A human rights response to the pandemic

Special procedures have taken various initiatives in relation to COVID-19 with the objective to stress the importance of adopting a human rights approach in addressing the crisis. Special procedures mandate holders have issued various recommendations to States and other stakeholders through various public actions, such as guidance tools, dispatches, trackers, videos or press releases, and they stand ready to assist. Mandate holders are also addressing these issues through their communication procedure and their reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

124 press releases* (68 individual and 56 joint) have been issued and
206 communications* have been sent to States and non-State actors by mandate holders.

Guidelines, dispatches, open letters and other reference tools have been released on the following themes:
- COVID-19 response and recovery free from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- the impact and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficked and exploited persons;
- persons affected by leprosy;
- negative impact of unilateral sanctions during the state of emergency;
- prison overcrowding;
- impact on LGBT communities around the world;
- protecting informal settlements, homeless, renters and mortgage payers, prohibition of evictions, and financialization and the future;
- responding to the crisis without halting freedoms of assembly and of association;
- government responses to the pandemic that affect civic freedoms and human rights;
- disability considerations during the outbreak and disability-inclusive social protection;
- recommended economic, financial, monetary, fiscal, tax, trade and social policies;
- keeping the judiciary functioning during the crisis;
- the use of force by law-enforcement personnel;
- racial equity and racial equality in providing health services for all.

* Updated to 8 December 2020