



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

Monthly Update No. 5
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Foreword

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

In this issue, we introduce **a new section on useful contacts** for defenders wishing to engage with Special Procedures. The section includes information on organisations and activists who could provide support in LGBTI defenders' engagement with Special Procedures mandate holders. We would be happy to add your contacts to the list. In that light, please do let us know if you are coordinating or facilitating such engagement.

This issue includes details of reports that have been presented by Special Procedures at the Third Committee of the 72nd session of the General Assembly in New York (September-December 2017); four [open calls](#) for civil society input to Special Procedures, two **events** organised by Special procedures mandate holders 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 will also find the latest [statements](#) by mandate holders on LGBTI issues; and a [list of resources](#) for advocacy with Special Procedures mechanisms.

 We especially highlight the following:

- Reports to the General Assembly, including the second report of the **SOGI Independent Expert**, as well as **NEW!** four new SOGIESC-inclusive reports by both thematic and country mandates;
- Calls for inputs on 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;
- The following upcoming country visits by mandate holders: **Serbia** (Special Rapporteur on torture, November 2017), **Mexico** (Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, November-December 2017), **Chad** (Working Group on discrimination against women, December 2017), **United States** (Special Rapporteur on poverty, December 2017), **NEW! Spain** (Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly, December 2017), **Bahamas** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, December 2017), **NEW! Mongolia** (Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, April 2018), **NEW! Ghana** (Special Rapporteur on poverty, April 2018), and **NEW! Canada** (Special Rapporteur on health, second half of 2018).

- Recently appointed mandate holders, including four members of the Working Group on discrimination against women, as well as **NEW!** **the latest news on the Independent Expert on SOGI** appointment process;
- **NEW!** **Three recent statements** made by Special Procedures mandate holders, including with regard to the Independent Expert's report to the General Assembly; and
- **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 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, that was 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 the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, [A/72/523](#) (paras 59 & 60)
- **NEW!** **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, [A/72/502](#) (para 6)
- **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)
-  **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) 
- **NEW!** **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, [A/72/493](#) (para 92)
- **NEW!** **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar**
 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, [A/72/493](#) (para 14)
- **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!** **Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order** – Call for submissions for regional visit to Venezuela and Ecuador – Deadline 27 November 2017. A report on the visit will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2018.
[Read more](#)
-  **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](#)
- **NEW!**  **Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation** – Call for inputs: Country Visit to Mongolia (9-20 April 2018) – Deadline 9 February 2018. 
[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!** “**Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**” – 28 November 2016, room XXIV of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”
[Read more](#)
- **NEW!** **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights – Country Visit to the United States** – Press conference, 15 December 2017, 12pm, the United Nations Information Center in Washington, D.C.
[Read more](#)

Upcoming Country Visits

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




Serbia	 Torture 	13-24 November 2017
Vietnam	Food	13-24 November 2017
NEW! Iraq	Extrajudicial executions	14-23 November 2017
Sudan	Enforced disappearances	20-29 November
Mexico	 Freedom of expression 	27 November-4 December 2017
Nigeria	Trafficking	27 November-5 December 2017
NEW! Venezuela	International order	27 November-4 December 2017
NEW! Ecuador	International order	5-8 December 2017
Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on Cambodia	4-15 December 2017
Chad	 Discrimination against women 	4-14 December 2017
USA	 Poverty 	4-15 December 2017
Sri Lanka	Arbitrary detention	4-15 December 2017
NEW! Côte d'Ivoire	Right to education	4-11 December 2017
NEW! Spain	 Freedom of peaceful assembly 	11-14 December 2017
NEW! Republic of Korea	Situation of HR in DPR Korea	11-14 December 2017
NEW! Japan	Situation of HR in DPR Korea	15-16 December 2017
Bahamas	 Violence against women 	11-15 December 2017
NEW! Ghana	Mercenaries	8-15 December 2017

Morocco	Independence of justice	23-30 January 2018
NEW! Nepal	Migrants	29 January-5 February 2018
Brazil	Foreign debt	18-29 March 2018
NEW! Mongolia	 Water & sanitation 	9-20 April 2018
NEW! Ghana	 Poverty 	9-18 April 2018
Ireland	Sale of children	14-21 May 2018
Ukraine	Foreign debt	14-23 May 2018
Guatemala	Independence of justice	20-28 August 2018
Malaysia	Sale of children	24 September-1 October 2018
NEW! Sweden	HR and International Solidarity	Second trimester of 2018
NEW! Canada	 Right to health 	Second half of 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.

- **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.





NEW! Out of [11 candidates](#), three were [shortlisted by the Consultative Group](#), and then the President of the Human Rights Council [proposed](#) **[Victor MADRIGAL-BORLOZ](#)** for the appointment. Notably, in his letter the President also particularly







highlighted concerns regarding the lack of female candidates and encouraged "qualified candidates from all regions and backgrounds, and especially women, to apply for forthcoming appointments."

The approval of this decision by the Human Rights Council 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](#).
 - **NEW!** Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
 - 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!**  [Time to fight global avalanche of misogyny caused by fundamentalism and extremism, UN rights expert says](#) (25 October 2017) – The world must fight back against a growing threat to women’s rights fuelled by rising fundamentalism and extremism, told Karima Bennouna, Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, presenting a report on the global challenges being faced. “Extremists often harass and target women who are members of minority groups, or who are immigrants or are lesbian, bisexual or transgender, as they seek to enjoy their equal cultural rights. They are often motivated by myths of a homogenous nation, claims of cultural or ethnic or racial superiority or purity, and populist ultra-nationalism.” 
- **NEW!**  [LGBT people suffering “crucible” of rights violations around the world, UN expert warns](#) (27 October 2017) – People around the world are suffering horrific violations of their human rights based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and immediate action is needed to stop it, a UN rights expert has warned in a landmark address to the UN General Assembly in New York. “It is unconscionable that people with an actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression different from a particular social norm, are targeted for violence and discrimination in many parts of the world,” said the UN’s first Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Vitit Muntarbhorn. 

- **NEW**  [End of Mission Statement by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation Mr. Léo Heller](#) (New Delhi, 10 November 2017) – “As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, I address you today at the conclusion of my official visit to India, which I undertook at the invitation of the Government from 27 October to 10 November 2017. [...] Community toilets are often available in small numbers in relation to the number of families that require those facilities. Moreover, according to reports, they are usually not disability-adapted, maladaptive and unaccepting of transgender persons, and lacking adequate facilities for handwashing and for menstrual hygiene management.” 
-  [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 10 October. 
-  [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), including:
 - Recently updated [Factsheet: Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences](#)
 - Recently 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](#)

Useful contacts for defenders wishing to engage with Special Procedures

This section includes information on organisations and activists who could provide support in LGBTI defenders' engagement with Special Procedures mandate holders. We would be happy to add your contacts to the list.

- **Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTN)**. APTN assists in engaging local trans activists in Special Procedures' country visits, reviewing reports and submissions to Special Procedures, supports individual complaints, and makes regional and cooperative national submissions to Special Procedures.
Contact person: Cianán B. Russell, cianan.russell@weareaptn.org
- **André du Plessis, ILGA** (andre@ilga.org) – focal point for the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.
- **Kseniya Kirichenko, ILGA** (kseniya@ilga.org) – focal point for the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.