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## National Human Rights Institutions near you! (a re-post from another class)

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I am taking the International Human Rights course right now as another law type humanity and I am re-posting the question in this US Constitution discussion forum, since I do not know the answer, and you were supposed to answer the question based on your own country, which for me is the USA. I am also not very educated in these areas, and have only recently added some of these humanities to supplement my BS and MS in electrical engineering and computer science, and I've always worked in the high tech world (although currently unemployed!) However, I am no expert in these humanities and could not answer this question based on any resource I found from web searching nor any conversation I've ever had with anyone, online or when I was in school or working. So I was wondering if anyone had anymore to add in this discussion forum. Here was the question and my response. Please excuse any part of it if you find it was stated in ignorance! ;-)

Thanks for any added help.

The question on the International Human Rights course forum was:

Please have a look at the International Co-ordinating Committee's [website](#), and verify whether your own country has a NHRI, and what status it has. Once you've done that, please share with the community your impressions about your country's national human rights institution:

- Had you heard of it before?
- Does it seem an active, or efficient mechanism, given the conditions in your own country?
- If it doesn't have an 'A Status', what do you think is lacking for it to obtain such an accreditation? How can you explain this fact?
- If your country **doesn't have** a NHRI, why do you think this is so? Have you ever heard of initiatives -- governmental or not -- to create such an institution? How do you assess the likelihood of this happening?

**You are encouraged to see if one of your peers has already responded with respect to your country before posting**, and if so, to provide additional commentary on that response, rather than

repeat the information already available. You may also want to add information to your country page, on the [wiki](#), if you would like to do so.

My response:

I see that the USA where I live does not have an NHRI (National Human Rights Institution) on the ICC (International Co-ordinating Committee)'s web site. I did see that Puerto Rico has one but its status is C, meaning non-compliance with the founding Paris Principles of the NHRI. I saw a few others from the US post this and looked myself at the web site. I am taking a US Constitution course right now too, due to my recent human rights interest outside my high tech field of expertise, and I'm going to inquire now about this on their discussion forum, since I'm more of a techie just taking a few human rights as humanities to supplement my high tech background, and do not know a lot about these resources, nor have I studied in these areas for my BS, MS or any high tech job I've held. But I was surprised to learn that we do not have an NHRI, and it's definitely worth asking that on their discussion forum, and people often have interesting and long debates on things there. I've heard that the USA follows the Constitution and its amendments but it would surprise me if they did not also support human rights treaties and organizations world wide, so perhaps the reason they do not have one of these is because they believe it is covered elsewhere, but I do not know for sure. Also, perhaps they should have one anyway, now that it seems to be a world wide organization. So later today, I will post there, and if I get a response and I'm able to post here again, I will. However, sometimes I find it hard in this class's discussion forum to get back to a post I've already made, so it would be a brand new post. Also, when I went to the web site, although we do not have a US NHRI, I did see that in 2013, meetings were held in New York City that were NHRI people from other locations that gathered there, so they at least do hold meetings with people from other NHRIs in the USA, but I don't know why they do not have their own.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Anthony Gary Brown

Signature Track

· 7 minutes ago 🔗

Karen,

You may find the posts in [this thread](#) useful, especially as you get further down the discussion.

I know little of the NHRI issue, but generally the US is very set against international treaty bodies that in any way claim, or can be seen to claim, to have superseded US domestic law, either found in the Constitution or duly enacted by Congress. And I'd take a guess that's the issue with NHRI. For example, and again without knowing specifics, I imagine the NHRIs might be dead-set against capital punishment, which the US at Federal and State level regards as no-one's affair but our own. And some similar international bodies have wide-ranging condemnation of private gun ownership in their charters. Or they may "intrude" on the abortion issue. Or they may have *less* strict, and less individualistic, 1st Amendment-type protections.

Gary B.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

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