



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

*Monthly Update No. 2
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Foreword

This is the second monthly bulletin by ILGA on UN Special Procedures and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). In this edition we introduce a rainbow icon (🌈) when we consider information is particularly SOGIESC-relevant.

This issue includes sections on **thematic and country reports** that will be presented by Special Procedures mandate holders during the 36th (September 2017) session of the Human Rights Council (HRC); nine **open calls** for civil society input and the list of upcoming **country visits; appointments** of Special Procedures at the 36th (September 2017) and 37th (March 2018) HRC; recent **statements** made by the Special Procedures on SOGIESC issues; and a **list of resources** for advocacy with Special Procedures mechanisms.

🌈 We would like to highlight the following information that we think is particularly relevant:

- The Special Procedures presenting at the **Human Rights Council in September 2017**
- the call for inputs for the report of the Special Rapporteur on **Violence Against Women** for her report on online violence against women;
- the questionnaire on lessons learned, challenges and opportunities by the **Working Group on discrimination against women** in law and in practice;
- the ongoing call on strategic litigation of the **Special Rapporteur on peaceful assembly** and of association;
- the August 2017 visit to **Samoa** and December 2017 visit to **Chad** of the Working Group on Discrimination against women;
- the September 2017 visit to **Malaysia** of the Independent Expert on Cultural rights;
- the November 2017 visit to **India** of the Special Rapporteur on Water & Sanitation;
- the December 2017 visit to the **United States** of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights;
- the December 2017 visit to the **Bahamas** of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women;
- the **shortlist of candidates** for several mandates, especially the Working Group on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and
- the statement on **Honduras** by five Special Procedures mandate holders. 🌈

In future bulletins, we will also share 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!

Kseniya Kirichenko,
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Latest Reports with SOGIESC references

A number of reports will be presented by Special Procedures mandate holders in September 2017 at the 36th Human Rights Council's session in Geneva. The list of the reports (updated as reports become available) is available here:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session36/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

- **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**
 - Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on its visit to the United States of America, [A/HRC/36/37/Add.2](#) (para 34)

- **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**
 - Methods of work of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, [A/HRC/36/38](#) (para 8e)

In particular we draw your attention to the following mandates that will present in September, together with the date when they are expected to present. Some of these are mandates which traditionally have strong coverage on SOGIESC issues (marked with a 🌈).

Monday 11 September 2017

- 🌈 Working Group on Arbitrary Detention 🌈
- 🌈 Independent Expert on the rights of Older Persons 🌈
- 🌈 Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation 🌈

Tuesday 12 September 2017

- 🌈 Working Group on Enforced Disappearances 🌈

Wednesday 13 September 2017

- Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

Wednesday 20 September 2017

- Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples

Tuesday 26 September 2017

- Special Rapporteur on Cambodia
- Independent Expert on Central African Republic

Wednesday 27 September 2017

- Independent Expert on Sudan
- Independent Expert on Somalia

The Complete Programme of Work for the 36th Human Rights Council can be found here:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session36/Documents/POWHR C36.doc>

A number of reports will also be presented by most Special Procedures mandate holders, 🌈 including Vitit Muntarbhorn, the Independent Expert on SOGI 🌈, in October and November 2017 at the 72nd session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York. The reports will be available here in the coming weeks:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>

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

- **Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights** – Guidance on human rights impact assessments for economic reform policies – Deadline for contributions 15 August 2017. Report to be delivered in March 2018 (37th HRC).
[Read more](#)
- **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises** – “Human rights defenders and civic space – the business and human rights dimension” – Deadline for contributions 1 September 2017. The Working Group plans to issue a draft guidance document toward the end of 2017 for stakeholder feedback, and to finalize the guidance document for publication in 2018.
[Read more](#)
-  **Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice** – Questionnaire on lessons learned, challenges and opportunities – Deadline for contributions 4 September 2017. Report to be delivered in June 2018 (38th HRC). 
[Read more](#)
- **Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment** – “The environment and the rights of the child” – Deadline for contributions 15 September 2017. Report to be delivered in March 2018 (37th HRC).
[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 30 September 2017. Report to be delivered in June 2018 (38th HRC). 
[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](#)
- **Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples** – Call for inputs on upcoming country visit to Mexico (8 to 17 November 2017) – Deadline for inputs 11 September 2017.
[Read more](#)
- **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights** – Call for inputs on upcoming country visit to the United States (4 to 15 December 2017) – Deadline for inputs 4 October 2017.
[Read more](#)

Notification of public consultations

- **Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy** – “Surveillance & Privacy – considering new measures at international law”: Public consultation – Deadline to register interest 10 September 2017
[Read more](#)

Upcoming Country Visits

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

Samoa	 Discrimination against women in law and practice 	8-18 August
Cambodia	Human rights in Cambodia	8-18 August
El Salvador	Internally displaced persons	14-18 August
Japan	 Adequate housing 	22-31 August
Kazakhstan	Persons with disabilities	4-15 September
Malaysia	 Cultural rights 	11-22 September
Mongolia	Environment	19-27 September
France	Persons with disabilities	3 - 13 October
Sri Lanka	Truth and justice	10-23 October
India	 Water and Sanitation 	30 October-10 November
Sudan	Enforced or involuntary disappearances	20-29 November
Bahamas	 Violence against women 	1-11 December
Chad	 Discrimination against women in law and practice 	4-14 December
USA	 Poverty 	4 - 15 December

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

Upcoming nomination, selection and appointment of Mandate Holders



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

- Appointments to be made at the **36th session of the Human Rights Council** (September 2017).

The application process for most positions closed on 8 June 2017. One position, however, remains open: the newly-created Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members where the deadline is 17 August 2017 (12.00 Noon GMT).

[Read more](#)

The positions for which the application process has closed:


- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (*member from Western European and other States*)
-  Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice (*member from African States*)
- Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice (*member from Asia-Pacific States*)
- Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice (*member from Eastern European States*)
- Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice (*member from Western European and other States*) 

For each of these positions, the candidates who applied can be found [here](#). The Consultative Group is now in the process of shortlisting and interviewing these candidates. The Consultative Group's list of recommended candidates will be issued in August 2017. The President of the Human Rights Council will consult with States and will make his recommendation based on this list in early September. The appointment will be made at the end of the HRC in September.

ILGA, together with other organizations, sent a [letter](#) to the Consultative Group regarding the selection process for the positions on the Working Group on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, requesting them to take into consideration certain criteria.

- Appointments to be made at the **37th session of the Human Rights Council** (March 2018). Application process not yet open:
 - 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

- [!\[\]\(849840539e55921a3851a4ff96d7400d_img.jpg\) *Honduras must boost protection of LGBTI rights defenders, UN experts urge after latest attack*](#) (8 August 2017), the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. 

Useful Resources

- [Factsheets on SOGIESC issues](#): 12 UN Special Procedures (by ILGA and ISHR)
- 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)