



United Nations Human Rights Report 2020



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
145.93 million	17,098,000 km ²	0.824 (rank: 52/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2014)
Type of engagement	Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Moscow		
UN partnership framework	-		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	5		

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,014,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation (P)

P6 – Human rights higher education programmes expanded and institutionalized in the Russian Federation and selected Commonwealth of Independent States countries.



OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on human rights by raising awareness about and integrating human rights into university curricula across the Russian Federation.

UN Human Rights continued to support the first Master's programme in the field of human rights in the Russian Federation, namely, the Human Rights Master's Programme Consortium, through the development of the curricula and the elaboration of teaching materials. The Office provided expert advice to the authors of

three new and four updated textbooks, including on business and human rights, the environment and climate change. It further contributed to the organization of professional development courses on human rights and the SDGs for 18 teaching staff (ten women, eight men) from eight Master's Programme Consortium universities, with participation from high-profile lecturers.

In addition, the Office facilitated the access of students and teachers to key reference materials, including through five resource centres in Consortium universities. The pool of OHCHR communication resources on the impacts of and responses to COVID-19 was integrated into an online platform used by Russian universities. The Office also facilitated access to training opportunities, including seven webinars and events that focused on the

human rights of ethnic minorities, issues linked to new technologies and five lectures that were organized by the Office with the Federal Ombudsperson's Office.

Throughout the year, the Consortium pursued discussions regarding its objective to expand the Programme to the southern regions of Russia. The decision to expand the Programme has been supported in principle and will be formalized after COVID-19-related restrictions on in-person meetings are eased.



Development

D2 – Business actors effectively implement the UNGPs.



OHCHR contributed to raising awareness and enhancing capacities on the UNGPs, including by strengthening its partnership with three major representatives of the business sector.

UN Human Rights continued to promote the implementation of the UNGPs and underline the risks of business-related human rights abuses, which increased in the context of COVID-19, particularly with regard to decent work and social protection. The Office strengthened its partnership with two major representatives of business, namely, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) and the UN Global Compact National Network. Both of these entities have a keen interest and role to play in the improvement of corporate respect for human rights.

To mark UN75 and Human Rights Day, OHCHR organized a videoconference with the Global Compact National Network and the RUIE on the topic "Respect for human rights as a corporate

responsibility indicator.” One of the speakers was a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The 122 participants, representing businesses, State institutions, civil society and international organizations, enhanced their knowledge about the HRDDP. More specifically, they noted that country-specific challenges require better regulation, effective enforcement of existing rules and contextual, bottom-up and inclusive initiatives. In 2021, OHCHR will support the Global Compact National Network to carry out an institutional analysis of business and human rights in the Russian Federation, focusing on coherence and the degree of compliance of national policy/legislation with the UNGPs.



Mechanisms (M)

M2 – Awareness of and knowledge about the use of the international human rights mechanisms increased among NHRIs and government representatives.

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OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and the use of international human rights mechanisms, including through capacity-building and outreach activities.

UN Human Rights continued to build capacities to enhance engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In cooperation with the Federal Ombudsperson’s Office and the Centre for Human Rights Education, OHCHR organized an in-person and online workshop on international human rights mechanisms, which was attended by human rights commissioners from all 30 regions of Russia. A keynote speech on discrimination, the role of the human

rights treaty bodies and the practices of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was delivered by Professor Alexey Avtonomov, Vice-Rector of the Institute of International Law and Economy and former Chair of the Committee. Participants gained knowledge on a variety of issues, including the critical role of NHRIs in strengthening the national human rights protection system.

OHCHR also produced and disseminated information among the general public and essential partners to enhance awareness of and knowledge about the international human rights mechanisms and their recommendations. The OHCHR field presence maintained the Russian version of OHCHR’s main website, with a focus on COVID-19 issues and the translation into Russian of OHCHR materials, including a general guidance note, eight thematic notes, 20 statements and press releases issued by the High Commissioner and 35 special procedures media products. During the year, approximately 400 new web pages were created that posted 151 web stories and 126 news updates, with more than 500,000 views. By the end of the year, the Office had produced a compilation of Russian language materials from OHCHR and the UN about COVID-19 and human rights, including guidance and policy briefs related to vulnerable groups. It also updated the Russian language compilation of UN documentation on women’s rights and gender issues, which was distributed to national partners.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – NHRIs and CSOs significantly strengthen their anti-discrimination work, with a particular focus on domestic violence, gender equality, disability and the rights of indigenous peoples, in compliance with international human rights standards.

5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to increasing awareness on the compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in relation to the rights of women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights raised awareness about the human rights situation of members of vulnerable groups. It used social media to disseminate information and reached out to strategic partners to share knowledge, including thematic guidance notes, in Russian, on the impacts of COVID-19. The Office created and published five stories and contributed to 12 campaigns on racial discrimination, gender, migration, journalists, violence against women, youth, indigenous peoples, UN75 and building back better in the context of the pandemic. OHCHR also participated in an expert seminar on the rights of indigenous children in the Arctic context, organized by the Association of Ethno-Cultural Centres and Organizations for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (Republic of Karelia).

To celebrate International Women’s Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Office joined forces with essential partners and organized round-tables to discuss challenges and solutions on selected topics. Participants

included representatives from the UN, the Council of Europe, CSOs, HRDs and academia, State Duma deputies and staff from the Federal Ombudsperson's Office, journalists and medical doctors. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Moscow city Ombudsperson, the Forum of Moscow Women and OHCHR organized an event on "The rights of women in a modern megapolis," highlighting gender equality at work and in society, social protection, family life and violence against women. Furthermore, an expanded United Nations Gender Theme Group meeting was devoted to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Participants in both events stressed the need to address violence against women in the context of COVID-19. On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, OHCHR and UNIC dedicated a round-table on inclusive approaches to COVID-19 responses. Participants noted the importance of long-term actions aimed at including persons with disabilities in social and economic policies.

SERBIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
8.74 million	88,000 km ²	0.806 (rank: 64/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		1996	
Field office(s)		Belgrade	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Partnership Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4	

XB requirements 2020

US\$765,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – The Government adopts or reforms five policies, laws or practices that prevent or sanction discrimination in a manner that ensures they comply with human rights standards. In doing so, it pays particular attention to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, Roma, migrants and refugees.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of policies and legislation with international human rights standards by providing expert legal advice to key partners.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights delivered technical guidance to a variety of partners, including public authorities, the NHRI, CSOs, criminal sanctions services and the RCO/UNCT on the inclusion of

human rights in COVID-19 responses. The HRA also maintained strong partnerships with the Prime Minister's Team for Social Inclusion and the newly appointed Ministry for Human Rights. Civil society partners consistently relayed UN guidance, resulting in the improved compliance of measures adopted by the Government with international human rights standards. Furthermore, an interactive and real-time mapping of needs and risks in substandard Roma settlements informed the delivery of immediate emergency support to inhabitants in the context of COVID-19.

The new National Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities was adopted after a policy gap of five years. OHCHR facilitated the consultative process, which led to the development of a text that is largely compliant with CRPD standards, and supported public discussions around the