting time for each committee.

Nine such bodies are currently in operation. These are

- the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which has been functioning since 1969;
- the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) (1976);
- the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) (1987);
- the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1981);
- the Committee Against Torture (CAT) (1987);
- the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1990);
- the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) (2003);
- the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (2008); and,
- the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (2011).

All but one of these expert bodies have their role and composition defined in the respective treaties with which they supervise compliance. The exception is the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which was established by Resolution 1985/17 of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) and which was modelled on the Human Rights Committee created by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).



1 of 2

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2 of 2 04/17/2014 05:53 PM