



## Human Rights 75 Pledges

### Guidance for local and regional governments

One of the key objectives of the [Human Rights 75 Initiative](#) is to generate pledges that bring about concrete change towards greater enjoyment of human rights for all from State institutions (executive, legislative and judicial authorities), local and regional authorities, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations, UN entities, international financial institutions, business, young people and others.

#### What can a city do?

- Make pledges
- Join up with other cities and pledge together!
- Participate in Human Rights 75 country and regional dialogues

#### What are Human Rights 75 pledges?

As local and regional authorities are often closest to people’s lives, pledges can have significant impact on the enjoyment of human rights for all.

Human Rights 75 pledges are commitments to take a specific action, with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights.

The High Commissioner invites pledges that are transformative, innovative and catalytic at the local, country, regional or international level.

#### What can a pledge be based on?

- Already existing efforts to promote human rights locally.
- Commitment to implement a recommendation made by international, regional or other human rights mechanisms, within a certain time frame and with an action plan.
- Asks from the HC’s [monthly thematic spotlights](#)

Pledges should be SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound). Pledges can involve one or more of the following actions:

#### A. Legal, institutional and policy changes, e.g.

- Join the international movement of [“10,100,1000 human rights cities and territories by 2030”](#).
- Develop a new human rights-based policy/scheme or extend its beneficiaries.
- Introduce or review key normative framework.
- Conduct human rights impact assessments on legislation.
- Adopt action plans to implement human rights obligations.
- Increase budget allocation for inclusive public services (e.g. health, education, social security, housing).



- Develop targeted programmes to protect the rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations
- Establish a human rights office or structure in the city administration.
- Establish or strengthen human rights complaint, oversight, and redress mechanisms at the local level.
- Develop indicators to assess human rights implementation and establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

### **B. Practices and activities, e.g.**

- Instate/promote the use of a human rights-based approach in planning and development, applying participatory methodologies.
- Develop participatory and transparent processes for budget allocation and follow-up, such as regular annual multi-stakeholder consultations as part of the budgeting process.
- Hold consultations on specific issues/with specific groups.
- Launch campaigns to develop a culture of rights, empowering people to claim their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.
- Launch campaigns to change public perceptions and to fight racism and combat intolerance.
- Establish structures for civil society participation in decision-making.
- Build human rights capacity of local actors.
- Report to and implement recommendations from the regional and UN human rights mechanisms (including the UN Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Procedures).
- Foster collaboration with national human rights institutions and other national bodies.

### **C. Advocate for financial contributions at national level, &/or to the UN Human Rights Office**

#### **Work with others!**

- OHCHR field presence and UN Country Team
- National human rights institution or local human rights commission
- Civil society organizations, women's groups, human rights defenders, faith-based actors, youth, and academia (artistic community?)
- Victims/survivors
- Business community



**Pledges should support the goals of Human Rights 75 to:**

**1) revitalise a worldwide consensus on human rights**

- E.g., what commitment can be made to revitalise a global consensus on human rights?

**2) look to the future, 25 years down the line**

- what commitment can be made to address issues that are expected to escalate in the coming years – e.g., impact of climate change, new technologies, or inequalities?

**3) bolster the human rights ecosystem**

- what contribution can be made to strengthen the human rights ecosystem (e.g. to establish or strengthen human rights local structures; to foster collaboration with a national human rights institution or international and regional human rights mechanisms; to strengthen support to the UN Human Rights Office)

Once you have your pledge(s) submit it through the [online platform](#) dedicated for this purpose.

**All pledges will be made public during the December 2023 high-level event.**

For all questions and comments, please write to: [ohchr-pledgeshr75@ohchr.org](mailto:ohchr-pledgeshr75@ohchr.org)

Reference material:

OHCHR's reports on local government and human rights: [A/HRC/51/10](#) and [A/HRC/42/22](#)  
[OHCHR's work with local government](#)

Progress report of the Advisory Committee on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights [A/HRC/27/59](#)

[Local governments and human rights – Advisory Committee report \(A/HRC/30/49\)](#)

Human Rights Council resolutions on local government and human rights: [24/2](#) of 26 September 2013, [27/4](#) of 25 September 2014, [33/8](#) of 29 September 2016 and [39/7](#) of 27 September 2018; [45/7](#) of 6 October 2020 and [51/12](#) of 6 October 2022.

[Building economies that place people's human rights at the center](#)