



Bulletin on UN Special Procedures and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC)

Monthly Update No. 4
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Foreword

This is the fourth monthly bulletin by ILGA on UN Special Procedures and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

This issue includes details of reports that are presented by Special Procedures at the Third Committee of the 72nd session of the General Assembly in New York (September-December 2017); seven [open calls](#) for civil society input to Special Procedures reports, ongoing **public consultations** and the updated list of upcoming **country visits**. It also includes details of the [appointments](#) of Special Procedures at the 36th (September 2017) and 37th (March 2018) HRC, as well as the latest on the appointment of the new Independent Expert on SOGI. Finally you'll also find the latest [statements](#) by mandate holders on LGBTI issues; and an updated [list of resources](#) for advocacy with Special Procedures mechanisms.

 We especially highlight the following:

- A few of the reports to the General Assembly, including the second report of the **SOGI Independent Expert** and the reports of the Special Rapporteurs on **cultural rights** and **NEW!** on **freedom of religion and belief, both of which also touch on SOGI issues**;
- Calls for inputs for the upcoming report of the Special Rapporteur on **violence against women's** on online violence against women, and **NEW!** the upcoming report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the **right to freedom of opinion and expression** on content regulation in the digital age; and ;
- The following upcoming country visits by mandate holders: **India** (Special Rapporteur on water & sanitation, October-November 2017); **NEW!** **Serbia** (Special Rapporteur on torture, November 2017); **Chad** (Working Group on discrimination against women, December 2017); **USA** (Special Rapporteur on poverty, December 2017); and **Bahamas** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, December 2017).
- **NEW!** Recently appointed mandate holders, including **four members of the** Working Group on discrimination against women, as well as the latest on the Independent Expert on SOGI appointment process; and
- **NEW!** **ILGA and ISHR's updated and amended factsheets** on the Working Group on discrimination against women, and on the Special Rapporteur on violence against women . 

We would also be happy to start sharing details of civil society groups or coalitions engaging with specific Special Procedures on SOGIESC issues. In that light, please do let us know if you are coordinating or facilitating such engagement.

We look forward to working with you as you engage with this useful part of the UN system!

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Latest Reports with SOGIESC references

72ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY **SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017**

A number of reports are currently being presented by Special Procedures mandate holders, at the [Third Committee of the 72nd session of the General Assembly](#) in New York. They are available [here](#).

 **In particular, we draw your attention to** the second report of the **SOGI Independent Expert**, Vitit Muntarbhorn, to be presented on the afternoon of 27 October 2017 at the General Assembly in New York. His report is available [here](#). 

Other SOGIESC-inclusive reports are the following:

- **NEW!** **Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, [A/72/134](#) (para 34)
- **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, [A/72/291](#) (para 15)
- **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, [A/72/128](#) (para 15)
- **Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, [A/72/133](#) (para 21)
- **Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, [A/72/135](#) (para 35)
-  **Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, [A/72/155](#) (paras 9, 85, 86, 87, 90 & 98j) 
- **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**
 - Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, [A/72/162](#) (para 11)
- **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, [A/72/173](#) (para 39)

- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, [A/72/365](#) (para 33, 34, 36, 37, 46 & 74) 
- **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, [A/72/322](#) (para 57)

Call for inputs, notifications of consultations or country visits

This section is a collection of the current calls for input where you can find opportunities for civil society to provide input into Special Procedures' annual reports, and/or engage in public consultations and country visits.

Calls for Written Inputs

- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on the right to food** – Call for experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security – Deadline 23 October 2017. [Read more](#)
- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context** – Call for contributions to report on Human Rights-Based Housing Strategies – Deadline 30 October 2017. [Read more](#)
-  **Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences** – Online violence against women: call for existing good practices on law regulating violence against women and sexual harassment on-line – Deadline for contributions 2 November 2017. Report to be delivered in June 2018 (38th HRC).  [Read more](#)
- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment** – Call for inputs: Draft Guidelines on Human Rights and the Environment – Deadline 11 November 2017. [Read more](#)
- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression** – Call for inputs: Content Regulation in the Digital Age – Deadline 20 December 2017.  [Read more](#)
-  **Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association** – “Strategic litigation in national, regional and international courts” – There is no deadline, as submissions are received on an ongoing basis.  [Read more](#)

Events

NEW! 🌈 The Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief will both be speaking at an event entitled “**Ethics of Reciprocity: UN Dialogue of LGBTI Religious Leaders**” taking place at 11.30 a.m. on 26 October 2017 at UN Headquarters New York organized by the [International Fellowship of Reconciliation \(IFOR\)](#) in partnership with the UN LGBTI Core Group, ILGA and other NGOs. [Read more](#)

NEW! 🌈 **Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights** – “The Impact of Fundamentalism and Extremism on the Cultural Rights of Women: Time to Take a Stand” – Side Event, 26 October 2017, Conference Room 11, UN Headquarters, New York, NY – **RSVP** by 23 October 2017 to srculturalrights@ohchr.org with subject line “GA side event”. [Read more](#)

Upcoming Country Visits

The following country visits are soon taking place. This information is regularly updated by the OHCHR [here](#).

Sri Lanka	Truth and justice	10-23 October 2017
Poland	Independence of justice	23-27 October 2017
India	🌈 Water and sanitation 🌈	30 October-10 November 2017
Lao People's Republic	Sale of children	8-16 November 2017
NEW! Serbia	🌈 Torture 🌈	13-24 November 2017
NEW! Vietnam	Food	13-24 November 2017
Sudan	Enforced disappearances	20-29 November
NEW! Mexico	🌈 Freedom of expression 🌈	27 November-4 December 2017
NEW! Nigeria	Trafficking	27 November-5 December 2017
NEW! Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	December 2017
Chad	🌈 Discrimination against women 🌈	4-14 December 2017
USA	🌈 Poverty 🌈	4-15 December 2017
NEW! Sri Lanka	Arbitrary detention	4-15 December 2017
Bahamas	🌈 Violence against women 🌈	11-15 December 2017
NEW! Morocco	Independence of justice	23-30 January 2018
NEW! Brazil	Foreign debt	18-29 March 2018
NEW! Ireland	Sale of children	14-21 May 2018
NEW! Ukraine	Foreign debt	14-23 May 2018

NEW! Guatemala	Independence of justice	20-28 August 2018
NEW! Malaysia	Sale of children	24 September-1 October 2018

*To find out how you can support the visits, please contact the respective mandate-holder at their email, found in the OHCHR [directory](#).

Recent and upcoming nomination, selection and appointment of Mandate Holders

This section contains details of recent and upcoming nominations, selection and appointment of mandate holders.

- **NEW!** **Appointments made at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council (September 2017)**

- Tendayi Achiume (Zambia): appointed as the Special Rapporteur on racism
- Alice Cruz (Portugal): appointed as the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy
- Marie-Evelyne Petrus (France): appointed as a member of the Working Group on People of African Descent
-  Meskerem Techane (Ethiopia), Melissa Upreti (Nepal), Ivana Radačić (Croatia), and Elizabeth Broderick (Australia): appointed as members of the Working Group on discrimination against women 

- **NEW!**  **Appointment of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (organizational session of the HRC, 4 December 2017)**

Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, the UN's Independent Expert on SOGI, resigned, for illness and family reasons, on 8 September 2017. The effective date of the resignation is 31 October 2017.

Applications for the position of the SOGI Independent Expert closed on 11 October 2017. The OHCHR Secretariat has already conducted its initial screening (on technical and objective requirements) and has now released the list of 11 candidates. More information, including the list of candidates, is available [here](#).

Applications are now being reviewed by a "Consultative Group" of five Geneva ambassadors from the UN's five regions, currently consisting of Croatia, Honduras, Malaysia, Mauritius and Norway. The Consultative Group carries out interviews and makes a recommendation to the President of the Human Rights Council, frequently of three candidates, ranked in order of preference. The President of the Human Rights Council then makes a recommendation of one candidate based on the list received from the Consultative Group. The Human Rights Council then approves the decision. This approval is scheduled to be made on 4 December 2017 at an organizational session of the Council. 

- **Appointments to be made at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council (March 2018).** Individual applications must be submitted by 28 November 2017 (12 noon GMT), more information [here](#).

- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) (*member from Africa*)
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) (*member from North America*)
- Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
- Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (*member from African States*)
- Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (*member from Eastern European States*)
- Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (*member from Latin American and Caribbean States*)

Statements

- **NEW!** [Death penalty disproportionately affects the poor, UN rights experts warn](#) (6 October 2017), United Nations human rights experts, including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on discrimination against women, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty, the Special Rapporteur on racism, and the Working Group on people of African descent, have called for urgent action to end the disproportionate impact of the death penalty on people from poorer communities, saying that imposing the death penalty as a result of discrimination constitutes an arbitrary killing and Governments must not stand idly by. Their comments came in a joint statement marking World Day Against the Death Penalty on Tuesday 10 October.
- **NEW!**  [Azerbaijan: UN rights experts alarmed by reports of persecution of people perceived to be gay or trans](#) (13 October 2017), a group of UN experts, the Independent Expert on SOGI, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, and the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, has urged Azerbaijan to act after receiving credible reports of human rights abuses against gay and transgender people, including arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment, torture and forced medical examinations in detention. 

Useful Resources

- [Factsheets on SOGIESC issues](#): 12 UN Special Procedures (by ILGA and ISHR)
- **NEW!** ILGA's updated [Factsheet: Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences](#)
- **NEW!** ILGA's updated [Factsheet: Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice](#)
- Regularly updated [calendar and news](#) about which Special Procedures expert is travelling where?

- New Special Procedures communications search [website](#)
- Latest [report of cases of human rights violations](#) taken up by Special Procedures
- [Acts of intimidation and reprisal](#) for cooperation with the Special Procedures
- [Submission](#) of information to the Special Procedures
- Special Procedures [Database](#)
- [The UN Special Procedures – A Guide for Advocates Working on Human Rights Relating to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) (by ARC International)
- The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief's [compilation of articles on freedom of religion or belief and sexuality](#)