**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS: RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL COVID -19 VIRUS**

**Compiled by OHCHR- National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, 13 May 2020**

**AFRICA:**

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| **Ethiopia****Ethiopian Human Rights Commission** | Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is **monitoring and reviewing the emergency measures** being taken by federal and regional government agencies from the human rights perspective, and advising them on necessary preventive and response actions to be taken to ensure human rights, including that of vulnerable groups, are respected during the pandemic. In addition to using private advocacy, the Commission has issued public statements forwarding **advice** and concrete **recommendations** on human rights concerns, available at its [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/Ethiopian-Human-Rights-Commission-202584253551816/).EHRC issued a **press release** with regard to the restrictions on the right to movement, questioning the necessity and proportionality of the restriction on the use of private vehicles and public transport. The press release stressed among other things, on the impact the restrictions might have on women who have to move for pre-natal care and other urgent matters.EHRC also issued a **media advisory** requesting a moratorium on forced eviction of informal settlements during the state of emergency.The Commission is conducting a **legal analysis** on the State of Emergency Proclamation to assess its compliance with human rights standards and obligations. EHRC will then issue its **recommendations** to the Government.EHRC is appearing on different TV and radio channels to disseminate and discuss its **recommendations**. Commission is using its Facebook page and Twitter to further disseminate the **statements and recommendations**. EHRC is also sending copies to relevant federal and regional authorities **and following up on the implementation of its recommendations.**EHRC’s monitoring team is conducting **media monitoring**, collecting and verifying information, in collaboration with the branch offices on information and complaints received on human rights violations. Issues raised include overcrowding and lack of adequate health services in quarantine centres; families having difficulties feeding their children as school feeding has been interrupted; poor children not benefiting from remote schooling modalities; etc. The Commission will use the information for human rights reporting and advocacy.  |
| **Kenya** **Kenya National Commission on Human Rights** | Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has engaged with various State entities such as the National Assembly, the Senate and the Judiciary in a bid to address urgent issues that require intervention of the law through legislation or judicial intervention. They include **advisories** on the legality of any restrictions imposed during this period, an advisory on Public Finance Management (COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund) Regulations 2020, an advisory on the proposed Public Health Rules 2020 (Prevention, Control and Suppression of COVID 19) and (Restriction of Movement of Persons and Related Measures.) It made a **memorandum to the Senate on a broad range of human rights concerns** relating to responses to the COVID-19; with a specific submission on mental health jointly compiled by the Civil Society Organizations Stakeholders’ Forum on Mental Health.The Commission issued **recommendations and** called on government to ensure that the laid down legal and professional guidelines on quarantining and isolations of suspects are adhered to. Also urged the law enforcement officers to adhere to constitutional, legal and professional ethics in enforcing security procedures during this vulnerable period.KNCHR issued a [**statement**](https://www.knchr.org/Articles/ArtMID/2432/ArticleID/1095/Press-ReleaseHarassment-and-Intimidation-of-Journalists-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-Coverage) to express concern at the intimidation and harassment being meted on broadcast and print journalists during their assignments of providing Kenyans with the much-needed information on the COVID-19 pandemic.See also:[Press Release: Safeguarding Human Dignity and Human Rights in Combating COVID-19](https://www.knchr.org/Articles/ArtMID/2432/ArticleID/1096/Press-ReleaseSafeguarding-Human-Dignity-and-Human-Rights-in-Combating-COVID-19)[Press statement: The Law Enforcement Agencies Must Adhere to the Basic Checklist on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](https://www.knchr.org/Articles/ArtMID/2432/ArticleID/1094/The-Law-Enforcement-Agencies-Must-Adhere-to-the-Basic-Checklist-on-Human-Rights-and-Fundamental-Freedoms) |
| **Mauritania** **Mauritanian National Human Rights Commission** | Mauritanian National Human Rights Commission has been providing **advisory opinions** at the request and/or on its own initiative to the government. In addition, the Commission has been closely cooperating with representatives of parliament, civil society, the private sector, and volunteers in the fight against the spread of this pandemic.In its **recommendations** the Mauritanian National Human Rights Commission:* Urged policy makers at all levels to ensure compliance with human rights standards in this particular period and to grant a special protection to vulnerable people, such as the elderly, people with fragile health, migrants, detainees, refugees, people with disabilities, women and children;
* Recommended that emergency measures, which restrict the right to freedom of movement, are limited in time;
* Drew attention of the authorities on the need to protect rights of people under quarantine, citizens abroad and compatriots stranded at borders with neighboring countries;
* Encouraged the release of prisoners who are at the end of their sentence, detainees prosecuted for minor offenses and those not representing a danger to public security and / or whose detention is not justified
* Encouraged the consolidation of access to justice and the control of respect for fundamental rights, by strengthening the dialogue between NGOs and by facilitating legal aid for fragile people and / or weakened by the current COVID-19 pandemic;
* Encouraged the preservation and respect of the right to education, labor law and the right to access drinking water;

Called on the government to integrate into its strategy to combat Coronavirus measures intended to prevent and act against violence against women in this context marked by travel and social distancing restrictions. |
| **Morocco** **National Human Rights Council of Morocco** | The President of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (CNDH**) issued a message** concerning Covid-19. In the message it was indicated that during the pandemic CNDH is actively involved in **awareness-raising, complaint handling, monitoring,** protection of rights, in particular those of vulnerable groups. Several of these actions are now shared internationally and nationally with networks of NHRIs and via its electronic platforms. **Ten awareness-raising videos and nine press releases** or work notes were posted on these platforms.[An **awareness-raising video** on hygiene measures necessary against contamination and spread of the virus was posted on Facebook for the benefit of CNDH staff from the first day of the dissemination of information about COVID19](https://cndh.org.ma/fr/communiques/propos-des-mesures-de-precaution-prises-par-ladministration-du-cndh-pour-prevenir-la);The CNDH **issued a** [**communiqué**](https://www.facebook.com/241212672715310/posts/1521532191350012/) in which it called on the public authorities to ensure that some of the law enforcement officials should not exceed the principles of necessity and proportionality in the use of public force for the execution of the law and the current exceptional provisions. In the same communiqué, the CNDH denounced the actions of some individuals who exploit religion, calling on citizens to gather, incite them to contravene the instructions of the public authorities, in particular the health authorities, push them out into the street and expose them to danger.The CNDH has set up a [**task force for human rights monitoring**](https://cndh.org.ma/fr/communiques/communique-de-presse-concernant-la-reunion-du-bureau-du-conseil-national-des-droits-de)and another for monitoring the implementation of the state of emergency.The CNDH regularly posts on its social networks a [**series of video posts**](https://www.facebook.com/CNDHMaroc.ar/videos/1857572094377659/) **to raise awareness** about COVID19 and of the lockdown measures in three languages spoken in Morocco, namely Arabic (Moroccan dialect), the Amazigh language and the Hassani.See also:* [Press release on the contribution of the President and the Secretary-General of the CNDH to the Coronavirus Fund](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1521938901309341&id=24121267271)
* [Press release on the contribution of the President and the Secretary General of the CNDH to the special fund to combat coronavirus](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1521938901309341&id=24121267271)
* [Press release on the contribution of the President and the Secretary General of the CNDH to the special fund to combat coronavirus](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1521938901309341&id=24121267271)
* [Awareness-raising article and recommendations to the authorities to respect human rights principles in the management of this pandemic](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1521938901309341&id=24121267271)
* [Briefing note on the work of the CNDH during periods of lockdown, including the handling of complaints](https://twitter.com/CNDHMaroc/status/1241428190372954112?s=09)
* [Press release on the precautionary measures taken by the CNDH administration to prevent the spread of the COVID19 pandemic](https://cndh.ma/ar/blgt-shfy/blg-shfy-bkhsws-ltdbyr-lhtrzy-lty-tkhdhth-dr-lmjlsllwqy-)
* [Press release of 16 March 2020 about the precautionary measures taken by the CNDH for the prevention of COVID-19](https://cndh.ma/fr/communiques/propos-du-coronavirus-covid-19-et-des-mesures-deprecaution-prises-par-ladministration)
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| **Nigeria****Nigeria National Human Rights Commission** | The Commission in collaboration with Open society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), The UK Department of Foreign Investment and Development (DFID), The Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Foundation and the Switzerland Embassy have developed an **App for the electronic monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights violations including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** (SGBV). Accordingly, the Commission will be updating Nigerians with the state of human rights violations and SGBV during covid-19 pandemic on weekly basis throughout the period of the lockdown. Given its mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights, the National Human Rights Commission on 30th March, **issued Advisory** to security agencies to respect human rights in the enforcement of Covid-19 Regulations.As a result, the Commission, CSOs and members of the Public published a [report](https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng/nhrc-media/press-release/100-national-human-rights-commission-press-release-on-covid-19-enforcement-so-far-report-on-incidents-of-violation-of-human-rights.html) on 31st March, **investigating** any security agents violating human rights in their law enforcement duties while enforcing covid-19 regulations. |
| **Sudan** **National Commission for Human Rights of Sudan** | The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHRs) **issued a statement** on the Implications of the Corona Pandemic and its Impact on **Prisons conditions**. The commission called on the competent authorities in the country to issue a supplementary decision to release inmates from prisons and places of detention, who have spent more than half of the sentence in accordance with national and international standards.The NCHRs further called on the competent authorities to avoid imprisoning the violators of the curfew - with the introduction of alternative penalties - as much as possible, and also calls on the competent authorities to support and improve the prison environment and provide protection, quarantine and treatment aids in all health units inside prisons and other places of detention in all states of Sudan.The Commission also **issued a statement** on the Health Emergency to Prevent The Spread of the Corona Pandemic. In the statement, The NCHRs called upon the competent authorities in the state to provide the facts and documented information to prevent rumours, and calls on citizens and residents to obtain health information and guidance from official sources in the country.**NCHRs formed an Emergency Operating Room and Crisis support Team to monitor** the consequences of the spread of the Corona pandemic to limit the spread, address the effects, in accordance with its oversight and awareness role, and provide advice in this regard. The President of the Commission **made a speech** at The Consultation Meeting with the Official Authorities on Combating the Corona Pandemic and called on the state to work to remove financial and other barriers that prevent people from seeking medical assistance and advice when they need it, for their own benefit and to improve public health outcomes more broadly.The NCHRs also **requested the competent authorities** to consider the matter of the Sudanese stacked and stranded on the Sudanese-Egyptian border (some families have filed a complaint within the NCHRs) with more than a thousand people, including elderly, sick, children and women in the open area who are held by the Egyptian authorities for about a week and they are in a very critical situation. |
| **South Africa** **South Africa Human Rights Commission** | The Commission continues to **monitor** the observance of human rights during the national lockdown due to COVID-19. A hotline has been established to enable victims to access the commission and information is distributed on the pandemic via WhatsApp.A stud on the domestic perceptions and understanding of covid-19 was done, looking at issues such as fake news, social distancing, impacts of the lock down on household income etc.The Commission is aware of and is disturbed by footage circulating via social media depicting members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and South African Police Service (SAPS) officials using force against people who fail to comply with lockdown regulations. The SAHRC also monitors lockdown conditions to ensure that sanitary requirements are met, such as in the case of the [Strandfontein Sports Complex](https://www.sahrc.org.za/index.php/sahrc-media/news/item/2338-sa-human-rights-commission-wants-strandfontein-temporary-shelter-closed).[Read the statement](https://www.sahrc.org.za/index.php/sahrc-media/news-2/item/2352-media-statement-south-african-human-rights-commission-calls-for-accountability-in-respect-of-challenges-experienced-by-persons-with-disabilities-and-older-persons-in-receiving-social-grants) |
| **Uganda** **Uganda Human Rights Commission** | Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) supports and embraces the measures with a commitment driven by its Constitutional mandate of ensuring the advancement of the protection of human rights through **complaints handling, awareness creation, education and research** on human rights issues in the Country.UHRC acting chairperson held a [**press conference**](https://www.jlos.go.ug/index.php/com-rsform-manage-directory-submissions/services-and-information/press-and-media/latest-news/item/749-covid-19-guidelines-do-not-violate-human-rights-uhrc) and engaged the media on issues of human rights observance during the COVID-19 response. Chairperson urged security agents to respect human rights in the enforcement of the guidelines on preventive measures in line with article 221 of the Constitution. UHRC Central Regional Office is **airing spot messages** as a campaign against the COVID-19 pandemic with a human rights perspective .The messages are running on Capital FM, CBS(Kampala) ; Sun FM ( Mityana); Buwama FM (Moigi) and Tropical FM ( Mubende).UHRC has also issued COVID-19 guidelines to its staff across all its central and regional offices during the lockdown.The Commission further issued a [**press statement**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZBu30xZQi1y4H0EpivZy3Z5q4ehi6bsW/view) on 25th March 2020 on human rights concerns in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. **Radio talk shows** on the COVID 19 and the human rights perspective have been held with the participation of UHRC. UHRC [**authored an OPED**](https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1517617/human-rights-effective-response-covid-19-uganda) titled: “Human rights-based effective response to COVID-19 in Uganda”.UHRC Fort Portal regional office has developed a COVID-19 **message/ poster** and shared it on WhatsApp groups, radios and on the UHRC online platformsThere are currently radio spot messages on Elgon radio in Kapchorwa that are being translated into kupsabiny by the Soroti regional office. The spot messages are in respect of limitations in enjoyment of human rights in respect of public interest with specific reference to public health and in particular COVID-19. The **notices** call upon the public to carry out their responsibilities by abiding by the Government directives in restrictions and other procedures. Urge them to respect rights of people suspected to be infected with COVID-19 and not to discriminate against them or subject them to mob action.  The messages further call upon the law enforcement officers to respect human rights in performance of their duties. |
| **Zimbabwe** **Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission** | Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) continued to **monitor** the human rights situation in Zimbabwe following the National Lockdown period.The Commission has **observed** that employees from the critical skills sector, including health professionals and journalists have been denied passage by the police at security roadblocks and at times spending long hours trying to justify their movement in the line of duty. ZHRC called for adoption of the less restrictive alternative necessary to contain the situation. Stating that Any restrictions should meet the standards of necessity and proportionality and in line with the Constitution on limitation of fundamental rights and freedoms and limitations during public emergencies. The Commission issued **recommendations** to the government to and urged to provide a social safety net, in terms of provision of food, for the vulnerable groups during the extended lockdown period to avert suffering and hunger and enforce social distancing by ensuring that retail outlets maintain orderly queues. ZHRC also issued **recommendations** to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, advising the Commissioner General to direct all officers to avoid and desist from excessive use of force as well as unwarranted deprivation of the rights to personal security and liberty. **Citizens were also urged** by the Commission to continue being calm and law-abiding as well as being orderly and adhering to issued guidelines. ZHRC issued **press statement** on the protection of rights of persons in places of detention in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.The Commission also issued a **statement** on the current situation in Zimbabwe in the wake of the pandemic and encouraged the Government of Zimbabwe to pay more attention to the certain areas and address related gaps. |

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| **Argentina** **Defensoria del Peublo** | The institution **added a new section on the website** - [www.dpn.gov.ar](http://www.dpn.gov.ar) , where the explanation of the main Covid-19 regulations are published divided according to the areas of interest.The National Ombudsman's Office [**implemented a registry**](http://www.dpn.gob.ar/gacetilla.php?id=32128&pagN=1)of Stranded Persons in Argentina who need to return to their provinces.[The Ombudsman's Office of the Nation **participated in the Virtual Exchange Meeting** between Ombudsmen and the International Labor Organization (ILO) on the situation of indigenous peoples in the face of the humanitarian crisis COVID 19](http://www.dpn.gob.ar/gacetilla.php?id=32116&pagN=1)The institution **published** [**Useful information, recommendations and prevention measures for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**](http://www.dpn.gob.ar/gacetilla.php?id=32055&pagN=2)on the website. |
| **Bolivia** **Defensoría del Pueblo** | The Defensoría del Pueblo from Bolivia **published two free on-line human rights courses**: “Training of Human Rights Defenders” and “Trafficking in Persons and Human Rights”. Both courses are part of the educational processes that the institution has developed in fulfilment of its role of promoting human rights. In the current health emergency, the courses are also meant to support “Stay at Home” campaigns and initiatives. |
| **Canada****Canadian Human Rights Commission** | The Commission has issued several **statements** urging the Canadian government and CSOs to continue to defend human rights. People living in poverty, women and children fleeing domestic violence, people living in shelters, on the street or at risk of homelessness, people with disabilities or those with health conditions, people with mental health issues, older people living alone or in institutions, and people in correctional institutions must not be forgotten or ignored.See also:* [Statement – Inequality amplified by Covid-19](https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/statement-inequality-amplified-covid-19-crisis)
* [Statement – Racism in response to Covid-19 harms us all](https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/statement-racism-response-covid-19-harms-us-all)
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| **Colombia** **Defensoría del Pueblo** | The Defensoría del Pueblo has **established measures** to contain the outbreak and protect the health of the Colombian population. In particular, it has put in place special measures to provide support to those who are directly concerned with Covid-19 on a daily basis, namely doctors and medical staff. As a result, the NRHI **established an email** **so that health professionals can confidentially leave their complaints. The NHRI has also put in place a page on their website to provide useful information and updates regarding Covid-19.**Seel also:* [Read the statement on threats against health personnel in Colombia](https://www.defensoria.gov.co/es/nube/noticias/9315/Pronunciamiento-ante-amenazas-contra-personal-de-la-salud-en-Colombia-coronavirus-Covid-%E2%80%93-19-Defensor%C3%ADa-salud-denuncias-amenazas.htm) (Spanish)

[Learn more about the Covid-19](https://www.defensoria.gov.co/es/public/contenido/9204/Conozca-m%C3%A1s-sobre-el-Coronavirus-COVID-19.htm) (Spanish) |
| **Costa Rica** **Defensoria de Los Habitantes** | [To protect the inhabitants during the pandemic the Ombudsman examined measures aimed at vulnerable populations.](http://www.dhr.go.cr/informacion_relevante/comunicados/comunicados/abril/17_albergues_personasensituacion_indigencia.pdf) Ombudsman **called on the government to continue reinforcing preventive measures in shelters and for people in situation destitute.** |
| **Ecuador****Defensoría del Pueblo** | Defensoría del Pueblo has carried out the following actions against the declaration of a health emergency in the country due to the spread of COVID-19:* **Calls** to State institutions to guarantee human rights;
* **Monitoring** of human rights violations in the context of the health emergency COVID-19;
* **Actions carried out in the field of Human Rights Education;**
* **Defensive resolutions;**
* **Official communications to the public.**

See also: <https://www.dpe.gob.ec/category/pronunciamientos/>  |

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| **Afghanistan****Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan** | The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission has conducted **investigations** in 34 prisons throughout the country to identify existing challenges and to provide the relevant authorities with appropriate recommendations to prevent Covid-19 spread in the detention centres. |
| **Bangladesh****National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh** | NHRCB is working on **awareness – raising** as well as facilitating most vulnerable families with food and daily necessitiesNHRCB published **awareness building advertisement** in National Dailies. NHRCB has also prepared three television commercials on importance of staying home, passing quality time with family, following health safety instructions and violence against women (Respecting women’s contribution) in this lockdown time. NHRCB also **provided food and daily necessities for 8400 vulnerable families** and 1570 individuals, which includes Dalit, Ethnic minority, Persons with disability and Transgender people***.*** Besides, as a regular activity NHRCB keeps strong **monitoring**, on incidents of Human Rights violation including COVID-19 related health services to citizen, through media. If there is any single event reported in the media NHRCB writes to the respective authority to take quick actionSee also**:** NHRCB's COVID-19 related awareness-raising television commercials:* <https://youtu.be/J38SwAbr6lM>
* <https://youtu.be/ay___d-X3VE>
* <https://youtu.be/1CAcG8QBD3M>
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| **India** **National Human Rights Commission of India**  | The Commission has taken several measures to promote human rights during the Covid-19 crisis. It has **monitored complaints** on the alleged violation of human rights of the mentally ill people roaming on the streets across the country amid COVID lockdown. It has asked the Union Home Ministry to inform within two weeks about the arrangements made for them. The response shall include details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the authorities to address the issue. |
| **Iraq****High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq** | The IHCHR's teams **visited health and security institutions**, border crossings, airports, city entrances, as well as public places, government institutions, places of worship, markets, malls, and other sites, where the first stage of work without a curfew and the instructions of the relevant authorities was less stringent, but after the curfew was imposed on 15 March 2020, the **Commission has developed a generic action plan** .Some of the recommendations include: lack of medicines, limited training for health professionals. The IHCHR has also monitored places of detention.The NHRI standards of monitoring, follow-up and evaluation, taking into account the exceptional circumstances .The right to health and other rights related to the current situation were evaluated on the basis of an assessment form that includes (25) items selected by a specialized team in the IHCHR to be worked on by field Commission's teams in order to assess the response of the governmental, non-governmental institutions and citizens to decisions of the Crisis Cell, formed under Diwan Order no. (55) of 2020.According to the indicators of response assessment to counter Covid-19 and to identify weaknesses that required action by the executive bodies to ensure that citizens enjoy the health, treatment and preventive services and related rights stipulated in national and international agreements ratified by Iraq and to ensure a decent life for the Iraqi citizens, the IHCHR issued **recommendations** in its assessment reports on response to counter Covid-19 in Iraq.See:* [First Assessment Report on Response to Counter Covid-19 in Iraq (February 24 - April 8) in English](http://ihchr.iq/upload/upfile/en/34.pdf)
* [First Assessment Report on Response to Counter Covid-19 in Iraq (February 24 - April 8) in Arabic](http://www.ihchr.iq/upload/upfile/ar/125.pdf)
* [Second Assessment Report on Response to Counter Covid-19 in Iraq in Arabic](http://www.ihchr.iq/upload/upfile/ar/127.pdf)
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| **Maldives****Human Rights Commission of the Maldives** | The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives **compiled a series of questionnaires to collect information** on the availability of fundamental rights following the Covid-19 pandemic.Questionnaires were designed to compile information on the following areas:* Accessibility to Food, Water and Gas used for Cooking;
* Housing and Living Conditions;
* Physical, Psychological & Sexual Abuse, Neglect and Domestic Violence;
* Education;
* Changes in health services;
* Employment.

According to the findings relevant **recommendations** were issued to the State by the Commission. |
| **Mongolia****National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia** | National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) issued two **communiques** to the public and developed **4 short videos** highlighting preventive measures in public spaces for citizens. It was aired in Mongolian National Broadcasting (State-owned public media institution with TV, radio and websites), other commercial televisions and social media including Facebook. Video files were delivered to Ulaanbaatar (Capital City) Culture and Art Office to share with all cultural and art organizations.Complaints are able to lodge through **online complaint platform** in the official website as well as Facebook page in addition to 24 hours **hotline.**Based on learning management system in its official website, two **online modules** such ‘Human Rights-based Approach’ were developed and additional two modules are in developing processes. In collaboration with Open Society Forum, **monthly human rights meetings** were discussed about COVID-19 and its impact with presence of academia, experts and professionals. (April: COVID-19 and human rights; May: Election 2020 and right to vote) These meetings were held in Zoom and broadcasted through Facebook Live and YouTube Live. Following **complaints** regarding xenophobic discrimination from Mongolian nationals in South Korea, based on Memorandum of Understanding with National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK), **NHRCM requested to collaborate against discrimination** in March, 2020. NHRCK followed up the NHRCM’s request and interacted with Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety and Ministry of Justice to ensure right to health to all. In addition, NHRCK made **media statement** on discriminatory approach towards students without health insurance and migrant workers. Prior adoption of the Law of Mongolia to prevent, fight and mitigate socio-economic impact of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in 29th April 2020, NHRCM **submitted proposal** to respect rights and freedoms of all, comply with international human rights norms and procedures, promote social inclusion even in state of emergency to the Parliament Speaker and annexed Mongolian translations of OHCHR’s COVID-19 Guidance and Advice of the Subcommittee to States parties and national preventive mechanisms relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Chief Commissioner **intervened** with Deputy Prime Minister who serves as Chair of State Emergency Commission and Head of Rapid Response Operational Headquarter to discuss action to label the quarantined people’s households. Chief Commissioner expressed that labelling doors of quarantined or self-isolated people will breed hate and discrimination and **recommended** to cease this action. Now, there is no labelling on doors of households.Periodically, Chief Commissioner meets with Speaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Head Rapid Response Operational Headquarter and Ms. Oyunchimeg (acting Chief Commissioner from April 2020) and with Heads of Judicial Decision Enforcement Office, Ulaanbaatar Police Department and General Prosecutor’s Office regarding **detention and people deprived of liberty and receive updates from quarantined places.**Chief Commissioner delivered two **official requests** to comply all works with international human rights norms in parallel with national legislation to Deputy Prime Minister and Head Rapid Response Operational Headquarter in charge of all quarantine places. NHRCM conducted **human rights inquiry** in 22 institutions such as detention center, shelter house, National Center for Mental Health, Central Prison Hospital, tuberculosis hospital, care center for elderly people. NHRCM **recommended** to Mayor of Ulaanbaatar, capital city reside over half of the population, to provide free basic housing to homeless people and provide water and sanitation. In organizational level, NHRCM **established Rapid Response Team** led by Chief Commissioner and 8 professionals in compliance with Internal operational procedure on public riot, emergency state including pandemic and adopted Business Continuity Plan. During the lockdown scenario, NHRCM operates through Able platform (online office platform) and four teams work in charge of **information gathering and documentation; human rights assessment; human rights inquiry and monitoring; and media engagement.**See also:* [Communique (2020.02.14) on right to health and individual safety;](http://nhrcm.gov.mn/%D0%BC%D1%8D%D0%B4%D1%8D%D1%8D/%D1%8D%D0%B2%D1%82%D1%8D%D0%B9/)
* [Communique (2020.03.10) on guidance on prevention from COVID-19 and public contribution.](http://nhrcm.gov.mn/%D0%BC%D1%8D%D0%B4%D1%8D%D1%8D/urialga/)
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| **Nepal****National Human Rights Commission of Nepal** | NHRC Nepal **requested the Government** of Nepal to ensure availability of daily used commodities to the persons with disability, children, senior citizens, women and severely marginalized people who are at home and to manage properly to ensure the necessary health related security for all the health workers on duty all the time, security force, civil personnel and their families.The NHRC Nepal received **complaints** regarding the scarcity of daily used goods in the market so that general public would victimize from their daily basic needs. Following this, the Commission **appealed to the Government** of Nepal including concerned businesspersons and the entrepreneurs to effectively monitor and cause to monitor being alert to ensure the access to the essential goods and services.NHRC Nepal held **consultation** with the representatives of the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health with regard to the preparation made by the Government of Nepal to combat the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and safeguard the right to life.NHRC Nepal also **drew attention towards the non-availability of health treatment** to the general public due to the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic as the NHRC received facts through monitoring and complaints that the patients of Kidneys, Cancer, Tuberculosis, HIV AIDS, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure and Mental diseases faced problems in their treatment because of inadequacy of the medicines and proper treatment for them.NHRC Nepal announced **collaborating** with various civil society and professional organisations, namely: Nepal Bar Association, Federation of Nepali Journalists and NGO Federation in **the monitoring of human rights situation** during COVID-19.The NHRC also **formed a high-level human right monitoring committee** under the convenorship of its one of the members.The Commission also **set terms of reference of the monitoring and providing suggestion to the government to combat COVID 19** such as the issues like the actions taken by the Government of Nepal, management of health treatment, rights of the consumer, freedom of expression, access to the judicial administration, and the citizens’ duties among others and it has already initiated its task. NHRC Nepal [**formulated monitoring checklist and the working procedure 2020.**](https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/747743329COVID-19%20Working%20Procedure_eng.pdf%2Chttps%3A/www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/615012001Final%20COVID%2019-%20Monitoring%20Check%20List%20eng.pdf.)NHRC **urged the government** to seek proper solution of the problems of the individual laborers working on the daily basis wage, the patients coming for medical treatment, the marginalized community living in rent are found in a destitute situation through monitoring.NHRC Nepal also **provided directive order to expedite the PCR testing of COVID-19**. The Commission urged to expedite the PCR testing and contract tracing making an enough arrangement considering towards the lack of the adequate ventilators, isolation wards, PPE, essential drugs.In addition, the Commission conducted **monitoring of the human rights situation of the detainees**, prisoners in the detention centers and the prisons located at Kathmandu and Lalitpur and also the Central Jail with regard to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.NHRC Nepal also **suggested the Government of Nepal** to pursue Human Rights Based Approach in the national budget formulation and prioritize the issues of human rights while formulating the budget of the Fiscal Year 2020/021. |
| **New Zealand****Human Rights Commission of New Zealand** | The Human Rights Commission in New Zealand, in **a statement** issued on 26 March, highlighted the need to respect basic human rights and protect high-risk populations whilst addressing the pandemic. This includes older people, disabled people, those with underlying health problems, and those living in poverty. The Commission held several fora and is engaged in discussions with government agencies to ensure that human rights are at the forefront when making decisions. |
| **The Philippines****Commission on Human Rights of The Philippines** | The Commission provides **recommendations** to the government on protecting economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights during the ongoing health emergency.The Commission has released **policy advisories** to address the most urgent human rights concerns including issues that particularly impact the situation of persons with disabilities:* [Advisory Series on Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19 in the Philippines (CHR V A2020 02)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CHR-Advisory_Human-Rights-in-the-Time-of-COVID-19-in-the-Philippines-CHR-V-A2020-002.pdf);
* [Handling of Children in Street Situation (CISS) in times of National Health Emergency (CHR V A2020-003)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CHR-Advisory_Handling-of-Children-in-Street-Situation-CISS-in-Times-of-National-Health-Emergency-CHR-V-A2020-003.pdf);
* [Human Rights Standards on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) during the COVID-19 Emergency (CHR V A2020-004)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CHR-Advisory_Human-Rights-Standards-on-the-Protection-of-Internally-Displaced-Persons-IDPs-During-the-COVID-19-Emergency-CHR-V-A2020-004.pdf);
* [Human Rights Standards on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Affected by the Taal Volcano Eruption](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Human-Rights-Standards-on-Internally-Displaced-Persons-IDPs-Affected-by-the-Taal-Volcano-Erruption.pdf);
* [Disclosure of Health information of Person/s with Coronavirus Disease-2019 (CHR CAR A2020-002)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Policy-Advisory-on-the-Disclosure-of-the-Health-Information-of-Persons-with-COVID-19.pdf)
* [Human Rights Advisory on Withholding of Relief Goods as Penalty for Violating Curfew Ordinances (CHR V A2020-05)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Human-Rights-Advisory-on-Withhilding-of-Relief-Goods-as-Penalty-for-Violating-Curfew-Ordinances-CHR-V-A2020-05.pdf);
* [Human Rights Advisory on Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/Ips) Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic (CHR V A2020-006)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Human-Rights-Advisory-on-Indigenous-Cultural-Communities-Indigenous-Peoples-ICCsIps-Amidst-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-CHR-V-A2020-006.pdf);
* [Advisory on the Human Rights of Older Filipinos amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic (CHR V A2020-07)](http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Advisory-on-the-Human-Rights-of-Older-Filipinos-amid-the-Coronavirus-Disease-2019-Pandemic-CHR-V-A2020-07.pdf).

**Policy issuances** are the Commission's contribution to help the State realize its objectives of responding to the pandemic while respecting, promoting, and fulfilling human rights.See also:* -<http://chr.gov.ph/5th-commission/>
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| **Republic of Korea****National Human Rights Commission of Republic of Korea** | National Human Rights Commission (NHRCK) has been **monitoring** the labour rights protection, social security system, the right to food of vulnerable groups (Gangwon-province) and human rights protection for detainees, migrants and refugees under COVID-19 preventive measures.The Commission issued a **Statement** on Excessive Disclosure of Private Information of COVID-19 Patients and called on the authorities to publish the time and names of locations visited by infected people, rather than providing the travel history of each individual, and specify disinfection and protective measures taken by the public health authorities for these locations. NHRCK is actively **investigating complaints** regarding the infringement of the right to equality during the COVID-19 pandemic.NHRCK Chairperson in **statement** called for non-discriminatory COVID-19 preventive measures that respect rights of all individuals irrespective of nationality.The Commission issued a **Statement** on Excessive Disclosure of Private Information of COVID-19 Patients and called on the authorities to publish the time and names of locations visited by infected people, rather than providing the travel history of each individual, and specify disinfection and protective measures taken by the public health authorities for these locations. They should come up with measures that will ease public fears and protect the privacy of patients.NHRCK **launched a global campaign** to stop the spread of online hate speech Created and releasing hate speech guidance for the education sector in cooperation with 17 education offices;In the **Statemen**t on Protection of Hearing-impaired People’s Right to Access Information and Right to Language in News Coverage of Emergency Situations NHRCK called on major TV networks to change their filming and editing practices to include sign language interpreters hired by the government in the broadcasts of coronavirus press briefings. |
| **Thailand****National Human Rights Commission of Thailand** | The Commission has made several **recommendations** to the government to tackle this sanitary crisis, such as the establishment of a national emergency organization, the provision of compensative and remedial measures in a timely manner as appropriate as possible in case of any adverse impacts to the people. It has also urged the government to provide special measures targeting low-income earners, people living in rural and remote areas, the disabilities, the elderly and the prisoners to ensure that they are able to access to necessary health protection equipment, health care, surveillance in a timely manner.   NHRCT issued **a statement** on the situation of the disease outbreak of COVID-19. In the statement, the NHRCT expressed its concerns and proposed further **recommendations** to solve the current problems, such as the use of the drug Favipiravir for treatment while waiting for the new treatment, which may take a year.See also:* [Statement – Regarding the situation of the Disease Outbreak Covid-19](http://www.nhrc.or.th/NHRCT-Work/Statements-Press-Releases-Open-Letters/Statements/10%E0%B9%81%E0%B8%96%E0%B8%A5%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%93%E0%B9%8C%E0%B8%84%E0%B8%93%E0%B8%B0%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%A1%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%98%E0%B8%B4%E0%B8%A1%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%B8%E0%B8%A9%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%8A%E0%B8%99%E0%B9%81%E0%B8%AB%E0%B9%88%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%8A%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%95%E0%B8%B4-%28%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%A1-%29-%E0%B9%80.aspx)
* [The Chairperson of the NHRCT recommends public to keep their social distance while awaiting drugs or vaccines for COVID-19](http://www.nhrc.or.th/NHRCT-Work/Statements-Press-Releases-Open-Letters/Press-Releases/%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B0%E0%B8%98%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%99-%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%A1-%E0%B8%82%E0%B8%AD%E0%B9%83%E0%B8%AB%E0%B9%89%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B0%E0%B8%8A%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%8A%E0%B8%99%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%A7%E0%B9%89%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B0%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%B0%E0%B8%AB%E0%B9%88%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%AA%E0%B8%B1%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%84%E0%B8%A1-%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%9E%E0%B8%B7%E0%B9%88%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%A3.aspx)
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**EUROPE:**

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| **Albania****Office of the Ombudsman of Albania** | The Albanian NHRI (Office of the Ombudsman of Albania) has welcomed measures to restrict the circulation of citizens to stop the spread of the coronavirus, but **called for government accountability**. In particular, it highlighted the risks of emergency measures being misused to suppress the democratic essence of society. The Ombudsman called for humanity and understanding from authorities and the avoidance of extreme measures when they are unnecessary.[Read the statement (Albanian)](https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/sq/articles-layout-1/home/news/this-article-is-available-only-in-albanian-404/)See also:* [Article on Risk Intensification Of Violence Against Women In Conditions Of Isolation Imposed By Covid-19 (Albanian)](https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/sq/articles-layout-1/home/news/this-article-is-available-only-in-albanian-418/)
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| **Armenia****Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia** | The Armenian NHRI (Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia) has **issued a note** outlining advice to the public in relation to the outbreak of coronavirus in the country. For example, it includes points about adhering to virus prevention requirements, exercising caution regarding the circulation of false information and respecting people’s personal data, among others. The NHRI also [**published a guide**](https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/432082d18098a7a17bd88873277492da.pdf) on frequently asked questions about Coronavirus and human rights in the state of emergency. The guide was published in Braille and in the languages of national minorities. **A special guide for children has also been published.**The Human Rights Defender **examined the Draft Laws** on Making Supplements to the Law on the State of Emergency and on Making Supplements to the Law on Electronic Communication in an urgent manner and presented his preliminary [recommendation](https://www.ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1137) and observations to the Ministry of Justice.The Human Rights Defender has been [**monitoring**](https://www.ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1146) **of the situation with regard to domestic violence** during the State of Emergency period. Institution has published [awareness raising video](https://www.ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1157) on receiving the Defender's support in case of domestic violence. [Read the statement (Armenian)](https://www.ombuds.am/am/site/ViewNews/1095)See also:– [Recommendations on laws restricting the privacy of correspondence and other rights](https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1137)– [Article on monitoring of the situation with regard to domestic violence during the State of Emergency](https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1146) |
| **Austria****Austrian Ombudsman Board** | The Austrian NHRI (Austrian Ombudsman Board) has **published a note** addressing the main legal implication of the coronavirus outbreak in the country. In the note, the Austrian Ombudsperson, Bernhard Achitz, and law professors, Martin Spitzer and Harald Eberhard, answer a number of legal questions concerning private law, damages and compensation, as well as the new restrictions’ impact on fundamental rights.[Read the statement (German)](https://volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/artikel/Rechtliche-Auswirkungen-des-Coronavirus?topic_type=aktuelles&archiv=0)See also:– [Frequently Asked Questions around Covid-19 restrictions (German)](https://volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/artikel/Volksanwalt-Walter-Rosenkranz-beantwortete-Fragen-zur-Corona-Krise?topic_type=aktuelles&archiv=0) |
| **Azerbaijan** **Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan** | The Azerbaijani NHRI (Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan) has issued a **statement** addressed to the nation, emphasising the necessity of the government’s measures to contain the outbreak and protect the health of the population, including the elderly, children and people with disabilities as among the most vulnerable. The Ombudsperson and the staff members of the Office has **conducted visits** to the places where the people cannot leave on their own will and monitored the status of implementation of preventive measures carried out by the administration of these facilities and made necessary recommendations. The Ombudsperson has **issued general call** addressed to the public for them to follow the rules of the Operational Headquarters established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and also of the World Health Organization. The Ombudsman Institution also **donated 30.000 (thirty thousand) manats to Fund to Support Fight Against Coronavirus** created for realization of health-care activities against COVID-19 in Azerbaijan.The Ombudsperson also **issued a special call related to the protection of rights of vulnerable groups** of the population, such as persons with disabilities, migrants, and children and addressed to the relevant governmental bodies to pay special attention to ensuring their urgent needs. The Commissioner also focused on protection of the rights these persons during the pandemic. These calls were posted on the official web site of the Institution and disseminated through social network accounts of the Ombudsman.[Read the statement](http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/1757/the-ombudsman-addressed-the-nation-with-regard-to-the-coronavirus-epidemic)See also:– [Statement on the rights of migrants](http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/1761/information-on-the-measures-carried-out-by-the-commissioner-for-human-rights-ombudsman-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-for-effective-protection-of-the-rights-of-migrants-due-to-the-outbreak-of-corona)– [Statement on child rights protection during the COVID-19 outbreak](http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/1763/information-on-the-activities-carried-out-by-the-commissioner-for-human-rights-ombudsman-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-in-the-field-of-child-rights-protection-during-the-ongoing-outbreak-of-covid-19-i)– [Statement on the rights of people deprived of their liberty](http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/1801/legal-reforms-implemented-in-the-country-expanded-the-rights-of-detainees) - [Video to support the awareness raising national campaign #StayAtHome](http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/1804/ombudsman-institution-prepared-awareness-raising-video-with-stayathome-evdeqal-hashtag) |
| **Belgium****Unia, Myria and the Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion Service** | In Belgium, Unia, Myria\* and the Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion Service\* have **issued a joint statement** welcoming the policy to combat the pandemic but expressing concerns about the potentially negative consequences of the protective measures in certain situations. The statement particularly emphasises the situation of parents of disabled children placed in institutions, people in need of international protection and people living in poverty and insecurity. The Combat Poverty Service has also released a **separate statement** on the particular issues facing people living in poverty and insecurity.Read the joint statement ([French](https://www.unia.be/fr/articles/covid-19-des-mesures-de-protection-dans-le-respect-des-droits-fondamentaux))Read the statement from Combat Poverty Service ([French);](https://www.luttepauvrete.be/to-leave-no-one-behind-attention-et-soutien-aux-personnes-en-situation-de-pauvrete-et-de-precarite-dans-le-cadre-des-mesures-relatives-au-covid-19/)* See also:

– Unia’s recommendation on equal access to persons with disabilities in the supermarkets ([French](https://www.unia.be/fr/articles/unia-sinquiete-au-sujet-de-laccessibilite-des-supermarches-pendant-le-confi))– Unia’s open letter on the right of housing for healthcare workers ( [French](https://www.unia.be/fr/articles/discriminer-le-personnel-soignant-na-pas-sa-place-dans-une-societe-solidair))– Unia’s recommendation on equal access to care for older persons and persons with disabilities ([French](https://www.unia.be/fr/articles/les-personnes-handicapees-et-les-personnes-agees-ont-le-droit-detre-soignee))– Combat Poverty Service’s Overview of COVID-19 measures, in support of situations of poverty and precariousness ([French](http://ennhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200409-aper%C3%A7u-covid-19-FR.pdf)) |
| **Bosnia and Herzegovina** **Office of the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina** | The NHRI of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Office of the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina) issued a **press release** urging citizens to strictly adhere to the instructions issued by authorities and reduce their movement. The **statement** also urged those responsible to ensure full pay for private sector employees, and expresses special appreciation for health and social services.**Read the**[**statement**](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/Novost.aspx?newsid=1509&lang=EN)**See also:– Recommendations on the**[**protection of human rights of vulnerable categories of citizens**](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/Novost.aspx?newsid=1513&lang=BS)**– Recommendations for**[**Action By Those Charged With Increased Risk of Domestic Violence**](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/Novost.aspx?newsid=1516&lang=BS)**Due to Isolation Measures to Combat The Covid-19 Pandemic– Recommendations regarding the**[**publication of all decisions of the competent authorities**](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/Novost.aspx?newsid=1518&lang=EN)**during an emergency** |
| **Republic of Bulgaria** **Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria** | The Bulgarian NHRI (Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria) has **published a note** outlining the Ombudsman’s position on the announcement of a coronavirus emergency. It highlights that, even if extraordinary measures may temporarily restrict the exercise of individual rights of citizens, the constitutional text guarantees that respect for fundamental human rights remains a priority.**Read the**[**statement**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5305#middleWrapper)**(Bulgarian)****See also:****– Ombudsman’s opinion to the**[**Legal Commission**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5317)**(Bulgarian)– Recommendation to the**[**Minister of Health**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5322)**(Bulgarian)– Recommendation on**[**access of citizens to mobile and fixed services**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5324#middleWrapper)**during the state of emergency (Bulgarian)– Recommendation to**[**Credit Companies**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5327#middleWrapper)**for more flexibility under the state of emergency (Bulgarian)– Ombudsman’s letter to the**[**Minister of Education**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5328#middleWrapper)**(Bulgarian)– Recommendation to**[**Energy and Water Regulatory Commission**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5330#middleWrapper)**(Bulgarian)– Recommendation to**[**CEO of the heating utility company**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5329#middleWrapper)**on citizens’ needs during the pandemic– Ombudsman’s opinion to the**[**Ministry of Justice**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5331#middleWrapper)**on the draft amendment to the Domestic Violence Protection Act (Bulgarian)– Open Letter to Minister of Interior on**[**amendments to the Electronic Communications Act**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5333#middleWrapper)**(WEU)– Recommendation to the**[**Minister of Economy**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5334#middleWrapper)**to provide more accessible and clear information on measures during the pandemic– Recommendation to the**[**Minister of Education and Science**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5335#middleWrapper)**to stop placement of children in boarding schools– Recommendation to the**[**Minister of Health**](https://www.ombudsman.bg/news/5338#middleWrapper)**on visits to parks for children with disabilities above 12 years old** |
| **Croatia****Office of the Ombudswoman of Croatia** | The Croatian NHRI (Office of the Ombudswoman of Croatia) is closely **monitoring** the state of human rights during the coronavirus pandemic, including the imposed restrictions of the right to privacy and freedom of movement, as well as the protection of the vulnerable groups such as older and homeless persons, those living in the rural areas and Roma. The Ombudswoman has also called on citizens to act responsibly and respect all measures and recommendations given by the epidemiologists. **Read the**[**article**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/coronavirus-epidemic-responsibility-has-no-alternative/)**See also articles on:–**[**Amendments**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/it-is-important-to-precisely-determine-whose-data-will-be-collected-and-to-monitor-the-procedure/)**to the Electronic Communications Act– Prevention measures within the**[**prison system**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/it-is-necessary-to-provide-prevention-measures-within-the-prison-system/)**– The fundamental**[**value of equality**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/equinet-blog-no-crisis-can-undermine-the-fundamental-value-of-equality/)**during the COVID-19 Pandemic–**[**No entry without a mask – does this business practice constitute discrimination?**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/no-entry-without-a-mask-does-this-business-practice-constitute-discrimination/)**– Protection of**[**citizens in uncertain housing situation**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/protect-citizens-in-uncertain-housing-situation/)**,**[**Homeless**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/additional-efforts-needed-to-care-for-the-homeless-during-the-coronavirus-epidemic/)**during the coronavirus epidemic– Impact of COVID-19 on**[**Roma Population**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/the-pandemic-may-have-a-particularly-heavy-impact-on-the-roma-population/)**– The**[**right to safe and drinkable water**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/hrauto-skica/)**during the COVID-19 pandemic– Importance of**[**upholding human rights**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/human-rights-in-emergency-situations-ombudswomans-activities-during-fires-and-floods/)**during times of emergency– Importance to protect the**[**rights of older people**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/how-to-protect-the-rights-of-older-persons/)**during the pandemic–**[**OHCHR’s guidelines**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/what-does-the-pandemic-have-to-do-with-human-rights/)**on human rights in the context of the pandemic– Updates on the investigations on**[**possible violation of rights of older people**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/investigative-procedure-after-coronavirus-infection-of-users-in-the-home-for-the-elderly-in-split/)**in a retirement home– Providing support to**[**persons under international protection**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/potrebno-zastititi-i-osobe-pod-medunarodnom-zastitom-trazitelje-zastite-i-iregularne-migrante/)**–**[**Stigmatization**](https://www.ombudsman.hr/en/stigmatization-can-lead-to-violation-of-rights-discrimination-and-impair-the-efforts-in-containing-the-epidemic/)**possibly leading to violations of rights, discrimination and impairment of efforts in containing the epidemic** |
| **Cyprus****Office of the Commissioner for Administration of Cyprus** | The NHRI of Cyprus (Office of the Commissioner for Administration) has issued a **statement** on the measures for persons deprived of their liberty in the context of coronavirus. Despite considering the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 necessary, it underlines that fundamental rights of prisoners during the pandemic must be fully respected, with particular attention to vulnerable groups. It also notes that states should continue to guarantee access to monitoring bodies in all places of detention.  **- Read the**[**statement**](http://www.ombudsman.gov.cy/ombudsman/ombudsman.nsf/All/BDDE33B1D61926DBC22585370040AFB1/%24file/NPM%20Covid-19_26032020.pdf?OpenElement)**(Greek)**  |
| **Czech Republic** **Public Defender of Rights of Czech Republic** | In the Czech Republic, the Public Defender of Rights has informed the broader public with coronavirus-related national updates through **press releases** on its website. The Ombudsman especially addressed [issues](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/aktualne-k-navstevam-rodicu-v-zarizenich-pro-deti/) concerning children and young people and offered them and their parents particular [support](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/pro-deti-a-nactilete-jsme-zde-porad/). [**Read the press release**](https://www.ochrance.cz/?id=44)**(Czech) See also:– Statement expressing**[**solidarity to health workers**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/vsem-kdo-pracuji-v-socialnich-sluzbach/)**during the pandemic– Opinion on**[**childbirth and restrictions on access to medical facilities**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/monika-simunkova-k-porodum-a-omezenim-navstev-ve-zdravotnickych-zarizenich/)**– Recommendation on the**[**rights of older people residing in unofficial retirement facilities**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/koronavirus-a-seniori-v-peci-neregistrovanych-zarizeni/)**– Actions undertaken by the Deputy Ombudsman to**[**support families divided by the pandemic**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/monika-simunkova-pomohla-rodinam-ktere-rozdelila-epidemie/)**– Press release on**[**monitoring the situation in prisons**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/situace-ve-veznicich-v-dobe-epidemie/)**during the epidemic– Request to Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and Minister of Health**[**for support of vulnerable families, people with disabilities and their carers**](https://www.ochrance.cz/aktualne/tiskove-zpravy-2020/zastupkyne-ombudsmana-monika-simunkova-se-obratila-na-ministry-s-zadosti-o-podporu-ohrozen/)**during the pandemic** |
| **Denmark****Danish Institute for Human Rights** | The Danish NHRI (Danish Institute for Human Rights) has **published a note** with human rights considerations in the fight against COVID-19. It recognises that the seriousness of the situation requires the government to take extraordinary measures and [encourages](https://www.humanrights.dk/news/our-response-covid-19-pandemic) everyone to act in accordance with regulations and guidelines from local authorities. However, it recalls that these measures must be temporary, have a clear legal basis and must be proportionate. It also **advises authorities** to prioritise and first and foremost protect the most vulnerable as the elderly, the sick and healthcare staff.  **Read the**[**article**](https://menneskeret.dk/nyheder/menneskeretlige-hensyn-kampen-covid-19)**(Danish) See also:– Policy brief on**[**COVID-19 and human rights law**](http://ennhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Policy-Brief-COVID-19_eng.pdf)**– Statement on the protection of**[**health rights of minorities**](https://menneskeret.dk/nyheder/debat-etniske-minoriteter-boer-sikres-bedre-corona)**– Statement on the**[**risk of totalitarianism following the introduction of restrictions**](https://menneskeret.dk/nyheder/debat-covid-19-blotlaegger-verdens-bolvaerk-totalitarisme)**in the context of the pandemic** |
| **Finland****The Finnish Human Rights Centre** | The Finnish Human Rights Centre has **published**[**webpages**](https://www.humanrightscentre.fi/covid-19/) on the national and international measures relating to COVID-19 and human and fundamental rights. The pages provide general information on [fundamental and human rights and their possible limitations](https://www.ihmisoikeuskeskus.fi/covid-19/perusoikeudet/). They also link to the [Parliamentary Library’s Legal Information Package](https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/naineduskuntatoimii/kirjasto/aineistot/kotimainen_oikeus/LATI/Sivut/valmiuslain-kayttoonottaminen-koronavirustilanteessa.aspx) on the Emergency Law containing all the legislative processes and the Constitutional Committee’s opinions and experts’ views given to that Committee. A special section dedicated to the [rights of elderly and persons with disabilities](https://www.ihmisoikeuskeskus.fi/covid-19/vanhuksetvammaiset/), underlining that they must be respected in the context of coronavirus. The Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsmen have served as independent experts in the Parliamentary committee hearings **reviewing the Government proposals** to impose the Emergency Law and the various decrees limiting fundamental and human rights that have followed. The Parliamentary Ombudsman has also **drawn the Government’s attention to the impact of such restrictions in practice**. Due to the current situation, inspections of closed facilities are on hold, but special measures and methods are being developed to exercise the legal oversight function of the Parliamentary Ombudsman. |
| **France****National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France** | The President of the French NHRI (National Consultative Commission on Human Rights), Jean-Marie Burguburu, has [**communicated**](https://www.cncdh.fr/node/2055)**to the Prime Minister** **and parliamentarians** regarding human rights concerns associated with the emergency measures put in place. Also, the NHRI, together with the Defender of Rights and General Controller of Places of Deprivation of Liberty, have **published an**[**article**](https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2020/03/20/coronavirus-sauvegardons-les-droits-fondamentaux-pendant-la-crise-sanitaire_6033892_3232.html?fbclid=IwAR24jv1dVEgUJbQ4nT7Y_rb7DWPRHG1HsbUfc925mGSv1kWSuDyxLEH-9K4) in Le Monde stressing the need to safeguard fundamental rights during the crisis, particularly for those most vulnerable to confinement and social distancing measures. The NHRI has also **created an observatory to monitor the impact of COVID-19 related measures** on human rights and issues a [weekly newsletter](https://www.cncdh.fr/fr/travaux-en-cours/observatoire-de-letat-durgence-sanitaire-et-du-confinement) with an update on measures taken by French authorities, judiciary procedures and situations of concern.**Read the**[**statement**](https://www.cncdh.fr/node/2055)**and the**[**article**](https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2020/03/20/coronavirus-sauvegardons-les-droits-fondamentaux-pendant-la-crise-sanitaire_6033892_3232.html?fbclid=IwAR24jv1dVEgUJbQ4nT7Y_rb7DWPRHG1HsbUfc925mGSv1kWSuDyxLEH-9K4) **(French)** |
| **Georgia****Office of the Public Defender of Georgia** | The NHRI of Georgia (Office of the Public Defender of Georgia) has published a [**statement**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2020031720023331997.pdf)on human rights standards during a pandemic/epidemic. In the statement, the **NHRI responds to a number of frequently asked questions** about human rights standards in the current situation. The NHRI has also **published news** on a number of coronavirus-related issues. Among others, it addressed the rights of persons with disabilities and provided information on rights and responsibilities of employees and employers.Public Defender **joined and published the** [**Statement of the National Human Rights Institutions in Europe**](http://ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/adamianis-uflebata-erovnuli-institutebis-evropuli-kselis-ennhri-gantskhadeba-pandemiastan-dakavshirebit)  on the need for solidarity on human rights in the context of the novel coronavirus disease pandemic. The joint statement was released by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, which unites more than 40 National Human Rights Institutions in Europe. The statement calls on the states to cooperate proactively with National Human Rights Institutions in the fight against the novel coronavirus. The statement also stresses that the measures taken by the states should be proportionate and should not discriminate. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, older people, persons with disabilities, children, migrants, people seeking asylum and people living in poverty or homelessness. [**Public Defender published short guide**](http://ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/ra-unda-vitsodet-tuki-dagvajarimes) for the citizens have that been fined for violating the isolation and/or quarantine rules after the state of emergency was declared in the country. The guide answers most frequently asked questions about where and how the fine can be appealed and how should it be paid.[**Public Defender Considers that the Anti-Crisis Economic Plan does not Properly Address the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**](http://ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsvelis-mosazrebit-antikrizisul-ekonimikur-gegmashi-shshm-pirta-sachiroebebi-satanadod-ar-aris-gatvalistsinebuli) – Government of Georgia presented the Anti-Crisis Economic Plan to deal with the economic impacts of COVID-19. According to the plan, only persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities will enjoy social benefits, while persons with significant and moderate disabilities, as well as the children with Down syndrome and autism, who do not have the disability status due to the defective assessment model, are left without assistance. Since various programmes for persons with disabilities were suspended across the country, the services are partially delivered remotely, which is often ineffective, families cannot cope with the social needs of persons with disabilities and the local authorities do not carry out effective measures, the Public Defender considers it necessary that the planned activities be reviewed and amended.[**Public Defender Visited Penitentiary Establishments**](file://C:\Users\Sekaggya\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\2GUW8SSG\Since%20various%20programmes%20for%20persons%20with%20disabilities%20were%20suspended%20across%20the%20country,%20the%20services%20are%20partially%20delivered%20remotely,%20which%20is%20often%20ineffective,%20families%20cannot%20cope%20with%20the%20social%20needs%20of%20persons%20with%20disabilities%20and%20the%20local%20authorities%20do%20not%20carry%20out%20effective%20measures,%20the%20Public%20Defender%20considers%20it%20necessary%20that%20the%20planned%20activities%20be%20reviewed%20and%20amended.) to assess the impact of measures aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus on the prisoners’ rights, their necessity and proportionality, as well as to examine the working conditions of the staff.[**Public Defender Held an Online Meeting with Head of State Care and Trafficking Agency**](http://ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsvelis-onlain-shekhvedra-sakhelmtsifo-zrunvisa-da-trefikingis-saagentos-khelmdzghvaneltan) and received information about the working methods and activities of the Agency during the pandemic. Public Defender received information on the activities of social workers and psychologists, as well as in the method of processing cases and contacting persons in need. Particular attention was paid to the situation of children in state care.Public Defender continues to provide [Stateless Persons, Asylum Seekers and Persons with International Protection](http://ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/mokalakeobis-armkone-tavshesafris-madziebelta-da-saertashoriso-datsvis-mkone-pirta-samartlebrivi-konsultatsiis-shesakheb) with **legal counseling services.****Go to**[**website**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi)**See also:– Statement on**[**Study Situation in Quarantine Spaces**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsveli-sakarantino-sivrtseebshi-arsebul-mdgomareobas-sheistsavlis)**– Statement on Issues relating to**[**Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakartvelos-sakhalkho-damtsvelis-gantskhadeba-kalta-mimart-da-ojakhshi-dzaladobis-sakitkhebze)**– Statement on**[**Measures to be Taken to Provide Certain Medical Services and Shelter for Homeless Persons**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsvelis-gantskhadeba-usakhlkaro-pirta-tavshesafrit-uzrunvelqofisa-da-tsalkeuli-sameditsino-momsakhurebis-miznit-gasatarebeli-ghonisdziebebis-shesakheb)**– Statement against**[**media xenophobic narratives**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsveli-da-mastan-arsebuli-erovnul-umtsiresobata-sabcho-mtavari-arkhis-mier-motsodebul-informatsias-ksenofobiurad-afaseben)**related to the origin of Covid-19– Opinion on**[**Situation at Checkpoints**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsveli-sakontrolo-gamshveb-punktebze-arsebul-situatsias-dadebitad-afasebs)**– Statement to Authorities relating to**[**Protection of Right to Life**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakartvelos-sakhalkho-damtsvelis-sagangebo-mimartva-khelisuflebas-sitsotskhlis-uflebis-datsvis-taobaze)**– Public Defender to Study**[**Situation in Quarantine Spaces**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsveli-sakarantino-sivrtseebshi-arsebul-mdgomareobas-sheistsavlis)**– Frequently asked questions on**[**fines for violating the isolation and/or quarantine rules**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/ra-unda-vitsodet-tuki-dagvajarimes)**during the state of emergency– Statement on**[**Anti-Crisis Economic Plan and Needs of Persons with Disabilities**](http://www.ombudsman.ge/eng/akhali-ambebi/sakhalkho-damtsvelis-mosazrebit-antikrizisul-ekonimikur-gegmashi-shshm-pirta-sachiroebebi-satanadod-ar-aris-gatvalistsinebuli) |
| **Germany****German Institute for Human Rights** | The German NHRI (German Institute for Human Rights) has issued a **press release** calling on the federal and state governments to align measures to combat the corona pandemic with human rights. It also calls on politicians to consider relevant information from civil society organisations and expresses an urgent need for action at the European level.**Read the**[press release](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-25032020-corona-pandemie-menschenrechte-muessen-das-politische-handeln-leiten/)**(German)****See also:****–** [**Position paper** "Corona Crisis: Human Rights Must Guide the Political Response"](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Stellungnahmen/Position_Paper_Corona_Crisis_-_Human_Rights_Must_Guide_the_Political_Response.pdf)**– Opinion on the impact of the CoVID-19 pandemic on human rights (**[German](http://ennhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-DIMR-StN-Coronakrise.pdf)**,**[English](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/publikationen/show/corona-crisis-human-rights-must-guide-the-political-response)**)**– **Press release on the need for equal health care and additional appropriate housing for homeless people during the CoVID-19 pandemic (**[German](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-zur-corona-pandemie-wohnungslose-menschen-benoetigen-gleiche-gesundheitsversorgung/)**,**[English](https://192.168.100.6/owa/redir.aspx?C=Te4Pcqnnw_Emsr7uGYhIYE7Ax_dyfyVn4-QknZaQl2LcM8-gPeHXCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fwww.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de%2ffileadmin%2fuser_upload%2fPDF-Dateien%2fPressemitteilungen%2f2020_Press-release_Corona_Homeless_need_equal_care_and_additional_housing.pdf)**)****– Press release on the continued full applicability of children’s rights during the CoVID-19 pandemic (**[German](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-kinderrechte-sind-auch-in-zeiten-von-corona-vollumfaenglich-gueltig/)**)****–**[**Press release**](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-zur-corona-pandemie-aeltere-menschen-vor-diskriminierung-schuetzen/)**and**[opinion](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Stellungnahmen/Stellungnahme_Menschenrechte_AElterer_auch_in_der_Corona-Pandemie_wirksam_schuetzen.pdf)**on protecting the rights of older persons effectively during the CoVID-19 pandemic** **(German)**– [**Press release**](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-zur-corona-pandemie-gesundheitliche-versorgung-von-menschen-mit-behinderungen-sich/)**and**[opinion](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Stellungnahmen/Stellungnahme_Das_Recht_auf_gesundheitliche_Versorgung_von_Menschen_mit_Behinderungen_in_der_Corona-Pandemie.pdf)**on ensuring health care for persons with disabilities during the CoVID-19 pandemic** **(German)**– **Press release on implementing  recommendations of the EU Commission for the reception and care of refugees in times of the corona pandemic (**[German](https://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/aktuell/news/meldung/article/pressemitteilung-zur-corona-pandemie-empfehlungen-der-eu-kommission-zur-versorgung-von-gefluechteten/)**)** |
| **Great Britain** **Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain** | Equality and Human Rights Commission In looking at the impact of all emergency measures and the actions being taken by the governments and local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, and is responding by **monitoring** developments to examine whether the proportionate use of enforcement powers necessary to challenge policies that are clearly discriminatory and may cause severe disadvantage; also, by **working with the government** to ensure that the emergency legislation passed is properly scrutinised and reviewed at the appropriate times.The Commission has addressed **letters** to several entities, such as the British Retail Consortium, to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the British Medical Association, in an attempt to ensure that human rights are still a prime concern amidst this global pandemic. For example, it includes points about respecting virus prevention requirements as well as guiding points for employers in order to continue to fight discrimination. The Commission also **ensures that any further changes introduced under the Coronavirus Act are given full and proper consideration** in terms of protecting the population and especially monitoring their impact on the most vulnerable. EHRC is conducting [**briefings**](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/legal-responses/parliamentary-briefings) to Parliamentarians to present an analysis of whether proposed policies and legal changes align with the requirements of equality and human rights law.EHRC has published [**interim findings**](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/inclusive-justice-system-designed-all)**from its**[**criminal justice inquiry**](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-does-criminal-justice-system-treat-disabled-people-fairly), to help mitigate the risks that these technologies pose to disabled people.[**Read the statement**](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-employers)**See also:– Article on how the Equality and Human Rights Commission is**[**responding to the coronavirus pandemic**](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/how-were-responding-coronavirus-pandemic)  |
| **Hungary****The Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary** | In Hungary, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary, the Deputy Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of Nationalities Living in Hungary and the Deputy Commissioner for the Protection of the Future Generations **issued a joint statement** on the issues related to the vulnerable groups of society in the context of coronavirus, recommending that relevant policy makers set up a task force to provide them with extraordinary protection and support.  **Read the**[**statement**](http://www.ajbh.hu/en/web/ajbh-en/-/communication-from-the-commissioner-for-fundamental-rights-of-hungary-and-his-deputies?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fajbh-en%2F)**See also:– Joint statement on the**[**issues related to the vulnerable groups**](http://www.ajbh.hu/en/web/ajbh-en/news/-/content/NDht1kk2PjsY/communication-from-the-commissioner-for-fundamental-rights-of-hungary-and-his-deputies)**–Information notice on the**[**issues affecting the Roma population**](http://minorityombud.com/en/web/njbh-en/news1/-/content/jmbWrsypCLi8/information-notice-on-the-issues-affecting-the-roma-population-in-the-context-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic)**in the context of the coronavirus pandemic– Recommendation on the**[**rights of people with autism**](http://www.ajbh.hu/en/hirek-esemenyek/-/content/yQP8lh3KKIPo/az-alapveto-jogok-biztosanak-uzenete-az-autizmus-vilagnapja-alkalmab-1)**during health crisis– Recommendation expressing**[**solidarity for health workers**](http://www.ajbh.hu/en/kozlemenyek/-/content/qzyKPkTyQAvM/az-alapveto-jogok-biztosanak-uzenete-az-egeszsegugyi-vilagnap-alkalmabol)**in times of emergency**  |
| **Ireland****Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**  | Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission **has sent a letter** to the Prime Minister in recognition of the pandemic. The letter underlines that it is essential that human rights and equality norms are upheld during this public health emergency. It highlights relevant legislation that underlines that human rights restrictions imposed in emergency measures must be necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory, and that human rights and equality principles should inform their implementation.[**Read the statement**](https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2020/03/IHREC-Letter-to-An-Taoiseach-March-2020.pdf) |
| **Republic of Latvia** **Ombudsman’s Office of the Republic of Latvia** | The Latvian NHRI (Ombudsman’s Office of the Republic of Latvia) has **addressed the new legislative amendments** introduced by the Latvian government to deal with the outbreak of COVID-19. The Ombudsman’s office provided a thorough insight of the measures taken, especially focusing on their impact on employers, employees, people living in poverty and people with disabilities.[**Go to the website**](http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/)**(Latvian) See also:– Article on**[**state of emergency measures and human rights**](http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/news/lv/tiktal-ciktal-jeb-vai-arkarteja-situacija-var-but-pamats-cilvektiesibu-ierobezosanai)**– Frequently Asked Questions on**[**how does the emergency affect childcare and the child’s meeting with non-cohabiting parents**](http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/news/lv/ka-arkarteja-situacija-ietekme-bernu-pieskatisanu-un-berna-tiksanos-ar-vecakiem-kas-nedzivo-kopa) |
| **Lithuania****Seimas Ombudsmen’s Office of Lithuania** | The Lithuanian NHRI (Seimas Ombudsmen’s Office) has issued a **statement** on human rights in the context of COVID-19. It recognises the efforts of the state executive to protect public health and human lives, but at the same time it recalls that human rights are of the highest value and that their protection must remain a state priority, even in an emergency.**Read the statement (**[**Lithuanian**](http://www.lrski.lt/naujienos/789-seimo-kontrolierius-primena-kad-covid-19-viruso-pandemija-nera-pagrindas-riboti-zmogaus-teises-ir-laisves.html)**,**[**English**](http://www.lrski.lt/en/news/790-the-seimas-ombudsman-reminds-that-protection-of-human-rights-must-remain-a-state-priority-even-in-an-emergency.html)**)See also:– The Parliamentary Ombudsman calls for the**[**protection of human rights in social care institutions**](http://www.lrski.lt/en/news/794-the-parliamentary-ombudsman-calls-for-the-protection-of-human-rights-in-social-care-institutions-to-be-guaranteed.html)**to be guaranteed (English)– Article on**[**monitoring of social care homes through social media**](http://www.lrski.lt/en/news/798-social-care-institutions-are-monitored-through-social-media.html)**(English)** |
|  **Luxembourg** **Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg**       | The President of the NHRI from Luxembourg (Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg) has sent an **open letter to the Prime Minister** addressing equality issues arising from the coronavirus pandemic. In the letter, he welcomes the commitments made by the government to respond to the health and economic emergency, but also draws attention to the consequences of coronavirus for the most vulnerable groups, including, among others, people who are homeless, people with disabilities and people deprived of their liberty.  **Read the** [**open letter**](https://ccdh.public.lu/fr/actualites/2020/20200327_COVID-19_Droits_Humains.html)**(French)**  |
| **Republic of Moldova****Office of the People’s Advocate of the Republic of Moldova** | The Moldovan NHRI (Office of the People’s Advocate of the Republic of Moldova) addressed national authorities and citizens in a [**press release**](http://ombudsman.md/news/comunicat-de-presa-11/) with a call for solidarity and civic responsibility to better cope with the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country. In addition, the NHRI has **published news and opinions** on a number of coronavirus-related issues. Among others, the NHRI has **addressed the**[**amendments**](http://ombudsman.md/news/opinia-avocatului-poporului-pe-marginea-modificarilor-operate-de-parlament-la-legea-nr-212/)**to Law on the state of emergency,** the [access](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatii-poporului-reitereaza-importanta-accesului-la-informatii-a-populatiei-si-mass-media-in-timpul-pandemiei-de-coronavirus/) to information during the pandemic, the prevention measures in [penitentiary institutions](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatul-poporului-riscul-raspandirii-epidemiei-in-penitenciare-este-unul-real/) and new possible [budgetary allocations](http://ombudsman.md/news/oficiul-avocatului-poporului-va-reduce-cheltuielile-prevazute-pentru-anul-2020-cu-aproximativ-un-milion-de-lei-si-este-dispus-sa-le-restituie-in-bugetul-de-stat-pentru-ca-aceste-mijloace-f/) to counter the spread of the virus. [**Go to website**](http://ombudsman.md/comunicare/stiri/)**(Romanian) See also:– Statement on**[**The Application of Alternative Measures To Detention During The Epidemiological Crisis**](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatul-poporului-pledeaza-pentru-aplicarea-masurilor-alternative-detentiei-pe-durata-crizei-epidemiologice/)**;– Statement on**[**Provision of Information On The Epidemiological Status, and The Protective Measures Of Covid-19 In A Language Accessible To People With Sensory Disabilities**](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatii-poporului-solicita-asigurarea-informarii-despre-starea-epidemiologica-masurile-de-protectie-de-covid-19-intr-un-limbaj-accesibil-pentru-persoanele-cu-dizabilitati-senzoriale/)**;– Statement on the application of**[**Measures To Release Certain Categories Of Detainees**](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatii-poporului-recomanda-autoritatilor-intreprinderea-masurilor-de-urgenta-pentru-eliberarea-din-detentie-a-anumitor-categorii-de-detinuti-inclusiv-minori-prin-aplicarea-celor-mai-potrivite-solu/)**, Including Minors, to reduce the number of people in detention;– Call on the Commission for**[**Exceptional Situations**](http://ombudsman.md/news/avocatul-poporului-libertatea-de-exprimare-inclusiv-fluxul-liber-si-la-timp-de-informatii-este-un-factor-esential-pentru-capacitatea-mass-mediei-de-a-raporta-problemele-legate-de-pandemie/)**to exclude the provisions by which the deadline for responding to requests for information of public interest during the period of emergency has been tripled;– Amicus Curiae for the Constitutional Court on**[**inaccurate formulation of Law no.54 on the state of emergency**](http://ombudsman.md/news/in-opinia-amicus-curiae-pentru-curtea-constitutionala-avocatul-poporului-reitereaza-rezervele-sale-in-legatura-cu-formularea-care-lasa-loc-de-interpretari-ce-ar-putea-conduce-la-restrangerea-nejustif/)**that could lead to the unjustified restriction of human rights.** |
| **Montenegro** **Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro** | The NHRI of Montenegro (Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro) **addressed the Director of the Criminal Sanctions Administration (UIKS)**, Milan Tomić, to request information on healthcare plans and measures for persons deprived of their liberty in the context coronavirus. It also **advised to develop a plan for crisis management** with specific guidelines for the conduct of both the health service and all UIKS officers and to prepare a plan for how to perform day-to-day duties with possibly reduced capacity.**Read the**[**statement**](http://www.ombudsman.co.me/article.34341.news.html)**(Montenegrin)** |
| **Netherlands****Netherlands Institute for Human Rights** | The Dutch NHRI (Netherlands Institute for Human Rights) has **issued a note** responding to questions concerning coronavirus and human rights. Despite welcoming the strict measures taken by the government, it also underlines that the accessibility to medical facilities, as well as to information and communication, must be guaranteed equally for everyone, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.**Read the**[**statement**](https://www.mensenrechten.nl/nl/nieuws/coronavirus-en-mensenrechten-enkele-vragen-en-antwoorden)**(Dutch)See also:– Statement on vulnerable groups and human rights perspective in development of digital response to COVID crisis (**[**Dutch**](https://mensenrechten.nl/nl/nieuws/college-voor-de-rechten-van-de-mens-adviseert-over-randvoorwaarden-corona-apps)**)** |
| **Northern Ireland****Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission** | The Northern Irish NHRI (Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission) has issued a **statement** on stressing the importance for everyone to follow the advice of the Government, Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Agency in order to save lives and protect health care and other frontline workers. The statement also emphasises the importance of human rights in this context.[**Read the statement**](https://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/covid-19-human-rights-statement-25-march-2020)**See also:****– Recommendation to Department of Health and NI Executive on**[**Access to termination of pregnancy healthcare services**](https://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/access-to-termination-of-pregnancy-healthcare-services-is-required-urgently) |
| **Norway****Norwegian National Human Rights Institution** | Norwegian National Human Rights Institution has (NIM) published a **short**[**notice**](https://www.nhri.no/2020/slik-pavirker-koronaviruset-nims-arbeid/)explaining how the institution’s work is being affected by coronavirus and the countermeasures taken. In addition, the **NHRI provided**[**input**](https://www.nhri.no/2020/innspill-til-stortingets-koronakomite-om-koronaloven/)**to the competent parliamentary committee** on the draft ‘Corona Act’, which lays down rules on new restrictions such as quarantine and isolation. It has emphasised the need for transparency and the use of consultative processes when developing measures in response to COVID-19, as well as the need to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups, such as prison inmates, children and people with disabilities. The NHRI has also **created a**[**document**](http://ennhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Info-for-ENNHRI-on-Norwegian-Government-Response-to-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf)**with information regarding the Norwegian Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**NIM has **written several opinion pieces** and has **appeared in interviews** regarding human rights and COVID-19 (in Norwegian). The Institution has also **launched a webinar series** on our social media channels called "Human Rights in the Garden", which addresses human rights issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, NIM has participated in several webinars arranged by other organisations, such as the "Coronavirus and the Rule of Law" webinar organised by University of Oslo Faculty of Law and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), as well as a panel discussion on fake news, misinformation and freedom of expression during the City of Kristiansand’s European Conference. On NIMs website, we have a **dedicated page for COVID-19 related updates**, as well as a page on human rights considerations for vulnerable groups and **a page collating key resources and recommendations** from international human rights bodies, experts and NGOs.**Read the NHRI’s**[**input**](https://www.nhri.no/2020/innspill-til-stortingets-koronakomite-om-koronaloven/)**to the Norwegian Parliament and**[**insight**](https://www.nhri.no/2020/koronaloven/)**on the Corona Act****See also:****NIMs Submissions Regarding Temporary Regulations:*** [Measures to strengthen the efficiency of the judicial system;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsinnspill-om-midlertidig-forskrift-i-medhold-av-koronaloven-om-forenklinger-og-tiltak-innenfor-justissektoren-for-a-avhjelpe-konsekvenser-av-utbrudd-av-covid-19/)
* [The enforcement of penalties in the criminal justice system;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsinnspill-forslag-til-midlertidig-forskrift-om-straffegjennomforing-i-medhold-av-koronaloven/)
* [Measures in the field of child welfare in response to the COVID-19 outbreak;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsinnspill-tiltak-pa%CC%8A-barnevernsomra%CC%8Adet/)
* [Proposals to extend the duration of the Corona Act;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingssvar-vedrorende-forslag-om-forlengelse-av-varigheten-av-koronaloven/)
* [The handling of residence permit cases in connection with the outbreak of](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsuttalelse-behandling-av-saker-om-oppholdstillatelse-i-forbindelse-med-utbruddet-av-covid-19/)
* [COVID-19;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsuttalelse-behandling-av-saker-om-oppholdstillatelse-i-forbindelse-med-utbruddet-av-covid-19/)
* [Proposals for temporary amendments to the Immigration Act;](https://www.nhri.no/2020/horingsuttalelse-forslag-til-midlertidige-endringer-i-utlendingsloven-fjernmoter-i-utlendingsnemnda-m-v-for-a-begrense-utbruddet-av-covid-19/)

**– Letter on the protection of human rights during the covid-19 pandemic to Ministry of Health, Directorate of Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health (**[Norwegian](https://www.nhri.no/2020/ivaretakelsen-av-menneskerettigheter-under-covid-19-pandemien/)**)– Letter to the Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health on safeguarding the right to privacy in connection with infection tracking app (**[Norwegian](https://www.nhri.no/2020/brev-til-helse-og-omsorgsdepartementet-og-folkehelseinstituttet/)**)** |
| **Poland****Office of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights** | In Poland, the NHRI (Office of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights) has released three **statements** in relation to the pandemic. One [**statement**](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/sluzba-zdrowia-walczy-z-koronawirusem-i-nie-daje-rady-zapewnic-wlasciwej-opieki-innym-chorym)calls on the Minister of Health to take steps to provide adequate health care for patients who are not infected with coronavirus. The others relate to the [situation](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/koronawirus-trudnosci-z-powrotem-polakow-z-ameryki-poludniowej-do-kraju) of Polish citizens awaiting return to Poland from South America, and a [call](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/rpo-wybory-10-maja-2020) for Poland’s May elections to not take place.**The National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of Germany and Poland released a**[**joint statement**](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/en/content/29th-april-eu-day-solidarity-between-generations-joint-statement-human-rights-older-persons)**on the need to strengthen human rights of older persons, especially in light of the outbreak of COVID-19.**In the statement, the two NHRIs (German Institute for Human Rights and Office of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights) call on governments to undertake systematic assessments of the needs of older persons during the pandemic to create effective measures that can mitigate and prevent abuse or neglect. They also highlight that states must ensure, among others, effective and practical access to information, accessible and affordable long-term care services, as well as home-care and community-based services without discrimination of any kind.**Read the statements on**[**healthcare**](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/sluzba-zdrowia-walczy-z-koronawirusem-i-nie-daje-rady-zapewnic-wlasciwej-opieki-innym-chorym)**,**[**citizens awaiting return**](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/koronawirus-trudnosci-z-powrotem-polakow-z-ameryki-poludniowej-do-kraju)**and the**[**May elections**](https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/content/rpo-wybory-10-maja-2020)**(Polish)** |
| **Portugal****Office of the Portuguese Ombudsman** | The NHRI of Portugal (Office of the Portuguese Ombudsman) has published a **statement** clarifying possible questions rising from the state of emergency measures occurring in the country. It acknowledges that, in view of the current public calamity, some of the rights and freedoms can be temporarily suspended. However, it stresses that the state of emergency does not imply the suspension of the Constitution and that the measures taken must keep respecting democratic legality and citizens’ rights.**Read the**[**statement**](http://www.provedor-jus.pt/?idc=136&idi=18228)**(Portuguese)See also:– Recommendation to the Minister of Justice on prisons (**[**Portuguese**](http://www.provedor-jus.pt/?idc=136&idi=18234)**)– Clarifications regarding the emergency state and regional quarantines (**[**Portuguese**](http://www.provedor-jus.pt/?idc=32&idi=18241)**)** |
| **Russian Federation****Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation** | The NHRI of the Russian Federation (Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation) has been **involved in the implementation of measures to counteract the spread of the coronavirus** pandemic and protect human rights in the circumstances of irresistible force. Following complaints about the lack of antiseptic products and protective masks in the network of pharmacies, the Commissioner immediately issued a **statement** to the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation on the need to include protective masks and antiseptic products in the Minimum assortment of medicines required for medical care.**Read the**[**statement**](http://eng.ombudsmanrf.org/events/news/news_of_the_commissioner/view/high_commissioner_addressed_the_prime_minister_of_russia)**See also:– Article on High Commissioner’s**[**visit to temporary detention centre**](http://eng.ombudsmanrf.org/events/news/news_of_the_commissioner/view/tatiana_moskalkova_visited_pretrial_detention_center_acirc)**to examine hygienic condition related to spread of COVID-19– Article on**[**collaboration of Russian and Armenian Ombudsmen**](http://eng.ombudsmanrf.org/events/news/news_of_the_commissioner/view/family_reunited_thanks_to_collaboration_of_russian_and_armenian_ombudsmen)**for the reunification of an Armenian family– Article regarding the**[**Decree on temporary measures to address the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation**](http://eng.ombudsmanrf.org/events/news/news_of_the_commissioner/view/decree_on_measures_to_address_the_legal_status_of_foreigners_in_russia_signed) |
| **Scotland****Scottish Human Rights Commission** | The Scottish NHRI (Scottish Human Rights Commission) has issued a **statement**, which especially addresses the restrictions imposed by the newly published draft coronavirus emergency legislation in the UK. The statement stresses that human rights can and should inform and strengthen the ways in which decisions are made, and how measures are put into practice.[**Read the statement**](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/statement-human-rights-in-times-of-crisis/)**.See also:– Briefing on**[**the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020**](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2005/coronavirus-scotland-act-2020-briefing-april-2020.pdf)**–**[**Recommendations**](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/covid-19-clinical-guidance-recommendations-to-chief-medical-officer/)**to Chief Medical Officer to consider reference to human rights– Joint**[**Letter**](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2011/shrc_ehrc_cypcs_letter_ehric_coronavirus_inquiry.pdf)**to MSP Ruth Maguire to Call for Inquiry on disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on certain groups** |
| **Republic of Serbia****Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia** | The Ombudsman from the Serbian NHRI (Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia), Zoran Pasalic, **visited the renovated Reception Center** in Subotica to make sure that all the prescribed conditions for accommodation, food and medical protection are fulfilled during the state of emergency declared in the country. During the visit, he also urged all citizens of the Republic of Serbia to abide by the measures of the government.**Read the**[**article**](https://ombudsman.rs/index.php/2011-12-25-10-17-15/2011-12-26-10-05-05/6548-z-r-n-p-sh-lic-bish-n-v-v-r-ni-r-n-in-u-sub-ici)**See also:– article on**[**NPM’s special hotline**](https://ombudsman.rs/index.php/2011-12-25-10-17-15/2011-12-26-10-05-05/6558-p-s-bn-l-f-ns-lini-np-s-d-d-n-u-n-d-lji)**– opinion on**[**the rights of persons’ in court proceedings who violated self-quarantined measures**](https://ombudsman.rs/index.php/2011-12-11-11-34-45/6554-ishlj-nj-z-sh-i-ni-gr-d-n-upuc-n-inis-rs-vu-pr-vd)**– Letter to Local Self-Government Units on**[**Providing Basic Living Conditions to Roma Residents**](https://ombudsman.rs/index.php?start=5) |
| **Slovakia****Slovak National Centre for Human Rights** | The Slovak NHRI (Slovak National Centre for Human Rights) has **posted an update** about the state of emergency measures in the country, stressing those fundamental rights and freedoms must be guaranteed for all people, without exception. In its message, the NHRI outlines how the measures taken must respect the principle of equal treatment in areas such as employment, social security, health care, the provision of goods and services and education. The Centre continuously closely **monitors** any state and local measures targeting Roma communities and consider further action needed.The Centre **monitors** whether and to what extent health care facilities and doctors have only been providing urgent health care. The Centre addressed a request to the Ministry of Health to undertake steps to remediate the current situation, which it considers in violation with the right to health, and to adopt legislation to prevent such situation in the future.The Centre **published an** [**open call**](http://snslp.sk/#page=3047) to the government, members of the parliament and members of the crisis management group to ensure that human rights and freedoms are duly taken into consideration when new measures to fight the pandemic are adopted. The open call also highlights the importance of available information for linguistic minorities, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities.**Read the**[**statement**](http://www.snslp.sk/?locale=sk#page=3043)**(Slovak)See also:– statement on**[**the support to the work of civil society**](http://www.snslp.sk/?locale=sk#page=3049)**–**[**webpage**](http://www.snslp.sk)**on the Ombudsman activities related to COVID-19** |
| **Slovenia****Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia** | The Slovenian NHRI (Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia) has **created a new page** on its website, which is specifically dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic. This section includes the measures taken to curb the outbreak in the Republic of Slovenia, relevant acts adopted by the government, the Ombudsman’s **opinions and press releases**, announcements by international organisations, as well as useful news and information. |
| **Spain****Office of the Ombudsman of Spain** | The Spanish NHRI (Office of the Ombudsman of Spain) has expressed confidence in the state of emergency measures put in place by the government, **calling for unity of action of state authorities and institutions**. However, it also underlined that, in these exceptional circumstances, citizens’ fundamental rights must be guaranteed, and that while rights and freedoms may be temporarily restricted, they but must not lose their essence.[**Read the statement**](https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/comunicacion-del-defensor-del-pueblo-ante-la-epidemia-coronavirus/)**(Spanish)See also the Ombudsmen**[**submission**](https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/mas-millar-quejas-covid-19/)**on the complaints received from individuals related to COVID-19 to respective state authorities** |
| **Turkey****Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey** | A **statement** from the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey underlines that, in the context of the pandemic, the right to health should be evaluated together with other rights, such as the rights to life, environment and development. It also calls on all states to fulfil their human rights responsibilities and the public to contribute to the protection of public health.[**Read the statement**](https://www.tihek.gov.tr/saglik-hakki-baglaminda-covid-19-korona-virusu-salgini-hakkinda-basin-aciklamasi/)**(Turkish)** |
| **Ukraine****Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights** | The Ukrainian NHRI (Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights) has informed the public about measures taken to counter the coronavirus through updated **notices on its website**. In addition, the Commissioner, Lyudmyla Denisova, **called upon different heads of ministers** to especially protect the most vulnerable and exposed groups of people, such as persons in places of deprivation of liberty, medical personnel and people living in conflict areas. She also urged citizens to comply with the exceptional restrictive measures. |