

# ANNUAL REPORT

Enabling Local Action Through Global Engagement:  
*Strengthening civil and political rights by connecting  
grassroots voices to international human rights mechanisms*

# 20 24





## In memory of Rafael Rivas Posada

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This report is dedicated to the memory of Rafael Rivas Posada, a distinguished human rights advocate, former President of our organization, and a dear friend, who passed away unexpectedly on 30 August 2024.

Rafael's contributions to our Centre and to the broader human rights community are immeasurable. His kindness, integrity, and unwavering dedication to justice left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Before leading the Centre as President, Mr. Rivas Posada served on the United Nations Human Rights Committee from 2000 to 2012, including as its President from 2007 to 2008. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the Committee's impact, including the development of its follow-up procedure for Concluding Observations—an essential step in holding States accountable for their human rights obligations.

Throughout his life, Rafael was a tireless champion of human rights defenders and a passionate advocate for the meaningful participation of civil society in the work of the Human Rights Committee. His deep belief in justice, equality, and the power of collective action continues to inspire our mission today.

The Centre extends its heartfelt condolences to Rafael's family, friends, and all those in the human rights community who will feel his loss deeply. We carry forward his vision and legacy in our daily work to promote and protect human rights around the world.

Rest in peace, Rafael. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

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## Message from the President and the Director

As we reflect on 2024, **civil and political rights** worldwide remain **under mounting** threat. Across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, fundamental freedoms are eroding, human rights defenders (HRDs) face growing repression, and civic space is shrinking. Yet HRDs continue to raise their voices with extraordinary resilience, inspiring our work and reaffirming the relevance of the CCPR Centre (the Centre) mission. Defending the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is not only essential-it is more urgent than ever.

This year, we focused on two core objectives: ensuring that local voices inform global human rights processes, and translating recommendations made at the global level into concrete action on the ground. We helped **make the local global** by enabling HRDs-including those in remote areas-to bring their concerns to international mechanisms, particularly the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee (the Committee). Through hybrid briefings, online workshops, and targeted support, HRDs from countries under review were able to engage meaningfully, even when facing financial or security barriers. This proved crucial in 2024, when UN budget cuts ended online participation in formal briefings, meaning our hybrid model became vital for inclusion. For countries like Namibia and Honduras, our support enabled the only civil society voices to be physically present in Geneva-underlining the importance of our role in keeping UN processes participatory.

At the same time, we worked to **bring the global back to the local** by helping translate UN recommendations into practical action. From an online dissemination campaign in Honduras to a parliamentary guide in Nicaragua, we developed tools accessible to both authorities and civil society. In countries like Guatemala, Uganda, and others, we facilitated follow-up missions with Committee members and national actors to bridge the gap between Geneva and local implementation. Where dialogue was closed-as in Myanmar, Cuba, and El Salvador-we mobilised **complementary mechanisms**, ensuring that the Committee voice remained central and echoed across platforms.

Our **digital tools**-including our dashboards aggregating Concluding Observations from various UN Treaty Bodies-have become indispensable for both international and national actors. National stakeholders rely on our follow-up platforms as clear roadmaps for action, while several Permanent Missions use the Centre-led interactive tools, such as those focused on Myanmar and Burundi, to inform their interventions before the UN. Separately, the power of artificial intelligence has become increasingly tangible: **AI-driven solutions assist defenders** in securely storing information, analyzing complex UN documents, and drafting reports on violations-offering critical support to human rights defenders under growing pressure.

As our current Strategic Plan comes to a close, we have taken stock and looked forward. In 2024, we convened our global team for an intensive retreat to shape the next chapter of our work. **Our new strategy** will keep the Committee at its core, while strengthening our dual focus: amplifying local voices in global forums and translating global standards into local realities, all while harnessing technology to empower defenders.

We know this work takes place in an increasingly difficult funding environment. We remain committed to responding to the needs of defenders and protection gaps on the ground. We are deeply grateful to the donors who continue to trust in our work and in the power of targeted, flexible funding to drive lasting change.

In solidarity,  
Victor Rodriguez Rescia  
& Patrick Mutzenberg



## Who we are



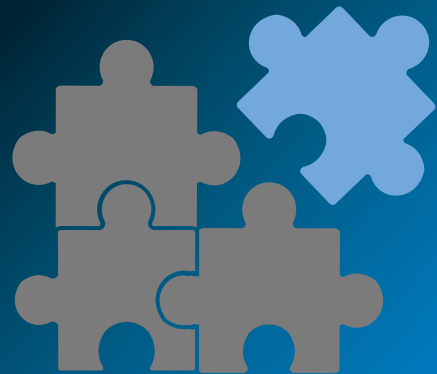
### Our vision

A world where civil and political rights are protected, respected and fulfilled for everyone without discrimination.

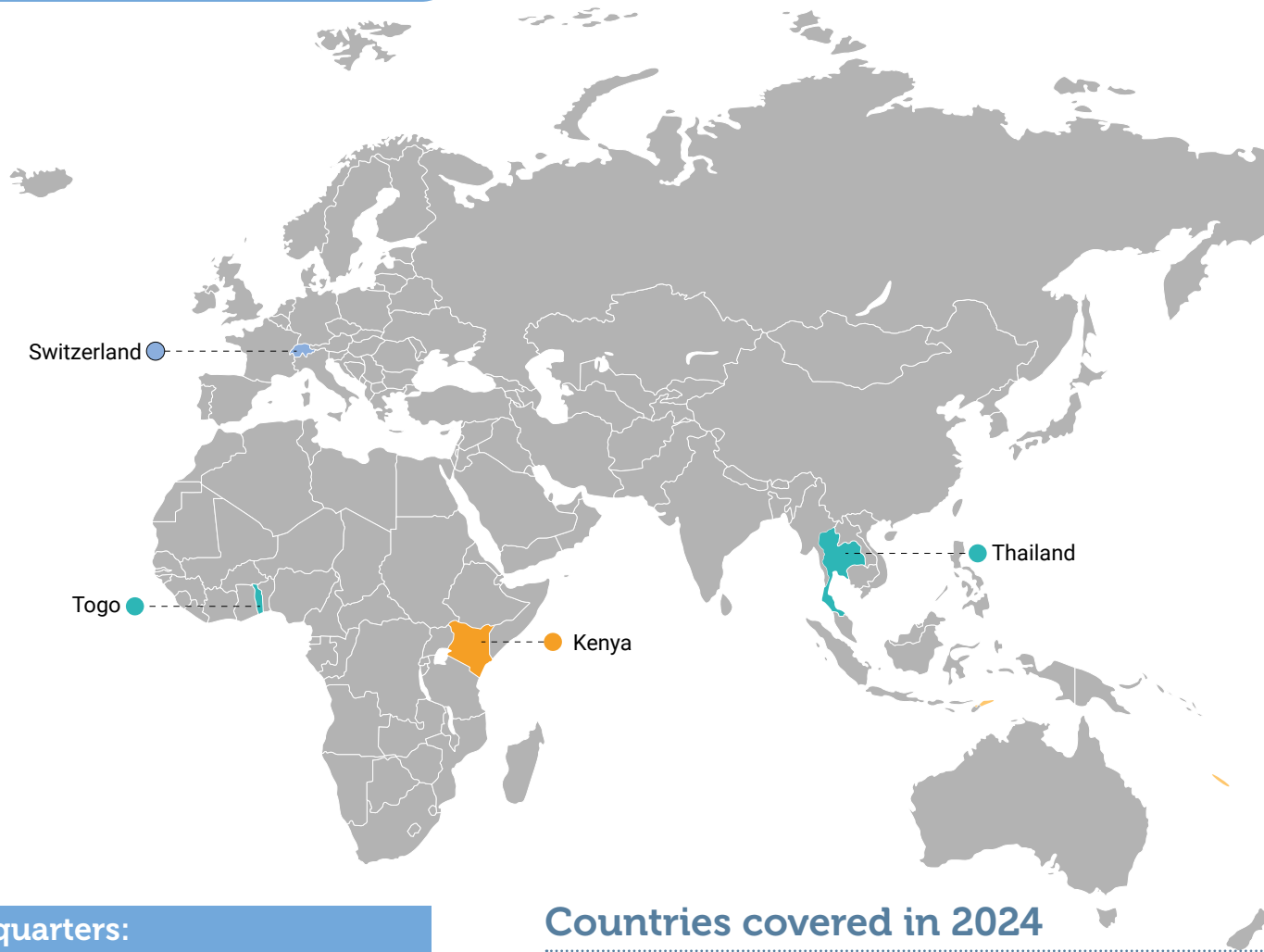


### Our mission

To contribute to the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by providing support to civil society and connecting and enabling key actors to implement the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee's recommendations at a national level.



## Where we work



### Headquarters:

- Geneva (Switzerland)

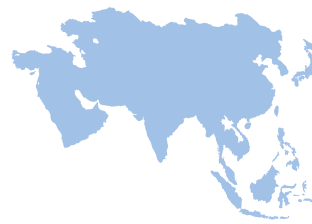
### Regional Offices:

- Africa (Togo)
- Asia-Pacific (Thailand)
- Latin America (Costa Rica)

### National Coordinators

- Kenya

### Countries covered in 2024



#### ASIA

Myanmar  
Philippines  
Viet Nam  
Uzbekistan  
India



AFRICA

- Benin
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic (CAR)
- Congo Brazzaville
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo)
- Gabon
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali

- Namibia
- Niger
- Senegal
- Somalia
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe



LATIN AMERICA

- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Suriname
- Venezuela

## A Year in figures

### Training and Capacity Building for Civil Society

More than  
**460**  
HRDs

participated in 41 training sessions organised by the CCPR Centre in 17 countries:

- Cameroon
- CAR
- Chile
- Cuba
- DR Congo
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Nicaragua
- Philippines
- Senegal
- Suriname
- Uganda
- Venezuela

## Support to Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) Advocacy



# 22

### CSOs reports

on civil and political rights to various UN mechanisms, like the Human Rights Committee (the Committee), other UN Treaty Bodies (UNTBs) or the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for the following countries:

- Benin
- Cameroon
- CAR
- Chile
- DR Congo
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Namibia
- Nicaragua
- Suriname
- Togo
- Viet Nam

## Engagement with the Committee



# 496

### HRDs

participated in **24 CSOs briefings** (either in person or online). The Centre sponsored **12 HRDs** to participate in UN human rights mechanism sessions in person:

- Chile
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Namibia
- Suriname

## Engagement with National Authorities



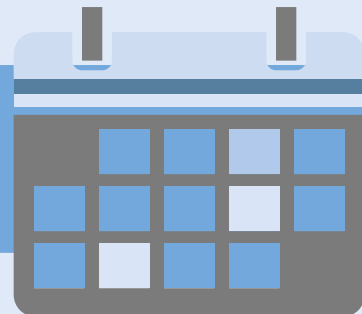
# 9

### Follow-up missions/consultations

with members of the Committee or relevant experts in the following countries:

- CAR
- DR Congo
- Guatemala
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Peru
- Senegal
- Togo
- Uganda

# A Year in Review



**JAN**

- Nicaragua: CSO consultations to prepare for the UPR
- Namibia: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the ICCPR review
- Togo: Follow-up online consultation with Committee member H. Tigroudja
- Kenya: Follow-up online training with Committee member V. Sancin



- Chile: Online CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR review
- Ecuador: Online CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR review
- DR Congo: Four online CSO consultations to prepare a joint report for the UPR

**FEB**

**MAR**

- Kenya: In-person follow-up consultations with CSO and authorities
- DR Congo: Side events with OIF on HRDs protection in Africa
- Global: Side event at Human Rights Council (HRC) on HRDs in exile
- 140th Session of the Committee: Sponsored in-person participation of HRDs from Chile & Namibia



- Honduras: In-person CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR review
- DR Congo: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the UPR
- Togo: Submission of a joint CSO Follow-up report to the Committee
- Kenya: Submission of a joint CSO Follow-up report to the Committee

**APR**

**MAY**

- Philippines: in-person CSO follow-up workshop with the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) to follow-up on Committee's COBs
- Viet Nam: Submission of a joint CSO report for the Committee's LOI
- Suriname: In-person CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR review
- Nicaragua: In-person CSO consultations to prepare for the UPR



- Guatemala: Training & official launch of the Guide for Parliamentarians with Committee member R. Carazo
- Honduras: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the ICCPR Review
- CAR: In-person CSO follow-up consultations to support the Committee's COBs
- Türkiye: In-person CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR review

**JUN**

JUL

- Suriname: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the ICCPR review
- Guatemala: Training for Indigenous women leaders on UN human rights mechanisms
- Madagascar: CSO consultations & submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the UPR
- 141 Session of the Committee: Sponsored in-person participation of HRDs from Honduras & Suriname



- Nicaragua: Briefing for Diplomats ahead of the UPR
- DR Congo: Supported in-person advocacy of five HRDs during the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva
- Senegal: In-person follow-up consultations with the National Institution for Human Rights
- Peru: Follow-up mission with Committee member H. Tigroudja

AUG

SEP

- Cameroon: CSO consultations to prepare for the ICCPR & the Committee Against Torture (CAT) reviews and submission of two CSO reports
- Uganda: Follow-up mission with Committee member I.Yigezu & training with Parliamentarians on COB's follow-up
- CAR: Submission of a joint CSO follow-up report to the Committee
- Ecuador: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the ICCPR review



- Cuba: Supported WHRDs to participate in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) review
- Kenya: Submission of a joint CSO report ahead of the UPR
- DR Congo: Briefing for diplomats in Kinshasa ahead of the UPR
- 142 Session of the Committee: Sponsored in-person participation of HRDs from Ecuador and Türkiye

OCT

NOV

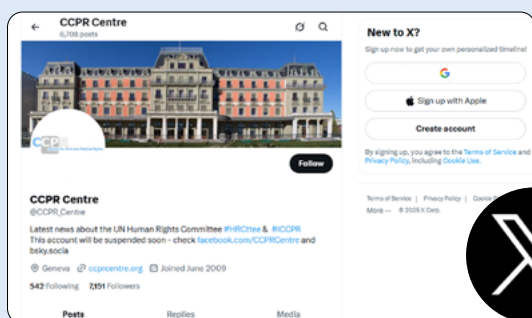
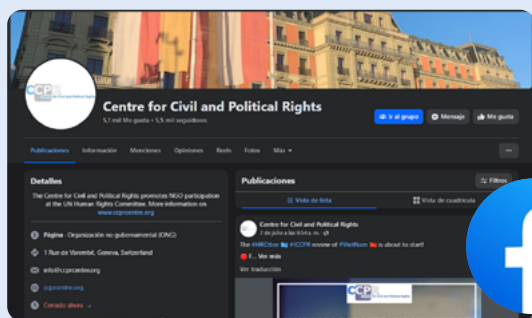
- Bolivia: Supported advocacy work of a CSO coalition during the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva
- Guatemala: In-person training on UN human rights mechanisms for grass-roots CSOs
- Benin: Submission of a joint CSO report for the Committee's LOIPR
- DR Congo: Four online CSO training sessions on artificial intelligence (AI) & regional human rights protection mechanisms



- India: Briefing for diplomats on the outcomes of the 4th ICCPR review
- Senegal/South Sudan: South-South exchange in Dakar on how to engage with UN mechanisms
- Madagascar: Advocacy mission ahead of the UPR & CSO training on UNTBs & UPR recommendations
- DR Congo: Follow-up mission on both Committee's and UPR recommendations

DEC

## Social media

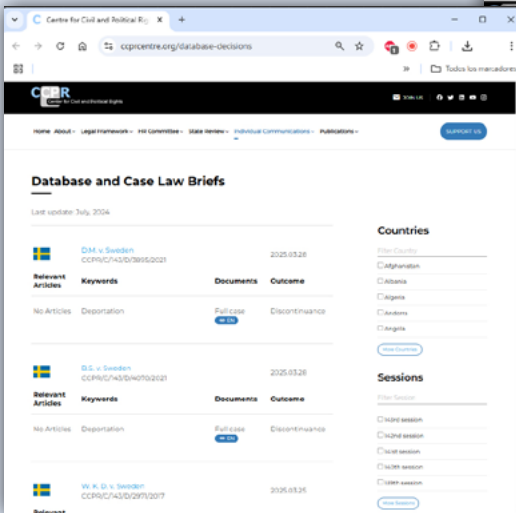


## Other digital tools

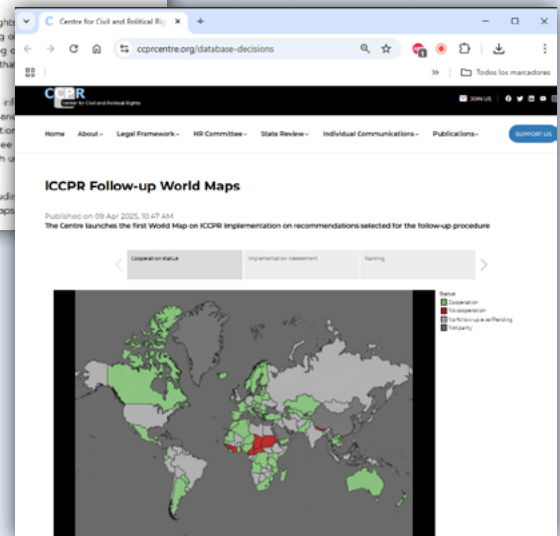
Across all countries, the Centre maintained its public presence through regularly updated **online databases**, which remain a key platform for accessing **Concluding Observations** and **Individual Communications**. In 2024, the Centre also published **three newsletters**, offering accessible overviews of each Committee session to a broad audience. Additionally, it continued to update interactive **country-specific maps**, including one tracking State interventions at the HRC on Myanmar and another compiling human rights violations in Burundi, based on data collected by several CSOs still active on the ground.

## Our ICCPR databases

### Committee's Individual Communications: Database & Case Law Briefs

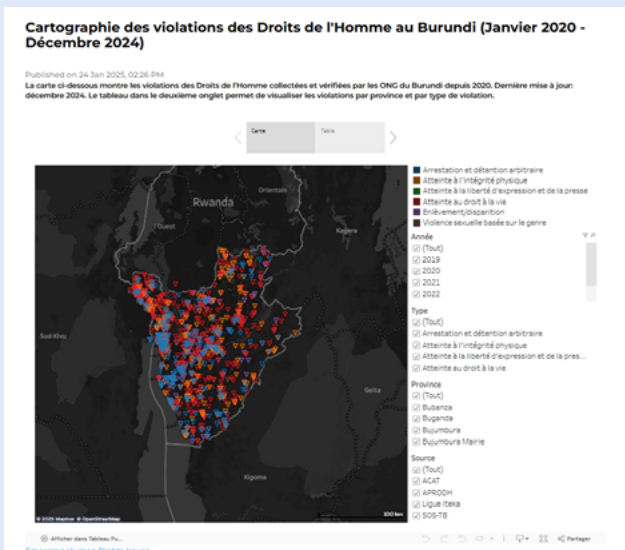


### Database on Follow-up on the Committee's Concluding Observations

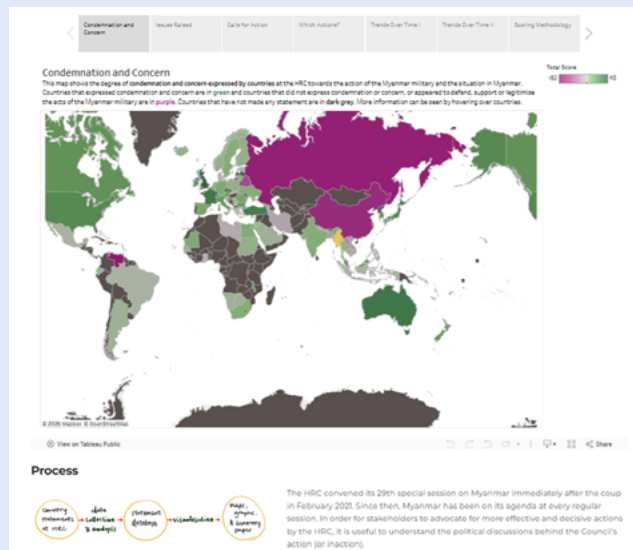


### World map on ICCPR implementation of the Committee's recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure

## Country specific maps



### Burundi



### Myanmar

## AFRICA

In 2024, civic space continued to shrink across Africa, particularly in the Great Lakes and Sahel regions, where repression of dissent, violence against HRDs, and shrinking democratic safeguards remained pressing concerns. Against this backdrop, the Centre worked alongside civil society actors in over 15 countries-supporting their engagement with the Committee and other UN mechanisms throughout the full reporting cycle.

From Namibia, Somalia, and Mali to Kenya, Uganda, and the DR Congo, we helped HRDs submit impactful reports, join strategic Geneva-based advocacy, and follow up on recommendations on the ground. Our support enabled timely and credible civil society input even in hard-to-access or repressive contexts. Through cross-border exchanges, regional convenings, and thematic innovation—including AI-focused tools and collaborative South–South learning—we strengthened local capacity and helped ensure that international recommendations translated into meaningful national action.



## Regional High-Impact Snapshots

- **Strengthened civil society participation throughout the Committee's reporting cycle** – From reporting to implementation, the Centre supported CSOs in over 10 countries to engage meaningfully with the Committee.
- **Coalitions formed and joint CSO reports shaped the Committee's engagement with States** – In Namibia and Somalia (reviews) and in Mali, Cameroon, and Benin (LOI), the Centre supported the creation of civil society coalitions and the submission of coordinated reports. These contributions ensured that key local concerns informed the Committee's dialogue with States and shaped the questions posed during the LOI stage.
- **Lasting capacity strengthened through long-term partnership** – Partner CSOs like *Changement Social Bénin* built on existing collaboration to operate independently and take the lead in national reporting efforts.
- **Cross-mechanism engagement in Cameroon, DR Congo, Kenya and Madagascar** expanded civil society advocacy to CAT, CEDAW and UPR, reinforcing recommendations made by the Committee.
- **Context-adapted follow-up sparked national dialogue and sustained visibility of Committee recommendations** – To ensure that the Committee's recommendations remained accessible, actionable and at the centre of national conversations, the Centre conducted in-person missions in Uganda, CAR and Senegal, targeted online follow-up sessions in Kenya and Togo, and disseminated information in Burundi and Namibia.
- **"Resisting in Exile" – HRC55 side event** created a global platform for exiled HRDs from Africa, Latin America and Asia to share their experiences and strengthen a call for action.
- **AI-focused webinars in the Great Lakes region** identified HRDs' digital needs and laid the groundwork for a secure data analysis platform to be extended in other countries of the region and beyond.



### Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen and assist the efforts of civil society for the protection of civil and political rights

1. Increase the capacity of civil society to report effectively to the Human Rights Committee
2. Facilitate direct interaction between civil society and the Human Rights Committee

In 2024, the Centre worked hand in hand with a multitude of local and international partners to support civil society across Africa to **meaningfully engage with the Committee**. We adapted our approach to each context-taking into account the composition of civil society and local constraints-to ensure that our support was as impactful and effective as possible.

The Centre supported civil society **across the entire reporting cycle in 2024** - working with countries under review (Namibia, Somalia), those preparing for review (Mali, Cameroon, Benin), and those implementing the Committee's recommendations in the post-review phase (Uganda, CAR, Kenya, Burundi, Togo, DR Congo, among others).

Our work helped to close critical gaps in countries reviewed. For example, in **Namibia**, where initial engagement was limited, we enabled the only coalition report-signed by 11 CSOs-which stood out as the only comprehensive civil society contribution, in contrast to a separate report focused solely on the war of independence against Angola in the 1980s. We also supported the sole civil society presence in Geneva. In **Somalia**, we facilitated hybrid participation for CSOs facing visa barriers, allowing for a diverse group to brief the Committee. Their inputs-on torture, impunity, and child recruitment-were reflected in the dialogue. Early engagement also began in **Zimbabwe** ahead of its 2025 review.

In Mali, Cameroon, and Benin, we strengthened civil society participation at the List of Issues (LOI) stage. In each country, we ensured that civil society was informed of key deadlines, supported the drafting and submission of LOI reports, and organized briefings to ensure their concerns were reflected in the Committee's questions to the State.

In **Mali**, five leading CSOs submitted a coordinated report addressing transitional justice, conflict, and civic freedoms, which directly influenced the Committee's questions. In a context marked by mistrust and fragmentation among civil society, our initiative helped foster constructive dialogue, harmonize advocacy efforts, and strengthen the capacity of local actors to engage with UN mechanisms. In **Cameroon**, where a lack of information on the treaty bodies calendar had hindered participation, we facilitated the formation of an informal coalition and provided training to 25 CSO representatives. This resulted in the submission of a consolidated report, enhancing coordination and reinforcing civil society structures nationally. In **Benin**, our long-time partner *Changement Social Bénin* independently led the reporting process and briefed the Committee-demonstrating increased autonomy and how sustained collaboration with the Centre leads to long-term capacity strengthening that extends beyond our direct involvement.

Our work in 2024 ensured that civil society voices shaped reviews and dialogues, even in difficult contexts. Committee members noted that, in several cases, civil society participation would have been minimal or absent without the Centre's support.

## In Focus

**Namibia: Civil Society Voices Reflected in Concluding Observations** - On 6-7 March, Namibia underwent its third periodic review before the Committee. The Centre played a pivotal role in ensuring meaningful civil society participation, bridging a gap that would have otherwise left the review without national voices.

We supported the only two Namibian HRDs able to attend the session in Geneva, helping them prepare oral statements and facilitating both formal and informal briefings with Committee members. Committee members noted that without the Centre's support, no Namibian CSO would have been present.

Their input helped ensure that two of the three recommendations selected for follow-up directly addressed civil society priorities: increased resources for the Office of the Ombudsman and reform of pre-trial detention to reduce overcrowding. The inclusion of these recommendations in the Concluding Observations is a significant outcome, underscoring the importance of CSO advocacy efforts and the valuable contributions of Namibian HRDs.

The Centre also arranged bilateral meetings with UN Special Procedures and OHCHR representatives. All the interlocutors we contacted adjusted their schedules to meet with the HRDs, noting it had been years since they had the chance to hear directly from Namibian defenders in Geneva.

Reflecting on the experience, one of the HRDs shared:

*"It would have been impossible for us to come to Geneva and actively participate in the review without the support of the Centre. The meetings organised by the Centre helped us to better understand what the Special Procedures are and how CSOs can engage with them as a useful complementary tool for our advocacy work."*



### 3. Enable a more holistic utilization of UN human rights mechanisms by civil society

In 2024, the Centre reinforced its **holistic approach to UN human rights mechanisms**, helping civil society use multiple entry points-including UPR and treaty bodies-to amplify the Committee's recommendations.

This strategy was particularly visible in the DR Congo, Madagascar, and Kenya, all reviewed during the fourth UPR cycle. In each country, we supported civil society from the drafting of joint reports to advocacy during Geneva pre-sessions - in collaboration with UPR Info-ensuring alignment with the Committee's priorities. In the **DR Congo**, 13 organisations from the eastern provinces-many engaging with a UN mechanism for the first time-submitted a joint report. During a mission to Kinshasa in late November, we briefed stakeholders, shared a summary of recommendations, and supported the publication of a joint declaration signed by over 60 organisations urging implementation. In **Kenya**, our National Coordinator helped align a report signed by over 120 organisations with the Committee's 2021 review, feeding directly into the Committee's follow-up dialogue in July. In **Madagascar**, we partnered with ACAT Madagascar to coordinate a joint UPR report and supported five defenders to participate in the Geneva pre-session-most for the first time. A follow-up mission in December included bilateral advocacy, a meeting with the EU Delegation, and a capacity-building workshop for actors from both the capital and regional areas.

Beyond the UPR, we expanded civil society's engagement with **other treaty bodies and UN protection mechanisms**. In **Cameroon**, a coalition of CSOs formed during the ICCPR review submitted a detailed report to the CAT, highlighting torture-related violations. In the DR Congo, two coalition reports were submitted to CEDAW, advancing advocacy on women's rights across multiple mechanisms. These efforts showed how structured engagement with one mechanism can serve as a springboard for others. In **Burundi**, where the government boycotted its Committee review, we helped maintain international visibility through two advocacy missions to Geneva ahead of HRC's sessions. Seven exiled defenders participated in collaboration with SOS-Torture Burundi and international partners. Their collective advocacy-including 26 bilateral meetings-helped secure the renewal of the Special Rapporteur's mandate and maintain focus on the human rights crisis ahead of the 2025 elections.

By aligning civil society engagement across national contexts and UN mechanisms, the Centre helped **amplify and reinforce the Committee's recommendations through other UN processes**. In doing so, we contributed to more strategic and sustained advocacy-ensuring that key human rights concerns were not only raised consistently, but also had a greater chance of being heard, understood, and acted upon.

#### In focus

**DR Congo: Advocacy that Amplifies Local Voices in the UPR Process**-As part of our Africa programme, the Centre played a key role in supporting Congolese civil society during the 4th cycle of the UPR in November. A preparatory workshop held in Bukavu in 2023 revealed that existing reports to UN mechanisms lacked concrete information from the eastern provinces. To address this gap, the Centre organised four online consultations with 13 CSOs from North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika. These discussions led to the submission of one of only two CSO coalition reports from eastern DR Congo, highlighting key concerns such as gender-based violence and restrictions on fundamental freedoms.

In August, the Centre coordinated the participation of five Congolese HRDs at the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva, helping align their advocacy with diplomatic missions and UN special procedures. Throughout the process, we encouraged the use of UN protection mechanisms and emphasized follow-up to previous Committee's recommendations-particularly the urgent need to establish an independent National Protection Mechanism (NPM), which remains unfulfilled.

Building on the Geneva work, a strategy meeting in Kinshasa in October extended engagement with embassies and helped refine recommendations ahead of the review. A follow-up mission from 26 to 30 November provided space to assess the initial UPR outcomes and consolidate national advocacy. With our support, local organisations compiled a thematic summary of key recommendations and co-signed a public letter-endorsed by over 60 CSOs-urging the government to implement its international commitments.

This coordinated approach strengthened the visibility of underrepresented regions and ensured that local human rights priorities were clearly conveyed to both national and international stakeholders.





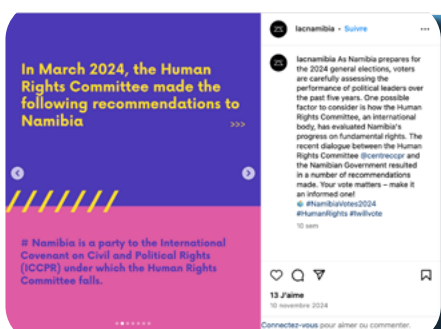
## Strategic Objective 2: Increase ratification and enhance implementation of the ICCPR

1. Contribute to the ratification of the ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols
2. Create a space for national dialogue
3. Increase the visibility of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at both the international and domestic level

In 2024, the Centre worked closely with civil society and national institutions in countries that had recently undergone a review by the Committee and were entering the crucial post-review and follow-up phase. From Uganda, the CAR, and Kenya to Burundi, Togo, and the DR Congo, we provided targeted support to ensure that the **Committee's recommendations** not only reached the right audiences but also **translated into meaningful domestic dialogue** and policy reform.

In line with our commitment to on-the-ground engagement, the Centre carried out in-person follow-up missions in several countries. In **Uganda**, a mission with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD-U) and Committee member I. Yiegzu included trainings, advocacy meetings, and tailored tools-reinforcing national ownership of the Committee's recommendations among officials and Parliamentarians. In **CAR**, where structured follow-up remains a challenge, the Centre deepened engagement by co-hosting a workshop in Bangui with the Centre d'Études Juridiques Africaines (CEJA), gathering 34 participants from civil society and state institutions. This led to the submission of a civil society follow-up report-since the State had not submitted its own-and the creation of a monitoring framework with indicators. A Parliamentarian's Guide was also developed for release in 2025. In **Senegal**, a training in Dakar brought together 47 participants, including from the Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Advisory Council (CCNDH-DIH), to support follow-up to the 2019 review and improve institutional coordination.

Other countries required more adapted or remote approaches. In **Kenya**, ahead of the Committee's follow-up review in July 2024, the Centre organised an online training with Committee's former Follow-Up Rapporteur V. Sancin, followed by an in-person workshop in Nairobi to update data on three priority recommendations. The resulting report, submitted in April, was praised by the Committee-particularly for flagging key developments on forced evictions that might have otherwise been overlooked. In **Togo**, follow-up was conducted entirely online. A webinar with Committee member H. Tigroudja and 18 CSOs led to the submission of a joint report and the launch of advocacy targeting national authorities. When the government failed to submit its own follow-up report, seven national organisations issued a formal letter urging compliance-strengthening accountability and sustaining pressure.



Where in-country missions were not feasible, we supported **innovative alternatives**. In **Namibia**, 10,000 flyers on children's rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights were distributed nationwide, accompanied by a social media campaign to ensure visibility of the Committee's recommendations during a politically sensitive election period. In **Burundi**, where the government had boycotted its 2023 review, we translated the Committee's recommendations into Kirundi and disseminated them through exile-based networks and digital channels-ensuring that Burundian civil society remained informed and engaged despite restrictions.

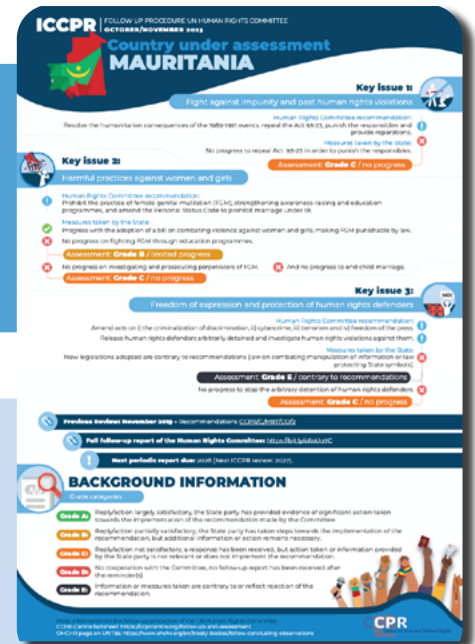
Across all follow-up countries, the Centre also produced and distributed advocacy factsheets summarising the Committee's follow-up notes. In 2024, factsheets were produced for Kenya, DR Congo, Mauritania, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, and Niger-helping national and international stakeholders track implementation progress and keep key issues on the agenda.

## In focus

**Uganda: Impactful Follow-Up to the Committee's Review** – From 15 to 20 September, the Centre organised a follow-up mission in Uganda with Committee member I. Yiegzu and in partnership with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD-U). The mission led to the creation of a CSO coalition focused on monitoring implementation, which fostered structured dialogue and strengthened parliamentary engagement. Lawmakers from across the political spectrum committed to follow up on human rights obligations, using the CCPR Handbook designed for Parliamentarians as a guide.

The mission also included a national consultation with 28 participants from State, parastatal, and civil society institutions to assess progress on issues such as National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)'s independence, prolonged detention, and discrimination. Notable outcomes included the NHRC's commitment to greater autonomy and increased parliamentary interest in human rights legislation.

Institutional meetings with the NHRC and Ministry of Foreign Affairs improved coordination with UN mechanisms and highlighted implementation gaps. This initiative significantly contributed to advancing Uganda's accountability and follow-up efforts.





## Regional Thematic and Cross-cutting Issues

In 2024, the Centre's work in Africa extended beyond country-specific efforts to address shared regional challenges and foster cross-border collaboration. In an increasingly hostile environment for HRDs, their protection remained a core priority, reflected in initiatives such as our side event on defenders in exile during the 55th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC55) and two regional dialogues co-organised with the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) on national laws **protecting HRDs in Africa**.

We also began exploring how artificial intelligence could support defenders in their daily work—whether drafting reports, securing documentation, or processing complex UN materials. Starting in the Great Lakes region, we held webinars to **promote the use of AI**, identify common digital needs, and lay the groundwork for a secure data analysis platform. In 2025, we will deepen this work in collaboration with the Geneva Human Rights Platform, with plans to expand it to other countries.

To strengthen mutual learning and amplify impact, we facilitated **South–South exchanges** among HRDs, including a study visit to Senegal that brought together Senegalese and South Sudanese defenders. The visit allowed South Sudanese HRDs to learn how civil society in Senegal engages with UN human rights mechanisms, prepares and submits reports, and collaborates with national authorities and other stakeholders to follow up on international recommendations. The exchange helped build stronger regional networks and deepen practical understanding of how to turn global human rights commitments into local action.

## In focus

### Standing with Those Who Stand Up: Defending Human Rights Defenders

In an increasingly hostile environment for HRDs across many of the countries where we work, their protection remains a core priority in all of the Centre's activities. In 2024, we reinforced this commitment through targeted initiatives aimed at deepening reflection and advancing practical solutions.

During HRC55, the Centre co-organised the event **"Resisting in exile: voices of human rights defenders"**, which gave a platform to exiled HRDs—including from Burundi and Sudan—to share their testimonies and the challenges they face. The event shed light on the specific vulnerabilities of HRDs in exile, including ongoing transnational threats, and called for stronger legal, political, and financial support. With over 80 participants, it successfully connected defenders with UN experts, diplomatic missions, and civil society actors, reinforcing the need for coordinated and sustained protection measures.

In parallel, the Centre partnered with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) for two **high-level events on the use of national laws for HRD protection in Africa**. The first, held in March, created a space for dialogue between diplomats, civil society, and national actors on the practical challenges and good practices in implementing such laws. The second event, held in May behind closed doors, brought together over a dozen African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to discuss the specific risks they face in protecting defenders, and to exchange strategies for strengthening their institutional role in often politically sensitive environments.



# ASIA

Across Asia, HRDs continue to face challenges as civic space contracts and fundamental freedoms come under threat. In 2024, the Centre supported HRDs in countries under review by the Committee, including Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Maldives, and Türkiye, as well as those preparing for reviews, such as Viet Nam, or engaged in follow-up processes like Uzbekistan and the Philippines. By strengthening their capacity to engage with UN human rights mechanisms, we are ensuring that local voices shape recommendations made at the international level, and further that recommendations result in appropriate action being taken on the ground. Strategic advocacy at the Human Rights Council (HRC) also helped sustain international pressure on Myanmar, keeping the crisis high on the global agenda.



## Regional High-Impact Snapshots

- **Strengthened civil society participation in Maldives and Pakistan reviews** – The Centre’s targeted support enabled meaningful engagement in Committee reviews where civil society input would have otherwise been limited or absent.
- **Integrated Committee recommendations across UN mechanisms** – In countries such as Viet Nam and Türkiye, the Centre also helped civil society strategise their advocacy across UN processes, ensuring that Committee recommendations were integrated in advocacy with other mechanisms.
- **First-time engagement with Turkish CSOs set a replicable model** – Ahead of Türkiye’s review, the Centre partnered with EU-funded local CSOs to support civil society engagement for the first time, demonstrating a viable approach for countries where the Centre has no in-country projects.
- **Sustained diplomatic pressure on Myanmar at the HRC** – Strategic advocacy with Geneva-based missions helped mobilise States that had been less vocal, ensuring continued attention to Myanmar’s crisis at the HRC.
- **Amplified recommendations through digital tools and briefings** – In India and Uzbekistan, the Centre used targeted diplomatic briefings and online platforms to increase the visibility and reach of the Committee’s recommendations and support local implementation efforts.
- **Thematic engagement improved monitoring of key rights** – The Centre’s thematic work on specific ICCPR provisions - including Article 14 on fair trial and Article 18 on freedom of religion - helped civil society refine their input into UN processes and better monitor the implementation of associated recommendations.



**Strategic Objective 1:** Strengthen and assist the efforts of civil society for the protection of civil and political rights

- 1. Increase the capacity of civil society to report effectively to the Human Rights Committee**
- 2. Facilitate direct interaction between civil society and the Human Rights Committee**

Throughout the year, the Centre worked with CSOs from several countries under review by the Committee, including Indonesia, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Türkiye, as well as with groups preparing for future reviews like in Viet Nam. We provided targeted support to help CSOs understand the Committee’s reporting process, prepare shadow reports, and engage meaningfully both before and during the Committee sessions.

In **India**, where the State report had been pending since 2001, the Centre played a key role in mobilising a broad range of CSOs to prepare for the long-overdue review. Our efforts resulted in the registration of 53 HRDs—both from **India** and the diaspora—who participated in an informal briefing between CSOs and Committee members. Many of the issues raised by civil society were reflected in the Committee’s Concluding Observations, a testament to the impact of our coordinated advocacy. The Centre also provided crucial support to civil society in the **Maldives**, where initial levels of engagement were limited. Working closely with Forum Asia, the Centre helped to build the capacity of local organisations, ultimately enabling meaningful civil society participation during the review. In **Pakistan**, we supported the participation of 35 HRDs, assisting with the preparation of advocacy and strengthening their submissions. Our guidance extended beyond technical support to also helping civil society amplify their messages through social media and direct communication with Committee members. The feedback from HRDs was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the Centre’s role in boosting the visibility and impact of their advocacy.

*“We really appreciate you using #PakHRCReview in CCPR Centre’s tweets. It made a big difference in getting our message out there and increasing visibility and engagement, especially with the Committee’s members. Also, thank you for sharing our info with the Committee’s members before and during the review.”*

*Michelle Shahid, Pakistan*



## In focus

**Türkiye : A New Way Forward: Responding to Civil Society Needs Beyond Traditional Programmes** – The Centre’s engagement with civil society from Türkiye marked a significant milestone. While the Centre has no dedicated programme in Türkiye, local CSOs secured EU funding and partnered with the Centre to assist in their preparation for the review for the first time. This model allowed the Centre to conduct a preparatory mission in Ankara in June, where 22 CSOs participated in in-depth training and strategic discussions on the reporting process and advocacy. Our engagement resulted in 49 Turkish HRDs participating in the Committee session, either online or in person. Several also managed to travel to Geneva for the session and the Centre coordinated their agenda, organising an informal briefing with Committee members and arranging meetings with key stakeholders such as UN Special Procedures and OHCHR desks for them to share their concerns. Following the review, the Centre also helped Turkish CSOs connect the Committee’s recommendations to other ongoing international processes, such as the CAT review and UPR, enabling them to make complementary use of these mechanisms in their advocacy work. The success of this model in Türkiye demonstrates how the Centre’s expertise can be mobilised in countries without a permanent programme, setting a precedent for future engagement elsewhere.



### 3. Enable a more holistic utilization of UN human rights mechanisms by civil society

#### In focus

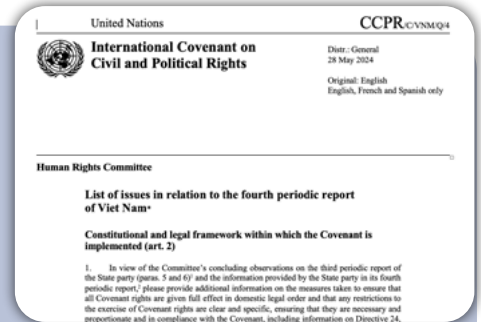
##### Empowering Vietnamese Civil Society: A Holistic Approach to Human Rights

**Advocacy** — In 2024, the Centre strengthened its long-standing support to civil society from Viet Nam by helping local HRDs engage strategically with two key UN processes: the UPR and the Committee's LOI.

In preparation for Viet Nam's UPR in January, the Centre worked closely with civil society partners to draft and submit an alternative report highlighting priority issues such as freedom of expression and the protection of HRDs. Through tailored training and workshops, the Centre equipped HRDs with the skills and knowledge needed to engage effectively in the UPR process. This resulted in concrete UPR recommendations calling on Viet Nam to amend restrictive legislation and protect civic space.

Simultaneously, the Centre supported Vietnamese HRDs in engaging with the Committee's LOI process. By providing guiding tools, technical assistance, and strategic advice, the Centre facilitated the successful submission of a joint civil society report, ensuring that key human rights concerns were reflected in the Committee's questions to the State. To amplify their advocacy, the Centre also sponsored two HRDs to travel to Geneva, where they briefed Committee members and met with key UN stakeholders, ensuring their voices were heard directly at the international level.

This complementary approach-linking the broad political platform of the UPR with the legal scrutiny of the Committee-helped civil society maximize the visibility and impact of their advocacy. Thanks to this coordinated effort, issues such as the harassment of activists, misuse of national security laws, and the death penalty featured prominently in both processes, strengthening international pressure on Viet Nam to improve its human rights record.



#### In Focus

##### Myanmar: Amplifying Voices for Action as Repression Deepens

In 2024, as Myanmar's human rights crisis worsened, the Centre intensified its efforts to keep international attention on the situation. Through strategic advocacy at every Human Rights Council (HRC) session, we spotlighted grave violations — including brutal attacks on civilians, suppression of dissent, and conscription-linked violence.

These interventions were not made in isolation. In the lead-up to each session, we engaged directly with diplomats from selected States to ensure they were well-informed and empowered to speak out. We also produced detailed briefing papers highlighting the state of civil and political rights in Myanmar. These briefings — available in English, French, and Spanish — were shared with carefully selected diplomats whose voices could help drive international attention and action. Many reported that the briefings were instrumental in shaping their statements, providing the facts, framing, and confidence needed to raise their voices publicly.

Beyond public statements, the Centre held one-on-one meetings with diplomats from Africa, Latin America, and Asia — including many from States that had previously remained silent. The Centre's advocacy helped open doors and led to tangible shifts in State engagement. South Africa joined advocacy efforts for the first time, speaking out on justice for victims, legal representation, and the need for independent monitoring of detention facilities. Colombia committed to a more active stance at the HRC. Ghana took the floor for the first time, and Slovenia — silent since 2021 — also raised its voice again. Other countries — including Argentina, Costa Rica, The Gambia, Malawi, and Türkiye — increased both the strength and frequency of their engagement. Several States credited the Centre's briefings and advocacy as key in shaping their interventions and amplifying calls for stronger HRC action.

To sustain momentum, the Centre monitored State engagement at each HRC session, using real-time analysis to adjust strategies and support partners through shared tools and data. Amid worsening conditions in Myanmar, this approach helped bring new voices to the forefront and ensured continued international pressure for justice and accountability.





## Strategic Objective 2: Increase ratification and enhance implementation of the ICCPR

1. Contribute to the ratification of the ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols
2. Create a space for national dialogue
3. Increase the visibility of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at both the international and domestic level

In 2024, we worked closely with civil society and key stakeholders to **ensure the Committee's recommendations were widely known, understood, and used** as practical tools for advancing human rights. For example, after India's long-overdue review, we organised a diplomatic briefing that allowed HRDs to present key concerns directly to diplomats, amplifying the Committee's recommendations and encouraging concrete follow-up.

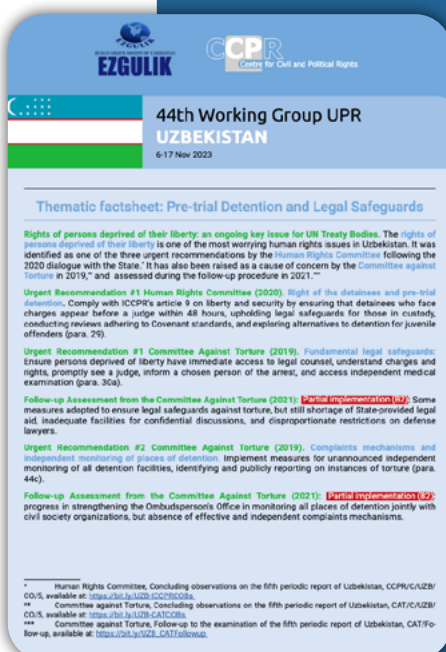
Beyond targeted efforts in countries like India, the Philippines and Uzbekistan, the Centre's newsletters, social media, and online databases remained key tools for sharing Concluding Observations worldwide—turning legal texts into accessible resources that help drive real change on the ground.

### In focus

**Uzbekistan: From Recommendations to Reform: Empowering Civil Society to Advance Human Rights Change** — In 2024, the Centre increased its work in Uzbekistan to make Committee and UPR recommendations more visible, accessible, and actionable at the national level. Responding to a worsening human rights situation and gaps in implementation, we empowered civil society by developing tools, training, and platforms for effective advocacy.

A key achievement was launching a bilingual digital platform compiling 399 UN recommendations related to Uzbekistan, serving as a key resource for human rights defenders, journalists, and policymakers. We also strengthened HRDs' capacity to use these recommendations, particularly in preparation for Uzbekistan's upcoming UPR, ensuring key issues like freedom of expression, detainee rights, and judicial independence were prioritized.

By promoting coordinated advocacy across UN mechanisms, the Centre helped amplify civil society's voice and fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue involving government and international actors.



## Regional Thematic and Cross-cutting Issues

## The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 14:

### Right to Equality before Courts and Tribunals and to a Fair Trial

In 2024, the CCPR Centre also expanded its thematic work across Asia to equip civil society and key stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to engage meaningfully on specific provisions of the ICCPR. Through tailored guidance on human rights such as the **right to a fair trial** (Article 14) and **freedom of religion or belief** (Article 18), we enabled local actors to contribute to Committee reviews that touch on these issues, and to monitor the implementation of related recommendations.

#### Empowering Legal Practitioners and Civil Society to Monitor Fair Trial Rights under ICCPR Article 14

As part of its dedicated thematic work in the region, the Centre developed a series of nine comprehensive practical factsheets designed to support legal practitioners and civil society organizations in effectively monitoring the implementation of Article 14 of the ICCPR. This provision guarantees everyone the right to equality before courts and tribunals and ensures fair trial protections, especially in criminal proceedings.

Available in both English and Burmese, these factsheets break down complex legal standards into accessible guidance, enabling frontline actors to identify risk indicators, advocate for justice, and hold authorities accountable. The materials have been widely shared with

civil society groups and legal professionals, enhancing their capacity to engage in meaningful monitoring and advocacy.

Beyond the immediate regional impact, this resource also offers a replicable model that can inspire similar initiatives in other countries, strengthening fair trial protections and the rule of law across the region.



ICCPR အပိုဒ် ၁၄ - တရားရုံးများ နှင့် နိုင်ငံရေးအခွင့်အရေးဆိုင်ရာ သဘောတူစာချုပ် (ICCPR) အပိုဒ် ၁၄ ရရှိခွင့်

Factsheet အမှတ် ၁။ ။ အထွေထွေမြှင့်သုံးသပ်ချက်

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# LATIN AMERICA

Across Latin America, HRDs continue to challenge a shrinking civic space, endemic corruption, and chronic inequality. In 2024, the Centre helped to ensure their voices were heard by UN human rights mechanisms – amplifying their advocacy and translating expert recommendations into practical tools to enable change.



## Regional High-Impact Snapshots

- **Support for HRDs' Participation in Various UN and Regional Mechanisms:** Sponsored HRDs from Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Suriname to attend sessions of the Committee and other UN and regional mechanisms in person.
- **Empowering Nicaraguan HRDs in Exile:** A hands-on workshop in San José equipped 30 activists with the tools to craft impactful UPR submissions-laying the groundwork for seven thematic CSO coalition reports.
- **In-country missions to Peru and Guatemala drove direct engagement and measurable follow-up** – Committee members met officials, judges, and civil society, leading to post-mission action plans with clear criteria for monitoring use of force in law enforcement (Peru) and strengthening parliamentary oversight (Guatemala).
- **Guatemala – Guide & Training for Parliamentarians:** Equipped lawmakers with tools to translate UN recommendations into concrete legislative action.
- **Honduras – 1-Minute Explainer Video:** A short animated video on Committee's recommendations garnered over 9,000 views in its first month and is now widely used in local workshops.
- **Regional Dialogue on Political Prisoners:** Supported the coordination of CSOs and human rights bodies to address politically motivated arbitrary detention across the Americas.



**Strategic Objective 1:** Strengthen and assist the efforts of civil society for the protection of civil and political rights

- 1. Increase the capacity of civil society to report effectively to the Human Rights Committee**
- 2. Facilitate direct interaction between civil society and the Human Rights Committee**

In 2024, the Centre significantly **boosted civil society participation** in the Committee's reviews of Honduras, Suriname, Ecuador, and Chile. Through national missions, online training, hybrid briefings, and advocacy support, over 250 HRDs-many for the first time-were able to shape the Committee's dialogue and influence its Concluding Observations.

**Suriname** saw its first civil society engagement in a decade thanks to early mobilization with our partner Projekta. In May, we delivered training for 26 CSO representatives, including participants from Indigenous communities, resulting in a joint shadow report and three HRDs briefing the Committee in Geneva. In **Ecuador**, we expanded our reach beyond the capital through webinars, leading to 26 CSO submissions and a coalition report on gender violence and the criminalization of HRDs. A hybrid briefing and a public event with 469 participants also amplified impact and advocacy. In **Chile**, we helped strengthen civil society responses, supporting two new shadow reports and enabling the participation of 31 Mapuche defenders-mostly women. Four activists, including two Mapuche, met directly with the Minister of Justice in a rare high-level dialogue.

*"It has been a truly wonderful experience. We feel incredibly grateful to the CCPR Centre and the Human Rights Committee experts. This gives us even more motivation to continue our work in defending the rights of girls and women."*

*Fiorella Bosso (Ecuador)*



### In focus

**From Local Voices to Global Impact: Honduras on the ICCPR Stage** — Ahead of Honduras's first Committee's review in seven years, the Centre ensured that civil society shaped the agenda. Two virtual clinics were organised in March, allowing 60 activists to be briefed on the process. This momentum led to an in-person boot camp in Tegucigalpa in April, providing training for 30 HRDs that formed eight thematic groups and reinforced direct

cooperation with the local office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

These efforts resulted in the only civil society report responding to the Committee's LOI, which was endorsed by over 50 organizations and praised by Committee members for its depth and credibility. A hybrid briefing allowed real-time interaction between HRDs and the Committee, demonstrating an effective, inclusive model for resource-limited contexts.

In July, two women HRDs—the only civil society voices physically present in Geneva—brought critical evidence on violence, militarization, and the state of emergency in Honduras, directly shaping the Committee's focus and influencing its Concluding Observations. The Centre also organised a strategic agenda for HRDs to engage with UN Special Procedures and other relevant stakeholders, creating more opportunities for them to raise their issues of concern and amplify their impact internationally.

### In focus

**Connecting Latin America to the Human Rights Committee: A Platform for Peer Exchange** — On April 11, OHCHR organized and hosted a regional webinar aimed at strengthening civil society engagement with the Committee, inviting the Centre to participate and contribute as a speaker. Over 140 organizations, dialing in from remote Amazon regions to Havana, joined the session which featured Committee member H. Quezada and OHCHR Secretariat staff offering real-time guidance on submissions and briefings.

Speakers from the Centre shared practical insights from Honduras and Ecuador, providing concrete strategies for effective participation. The event created a unique peer learning space for civil society across the region to share challenges and best practices in engaging with the Committee. With 92% of participants reporting they now feel "ready to engage," the webinar proved that low-cost, inclusive outreach can empower even the most remote HRDs to engage with the UN system.

### 3. Enable a more holistic utilization of UN human rights mechanisms by civil society



At the core of the Centre's approach is the belief that **UN and regional human rights mechanisms can-and must-work in tandem to expose human rights violations**, close accountability gaps, and support those most at risk. When engaged strategically, mechanisms can reinforce one another and amplify shared issues.

In 2024, this approach enabled HRDs across Latin America to elevate local issues to the international level. In **Bolivia**, combining targeted advocacy with UPR engagement helped bring priority concerns-such as threats to judicial independence and LGBTI rights-into sharper international focus. In **Nicaragua** and **El Salvador**, aligning submissions and messaging across both UN and Inter-American systems helped sustain international pressure and confront state narratives, particularly on issues like arbitrary detention and political prisoners.

In **Venezuela**, mapping recommendations from different UN treaty bodies highlighted repeat issues, reinforcing the need for unified monitoring and follow-up. In **Cuba**, synchronized engagement with the CEDAW review provided greater weight to local concerns, and also strengthened protection protocols to enable safe participation by at-risk women HRDs. In **Guatemala**, using international mechanisms to support rural communities reinforced the role of global frameworks when local processes are unable to provide access to justice.

Across all contexts, the combined use of mechanisms brought visibility to systemic issues-such as shrinking civic space and the criminalization of dissent-while offering civil society more entry points for advocacy. It also fostered greater consistency in recommendations and created momentum for implementation. This comparative, cross-mechanism strategy not only deepens impact-it builds resilience, clarity, and legitimacy for human rights work in increasingly hostile environments.

#### In focus

**Nicaragua: Uniting Voices in Exile for UPR Impact** — Ahead of Nicaragua's 2025 UPR, the Centre partnered with CEJIL, the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the International Institute for Race Equality and Human Rights (Race and Equality) and Peace Brigades International (PBI) to organise the largest civil society coalition in the country's UPR history. Through a series of workshops, strategy sessions, and advocacy training in San José and online, over 40 CSOs-many in exile-came together around shared priorities: Indigenous peoples' rights, political prisoners, electoral justice, and freedom of expression.

The Centre's support – from technical guidance to coalition-building – led to seven thematic submissions, the creation of thematic working groups, and targeted diplomatic engagement. A new "Diplomatic Retreat" format facilitated direct dialogue between HRDs and Geneva-based missions, influencing early pledges for 15 key recommendations on key topics including Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples; political prisoners and statelessness; civic space (freedom of expression and association, elections, human rights defenders); and Discrimination (women, religion, students, migrants).

Post-review, a Centre-supported communications campaign reached 50,000+ users with accessible summaries of outcomes from the UPR, countering State narratives and energizing diaspora advocacy. The coalition's strengthened voice now informs classrooms, diplomatic efforts, and public debate-bringing important exiled perspectives into the conversation.



## In focus

**El Salvador: Leveraging International Mechanisms Amid Democratic Backsliding** — As President Bukele began his second term in 2024, El Salvador's human rights environment deteriorated sharply. With national justice mechanisms increasingly inaccessible due to power concentration and civil society repression, the Centre and partners engaged with international mechanisms to ensure civil and political rights were protected.

In March, the Centre co-convened a confidential strategy meeting in San Salvador with local and international actors. The coalition agreed on a joint response strategy focused on strategic litigation, international advocacy, and support for local organizations—marking a turning point in collective resilience amid shrinking civic space. A key moment came with a private meeting at the Organization of American States (OAS), where civil society raised alarm over the ongoing state of emergency in El Salvador, judicial erosion, and one-party dominance. The coalition formally called for activation of the OAS Group of Friends of Democracy, opening space for sustained engagement.

These efforts elevated El Salvador's crisis to the international stage and showcased how coordinated use of international human rights mechanisms can keep accountability alive, particularly where national processes are insufficient.

## Strategic Objective 2: Increase ratification and enhance implementation of the ICCPR

1. Contribute to the ratification of the ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols
2. Create a space for national dialogue

While ratification efforts remain a long-term objective in the region, 2024 saw **strategic advances in national-level implementation**. The Centre conducted two follow-up missions in Latin America—in Peru and Guatemala—engaging national authorities and civil society to promote implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

The Centre supported in-country initiatives to foster dialogue among lawmakers, national institutions, and civil society, aiming to translate the Committee's recommendations into policy and legislative practice. In Guatemala, the launch and training around the Guide for Parliamentarians also laid the foundations for ICCPR implementation. In the latter part of the year, key groundwork was laid for 2025 follow-up missions—most notably in Honduras, where a social media campaign around the Committee's follow-up recommendations has resulted in a national dialogue with key stakeholders on implementation.



## In focus

**Guatemala: Turning UN Human Rights Recommendations into Law** — On 12 June, the Centre and the Guatemalan Congress launched a new guide, *“The Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing UN Human Rights Mechanisms”*, designed to help lawmakers translate UN recommendations into legislative action.

Developed as a hands-on tool for parliamentary advisors, the guide outlines practical steps to embed human rights into national law and policy. Its launch featured Committee member R. Carazo-invited by the Centre-who

underscored the strategic role of Parliamentarians in advancing UN recommendations, based on his own experience as a former legislator in his own country. To complement the launch, the Centre and Congress co-organized a one-day workshop for legislative advisors, focused on integrating Committee recommendations into legislative processes.

Since its launch, the guide has been used by several congressional committees to inform debates and highlight issues such as judicial independence and Indigenous peoples’ rights. Lawmakers have shown strong interest in using UN recommendations more systematically in the legislative process-a promising step toward more human rights-centered governance in Guatemala.

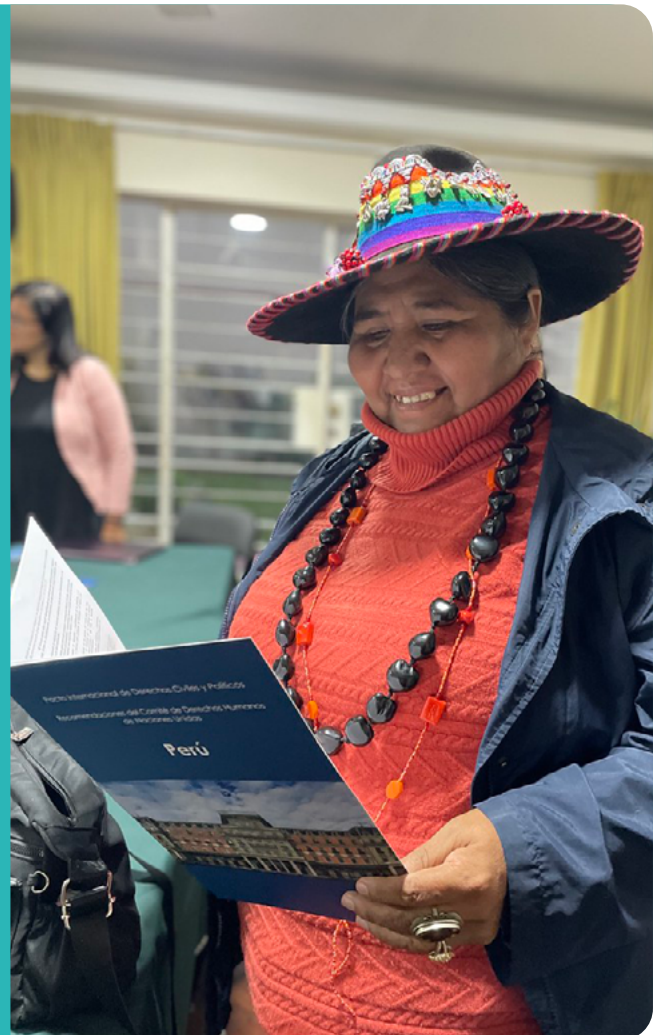


## In focus

**Renewing Commitments: A Mission for Justice and Accountability in Peru** — From August 25 to 29, the Centre organized a follow-up mission in collaboration with the National Human Rights Coordinator of Peru (CNDDHH) to address the implementation of the Committee recommendations in Peru. The mission, which saw the participation of the Committee member H. Tigroudja, included meetings with civil society, Indigenous peoples’ representatives, government officials, judges, journalists, and families of victims of human rights violations in Lima and Ayacucho. It highlighted the rapid deterioration of human rights, particularly the co-optation of critical institutions like the Constitutional Court and Ombudsman’s Office, and the lack of checks and balances.

A pivotal moment was when the Centre and Committee member H. Tigroudja met with families of victims from the Suso Case. Despite receiving a ruling from the Committee in 2022, no reparations had been made. Following the mission, authorities committed to addressing this issue.

The mission reinforced the importance of coordinating efforts to safeguard civil and political rights in Peru, especially for marginalized communities. By engaging a diverse group of stakeholders, the Centre was able to facilitate a broader dialogue on human rights protection and accountability.



### 3. Increase the visibility of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at both the international and domestic level

The Centre believes that the Committee's Concluding Observations are only the beginning of change, and that progress requires a range of targeted measures - including translation into actionable next steps. In 2024, we invested in **making the Committee's recommendations visible and actionable** at both the international and national level.

In **Honduras**, we launched a multilingual animated video campaign with the intention of disseminating the Committee's recommendations-reaching over 21,000 views and equipping youth and Indigenous communities with powerful advocacy tools. The videos demystified UN language and prompted national dialogue, providing a method for CSOs in **Guatemala** and **El Salvador** to replicate. In **Ecuador**, a post-review public event brought together over 80 stakeholders to share findings and establish a pathway towards national implementation. In **Venezuela**, we supported the creation of a unified reference tool combining the most recent recommendations from three UN treaty bodies - the Committee, the CEDAW and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) - enhancing coordination and follow-up across mechanisms.

## Regional Thematic and Cross-cutting Issues



In 2024, the Centre strengthened its regional approach, recognizing that issues like repression, shrinking civic space, and forced displacement cross borders. By supporting regional networks and cross-border solidarity, the Centre helped HRDs share strategies, build resilience, and amplify their voices.

**Indigenous Peoples' Defenders Unite:** On 5 March, Indigenous advocates from Chile, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Guatemala met in Geneva to exchange tactics for protecting ancestral lands. This dialogue deepened understanding of structural discrimination and sparked a regional WhatsApp rapid response hub, plus a joint declaration on Free, Prior and Informed Consent now shared with UN bodies. As one participant noted, *"We no longer feel alone in this fight."*

**Breaking Barriers:** The Centre - in close collaboration with our long-term partner Race & Equality - expanded its regional work on political prisoners, linking the UN and Inter-American systems in 2024. A February dialogue convened in Mexico City united 12 civil society groups from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Venezuela, Cuba, Peru, and Guatemala, and led to the creation of a joint declaration and action plan. Another private meeting was organised in August with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) aimed at developing strategic and coordinated regional responses to highlight the plight of individuals subjected to arbitrary deprivation of liberty for political reasons. The Centre also supported an IACHR hearing request on restrictions on civic space in Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru, and the Dominican Republic. These initiatives reflect our commitment to coordinating advocacy in a way that elevates civil society voices across various mechanisms.

## Our supporters and partners



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We warmly thank our supporters and partners for making the work of the CCPR Centre possible.

## Financial statements

**(1st January – 31st December, in CHF)**

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This is an extract of the audited financial statements for 2024. A full version is available upon request at [info@ccprcentre.org](mailto:info@ccprcentre.org).

In 2024, the Centre reported a total income of 733'066.- CHF and expenses of 765'602.- CHF, ending the year with a deficit of 32'380.- CHF.

As in previous years, the Centre incurred most of its expenses in connection with supporting the work of Human Rights Defenders (Objective 1).

Income	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>		
Governments	582 097 CHF	462 445 CHF
Foundations	127 360 CHF	187 572 CHF
UN Agencies and international organisations	0 CHF	12 668 CHF
Other revenues	23 609 CHF	8 795 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>733 066 CHF</b>	<b>671 480 CHF</b>
<b>Costs</b>		
Obj.1: HRDs support for ICCPR implementation	470 071 CHF	399 524 CHF
Obj. 2: ICCPR ratification and implementation	46 501 CHF	80 949 CHF
Obj. 3: Support to the HR Cttee and thematic work	83 334 CHF	94 206 CHF
Administration, Finance, Communication & Fundraising	131 601 CHF	147 055 CHF
Governance and strategy	36 168 CHF	5 277 CHF
Net movement in funds	-2 073 CHF	-54 464 CHF
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>765 602 CHF</b>	<b>672 547 CHF</b>
<b>Income (deficit) for the year (inc. reserve fund)</b>	<b>-32 536 CHF</b>	<b>-1 067 CHF</b>

## Our team

### Our Staff



**Patrick Mutzenberg**  
Director



**André Kangni Afanou**  
Regional Coordinator  
for Africa



**Andrea Meraz**  
Programmes Director



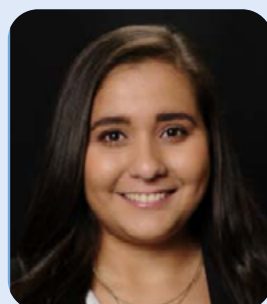
**Caroline De Sousa**  
Human Rights Officer  
for Asia Pacific (until  
30 June)



**Daisuke Shirane**  
Regional Coordinator  
for Asia-Pacific



**Irene Aparicio**  
Human Rights Officer



**Mariel Merayo**  
Regional Coordinator  
for Latin America



**Mylene Soto**  
Administrative Officer



**Paola Barioli**  
Senior Advocacy and  
Human Rights Officer

### Consultants

**Chris Caskey**

Human Rights Specialist

**Yasmin Che**

Data Researcher & Analyst

**Jean-Luc Jucker**

Data-Visualisation Specialist

**Fabio Meyer**

Data Analyst Specialist

**Kevin Mwangi**

National Coordinator for Kenya

### Interns

Claire Inderkummen

### Finance and accounting

Palma Monferrer, Solution 7

Marc Abersold, Solution 7

### Webmaster and It Support

Haewen Fortunato, Codex Design

### Graphic design

Celacanto Productions

Gabriel Hernández

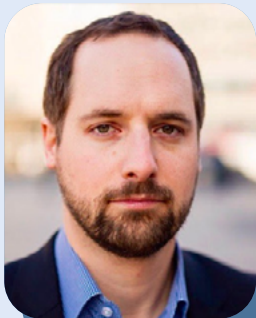
## Our Board



Víctor Rodríguez Rescia  
(President)



Hassan Shire  
(Vice President)



Florian Irminger  
(Treasurer)



Karen Gomez  
Dumpit



Katharina Rose

## Our Advisory Board



Krister Thelin



Sarah Joseph



Sihem Bensedrine



Virginia Bràs Gomes



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Or contact us: [info@ccprcentre.org](mailto:info@ccprcentre.org)

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