

tool 49 Other Avenues to Report Grave Violations

Factsheet

The MRM is not the only avenue for NGOs to report violations against children by armed actors. Depending on the country, the following alternative/additional **international mechanisms** may be of interest:

Entity/Mechanism	What can be reported	Pre-conditions	When to report and how	Possible outcome	Further information for NGOs
<p>Treaty monitoring bodies:</p> <p>Committee on the Rights of the Child (monitors CRC and OPAC implementation)</p> <p>Human Rights Committee (monitors ICCPR implementation)</p> <p>Committee against Torture (monitors CAT implementation)</p>	Violations of the relevant convention.	Country must have ratified the convention.	Every state party must submit to the Committee official reports on the status of implementation of the Convention/ Protocol on a regular basis. NGOs can submit 'shadow reports' to the Committee ahead of the examination of the country's official report.	NGO submissions are formally taken into account during the review process. At the end of the process the Committee issues 'Concluding observations'. This document outlines concrete actions the country must take and report on in the following cycle. It is therefore an important document for future advocacy and action for NGOs at country level.	Simple Guide to the UN treaty-based bodies, ISHR (2010).
<p>Individual complaints/ communication procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Committee • Committee against Torture <p>» Note: the Committee on the Rights of the Child will have a communications procedure once the third optional protocol to the CRC enters into force.</p>	Individual cases of violations falling under the mandate of the relevant Committee.	Country must be a party to the treaty and recognize the competence of the relevant Committee. Exhaustion of domestic remedies.	As soon as possible after exhaustion of domestic remedies.	Committees may initiate inquiries into the situation in a state party, provided it has recognized the competence of the relevant Committee in this regard.	Procedure for individual communications. FAQs about treaty bodies complaints procedures.

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Entity/Mechanism	What can be reported	Pre-conditions	When to report and how	Possible outcome	Further information for NGOs
<p>Communications to Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (thematic and country mandates)</p> <p>Of particular relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sp. Rapp. on torture • Sp. Rapp. on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence • Sp. Rapp. on Violence against women • Sp. Rapp. on right to education • Working Group on arbitrary detention • Sp. Rapp. on the situation of human rights defenders (for issues concerning protection of NGOs engaged in monitoring/ reporting violations) • Country mandates (e.g., Central African Republic; Mali; Myanmar; Somalia; Sudan; Syria) 	Violations falling under the mandate of the relevant special procedure.	None	Any time, following the required procedure for each mandate. Communications may be submitted regardless of whether domestic remedies have been exhausted.	<p>Country visits/bilateral advocacy to push for preventive or investigative action to be taken.</p> <p>Note: all mandate holders are required to submit a 'communications report', which includes a short summary of all cases received through the Communications Procedure.</p>	Instructions for submitting information to special procedures.
Human Rights Council (HRC)	Any violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.	<p>Universal Periodic Review (UPR): none</p> <p>Complaints mechanism: exhaustion of domestic remedies; cases must not have been already dealt with by a special procedure or treaty body (principle of non-duplication).</p>	<p>UPR: all UN member states are subject to a regular UPR by the HRC. The UPR is a peer review process in which all countries can discuss and make recommendations to the country under review. NGOs may submit information to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as 'other stakeholder', ahead of the UPR session where the country is being reviewed. NGOs may also make a statement directly at the HRC in-person.</p>	<p>UPR: NGO submissions are compiled by the OHCHR and are included in the set of documents being officially examined in each session. The outcome of each UPR session is the adoption of a report containing all issues and recommendations raised. The country under review must publicly accept or reject each of these recommendations. The country must report on the status of implementation of recommendations in its following review cycle.</p>	<p>UPR:</p> <p>Calendar of sessions</p> <p>Instructions for submissions</p> <p>Complaints mechanism:</p> <p>Procedure for complaints</p>

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Entity/Mechanism	What can be reported	Pre-conditions	When to report and how	Possible outcome	Further information for NGOs
Human Rights Council (HRC) (cont'd)			HRC Complaints Mechanism: communications by individuals, groups or NGOs that claim to be victims of/ have credible information on patterns of gross human rights violations. Complaints may be submitted against any country, regardless of whether it has ratified any particular treaty.	HRC Complaints Mechanism: complaints considered admissible may result in requests for information/action by the concerned state and continued dialogue, appointment of an independent expert to monitor the situation, provision of technical advice to the concerned state in order to address the situation.	

Other avenues to report grave violations at national level:

- National judicial system.
- National human rights institutions: individuals (Ombudsmen) or entities (Commissions) that investigate, promote and protect human rights. The degree of independence of these institutions depends on national laws and contexts. The UN conducts reviews of national human rights institutions. Ratings and review schedules can be consulted here.
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at country level.
- Government entities dealing with victim assistance and protection.

related tools

- 🔗 [tool 23 – Factsheet ‘Mapping relevant international obligations of your country of operation’](#)