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Sweden  
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# Compilation of Recommendations Issued to South-East Asian Countries by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms on Issues Related to Democratic Space and Women Journalists



**2014-2022**

This compilation, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) South-East Asia Regional Office in September 2022, includes publicly available recommendations made to South-East Asian countries by the UN human rights mechanisms on the issues related to democratic space and women journalists from 2014 to 2022.

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# **Freedom of Expression**

# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/42/11), 2019<sup>1</sup>

Para. 121.52

Amend the Sedition Act to strengthen freedom of expression, in line with international human rights obligations (Norway);

Para. 121.53

Guarantee the freedoms of expression (...) by, inter alia, repealing the Sedition Act (Germany);

Para. 121.54

Repeal the emergency powers and the Sedition Act, and protect the freedoms of expression (...) (United States of America);

Para. 121.55

Reform laws and policies limiting freedoms of expression (...) such as the Sedition Act (Australia);

Para. 121.56

Repeal or amend the Sedition Act and the Local Newspapers Order so that they conform with international human rights standards, and take concrete legal action to protect the rights to freedom of expression (...), to abolish censorship and to foster a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);

Para. 121.62

Repeal criminal penalties under the sharia Penal Code Order of 2013 that undermine the freedoms of (...) expression, and prohibitions on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and would have a detrimental impact on a number of vulnerable groups, including women at risk of violence, religious and ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);

Para. 121.70

Lift the state of emergency systematically renewed since 1962, which restricts fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression (...) (France);

- Para. 121.71  
Lift the state of emergency and introduce legislation that guarantees freedom of speech (...) in accordance with international standards (Spain);
- Para. 121.125  
Ensure the freedom of expression (...) as previously recommended (Czechia);
- Para. 121.126  
Consider revising relevant acts restricting the freedom of expression (...) in order to ensure that they conform with international human rights standards (Slovenia);
- Para. 121.127  
Review its legislation to effectively guarantee the rights to freedom of expression (...) promoting dialogue and understanding among all communities (Brazil).

## CAMBODIA

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Committee on the Rights of the Child, \(CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6\), 2022<sup>2</sup>](#)

- Para. 13 (...)
- (a) Ensure that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, are able to promote children's rights and exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without being subjected to harassment or disproportionate pandemic-related restrictions, including by amending the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations;
- Para. 21  
Deeply concerned that the criminalization of defamation may restrict a child's right to freedom of expression, including on social media, the Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the freedom of expression for all children, as provided under the Constitution and the Convention.

### **Human Rights Committee, (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3), 2022<sup>3</sup>**

Para. 35 (...)

- (a) Refrain from prosecuting and imprisoning journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions;
- (b) Prevent acts of harassment and intimidation against, the placement of arbitrary restrictions on, or arrests of journalists, activists and human rights defenders who merely criticize public officials or government policies;
- (c) Decriminalize defamation and bring any other relevant provisions of the Criminal Code and the Law on Telecommunication into line with article 19 of the Covenant;
- (d) Review and revise its current and pending legislation, including the Sub-Decree on the National Internet Gateway, draft amendments to the Press Law and the draft laws on cybercrimes and on access to information, to avoid the use of vague terminology and overly broad restrictions;
- (e) Ensure that in the formulation and enforcement of its legislation, including ministerial sub-decrees, any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression (...) comply with the strict requirements of articles 19 (3) (...) of the Covenant.

### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/6), 2019<sup>4</sup>**

Para. 19

The Committee recommends that the State party fully guarantee the rights of women human rights defenders, trade union leaders, land and environmental activists and members of the political opposition party, particularly their rights to freedom of expression, (...) without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions.

### **Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2), 2015<sup>5</sup>**

Para. 21 (...)

- (b) Refrain from prosecuting journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions;
- (c) Consider decriminalizing defamation and bring any other relevant provisions of the Criminal Code into line with article 19 of the Covenant;
- (d) Review its current and pending legislation, including the draft laws on cybercrimes and on associations and NGOs, to avoid the use of vague



terminology and overly broad restrictions, to ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression (...) comply with the strict requirements of articles 19 (3) (...) of the Covenant.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/17), 2019<sup>6</sup>

Para. 110.79

Amend laws and regulations, including the law on telecommunications and the interministerial prakas on publication controls of website and social media processing via the Internet, that effectively limit freedom of expression, and end all forms of interference in and surveillance of media channels and online speech (Finland);

Para. 110.81

Guarantee freedom of expression for all citizens and journalists, including on the Internet, by revising the latest constitutional amendment and the interministerial instruction of May 2018 allowing surveillance of Internet contents (France);

Para. 110.82

Bring the Criminal Code into line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by repealing or amending articles on insulting the king, defamation, insults, incitement, unlawful coercion of judicial authorities and the discrediting of judicial decisions (Germany);

Para. 110.83

Ensure freedom of expression on the Internet by revoking interministerial decree No. 170 on "publication controls of websites and social media processing via the Internet" (Germany);

Para. 110.84

Repeal the provisions of the Criminal Code that can be used to restrict freedom of expression (...) and decriminalize offences such as defamation (Iceland);

Para. 110.86

Adopt measures aimed at ensuring freedom of expression and the enjoyment of civil and political rights by the population (Colombia);

- Para. 110.87  
Create the conditions necessary to allow all individuals to enjoy their fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression (...) (Costa Rica);
- Para. 110.88  
Restore democratic and political space, ensuring participation for political parties, civil society and independent media (Norway);
- Para. 110.89  
Release immediately from custody any individual detained for their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression (...) and drop all criminal charges against these individuals (Norway);
- Para. 110.91  
Create conditions conducive to free political debate and competition with a view to rebuilding a democracy in which the media and civil society (...) can freely carry out their work without interference or hindrance, as recommended by Ireland during the previous cycle, and in particular to ensure that their work is not hindered by restrictions on freedom of (...) expression, either online or offline (Ireland);
- Para. 110.92  
Reform the Criminal Code to ensure that freedom of expression (...) are guaranteed (...) and ensure the latter can go about their work without fear of intimidation (Spain);
- Para. 110.93  
(...) bring laws, regulations and policies on freedom of expression (...) into accordance with the State's international obligations (Italy);
- Para. 110.94  
Revise recent enactments and revisions of legislation that violate the rights to freedom of expression (...) including the vague and broad grounds for preventing publication on the Internet in the proclamation on publication controls of websites and social media (Sweden);
- Para. 110.95  
Ensure that all citizens may fully enjoy their rights to freedom of expression (...) (Switzerland);
- Para. 110.96  
Amend the law on telecommunications (...) in line with international standards of the right to the freedom of expression and the right to privacy (Switzerland);

- Para. 110.97  
Reverse the forced closure of media outlets, repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that criminalize defamation and restrict freedom of expression (...) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Para. 110.98  
Immediately remove all undue restrictions on civil society and independent media, including by withdrawing the interministerial decision known as prakas No. 170 on digital expression (United States of America);
- Para. 110.99  
Take all measures necessary to ensure a safe environment to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression of journalists and of the general population, and investigate and sanction all forms of violence against them (Argentina);
- Para. 110.101  
Take measures to protect the freedom of expression online and offline (...) (Brazil);
- Para. 110.103  
Promote dialogue among political actors, freedom and the rights of the people and the democratic process, in order to unite the people towards development; in this process, ensure an environment in which the rights of all political actors, civil society, the media and others are respected and their activities are not constrained (Japan);
- Para. 110.105  
Bring laws, regulations and policies on the freedom of expression (...) into compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);
- Para. 110.106  
Redouble efforts to protect freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, to ensure and promote a safe environment for journalists, (...) and effectively and thoroughly investigate all attacks against them (Lithuania);
- Para. 110.108  
Revoke trade union registration and reporting requirements that result in the restriction of freedom of (...) expression (Greece);
- Para. 110.110  
Ensure a free civic space, allowing (...) journalists to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and refrain from prosecuting persons for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the law on telecommunications (Netherlands).

# UN Special Procedures

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/39/73\), 2018<sup>7</sup>](#)

Para. 92 (...)

- (i) Release all detainees who have been charged and imprisoned without sufficient substantiated evidence and who were arrested due to (...) the expression of their opinions;

Para. 93 (...)

- (a) Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that can be used to restrict the freedoms of expression (...) in order to achieve greater compatibility with international human rights standards, decriminalizing offences such as defamation.

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/36/61\), 2017<sup>8</sup>](#)

Para. 69 (...)

- (c) Reconsider provisions of the criminal codes that can be used to restrict freedom of expression, so as to achieve greater compatibility with international human rights standards, decriminalizing offences as necessary.

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/33/62\), 2016<sup>9</sup>](#)

Para. 61 (...)

- (m) Reconsider provisions of the Criminal Code that can be used to restrict freedom of expression to achieve greater compatibility with international human rights standards, decriminalizing offences as necessary.

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/27/70\), 2014<sup>10</sup>](#)

Para. 81 (...)

- (d) Fully respect the freedom of expression of all stakeholders in Cambodian society (...), refrain from suspending them in an arbitrary manner (...).

# INDONESIA

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/7), 2017<sup>11</sup>

Para. 139.76

Ensure that the freedom of speech of civil society organizations and special interest groups is promoted and respected across Indonesia so that they can, within the legal framework, voice their views and concerns, even on issues that can be sensitive (Netherlands);

Para. 141.29

End prosecutions under articles 156 and 156a of the Criminal Code for exercising freedom of (...) expression (United States of America);

Para. 141.30

Repeal or amend articles 106 and 110 of the Criminal Code to avoid restrictions on freedom of expression (Germany);

Para. 141.31

End prosecutions under articles 106 and 110 of the Criminal Code for exercising freedom of expression (...) (United States of America);

Para. 141.58

Ensure that existing legal and constitutional provisions protecting human rights in particular freedom of expression (...) are fully implemented nationwide (...) (Ireland);

Para. 141.59

Intensify all efforts to respect and uphold freedom of expression (...) and to prevent discrimination on any grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia).

# LAO PDR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LAO/CO/1), 2018<sup>12</sup>

Para. 34 (...)

- (a) Ensuring that any restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of expression (...) comply with the strict requirements of articles 19 (...) of the Covenant;
- (b) Repealing or otherwise amending the criminal provisions providing for the above-mentioned vague and broadly defined offences to ensure compliance with the principle of legal certainty, and refraining from applying such provisions to suppress conduct and speech protected by the Covenant;
- (c) Considering decriminalizing defamation and, in any case, countenancing the application of criminal law only in the most serious of cases, bearing in mind, as provided for in general comment No. 34, that imprisonment is never an appropriate penalty for defamation;
- (d) Promoting plurality of opinions in the media and ensuring that the media can operate free from undue State interference.

### Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/LAO/CO/3-6), 2018<sup>13</sup>

Para. 21

While noting that article 44 of the Constitution provides for the right to freedom of expression, the Committee considers that Decree 327 adopted on 16 September 2014, which criminalizes the dissemination and circulation of untrue information, may hinder the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression of children if applied outside of the context of article 13 of the Convention. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake awareness-raising activities to empower children about the right to freedom of expression and the limitations of the right, including on social media, and that it ensure that the implementation of these laws does not violate the rights of children as enshrined in the Convention.

## [Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/OPSC/LAO/CO/1\), 2015](#)<sup>14</sup>

Para. 20

The Committee strongly recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take immediate action to allow journalists, human rights defenders and all NGOs, including children's groups, to (...) exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without any kind of threat, harassment or repercussion.

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/44/6\), 2020](#)<sup>15</sup>

Para. 115.90

Ensure the right to freedom of expression (Cyprus);

Para. 115.91

Enhance freedom of expression (...) (Italy);

Para. 115.92

Ensure that freedom of expression is safeguarded in all its forms (Norway);

Para. 115.93

Ensure freedom of expression (...) by bringing national legislation into line with international standards (Latvia);

Para. 115.94

Guarantee the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression by revisiting relevant legislation, including article 65 of the Penal Code (Denmark);

Para. 115.95

Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression (...) by revising its legislation (...) (Luxembourg);

Para. 115.96

Ensure the right to freedom of expression by repealing article 56 of the Penal Code on acts of betrayal towards the nation and article 65 of the Penal Code on propaganda against the State, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) (Netherlands);

- Para. 115.97  
Review and amend legislation and practices relating to freedom of expression (...) to fully enable the function of non-governmental organizations and civil society (New Zealand);
- Para. 115.98  
Repeal all legislation inhibiting freedom of opinion and expression that is not compatible with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Para. 115.99  
Ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of expression (...) comply with the requirements of articles 19 (...) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- Para. 115.100  
Guarantee freedom of expression of the press (...) in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);
- Para. 115.101  
Reform criminal defamation legislation in conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);
- Para. 115.102  
Fully fulfil the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to respect and guarantee the right to freedom of expression (Canada);
- Para. 115.104  
Bring the Criminal Code into line with obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and immediately release individuals whose arrest and detention under these provisions restricted the legitimate exercise of their right to freedom of opinion and expression (United States of America);
- Para. 115.105  
Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression by revising its legislation on the media as well as legislation on the fight against cybercrime (Luxembourg);
- Para. 115.106  
Amend laws that restrict freedom of expression (...) to comply with international human rights law (Australia);



- Para. 115.107  
Adopt legislative changes that guarantee the protection and free exercise of the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Spain);
- Para. 115.108  
Guarantee the freedom of (...) opinion and expression (...) by releasing all those detained solely because they exercised or defended the exercise of these rights (France);
- Para. 115.109  
End the arbitrary arrest of individuals for exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression, including those who peacefully criticize the Government, speak out about negative impacts of infrastructure or investment projects or expose instances of corruption (Germany);
- Para. 115.110  
Refrain from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their civil rights, including the right to privacy and freedom of expression, (...) having regard to the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment (...) (Ireland);
- Para. 115.111  
Ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of expression (...) and progress to fully investigate all allegations of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and criminal convictions for expressions of political opposition or criticism of State policies (Czechia);
- Para. 115.113  
Put an end to the arrests of those who peacefully express their opinions (Switzerland).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights \(A/HRC/41/39/Add.2\), 2019<sup>16</sup>](#)

- Para. 90 (...)  
(g) Civil society should be unchained. The Government should roll back restrictions on civil society activities, end retaliation for peaceful speech (...).

# MALAYSIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/3-5), 2018<sup>17</sup>

Para. 50

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women human rights defenders can freely undertake their important work without fear or threat of arbitrary arrest, harassment or intimidation, including the issuance of fatwas by religious institutions, by fully guaranteeing their rights to freedom of expression (...).

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/40/11), 2019<sup>18</sup>

Para. 151.137

Rescind or revise the Sedition Act, Security Offences Act and Communications and Multimedia Act, which negatively affect freedoms of expression (...) (United States of America);

Para. 151.140

Consider revising national legislation, including the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, in order to bring it into conformity with international human rights law regarding the right of freedom of expression online and offline (Brazil);

Para. 151.141

Amend existing provisions that limit the freedom of expression, the Evidence Amendment Act, Peaceful Assembly Act, and the cessation of arbitrary detention and apprehensions without charges following legislative reforms in accordance with international standards (Spain);

Para. 151.142

Build upon its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of opinion and expression by repealing the Sedition Act and bringing the Printing Presses and Publication Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Anti-Fake News Act into line with international human rights law (Czechia);

Para. 151.143

Accelerate consultations within the Government in order to review the following legislation: the Sedition Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Prevention of Crime Act, the Special Offence Act, the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Georgia);

Para. 151.144

Continue efforts in the area of free speech to create a safe and enabling environment for the media and civil society and, in this regard, repeal the Printing and Publication Act, as previously recommended (Ireland);

Para. 151.145

Review its legislation with the aim of ensuring that civil society, including human rights defenders and journalists, could freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, both online and offline (...) (Lithuania).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/40/53/Add.1\), 2019<sup>19</sup>](#)

Para. 97 (...)

- (c) Review critically all legislation and practices imposing restrictions on the right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity, taking into consideration relevant international human rights law provisions;
- (d) Abolish prior censorship bodies and processes; and review and clarify the criteria for imposing restrictions on freedom of artistic expression so that they comply with the necessary provisions under international human rights law;
- (e) Repeal the Sedition Act and all laws criminalizing blasphemy and defamation; ensure the amendments currently being made in the Communications and Multimedia Act are consistent with international standards for freedom of expression and cultural rights; and repeal or clarify sections 211 (1) and 233 (1) of this Act;
- (f) Review critically all previously imposed bans on books and artistic works and lift all bans that do not meet the threshold for limitation as defined under international law.

# MYANMAR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/MMR/CO/1), 2019<sup>20</sup>

Para. 42 (...)

(a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to enjoy the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, including in its efforts to achieve Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/13), 2021<sup>21</sup>

Para. 32.25

Hold a stakeholder consultation in the preparation of the protection against hate speech bill (Ethiopia);

Para. 32.29

Ensure that all legislative measures to combat hate speech comply with international human rights norms (Austria);

Para. 32.58

Continue to enact and fully implement legislation that seeks to promote and protect the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Ghana);

Para. 33.131

Ensure the protection of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression (...) for all, including for internally displaced persons, returnees and human rights defenders (Botswana);

Para. 33.132

Ensure a safe environment for civil society, human rights defenders and journalists by amending legislation that limits freedom of expression (Norway);

- Para. 33.133  
Ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is protected in law and in practice, online and offline (Sweden);
- Para. 33.134  
Ensure that the legal framework governing the rights to freedom of expression (...) and to participate in public affairs is consistent with international human rights standards, immediately release all those detained or imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their human rights (...) (Czechia);
- Para. 33.135  
Repeal or substantially amend section 66 (d) of the 2013 Law on Telecommunications to bring it into line with international standards on freedom of expression (Belgium);
- Para. 33.136  
Repeal section 77 of the Telecommunications Law to bring the Law into line with international human rights standards and ensure that any restrictions on service in times of emergency are clearly defined in law, necessary, proportionate, subject to prior judicial approval and strictly time-limited (Germany);
- Para. 33.137  
Reform legal mechanisms, including section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law and section 505 of the Penal Code, which are used to silence the press, critics of the government and the military and civil society activists (United States of America);
- Para. 33.138  
Amend all laws that restrict freedom of expression (...) (Italy);
- Para. 33.139  
Review and repeal or amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Netherlands);
- Para. 33.140  
Amend current laws and enforcement practices to enable free expression and transparent journalism, while also addressing the online promulgation of incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence (New Zealand);
- Para. 33.141  
Review and amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression (...), as well as digital rights (Finland);
- Para. 33.142  
Review and amend legislation on freedom of expression (...) to bring it into line with international standards (Estonia);

Para. 33.143

Repeal or amend, and cease the arbitrary application of, laws restricting freedom of expression (...) (Canada);

Para. 34.45

Repeal or amend to bring in line with international law the Official Secrets Act, the Unlawful Associations Act and sections 124A, 153, 499, 500 and 505 of the Penal Code (Denmark).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar \(A/HRC/43/59\), 2020](#)<sup>22</sup>

Para. 75 (...)

(b) Withdraw the draft anti-hate speech law, work in open consultation with a wide range of local and international stakeholders on an effective anti-discrimination law and take wide-ranging positive action to combat incitement to violence, discrimination and hatred in accordance with the Rabat Plan of Action;

(d) Release all political prisoners and provide them with redress and rehabilitation, withdraw all charges against individuals for legitimate expression and democratic activity and halt all politically motivated charges that contravene the rights to freedom of expression (...).

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar \(A/HRC/40/68\), 2019](#)<sup>23</sup>

Para. 73 (...)

(c) Revise or repeal all arbitrary and discriminatory legislation, orders and policies that have been previously identified by the Special Rapporteur, including, but not limited to, section 66 (d) of the 2013 Telecommunications Law, section 17 (1) of the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act, section 19 of the 2011 Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession, sections 500, 505 (b) and 505 (c) of the Penal Code, section 25 of the 2014 News Media Law and section 3 of the 1923 Official Secrets Act: any amendments must be in accordance with human rights norms and standards;

- (f) Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression (...), including by amending laws that contravene those rights and ceasing to arrest people who are legitimately exercising those rights.

### **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/37/70), 2018<sup>24</sup>**

Para. 68 (...)

- (d) Revise the bill on protection against hate speech to ensure that it combats hate speech in a manner that does not undermine freedom of expression and other internationally protected human rights;

Para. 69 (...)

- (a) Immediately cease the arbitrary arrest and prosecution of those exercising their rights to freedom of expression (...), release all those detained for exercising their rights and release all remaining political prisoners;
- (b) Protect the fundamental rights to freedom of expression (...) of all in Myanmar, including journalists, members of civil society and human rights defenders;
- (c) Further amend the Telecommunications Law so that it complies with international standards, including by repealing section 66 (d);
- (e) Repeal section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Associations Act and section 505 of the Penal Code and withdraw all charges currently brought against individuals under those provisions.

## **PHILIPPINES**

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/12), 2017<sup>25</sup>**

Para. 133.170

Take all necessary measures to promote the enjoyment of freedom of expression (...) (Botswana);

Para. 133.171

Redouble efforts to protect freedom of opinion (...) and the rights of journalists (Lebanon);

Para. 133.178

Establish an effective protection system for human rights defenders and journalists and ensure the free exercise of their rights to freedom of opinion, expression (...) (Luxembourg).

## SINGAPORE

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/SGP/CO/1), 2022<sup>26</sup>**

Para. 12

The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, according to which the relationship between proscription of racist hate speech and the flourishing of freedom of expression should be seen as complementary and not the expression of a zero-sum game where the priority given to one necessitates the diminution of the other. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the State party review the above-mentioned laws to ensure that, in law and in practice, freedom of expression is not curtailed, including regarding debates on issues of racial discrimination and racism. It should also take necessary measures to ensure that journalists, human rights defenders or political opponents are not intimidated, arrested or prosecuted for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression, including on issues of racial discrimination and racism.

#### **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/SGP/CO/4-5), 2019<sup>27</sup>**

Para. 24

Reiterating its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3, para. 38), the Committee echoes its earlier concern that the rights to freedom of expression (...) are severely restricted in the State party and subject to undue limitations, (...) including on the Internet. The Committee urges the State party to review its laws and policies, in particular the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act and the Public Order Act (...) and that any restrictions to those rights fully comply with international standards.



# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/48/16), 2021<sup>28</sup>

- Para. 59.161  
Implement measures increasing protection, in law and in practice, for exercising freedom of expression (...) (Poland);
- Para. 59.162  
Ensure that laws and policies on the rights to freedom of expression (...) comply with the relevant international human rights standards (Republic of Korea);
- Para. 59.163  
Take appropriate measures to ease restrictions on freedom of expression (...) online and offline (Slovakia);
- Para. 59.165  
End the use of legal and administrative actions, including criminal defamation lawsuits that curb freedom of expression (...) (United States of America);
- Para. 59.166  
Ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression (...) by taking measures to enhance the security of civil society, journalists and human rights defenders (Uruguay);
- Para. 59.167  
Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression through the revision of the Internal Security Act and the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, in order to eliminate media censorship and prevent self-censorship (Belgium);
- Para. 59.168  
Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, eliminate media censorship (...) (Czechia);
- Para. 59.169  
Amend the legislation that restricts the right to freedom of expression (...) to ensure that the legislation complies with international human rights standards (Finland); Review relevant legislation that may unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression (...), in line with international standards (Iceland);

- Para. 59.170  
Renew efforts in favour of freedom of expression, in particular freedom of the press (France);
- Para. 59.171  
Ensure that freedom of opinion and expression (...) are protected (Italy);
- Para. 59.172  
Amend article 14 of the Constitution so that it clearly proclaims (...) freedom of expression and information without any restriction (Netherlands);
- Para. 59.173  
Ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is protected, including via online public platforms (New Zealand);
- Para. 59.174  
Review the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (Bahamas);
- Para. 59.175  
Review and amend the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act to establish an independent body to review possible cases of disinformation and to ensure consistency with accepted principles of international law (Canada);
- Para. 59.176  
Repeal the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (Denmark);
- Para. 59.177  
Amend or repeal the Sedition Act, the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act and the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act to ensure that they comply with international human rights standards (Germany);
- Para. 59.178  
Review the operation of the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act and the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act to ensure that they do not interfere with the right to freedom of expression (Ireland);
- Para. 59.179  
Review the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, as well as other laws, such as the Defamation Act, to ensure that the right to free speech is sufficiently protected (Norway).

# THAILAND

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/THA/CO/2), 2017<sup>29</sup>

#### Para. 36

The State party should take all measures necessary to guarantee the enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression in all their forms, in accordance with article 19 of the Covenant. Any restriction should comply with the strict requirements of article 19 (3), as further developed in the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression, including the strict tests of necessity and proportionality. It should also consider decriminalizing defamation and, in any case, countenance the application of criminal law only in the most serious of cases, bearing in mind that imprisonment is never an appropriate penalty for defamation. The State party should also refrain from using its criminal provisions, including the Computer Crimes Act (2007), the Sedition Act and other regulations, as tools to suppress the expression of critical and dissenting opinions. It should take all measures to end prosecutions against those charged for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression during the constitutional referendum, and provide appropriate training to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel regarding protection of freedom of expression and opinion;

#### Para. 38

The State party should review article 112 of the Criminal Code, on publicly offending the royal family, to bring it into line with article 19 of the Covenant. Pursuant to its general comment No. 34, the Committee reiterates that the imprisonment of persons for exercising their freedom of expression violates article 19.

### Committee against Torture (CAT/C/THA/CO/1), 2014<sup>30</sup>

#### Para. 19 (...)

- (d) Abolishing criminal defamation or providing protection for complainants and witnesses in torture cases from criminal defamation.

# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/49/17), 2021<sup>31</sup>

Para. 51.44

Enact legal protection against strategic litigation against public participation cases (Belgium);

Para. 51.86

Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression (...) (Latvia);

Para. 51.87

Ensure that laws and policies on the rights to freedom of expression (...) comply with relevant international human rights standards (Republic of Korea);

Para. 51.88

Enhance its efforts in ensuring that all citizens have the rights to freedom of expression (...) in compliance with the article 19 (...) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Timor-Leste);

Para. 51.89

Uphold its international obligations regarding the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Australia);

Para. 51.91

Improve the human rights situation, including by ensuring the freedom of expression (Japan);

Para 51.92

Improve the capacity of police, security forces and other law enforcement agencies to carry out their work while respecting the rights of people to freedom of (...) expression, and civil society space (Malawi);

Para. 51.194

Create a safe and enabling environment to exercise the rights to (...) freedom of expression (...) (Italy);

Para. 52.46

Guarantee freedom of opinion and expression by amending articles 112 (lèse majesté), 116 (sedition), 326 (defamation) and 328 (attack on honor) of the Criminal Code as well as the law on computer crime (Luxembourg);

- Para. 52.47  
Decriminalize freedom of expression (...) (Mexico);
- Para. 52.48  
Abolish restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression in the national legislation in line with international standards on human rights (Montenegro);
- Para. 52.49  
Ensure that rights of freedom of expression, opinion (...) are not unduly restricted by cybersecurity laws and its criminal code (New Zealand);
- Para. 52.50  
Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression (...) and protect individuals, including political opponents, from judicial harassment (Norway);
- Para. 52.51  
Repeal all provisions that criminalize or unduly restrict the rights to freedom of opinion (...) (Portugal);
- Para. 52.52  
Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression (...) and stop targeting civilians engaging in peaceful protests under criminal charges entailing punishment with exorbitant prison terms (Austria);
- Para. 52.53  
Remove undue restrictions and infringements on the enjoyment of the freedoms of expression (...) (Botswana);
- Para. 52.54  
Consider revising its legislation on freedoms of expression (...) in alignment with international human rights standards (Brazil);
- Para. 52.55  
Ensure that the right to freedom of expression and opinion (...) are fully respected and protected, including in the context of a state of emergency (Czechia);
- Para. 52.56  
Review the usage of lèse majesté legislation in its entirety and especially against minors to comply with international human rights standards, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Finland);
- Para. 52.57  
Guarantee the protection of freedoms of opinion and expression, including by amending article 112 of the Criminal Code (France);

- Para. 52.58  
Review the *lèse-Majesté* Law, the Computer Crime Law and the Criminal Defamation Law (Germany);
- Para. 52.59  
Review the *lèse-majesté* law to bring it into conformity with international standards and to prevent it from being used to silence opponents (Norway);
- Para. 52.60  
Amend article 112 of the Criminal Code on royal defamation to bring it into line with Thailand's international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and as an intermediate step, remove mandatory minimum prison terms for violations of that provision (Sweden);
- Para. 52.61  
Amend articles 112 and 116 of the Criminal Code to ensure that the application of the crimes of *lèse majesté* and sedition complies with human rights (Switzerland);
- Para. 52.62  
Review and revise laws and regulations that unduly restrict freedom of expression, including online expression, in particular the Computer Crimes Act and the 2005 Emergency Decree, and eliminate mandatory minimum sentences for *lèse majesté* violations (United States of America);
- Para. 52.63  
End arrests and prosecution of children under article 112 and other articles related to security and public order of the Criminal Code, and ensure the respect of Thailand's obligations under Articles 13, 15 and 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Austria);
- Para. 52.64  
Amend article 112 of the Criminal Code and bring it in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- Para. 52.65  
Amend, repeal or restrict the use of legislation that curtails the exercise of rights of expression (...) including online, with particular reference to sections 112 and 116 of the Criminal Code and the Computer Crime Act (Canada);
- Para. 52.66  
Ensure that the most severe criminal sentences are not applied to children, including in the context of article 112 of the Criminal Code, and in line with article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Denmark);

Para. 52.67

Remove the broad range of restrictions on the (...) freedom of expression (Estonia);

Para. 52.82

Ensure the protection of civic space and human rights defenders, including youth, members of civil society, lawyers, media, and academics, so that they can operate freely and fully exercise the rights to freedom of expression, including online (...) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

## UN Special Procedures

[Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises \(A/HRC/41/43/Add.1\), 2019<sup>32</sup>](#)

Para. 96 (...)

(f) Review the legal basis of all business-related civil and criminal defamation cases to ensure that no strategic lawsuits against public participation are pending.

## TIMOR-LESTE

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/50/12\), 2022<sup>33</sup>](#)

Para. 116.75

Ensure that the proposed criminal defamation law, cybercrime law, and data privacy and protection law do not unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression, both online and offline (Canada);

Para. 116.76

Refrain from passing new laws that could unduly restrict freedoms of expression (...) (United States of America);

Para. 116.77

Revise the media law to ensure that it is in line with international standards and best practices related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression (Uruguay);

Para. 116.78

Continue to guarantee freedom of expression (France).

## VIET NAM

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3\), 2019](#)<sup>34</sup>

Para. 46

The State party should, as a matter of urgency, take all necessary steps, including revising legislation, to end violations of the right to freedom of expression offline and online, and ensure that restrictions do not go beyond the strictly defined limitations set forth in article 19 of the Covenant, taking into account Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression. It should also promote pluralistic media that can operate free from undue State interference.

#### [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(E/C.12/VNM/CO/2-4\), 2014](#)<sup>35</sup>

Para. 35 (...)

Recalling the State party's obligation under article 15, paragraph 3, of the Covenant to respect the freedom indispensable for creative activity, the Committee urges the State party to abolish censorship of cultural activities and other forms of expression. Moreover, the Committee calls upon the State party to bring restrictions on freedom of expression into line with international standards, including by abolishing related prison sentences.



# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/7), 2019<sup>36</sup>

Para. 38.17

Respond positively to requests from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Mexico);

Para. 38.42

Enhance efforts to comply with the recommendations accepted during the second universal periodic review cycle on guaranteeing the right to freedom of expression (Chile);

Para. 38.166

Authorize the publication of independent newspapers and cease legal sanctions against and harassment of journalists and citizens peacefully expressing views through print media, the Internet and radio (Denmark);

Para. 38.167

Repeal or amend the Penal Code and the cybersecurity law so that provisions relating to national security are clearly defined or removed, to ensure that they cannot be applied in an arbitrary manner to endanger any forms of freedom of expression, including Internet freedom (Finland);

Para. 38.168

Take steps to guarantee freedom of opinion and freedom of expression, including on the Internet, in the context of the adoption of the law on cybersecurity (France);

Para. 38.171

Review all convictions based on laws restricting freedom of expression and opinion, in particular articles 79 and 88 of the Penal Code, according to the revised penalty ranges (Germany);

Para. 38.174

Consider revising national legislation, including the (...) the media laws, in order to harmonize it with international standards regarding the right to freedom of expression (...) (Brazil);

Para. 38.175

Release human rights defenders sentenced to prison for exercising the right to freedom of expression (Iceland);

- Para. 38.177  
Take the necessary measures to ensure the freedom of expression of human rights defenders and journalists (...) (Argentina);
- Para. 38.179  
Protect civil and political rights, especially freedom of expression (...) (Luxembourg);
- Para. 38.183  
Amend, within one year, the 2015 Penal Code, Decree 174/2013, Decree 72/2013, Decree 27/2018, the 2018 law on cybersecurity and articles 4, 9, 14 and 15 of the 2016 press law to guarantee offline and online freedom of the press and expression, and the right to privacy, in line with articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);
- Para. 38.184  
Lift restrictions on freedom of expression, and particularly online freedom, in line with Viet Nam's obligations under international law (Ireland);
- Para. 38.185  
Cybersecurity decrees should include clear provisions for interpretation of the law on cybersecurity in accordance with international standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);
- Para. 38.186  
Review regulations impeding the operation of civil society organizations, to enable a more open space and ensure that national security provisions are not used to prevent peaceful debate and dissent (Ireland);
- Para. 38.187  
Ensure that the legal framework protects freedom of expression both offline and online and accordingly amend the penal law and the law on cybersecurity to ensure consistency with international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand); Ensure that freedom of expression is protected online and offline by amending national security provisions in the Penal Code, the cybersecurity law and its implementing decree so as to comply with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other commitments (Sweden); Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and amend the Penal Code and the cybersecurity law to make sure that the limitations on the right to freedom of expression are in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); Review the Penal Code and the law on cybersecurity to harmonize them with international standards related to the freedom of expression, association and assembly (Canada);

- Para. 38.188  
Revise the provisions of articles 117 and 331 of the 2015 Penal Code and other relevant laws that restrict the ability to exercise fundamental freedoms (...) (Norway);
- Para. 38.189  
Strengthen efforts to ensure freedom of expression, including in the digital environment (Peru);
- Para. 38.190  
Consider the elimination of the system of censorship in the cultural sphere (Peru);
- Para. 38.191  
Release all human rights defenders as well as political and religious activists detained for the peaceful expression of their political opinions (...) (Poland);
- Para. 38.194  
Abolish prior censorship in all fields of cultural creation and other forms of expression, both online and offline, including by bringing the restriction on freedom of expression under the 2016 press law into line with international standards and by fostering a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);
- Para. 38.195  
Ensure freedom of expression, including online (...) (Japan);
- Para. 38.196  
Continue the measures aimed at lifting all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to allow bloggers, journalists and other Internet users to promote and protect human rights (Romania);
- Para. 38.197  
Review and amend national legislation in order to enable the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of expression (...) in line with the standards enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Seychelles);
- Para. 38.198  
Adopt measures in line with international standards to guarantee freedom of (...) expression, including online (...) (Italy);
- Para. 38.200  
Adopt legislative changes to guarantee the protection and free exercise of freedom of expression (...) (Spain);

Para. 38.202

Guarantee fully freedom of speech (...) and review cases of persons convicted for having freely expressed their opinion, including human rights defenders (Switzerland);

Para. 38.203

Improve protection of the rights to freedom of (...) expression by reviewing existing legislation, (...) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 38.204

Immediately amend or abolish articles 8, 18 and 26 of the cybersecurity law as they are not in conformity with Viet Nam's international obligations, or its 2013 Constitution (United States of America);

Para. 38.208

Amend provisions of the cybersecurity law, including articles 8, 18 and 26, to ensure they are consistent with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

Para. 38.214

Nurture a culture of free expression online and offline (...) (Czechia).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/28/57/Add.1\), 2015](#)<sup>37</sup>

Para. 106 (...)

The Special Rapporteur encourages the Government to address the concerns expressed by artists, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

Para. 108 (...)

- (a) Amend accordingly article 11 of the 2006 Law on Cinematography, article 10 of the 2012 Law on Publishing, article 8 of Decree 113 on art activities and other similar provisions;
- (b) Abolish prior-censorship bodies and systems in all fields of artistic creation, in particular cinema and literature;

- (d) Put an end to the system of government control over publishing. Independent private publishing houses and cinema/visual art studios should be authorized to operate without impediment and fear of harassment;
- (e) Repeal article 88 of the Criminal Code regarding “conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam” and release those detained under this provision, in particular artists;
- (f) Repeal Decision 97 of the Prime Minister, which limits scientific and technical research to 317 approved topics;
- (g) Abolish the “cultural police”, as well as the surveillance and harassment of artists and academics. Any decision regulating or prohibiting an artistic activity should be communicated in writing, with the reasons specified, and be subject to appeal before a court of law.



# **Freedom of Association**

# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/42/11), 2019<sup>1</sup>

Para. 121.53

Guarantee the freedoms of (...) peaceful assembly and association by, inter alia, repealing the Sedition Act (Germany);

Para. 121.54

Repeal the emergency powers and the Sedition Act, and protect the freedoms of (...) association and peaceful assembly (United States of America);

Para. 121.55

Reform laws and policies limiting freedoms of (...) association, such as the Sedition Act (Australia);

Para. 121.70

Lift the state of emergency systematically renewed since 1962, which restricts fundamental freedoms such as (...) freedom of assembly or freedom of association (France);

Para. 121.71

Lift the state of emergency and introduce legislation that guarantees (...) freedom of peaceful assembly, in accordance with international standards (Spain).

# CAMBODIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Rights of the Child, (CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6), 2022<sup>2</sup>

Para. 13 (...)

(a) Ensure that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, are able to promote children's

rights and exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without being subjected to harassment or disproportionate pandemic-related restrictions, including by amending the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations;

Para. 22 (...)

- (a) Amend the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations, and adopt regulations governing the establishment of child-led associations, ensuring that they safeguard the best interests of children;
- (b) Ensure that children are supported and encouraged to form their own associations and initiatives and to participate in public gatherings.

### **Human Rights Committee, (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3), 2022<sup>3</sup>**

Para. 35 (...)

- (e) Ensure that in the formulation and enforcement of its legislation, including ministerial sub-decrees, any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of (...) association comply with the strict requirements of articles (...) 22 of the Covenant;

Para. 37 (...)

- (a) Expedite its efforts to revise its current and pending legislation, including the amendments to the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations and the draft law on public order, as well as its practices, to ensure that individuals fully enjoy, both in law and in practice, their right of peaceful assembly, and to ensure there is a meaningful, open and transparent consultation with civil society organizations and any other relevant stakeholders in all revision exercises;
- (b) Ensure that any restrictions on the right of peaceful assembly, including through the application of administrative and criminal sanctions against individuals exercising that right, comply with the strict requirements of article 21 of the Covenant;
- (c) Effectively investigate all cases of the arbitrary arrest and detention of peaceful protesters, as well as acts of violence against them, and bring those responsible to justice;
- (d) Prevent all forms of harassment and intimidation of members of civil society organizations, trade unions and political parties and ensure that they can freely exercise their right to work and related activities;

Para. 38 (...) (e)

Guaranteeing the freedom to engage in pluralistic political debate, including by facilitating peaceful demonstrations and meetings and by refraining from using criminal laws to suppress that freedom or to exclude opposition candidates from electoral processes.



**Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, (CERD/C/KHM/CO/14-17), 2020<sup>38</sup>**

Para. 38

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure an open space for the operation of civil society organizations, and remove complex registration procedures and limitations on their ability to operate, with a view to facilitating the work of human rights defenders.

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/6), 2019<sup>4</sup>**

Para. 19

The Committee recommends that the State party fully guarantee the rights of women human rights defenders, trade union leaders, land and environmental activists and members of the political opposition party, particularly their rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association, without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions.

Para. 37 (...)

(a) Take specific measures to ensure that women who work on fixed-duration contracts are able to enjoy their rights to freedom of association and assembly, including participation in trade unions to raise their legitimate concerns about working conditions without fear of having their contract terminated (...);

**Human Rights Committee, (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2), 2015<sup>5</sup>**

Para. 21 (...) (...)

(d) Review its current and pending legislation, including the draft laws on cybercrimes and on associations and NGOs, to avoid the use of vague terminology and overly broad restrictions, to ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of (...) association comply with the strict requirements of articles (...) 22 of the Covenant;

Para. 22 (...)

The State party should ensure that the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations is implemented in conformity with the Covenant. It should also ensure that the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly is not subject to restrictions other than the ones permissible under the Covenant.

# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/17), 2019<sup>6</sup>

Para. 110.12

Amend the law on associations and non-governmental organizations to bring it into line with the State's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);

Para. 110.24

Take the necessary measures to re-establish an environment respectful of the rights of the civil society, in particular by revising the law on associations and non-governmental organizations (France);

Para. 110.25

In consultation with affected stakeholders and civil society, amend the law on political parties and the law on associations and non-governmental organizations to bring them into line with international human rights obligations (Germany);

Para. 110.26

Align laws, such as the law on associations and non-governmental organizations, the trade union law, the law on political parties and the telecommunications law, with international obligations (Iceland);

Para. 110.27

Amend the law on political parties, the trade union Law and the law on associations and non-governmental organizations to bring them into line with the State's international human rights obligations, in consultation with affected stakeholders and civil society (New Zealand);

Para. 110.28

Protect non-governmental organizations and associations, and ensure that the administrative provisions of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations are not used to close down, suspend or otherwise negatively affect non-governmental organizations and associations (Slovenia);

Para. 110.29

Revise the Penal Code as well as other laws, including the law on associations and non-governmental organizations, the future trade union law and the telecommunications law, in order to bring them into compliance with international human rights standards (Czechia);

- Para. 110.30 (...) review the law on associations and non-governmental organizations and the trade union law to ensure that all three laws are consistent with the State's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);
- Para. 110.31 Revise or repeal recent legal acts potentially subject to restrictive or arbitrary interpretation, including (...) the law on associations and non-governmental organizations and the interministerial proclamation of May 2018 on social media, in order to bring them into conformity with international human rights law and standards (Austria);
- Para. 110.84 Repeal the provisions of the Criminal Code that can be used to restrict freedom of (...) assembly and association (...) (Iceland);
- Para. 110.87 Create the conditions necessary to allow all individuals to enjoy their fundamental rights, particularly freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly (Costa Rica);
- Para. 110.88 Restore democratic and political space, ensuring participation for political parties, civil society and independent media (Norway);
- Para. 110.89 Release immediately from custody any individual detained for their peaceful exercise of freedom of (...) assembly, and drop all criminal charges against these individuals (Norway);
- Para. 110.91 Create conditions conducive to free political debate and competition with a view to rebuilding a democracy in which the media and civil society, including human rights defenders, can freely carry out their work without interference or hindrance, as recommended by Ireland during the previous cycle, and in particular to ensure that their work is not hindered by restrictions on freedom of assembly (...) (Ireland);
- Para. 110.92 Reform the Criminal Code to ensure that freedom of (...) assembly and association are guaranteed (...) (Spain);

- Para. 110.93 (...) bring laws, regulations and policies on freedom of (...) association and assembly into accordance with the State's international obligations (Italy);
- Para. 110.95 Ensure that all citizens may fully enjoy their rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly and association (Switzerland);
- Para. 110.97 Reverse the forced closure of media outlets, repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that criminalize defamation and restrict freedom of (...) assembly (...) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Para. 110.101 Take measures to protect the (...) freedom of association and assembly (Brazil);
- Para. 110.103 Promote dialogue among political actors, freedom and the rights of the people and the democratic process, in order to unite the people towards development; in this process, ensure an environment in which the rights of all political actors, civil society, the media and others are respected and their activities are not constrained (Japan);
- Para. 110.105 Bring laws, regulations and policies on the freedom of (...) association and public assembly into compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);
- Para. 110.107 Take the measures necessary to ensure that the right to freedom of assembly and association is not hindered by arbitrary restrictions and/or excessive use of force (Lithuania);
- Para. 110.108 Revoke trade union registration and reporting requirements that result in the restriction of freedom of association, assembly (...) (Greece);
- Para. 110.109 (...) amend laws and regulations effectively used to limit freedom of association and assembly, such as certain provisions in the law on political parties, the law on associations and non-governmental organizations and the law on trade unions (Finland).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/39/73\), 2018<sup>7</sup>](#)

Para. 93 (...)

(a) Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that can be used to restrict the freedoms of (...) assembly and association in order to achieve greater compatibility with international human rights standards, decriminalizing offences such as defamation.

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/36/61\), 2017<sup>8</sup>](#)

Para. 69 (...)

(b) Ensure the wide dissemination of the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and the implementing guide thereon, supported by appropriate training programmes for national and provincial authorities, including law enforcement officials, to ensure that the Law is correctly applied, and consider preparing similar guidelines on the application of the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations and the Law on Trade Unions, in cooperation with stakeholders, to ensure that the Laws are applied in a manner consistent with the State's human rights obligations.

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/33/62\), 2016<sup>9</sup>](#)

Para. 61 (...)

(l) Ensure the full dissemination of the law on peaceful demonstrations and the implementing guide thereon, supported by appropriate training programmes for provincial authorities and law enforcement officials to ensure that the law is correctly applied; and consider preparing similar guidelines on the application of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations and trade union law, in cooperation with stakeholders, to ensure that the law is applied in a manner consistent with the State's human rights obligations.

## **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/HRC/27/70), 2014**<sup>10</sup>

Para. 81 (...)

- (d) Fully respect the freedom of (...) peaceful assembly at all times, refrain from suspending them in an arbitrary manner and, in that regard, officially lift the demonstration ban in law and in practice;
- (k) Fully respect the trade union rights of all workers in Cambodia and protect trade unionists so that they are able to exercise their activities in a climate free of intimidation and risk to their personal security or their lives;
- (m) Refrain from using the judiciary to intimidate, harass and imprison (...) trade union representatives.

## **INDONESIA**

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/7), 2017**<sup>11</sup>

Para. 139.67

Ensure human rights obligations in Papua are upheld, respected and promoted, including freedom of assembly (...) and the rights of women and minorities (New Zealand);

Para. 141.31

End prosecutions under articles 106 and 110 of the Criminal Code for exercising freedom of (...) peaceful assembly (United States of America);

Para. 141.58

Ensure that existing legal and constitutional provisions protecting human rights in particular freedom of (...) association and assembly are fully implemented nationwide (...) (Ireland);

Para. 141.59

Intensify all efforts to respect and uphold freedom of (...) assembly (...) and to prevent discrimination on any grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia).

# LAO PDR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### **Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LAO/CO/1), 2018**<sup>12</sup>

Para. 36

The State party should give full effect to the constitutional guarantee of freedom of association in practice and revise relevant laws, regulations and practices with a view to bringing them into compliance with article 22 of the Covenant.

### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9), 2018**<sup>39</sup>

Para. 20 (...)

(a) Review the registration requirements for civil society and non-governmental organizations, to ensure that organizations, in particular women's rights organizations, are able to undertake their activities without undue restrictions.

### **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/LAO/CO/3-6), 2018**<sup>13</sup>

Para. 12

Recalling its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/LAO/CO/2, para. 25) and the Human Rights Committee recommendation relating to freedom of association (see CCPR/C/LAO/CO/1), the Committee urges the State party to take all necessary legislative, judicial and administrative steps to simplify and accelerate the registration process for civil society organizations working on children's rights. (...).

# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/44/6), 2020<sup>15</sup>

Para. 115.95

Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of (...) assembly and association by revising its legislation so as not to hinder the work of NGOs and human rights defenders (Luxembourg);

Para. 115.97

Review and amend legislation and practices relating to freedom of (...) assembly to fully enable the function of non-governmental organizations and civil society (New Zealand);

Para. 115.99

Ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of (...) peaceful assembly comply with the requirements of articles (...) 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);

Para. 115.100

Guarantee freedom of (...) assembly and association (...), in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

Para. 115.106

Amend laws that restrict freedom of (...) assembly and association to comply with international human rights law (Australia);

Para. 115.107

Adopt legislative changes that guarantee the protection and free exercise of the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly (Spain);

Para. 115.108

Guarantee the freedom of peaceful assembly (...) by releasing all those detained solely because they exercised or defended the exercise of these rights (France);

Para. 115.110

Refrain from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their civil rights, including the right to privacy and freedom of (...) association and assembly, having regard to the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment (...) (Ireland);



Para. 115.111

Ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly, and progress to fully investigate all allegations of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and criminal convictions for expressions of political opposition or criticism of State policies (Czechia);

Para. 115.114

Amend Decree No. 238 and its associated amendments to align it with the international human rights obligations and commitments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including by eliminating the following: burdensome registration requirements; arbitrary curtailment of activities and finances of associations; criminalization of unregistered associations and the Government's harassment of their members; and the ability to arbitrarily dissolve non-profit associations, without the right of appeal (United States of America).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights \(A/HRC/41/39/Add.2\), 2019<sup>16</sup>](#)

Para. 90 (...)

(g) Civil society should be unchained. The Government should roll back restrictions on civil society activities, (...) enable the registration of associations to take place in less than one month, as it has done for businesses. (...).

# MALAYSIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/3-5), 2018<sup>17</sup>

Para. 50

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women human rights defenders can freely undertake their important work without fear or threat of arbitrary arrest, harassment or intimidation, including the issuance of fatwas by religious institutions, by fully guaranteeing their rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association. (...).

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/40/11), 2019<sup>18</sup>

Para. 151.137

Rescind or revise the Sedition Act, Security Offences Act and Communications and Multimedia Act, which negatively affect freedoms of (...) association and peaceful assembly (United States of America);

Para. 151.141

Amend existing provisions that limit the freedom of expression, the Evidence Amendment Act, Peaceful Assembly Act, and the cessation of arbitrary detention and apprehensions without charges following legislative reforms in accordance with international standards (Spain);

Para. 151.143

Accelerate consultations within the Government in order to review the following legislation: the Sedition Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Prevention of Crime Act, the Special Offence Act, the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Georgia);

Para. 151.145

Review its legislation with the aim of ensuring that civil society (...) could freely exercise their rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);

Para. 151.146

Better protect journalists and human rights defenders, in particular by abolishing travel bans they are subject to and amending certain laws, such as the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Penal Code (Switzerland);

Para. 151.147

Revise the Peaceful Assembly Act in order to eliminate discrimination and hindrance to the freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Czechia).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/40/53/Add.1\), 2019<sup>19</sup>](#)

Para. 91 (...)

Ensure that non-religious persons have equal rights to freedom of (...) assembly.

## MYANMAR

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/13\), 2021<sup>21</sup>](#)

Para. 33.131

Ensure the protection of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly for all, including for internally displaced persons, returnees and human rights defenders (Botswana);

Para. 33.134

Ensure that the legal framework governing the rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association and to participate in public affairs is consistent with international human rights standards, immediately release all those detained or imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their human rights, (...) (Czechia);

Para. 33.139

Review and repeal or amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly (...) (Netherlands);

Para. 33.141

Review and amend all laws that violate the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly, as well as digital rights (Finland);

Para. 33.142

Review and amend legislation on (...) freedom of association to bring it into line with international standards (Estonia);

Para. 33.143

Repeal or amend, and cease the arbitrary application of, laws restricting freedom of (...) assembly (Canada);

Para. 34.45

Repeal or amend to bring in line with international law the Official Secrets Act, the Unlawful Associations Act and sections 124A, 153, 499, 500 and 505 of the Penal Code (Denmark).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar \(A/HRC/43/59\), 2020<sup>22</sup>](#)

Para. 75 (...)

(d) Release all political prisoners and provide them with redress and rehabilitation, withdraw all charges against individuals for legitimate expression and democratic activity and halt all politically motivated charges that contravene the rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association;

Para. 76 (...)

- (g) Protect workers' rights to freedom of association and assembly (...).

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/40/68), 2019<sup>23</sup>**

Para. 73 (...)

- (c) Revise or repeal all arbitrary and discriminatory legislation, orders and policies that have been previously identified by the Special Rapporteur, including, but not limited to, section 66 (d) of the 2013 Telecommunications Law, section 17 (1) of the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act, section 19 of the 2011 Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession, sections 500, 505 (b) and 505 (c) of the Penal Code, section 25 of the 2014 News Media Law and section 3 of the 1923 Official Secrets Act: any amendments must be in accordance with human rights norms and standards.

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/37/70), 2018<sup>24</sup>**

Para. 69 (...)

- (a) Immediately cease the arbitrary arrest and prosecution of those exercising their rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association, release all those detained for exercising their rights and release all remaining political prisoners;
- (b) Protect the fundamental rights to freedom of (...) assembly and association of all in Myanmar, including journalists, members of civil society and human rights defenders;
- (e) Repeal section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Associations Act and section 505 of the Penal Code and withdraw all charges currently brought against individuals under those provisions;
- (j) Amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act to bring it in line with international standards, and withdraw any administrative directives that further infringe on the right to freedom of assembly and association.

# PHILIPPINES

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW/C/PHL/CO/2), 2014<sup>40</sup>

Para. 37

The Committee recommends that the State party should adopt all necessary measures, including legislative amendments, to guarantee the right of migrant workers and members of their families to form associations and trade unions, in accordance with article 40 of the Convention.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/12), 2017<sup>25</sup>

Para. 133.177

Take steps to create and maintain in law and in practice a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, including by acknowledging publicly their important and legitimate role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, by simplifying the process for forming associations and by applying the good practices set out in Human Rights Council resolution 32/31, and to request and accept technical assistance, including from OHCHR, to fulfil these commitments (Ireland);

Para. 133.178

Establish an effective protection system for human rights defenders and journalists and ensure the free exercise of their rights to freedom of (...) association (Luxembourg).

# SINGAPORE

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/SGP/CO/4-5\), 2019](#)<sup>26</sup>

Para. 24

Reiterating its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3, para. 38), the Committee echoes its earlier concern that the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly are severely restricted in the State party and subject to undue limitations, (...) including on the Internet. The Committee urges the State party to review its laws and policies, in particular the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act and the Public Order Act (...) and that any restrictions to those rights fully comply with international standards.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/48/16\), 2021](#)<sup>27</sup>

Para. 59.161

Implement measures increasing protection, in law and in practice, for exercising (...) freedom of assembly and association (Poland);

Para. 59.162

Ensure that laws and policies on the rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly and association comply with the relevant international human rights standards (Republic of Korea);

Para. 59.166

Ensure full respect for the rights to (...) freedom of association by taking measures to enhance the security of civil society, journalists and human rights defenders (Uruguay);

Para. 59.168 (...)

allow peaceful demonstrations without undue restrictions (Czechia);

Para. 59.169

Amend the legislation that restricts the right to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly to ensure that the legislation complies with international human rights standards (Finland); Review relevant legislation that may unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression or peaceful assembly, in line with international standards (Iceland);

Para. 59.171

Ensure that freedom of (...) peaceful assembly, are protected (Italy).

## THAILAND

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/THA/CO/2\), 2017](#)<sup>28</sup>

Para. 40

The State party should effectively guarantee and protect the freedom of peaceful assembly and avoid restrictions that do not respond to the requirements under article 4 of the Covenant. In particular, it should refrain from imposing detention on individuals who are exercising their rights and who do not present a serious risk to national security or public safety.

#### [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(E/C.12/THA/CO/1-2\), 2015](#)<sup>41</sup>

Para. 23 (...)

The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all employees, in both the private and public sectors, effectively enjoy the right to freely form and join trade unions and to extend the right to non-nationals. Given the large number of migrant workers in the State party, the Committee emphasizes the importance of recognizing their right to form and join trade unions to represent their interests with a view to improving the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights.



# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/49/17), 2021<sup>30</sup>

Para. 51.87

Ensure that laws and policies on the rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly, and association comply with relevant international human rights standards (Republic of Korea);

Para. 51.88

Enhance its efforts in ensuring that all citizens have the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly in compliance with the article (...) 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Timor-Leste);

Para. 51.89

Uphold its international obligations regarding the rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly (Australia);

Para 51.92

Improve the capacity of police, security forces and other law enforcement agencies to carry out their work while respecting the rights of people to freedom of assembly (...) and civil society space (Malawi);

Para. 51.194

Create a safe and enabling environment to exercise the rights to peaceful assembly (...) (Italy);

Para. 52.18

Revise the bill on the operations of non-profit organizations to guarantee freedom of association (France);

Para. 52.19

Critically examine the effect of the repressive Draft Act of Operations of Not-for Profit Organizations (Germany);

Para. 52.20

Ensure that the revision of the draft law on the functioning of NGOs is in line with international commitments (Luxembourg);

- Para. 52.21  
Create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society, including by guaranteeing that the draft Law governing Operation of Not-for-Profit Organizations (2021) is revised to conform with international norms and good regulatory practices relating to the freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Netherlands);
- Para. 52.22  
Ensure that the adoption of new NGO-legislation will not prevent or impede civil society organisations from operating securely and freely (Norway);
- Para. 52.23  
Withdraw consideration of the Draft Law on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations and other new legislation that could potentially restrict civic space in Thailand (United States of America);
- Para. 52.24  
Ensure the proposed NGO law does not impede civil society from undertaking legitimate activities (Australia);
- Para. 52.25  
Ensure that any potential new legislation governing the operations of the non-profit sector does not restrict the activities of civil society in a manner inconsistent with Thailand's international obligations, ensure all stakeholders are consulted on such legislation, and protect and encourage the work of human rights defenders (Canada);
- Para. 52.26  
Revise the Draft Bill on Not-For-Profit Organisations to ensure its full compliance with Thailand's international human rights obligations, including article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);
- Para. 52.47  
Decriminalize freedom of (...) peaceful assembly and avoid the detention of minors for exercising these rights (Mexico);
- Para. 52.49  
Ensure that rights of freedom of (...) peaceful assembly are not unduly restricted by cybersecurity laws and its criminal code (New Zealand);
- Para. 52.50  
Guarantee the rights to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly, and protect individuals, including political opponents, from judicial harassment (Norway);

- Para. 52.51  
Repeal all provisions that criminalize or unduly restrict the rights to freedom of (...) assembly (Portugal);
- Para. 52.52  
Guarantee the rights to freedom of (...) assembly and stop targeting civilians engaging in peaceful protests under criminal charges entailing punishment with exorbitant prison terms (Austria);
- Para. 52.53  
Remove undue restrictions and infringements on the enjoyment of the freedoms of (...) association and peaceful assembly (Botswana);
- Para. 52.54  
Consider revising its legislation on freedoms of (...) peaceful assembly in alignment with international human rights standards (Brazil);
- Para. 52.55  
Ensure that the right to (...) freedom of assembly are fully respected and protected, including in the context of a state of emergency (Czechia);
- Para. 52.65  
Amend, repeal or restrict the use of legislation that curtails the exercise of rights of (...) association and peaceful assembly, including online, with particular reference to sections 112 and 116 of the Criminal Code and the Computer Crime Act (Canada);
- Para. 52.67  
Remove the broad range of restrictions on the rights to peaceful assembly (...) (Estonia);
- Para. 52.68  
Review existing regulations and practice which restrict freedom of assembly giving high priority to the freedom of demonstration (Germany);
- Para. 52.82  
Ensure the protection of civic space and human rights defenders, including youth, members of civil society, lawyers, media, and academics, so that they can operate freely and fully exercise the rights to (...) freedom of peaceful assembly and association (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

# TIMOR-LESTE

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/50/12\), 2022](#)<sup>33</sup>

Para. 116.76

Refrain from passing new laws that could unduly restrict freedoms of (...) association (United States of America).

# VIET NAM

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3\), 2019](#)<sup>34</sup>

Para. 50

The State party should give full effect to the constitutional guarantee of freedom of association and expedite the adoption of the law on association and ensure that its provisions, relevant regulations and practices are in conformity with article 22 of the Covenant. The State party should also:

- (a) Respect individuals' right to form or join a union or an association of their choice, including in the field of human rights;
- (b) Ensure that regulations governing foreign funding for associations do not lead to undue control over such associations or undue interference with their ability to operate effectively.

### [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8\), 2015](#)<sup>42</sup>

Para. 25 (...)

- (b) To take specific steps to create an enabling environment in which (...) women's rights organizations can be freely established and freely operate in the State party, in line with article 7 (c) of the Convention.

## **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/VNM/CO/2-4), 2014<sup>35</sup>**

Para. 11 (...)

The Committee calls upon the State party to create an enabling environment for the free establishment and functioning of independent civil society organizations, outside the purview of the socio-political organizations mentioned in the Constitution. (...).

Para. 21 (...)

The Committee calls upon the State party to bring its legislation on trade union rights into line with international standards on the right to form and join the trade union of one's choice. The Committee invites the State party to ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/7), 2019<sup>36</sup>**

Para. 38.179

Protect civil and political rights, especially freedom of (...) peaceful assembly and association (Luxembourg);

Para. 38.186

Review regulations impeding the operation of civil society organizations, to enable a more open space and ensure that national security provisions are not used to prevent peaceful debate and dissent (Ireland);

Para. 38.187

Ensure that the legal framework protects freedom of expression both offline and online and accordingly amend the penal law and the law on cybersecurity to ensure consistency with international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand); Ensure that freedom of expression is protected online and offline by amending national security provisions in the Penal Code, the cybersecurity law and its implementing decree so as to comply with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other commitments (Sweden); Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and

freedom of assembly and amend the Penal Code and the cybersecurity law to make sure that the limitations on the right to freedom of expression are in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); Review the Penal Code and the law on cybersecurity to harmonize them with international standards related to the freedom of expression, association and assembly (Canada);

Para. 38.197

Review and amend national legislation in order to enable the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly in line with the standards enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Seychelles);

Para. 38.198

Adopt measures in line with international standards to guarantee freedom of association (...) and to ensure that (...) NGOs can operate freely (Italy);

Para. 38.200

Adopt legislative changes to guarantee the protection and free exercise of freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly (Spain);

Para. 38.202

Guarantee fully (...) the rights of peaceful assembly and association (...) (Switzerland);

Para. 38.203

Improve protection of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly (...) by reviewing existing legislation, and publishing and implementing clear, transparent guidelines on security personnel conduct in managing peaceful demonstrations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 38.215

Create an enabling environment for independent civil society and ensure that the law on association facilitates the registration, work and funding of NGOs free from undue State interference and restrictions (Czechia);

Para. 38.236

Allow for the establishment of independent trade unions and recognize the right to organize (Canada).



# **Protection of Human Rights Defenders**

# CAMBODIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee on the Rights of the Child, \(CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6\), 2022<sup>2</sup>](#)

Para. 13 (...)

- (a) Ensure that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, are able to promote children's rights (...) without being subjected to harassment or disproportionate pandemic-related restrictions, including by amending the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations;
- (b) Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of intimidation of human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, and their families, and ensure that they have adequate access to justice and are protected from harassment, intimidation, retaliation and violence.

### [Human Rights Committee, \(CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3\), 2022<sup>3</sup>](#)

Para. 35 (...)

- (a) Refrain from prosecuting and imprisoning (...) human rights defenders and other civil society actors as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions;
- (b) Prevent acts of harassment and intimidation against, the placement of arbitrary restrictions on, or arrests of (...) activists and human rights defenders who merely criticize public officials or government policies.

### [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, \(CERD/C/KHM/CO/14-17\), 2020<sup>38</sup>](#)

Para. 20 (...)

The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary in law and in practice, and prevent its misuse to suppress human rights defenders, including defenders of rights of minorities.



**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/6), 2019<sup>4</sup>**

Para. 19

The Committee recommends that the State party fully guarantee the rights of women human rights defenders (...) without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions.

**Human Rights Committee, (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2), 2015<sup>5</sup>**

Para. 21 (...)

- (a) Take immediate action to investigate complaints of killings and provide effective protection to (...) human rights defenders and other civil society actors who are subjected to intimidation and attacks owing to their professional activities;
- (b) Refrain from prosecuting journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions.

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/17), 2019<sup>6</sup>**

Para. 110.85

Take all measures to protect and support (...) human rights defenders (...) (Iceland);

Para. 110.91

Create conditions conducive to free political debate and competition with a view to rebuilding a democracy in which (...) human rights defenders, can freely carry out their work without interference or hindrance, as recommended by Ireland during the previous cycle, and in particular to ensure that their work is not hindered by restrictions (...), either online or offline (Ireland);

Para. 110.92

Reform the Criminal Code to ensure (...) the protection of human rights defenders, and ensure the latter can go about their work without fear of intimidation (Spain);

- Para. 110.93  
Protect the rights of human rights defenders (...) (Italy);
- Para. 110.106 (...)  
ensure and promote a safe environment for (...) human rights defenders (...), and effectively and thoroughly investigate all attacks against them (Lithuania);
- Para. 110.109  
Cease all kinds of harassment of and arbitrary interference with the (...) human rights defenders (...) (Finland);
- Para. 110.110  
Ensure a free civic space, allowing human rights defenders (...) to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and refrain from prosecuting persons for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the law on telecommunications (Netherlands);
- Para. 110.112  
End harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders (...) (Croatia);
- Para. 110.113  
Protect (...) human rights defenders (...) from harassment, arbitrary arrest and physical attacks, and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such attacks (Slovenia);
- Para. 110.114  
Step up efforts to prevent the harassment of human rights defenders, (...) and protect their rights (Czechia);
- Para. 110.115  
Adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the rights of those who work to protect and promote human rights, in particular human rights defenders, and investigate and punish those responsible for threats and violence against them and their families (Argentina);
- Para. 110.116  
Adopt the measures necessary to protect the rights of human rights defenders (...) (Chile).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/39/73\), 2018<sup>7</sup>](#)

Para. 92 (...)

- (i) Release all detainees who have been charged and imprisoned without sufficient substantiated evidence and who were arrested due to their (...) human rights work (...).

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/36/61\), 2017<sup>8</sup>](#)

Para. 68 (...)

- (g) Release the human rights defenders in detention against whom no evidence has been presented.

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/27/70\), 2014<sup>10</sup>](#)

Para. 81 (...)

- (l) Protect human rights defenders and especially those defending land rights and workers' rights, so that they may be able to carry out their work without intimidation or harassment;
- (m) Refrain from using the judiciary to intimidate, harass and imprison human rights defenders (...).

## INDONESIA

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, \(CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/8\), 2021](#)

Para. 34 (...)

- (a) Adopt effective measures for the protection of women human rights defenders in consultation with them so that they can freely undertake their important work without fear or threat of intimidation, harassment or violence;
- (b) Effectively investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all perpetrators of harassment, violence and intimidation against women.

**Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (E/C.12/IDN/CO/1), 2014<sup>43</sup>**

Para. 28 (...)

- (e) Engage in constant dialogue with human rights defenders, protect them from acts of violence, intimidation and harassment, and thoroughly investigate all allegations of reprisals and abuse so as to bring perpetrators to justice.

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/7), 2017<sup>11</sup>**

Para. 139.24

Adopt legislative measures to prevent and combat intimidation, repression or violence against human rights defenders (...) (Mexico);

Para. 139.64

Continue to strengthen national and regional efforts to promote and protect human rights defenders (Ecuador);

Para. 139.65

Facilitate the work of human rights defenders (...) throughout the country (France);

Para. 139.66

Step up efforts to ensure protection of (...) human rights defenders (Iraq);

Para. 141.56

Take further steps to ensure a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders, including those representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and adat communities (Norway).

# LAO PDR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/OPSC/LAO/CO/1), 2015<sup>14</sup>

Para. 20 (...)

- (a) Take immediate action to allow (...) human rights defenders and all NGOs, including children's groups, to monitor, investigate and report children's rights violations as well as exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without any kind of threat, harassment or repercussion;
- (b) Urgently end all forms of intimidation and retaliation against human rights defenders (...) and enact specific laws and policies to recognize and protect the work of human rights defenders;
- (c) Combat impunity by undertaking a thorough, impartial and effective investigation of all allegations of enforced disappearance, including that of Sombath Somphone, and all violations against human rights defenders, and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators and access to effective remedies for victims.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/44/6), 2020<sup>15</sup>

Para. 115.77

Conduct credible and in-depth investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance, including the disappearance of Sombath Somphone and other human rights defenders (Canada);

Para. 115.78

Conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations to clarify all unexplained enforced disappearances of human rights defenders in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Poland);

Para. 115.91

Enhance freedom of expression, lifting restrictions for independent media and providing a safe environment for the work of (...) human rights defenders (Italy);

Para. 115.95

Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression, assembly and association by revising its legislation so as not to hinder the work of NGOs and human rights defenders (Luxembourg);

Para. 115.110

Refrain from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their civil rights, including the right to privacy and freedom of expression, association and assembly, having regard to the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment for (...) human rights defenders and other civil society actors (Ireland);

Para. 115.112

Create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society to constructively contribute to policymaking and national development (Norway).

## **MALAYSIA**

### **UN Treaty Bodies**

#### **[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/3-5\), 2018](#)**<sup>17</sup>

Para. 50

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women human rights defenders can freely undertake their important work without fear or threat of arbitrary arrest, harassment or intimidation, including the issuance of fatwas by religious institutions (...).

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/40/11\), 2019](#)**<sup>18</sup>

Para. 151.19

Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bring its national law on communication and media into conformity with

international human rights law and refrain from judicial and administrative harassment of (...) human rights defenders (Slovakia);

Para. 151.138

Continue developing efforts in order to guarantee the freedoms and safety of human rights defenders (Uruguay);

Para. 151.146

Better protect (...) human rights defenders, in particular by abolishing travel bans they are subject to and amending certain laws, such as the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Penal Code (Switzerland).

## MYANMAR

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/13), 2021<sup>21</sup>

Para. 32.59

Promote a safe environment for human rights defenders (...) and lawyers to carry out their work safely and free from acts of intimidation, harassment or retaliation (Uruguay);

Para. 32.60

Ensure that (...) human rights defenders and peaceful activists are free from harassment and discrimination and that they are able to conduct their work in a safe environment (Greece);

Para. 33.130

Foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders (...) (Latvia);

Para. 33.132

Ensure a safe environment for civil society, human rights defenders (...) by amending legislation that limits freedom of expression (Norway);

Para. 33.139

(...) ensure that (...) human rights defenders can work freely and without fear of reprisals (Netherlands).

## UN Special Procedures

### Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/37/70), 2018<sup>24</sup>

Para. 69 (...)

- (b) Protect the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association of all in Myanmar, including (...) members of civil society and human rights defenders;
- (g) Conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations and systematically ensure redress for any violence, threats, acts of intimidation or harassment against (...) human rights defenders and civil society.

## PHILIPPINES

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/PHL/CO/5-6), 2016<sup>44</sup>

Para. 12

The Committee urges the State party to take all measures necessary to protect human rights defenders, including trade union activists, defenders of the urban poor, indigenous activists and peasant activists, from killing and all forms of violence. It also urges the State party to ensure a safe and favourable environment supportive of those defenders' work to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights. It recommends that the State party step up its efforts to promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of harassment, disappearance and killing of human rights defenders and bring the perpetrators to justice.



# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/12), 2017<sup>25</sup>

Para. 133.74

Stop the implementation of counter-insurgency programmes that target human rights defenders and civilians (Slovakia);

Para. 133.158

Combat crimes committed against human rights defenders through prompt, impartial and transparent investigations (Denmark);

Para. 133.173

Take all necessary measures to provide adequate protection to (...) human rights defenders, in particular regarding enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings (Estonia);

Para. 133.174

Take all necessary measures to protect the life of (...) journalists and other threatened persons (Germany);

Para. 133.176

Guarantee the establishment of a safe and enabling environment for the work of human rights defenders, specifically through the adoption of a law for the protection and recognition of human rights defenders (Hungary);

Para. 133.177

Take steps to create and maintain in law and in practice a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, including by acknowledging publicly their important and legitimate role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (...) (Ireland);

Para. 133.178

Establish an effective protection system for human rights defenders (...) (Luxembourg);

Para. 133.179

Take necessary measures to provide adequate protection to (...) human rights defenders (Norway);

Para. 133.180

Protect more effectively human rights defenders (...), especially through cooperation with civil society (Poland);

Para. 133.181

Ensure the protection of the rights of defenders (...) (Ukraine);

Para. 133.182

Promote a safe, enabling environment for the work of human rights defenders through the adoption of a charter for the protection and recognition of human rights defenders (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

## SINGAPORE

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD/C/SGP/CO/1\), 2022<sup>25</sup>](#)

Para. 12 (...)

It should also take necessary measures to ensure that (...) human rights defenders or political opponents are not intimidated, arrested or prosecuted for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression, including on issues of racial discrimination and racism.

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/48/16\), 2021<sup>27</sup>](#)

Para. 59.166

Ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association by taking measures to enhance the security of civil society (...) and human rights defenders (Uruguay).

# THAILAND

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD/C/THA/CO/4-8\), 2022<sup>45</sup>](#)

#### Para. 22

The Committee recommends that the State party conduct effective, prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all incidents of killings, enforced disappearance, violence, threats, intimidation, reprisals and harassment of human rights defenders. It further recommends that the State party continue cooperating with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and take measures necessary to ensure an open and safe space for the operation of civil society organizations, with a view to facilitating the work of human rights defenders free from all forms of intimidation, threats and reprisals.

### [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/THA/CO/6-7\), 2017<sup>46</sup>](#)

#### Para. 31 (...)

- (a) Adopt and implement, without delay, effective measures for the protection of women human rights defenders to enable them to freely undertake their important work without fear or threat of lawsuits, harassment, violence or intimidation, including by improving the effectiveness, in consultation with women human rights, of the Witness Protection Office within the Ministry of Justice;
- (b) Effectively investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all cases of harassment, violence and intimidation against women human rights defenders and provide effective remedies to victims.

### **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/THA/CO/1-2), 2015<sup>40</sup>**

Para. 11 (...)

The Committee urges the State party to adopt all the measures necessary to protect human rights activists, including those working to defend economic, social and cultural rights, from any and all acts of intimidation, harassment and killings and to ensure that perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice.

### **Committee against Torture (CAT/C/THA/CO/1), 2014<sup>29</sup>**

Para. 18 (...)

- (a) put an immediate halt to harassment and attacks against human rights defenders (...) and community leaders; and
- (b) systematically investigate all reported instances of intimidation, harassment and attacks with a view to prosecuting and punishing perpetrators and guarantee effective remedies to victims and their families. In that regard, the Committee recommends that the Thai authorities provide the family of Somchai Neelapaijit with full reparation and take effective measures aimed at the cessation of continuing violations, in particular by guaranteeing the right to truth (general comment No. 3, para. 16).

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/49/17), 2021<sup>30</sup>**

Para. 51.191

Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (Latvia);

Para. 51.192

Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, including through prompt and thorough investigation of attacks (Norway);

- Para. 51.193  
Protect human rights defenders, including under a gender perspective, and investigate any reported cases of intimidation, harassment and attacks against them (Austria);
- Para. 51.194  
Create a safe and enabling environment (...) and prevent attacks and intimidation against human rights defenders (Italy);
- Para. 52.18  
Revise the bill on the operations of non-profit organizations to guarantee freedom of association (France);
- Para. 52.19  
Critically examine the effect of the repressive Draft Act of Operations of Not-for Profit Organizations (Germany);
- Para. 52.20  
Ensure that the revision of the draft law on the functioning of NGOs is in line with international commitments (Luxembourg);
- Para. 52.21  
Create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society, including by guaranteeing that the draft Law governing Operation of Not-for-Profit Organizations (2021) is revised to conform with international norms and good regulatory practices relating to the freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Netherlands);
- Para. 52.22  
Ensure that the adoption of new NGO-legislation will not prevent or impede civil society organisations from operating securely and freely (Norway);
- Para. 52.23  
Withdraw consideration of the Draft Law on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations and other new legislation that could potentially restrict civic space in Thailand (United States of America);
- Para. 52.24  
Ensure the proposed NGO law does not impede civil society from undertaking legitimate activities (Australia);
- Para. 52.25  
Ensure that any potential new legislation governing the operations of the non-profit sector does not restrict the activities of civil society in a manner inconsistent with Thailand's international obligations, ensure all stakeholders are consulted on such legislation, and protect and encourage the work of human rights defenders (Canada);

Para. 52.26

Revise the Draft Bill on Not-For-Profit Organisations to ensure its full compliance with Thailand's international human rights obligations, including article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);

Para. 52.81

In order to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, amend sections 326 to 333 of the Criminal Code (Switzerland);

Para. 52.82

Ensure the protection of civic space and human rights defenders, including youth, members of civil society, lawyers, media, and academics, so that they can operate freely and fully exercise the rights to freedom of expression, including online, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 52.83

End arbitrary detentions, arrests and any acts of harassment against political actors and civil society, including human rights defenders (Ireland);

Para. 52.84

Take further steps to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, stop all forms of harassment, violence and intimidation against them and ensure prompt, transparent and independent investigation into all reported cases (Czechia).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises \(A/HRC/41/43/Add.1\), 2019<sup>31</sup>](#)

Para. 95 (...)

(g) Develop guidelines and other measures for the protection of human rights defenders who raise concerns about abusive business practices;

Para. 102 (...)

(b) Continue to document and raise the cases of human rights abuses, particularly those committed against environmentalists and human rights defenders, in all appropriate national, regional and international forums;

Para. 103 (...)

- (b) Protect human rights defenders and make recommendations to the Government to revise the relevant laws.

## TIMOR-LESTE

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/50/12\), 2022](#)<sup>33</sup>

Para. 116.79

Ensure a safe, secure and enabling environment, in law and in practice, for human rights defenders (...) to carry out their work without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisals (Uruguay).

## VIET NAM

### UN Treaty Bodies

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3\), 2019](#)<sup>34</sup>

Para. 52

The State party should ensure that human rights defenders and other civil society actors are protected against threats, intimidation and physical attacks and investigate, prosecute and convict perpetrators of such acts. It should also allow them the necessary latitude to carry out their activities, including engaging with the United Nations, without fear of restrictions or reprisal.

### **Committee against Torture (CAT/C/VNM/CO/1), 2018<sup>47</sup>**

Para. 46

The Committee recommends that the State party issue invitations to visit the country to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8), 2015<sup>42</sup>**

Para. 25

The Committee urges the State party:

- (b) To take specific steps to create an enabling environment in which women human rights defenders (...) can (...) freely operate in the State party, in line with article 7 (c) of the Convention.

### **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/VNM/CO/2-4), 2014<sup>35</sup>**

Para. 11 (...) (...)

The State party should also provide effective protection against harassment, arrest and detention of human rights defenders, including by prosecuting and punishing those responsible for such acts.

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/7), 2019<sup>36</sup>**

Para. 38.55

Take steps to protect human rights defenders, particularly by repealing or revising the provisions of the Penal Code that make reference to the concept of national security (France);



- Para. 38.175  
Release human rights defenders sentenced to prison for exercising the right to freedom of expression (Iceland);
- Para. 38.177  
Take the necessary measures to ensure the freedom of expression of human rights defenders (...), in particular by investigating and punishing perpetrators of threats and reprisals against them (Argentina);
- Para. 38.180  
Protect human rights defenders and prosecute all persons guilty of violence or intimidation against them (Luxembourg);
- Para. 38.191  
Release all human rights defenders as well as political and religious activists detained for the peaceful expression of their political opinions or religious beliefs (Poland);
- Para. 38.198 (...)  
ensure that (...) human rights defenders (...) can operate freely (Italy);
- Para. 38.202  
(...) review cases of persons convicted for having freely expressed their opinion, including human rights defenders (Switzerland);
- Para. 38.211  
Publicly recognize human rights defenders and provide an environment in which they can carry out their human rights work safely (Belgium);
- Para. 38.214 (...)  
release all imprisoned human rights defenders, including (...) political dissenters, and put an end to their harassment (Czechia).



# Protection of Journalists/ Media Workers

# CAMBODIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Human Rights Committee, \(CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3\), 2022<sup>3</sup>](#)

Para. 35 (...)

- (a) Refrain from prosecuting and imprisoning journalists (...) and other civil society actors as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions;
- (b) Prevent acts of harassment and intimidation against, the placement of arbitrary restrictions on, or arrests of journalists, activists (...) who merely criticize public officials or government policies.

### [Human Rights Committee, \(CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2\), 2015<sup>5</sup>](#)

Para. 21 (...)

- (a) Take immediate action to investigate complaints of killings and provide effective protection to journalists (...) who are subjected to intimidation and attacks owing to their professional activities;
- (b) Refrain from prosecuting journalists (...) as a means of deterring or discouraging them from freely expressing their opinions.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/17\), 2019<sup>6</sup>](#)

Para. 110.85

Take all measures to protect and support journalists (...) (Iceland);

Para. 110.99

Take all measures necessary to ensure a safe environment (...) of journalists and of the general population, and investigate and sanction all forms of violence against them (Argentina);

- Para. 110.106  
(...) ensure and promote a safe environment for journalists, (...) and effectively and thoroughly investigate all attacks against them (Lithuania);
- Para. 110.110  
Ensure a free civic space, allowing (...) journalists to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and refrain from prosecuting persons for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the law on telecommunications (Netherlands);
- Para. 110.112  
End harassment and arbitrary arrests of (...) journalists (Croatia);
- Para. 110.113  
Protect journalists (...) from harassment, arbitrary arrest and physical attacks, and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such attacks (Slovenia);
- Para. 110.114  
Step up efforts to prevent the harassment of (...) journalists (...) and protect their rights (Czechia);
- Para. 110.116  
Adopt the measures necessary to protect the rights of (...) journalists (Chile);
- Para. 110.117  
Create an enabling environment for free and pluralistic media, including by ceasing judicial harassment against journalists (...) (Greece).

## INDONESIA

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/7\), 2017](#)<sup>11</sup>

- Para. 139.24  
Adopt legislative measures to prevent and combat intimidation, repression or violence against (...) journalists and civil society organizations (Mexico);

Para. 139.65

Facilitate the work of (...) journalists throughout the country (France);

Para. 139.66

Step up efforts to ensure protection of journalists (...) (Iraq).

## LAO PDR

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9), 2018<sup>39</sup>

Para. 20 (...)

(a) Take immediate action to allow journalists, human rights defenders and all NGOs, including children's groups, to monitor, investigate and report children's rights violations as well as exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without any kind of threat, harassment or repercussion.

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/44/6), 2021<sup>5</sup>

Para. 115.91

Enhance freedom of expression, lifting restrictions for independent media and providing a safe environment for the work of journalists (...) (Italy);

Para. 115.110

(...) having regard to the importance of creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment for journalists (...) and other civil society actors (Ireland).

# MALAYSIA

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/40/11), 2019<sup>18</sup>

Para. 151.19

Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bring its national law on communication and media into conformity with international human rights law and refrain from judicial and administrative harassment of journalists (...) (Slovakia);

Para. 151.146

Better protect journalists (...), in particular by abolishing travel bans they are subject to and amending certain laws, such as the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Penal Code (Switzerland).

# MYANMAR

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/13), 2021<sup>21</sup>

Para. 32.59

Promote a safe environment for (...) journalists and lawyers to carry out their work safely and free from acts of intimidation, harassment or retaliation (Uruguay);

Para. 32.60

Ensure that journalists (...) and peaceful activists are free from harassment and discrimination and that they are able to conduct their work in a safe environment (Greece);

- Para. 33.130  
Foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society (...) and journalists (Latvia);
- Para. 33.132  
Ensure a safe environment for civil society (...) and journalists by amending legislation that limits freedom of expression (Norway);
- Para. 33.137  
Reform legal mechanisms, including section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law and section 505 of the Penal Code, which are used to silence the press, critics of the government and the military and civil society activists (United States of America);
- Para. 33.139  
(...) ensure that journalists (...) can work freely and without fear of reprisals (Netherlands);
- Para. 33.145  
Unconditionally release all political prisoners, journalists and activists and end ongoing trials of political detainees (Malta).

## UN Special Procedures

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar \(A/HRC/43/59\), 2020<sup>22</sup>](#)

- Para. 75  
(...) (a) Widen space for free and open public debate among everyone in the community in advance of the elections, (...) ensure that elections are transparent, inclusive, participatory, free and fair and that they are open to independent local and international observers and media.

### [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar \(A/HRC/37/70\), 2018<sup>24</sup>](#)

- Para. 69 (...)  
(b) Protect the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association of all in Myanmar, including journalists, members of civil society (...);

- (g) Conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations and systematically ensure redress for any violence, threats, acts of intimidation or harassment against members of the media, (...) and civil society.

## PHILIPPINES

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/12), 2017<sup>25</sup>

- Para. 133.171  
Redouble efforts to (...) promote media freedom and the rights of journalists (Lebanon);
- Para. 133.172  
Create a safer working environment for journalists (Lithuania);
- Para. 133.173  
Take all necessary measures to provide adequate protection to journalists (...), in particular regarding enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings (Estonia);
- Para. 133.174  
Take all necessary measures to protect the life of (...) journalists and other threatened persons (Germany);
- Para. 133.175  
Investigate all cases of threats, intimidation and attacks against media personnel and ensure that those responsible are held accountable (Latvia);
- Para. 133.178  
Establish an effective protection system for (...) journalists (...) (Luxembourg);
- Para. 133.179  
Take necessary measures to provide adequate protection to journalists (...) (Norway);



Para. 133.180

Protect more effectively (...) journalists, especially through cooperation with civil society (Poland);

Para. 133.181

Ensure the protection of the rights of (...) journalists (...) (Ukraine).

## SINGAPORE

### UN Treaty Bodies

#### [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD/C/SGP/CO/1\), 2022<sup>25</sup>](#)

Para. 12

(...) It should also take necessary measures to ensure that journalists (...) or political opponents are not intimidated, arrested or prosecuted for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression, including on issues of racial discrimination and racism.

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/48/16\), 2021<sup>27</sup>](#)

Para. 59.166

Ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association by taking measures to enhance the security of civil society, journalists (...) (Uruguay).

# THAILAND

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/THA/CO/1\), 2014<sup>29</sup>](#)

Para. 18 (...)

- (a) put an immediate halt to harassment and attacks against (...) journalists and community leaders; and
- (b) systematically investigate all reported instances of intimidation, harassment and attacks with a view to prosecuting and punishing perpetrators and guarantee effective remedies to victims and their families. In that regard, the Committee recommends that the Thai authorities provide the family of Somchai Neelapaijit with full reparation and take effective measures aimed at the cessation of continuing violations, in particular by guaranteeing the right to truth (general comment No. 3, para. 16).

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/49/17\), 2021<sup>30</sup>](#)

Para. 51.86

Promote and protect the (...) safety of journalists (Latvia).

# TIMOR-LESTE

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/50/12\), 2022<sup>33</sup>](#)

Para. 116.79

Ensure a safe, secure and enabling environment, in law and in practice, for (...) journalists to carry out their work without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisals (Uruguay).

## VIET NAM

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/7\), 2019](#)<sup>36</sup>

Para. 38.172

Develop measures to protect reporters and journalists from all forms of discrimination and violence (Greece);

Para. 38.177

Take the necessary measures to ensure the freedom of expression of (...) journalists, in particular by investigating and punishing perpetrators of threats and reprisals against them (Argentina);

Para. 38.198

(...) ensure that journalists (...) can operate freely (Italy);

Para. 38.202

Guarantee (...) the safety of journalists, and review cases of persons convicted for having freely expressed their opinion (...) (Switzerland);

Para. 38.214

(...) release all imprisoned (...) bloggers and political dissenters, and put an end to their harassment (Czechia).



# Media Freedom

# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/42/11), 2019<sup>1</sup>

Para. 121.56

Repeal or amend the Sedition Act and the Local Newspapers Order so that they conform with international human rights standards, and take concrete legal action to protect the rights to (...) freedom of the press, to abolish censorship and to foster a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);

Para. 121.70

Lift the state of emergency systematically renewed since 1962, which restricts fundamental freedoms such as (...) freedom of the press (...) (France);

Para. 121.72

Lift the state of emergency and remove related restrictions, including on the media (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 121.125

(...) put an end to the censorship of the media, as previously recommended (Czechia);

Para. 121.126

Consider revising relevant acts restricting (...) the media in order to ensure that they conform with international human rights standards (Slovenia).

# CAMBODIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Human Rights Committee, (CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3), 2022<sup>3</sup>

Para. 35 (...)

(d) Review and revise its current and pending legislation, including the Sub-Decree on the National Internet Gateway, draft amendments to the Press

Law and the draft laws on cybercrimes and on access to information, to avoid the use of vague terminology and overly broad restrictions.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/41/17), 2019<sup>6</sup>

Para. 110.29

Revise the Penal Code as well as other laws, including the (...) telecommunications law, in order to bring them into compliance with international human rights standards (Czechia);

Para. 110.79

Amend laws and regulations, including the law on telecommunications and the interministerial prakas on publication controls of website and social media processing via the Internet (...), and end all forms of interference in and surveillance of media channels and online speech (Finland);

Para. 110.91

Create conditions conducive to free political debate and competition with a view to rebuilding a democracy in which the media (...) can freely carry out their work without interference or hindrance, as recommended by Ireland during the previous cycle (...) (Ireland);

Para. 110.94

Revise recent enactments and revisions of legislation (...), including the vague and broad grounds for preventing publication on the Internet in the proclamation on publication controls of websites and social media (Sweden);

Para. 110.97

Reverse the forced closure of media outlets (...) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 110.98

Immediately remove all undue restrictions (...) independent media, including by withdrawing the interministerial decision known as prakas No. 170 on digital expression (United States of America);

- Para. 110.102  
Strengthen democratic participation by guaranteeing the independence of the media (...) (Canada);
- Para. 110.103  
Promote dialogue among political actors, freedom and the rights of the people and the democratic process, in order to unite the people towards development; in this process, ensure an environment in which the rights of (...) the media and others are respected, and their activities are not constrained (Japan);
- Para. 110.117  
Create an enabling environment for free and pluralistic media, including by ceasing (...) abuse of tax regulations to harass media outlets and associations (Greece);
- Para. 110.118  
Continue to implement measures to strengthen the independence of (...) the media (Italy).

## INDONESIA

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/7\), 2017<sup>11</sup>](#)

- Para. 139.67  
Ensure human rights obligations in Papua are upheld, respected and promoted, including (...) freedom of the press and the rights of women and minorities (New Zealand).

# LAO PDR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LAO/CO/1), 2018<sup>12</sup>

Para. 34 (...)

(d) Promoting plurality of opinions in the media and ensuring that the media can operate free from undue State interference.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/44/6), 2020<sup>15</sup>

Para. 115.91

Enhance freedom of expression, lifting restrictions for independent media and providing a safe environment for the work of journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);

Para. 115.93

Ensure (...) media freedom by bringing national legislation into line with international standards (Latvia);

Para. 115.100

Guarantee freedom of expression of the press (...) in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

Para. 115.103

Guarantee unhindered and private access to domestic and foreign media information for all, both offline and online (Estonia);

Para. 115.105

Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression by revising its legislation on the media as well as legislation on the fight against cybercrime (Luxembourg);



Para. 115.108

Guarantee the (...) freedom of the press by releasing all those detained solely because they exercised or defended the exercise of these rights (France).

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/40/11), 2019<sup>18</sup>**

Para. 151.139

Take further steps to ensure a free, independent, pluralistic and diverse media landscape, including by reducing political influence on media outlets (Austria);

Para. 151.142

Build upon its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of opinion and expression by repealing the Sedition Act and bringing the Printing Presses and Publication Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Anti-Fake News Act into line with international human rights law (Czechia);

Para. 151.143

Accelerate consultations within the Government in order to review the following legislation: the Sedition Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Prevention of Crime Act, the Special Offence Act, the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Georgia);

Para. 151.144

Continue efforts in the area of free speech to create a safe and enabling environment for the media and civil society and, in this regard, repeal the Printing and Publication Act, as previously recommended (Ireland).

# MYANMAR

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/13), 2021<sup>21</sup>

Para. 33.134

(...) immediately release all those detained or imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their human rights (...) and commit to media freedom (Czechia);

Para. 33.135

Repeal or substantially amend section 66 (d) of the 2013 Law on Telecommunications to bring it into line with international standards on freedom of expression (Belgium);

Para. 33.136

Repeal section 77 of the Telecommunications Law to bring the Law into line with international human rights standards and ensure that any restrictions on service in times of emergency are clearly defined in law, necessary, proportionate, subject to prior judicial approval and strictly time-limited (Germany);

Para. 33.137

Reform legal mechanisms, including section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law and section 505 of the Penal Code, which are used to silence the press, critics of the government and the military and civil society activists (United States of America);

Para. 33.138

Amend all laws that restrict (...) freedom of the press (...) (Italy);

Para. 33.140

Amend current laws and enforcement practices to enable free expression and transparent journalism, while also addressing the online promulgation of incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence (New Zealand);

Para. 33.142

Review and amend legislation on (...) media freedom (...) to bring it into line with international standards (Estonia).

# UN Special Procedures

## Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/40/68), 2019<sup>23</sup>

Para. 73

In relation to the democratic space and rule of law, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Myanmar: (c) Revise or repeal all arbitrary and discriminatory legislation, orders and policies that have been previously identified by the Special Rapporteur, including, but not limited to, section 66 (d) of the 2013 Telecommunications Law, section 17 (1) of the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act, section 19 of the 2011 Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession, sections 500, 505 (b) and 505 (c) of the Penal Code, section 25 of the 2014 News Media Law and section 3 of the 1923 Official Secrets Act: any amendments must be in accordance with human rights norms and standards.

## PHILIPPINES

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

#### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/36/12), 2017<sup>25</sup>

Para. 133.171

Redouble efforts to (...) promote media freedom and the rights of journalists (Lebanon).

# SINGAPORE

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/48/16), 2021<sup>27</sup>

Para. 59.163

Take appropriate measures to ease restrictions on (...) freedom of the media online and offline (Slovakia);

Para. 59.167

Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression through the revision of the Internal Security Act and the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, in order to eliminate media censorship and prevent self-censorship (Belgium);

Para. 59.170

Renew efforts in favour of (...) freedom of the press (France);

Para. 59.172

Amend article 14 of the Constitution so that it clearly proclaims press freedom (...) without any restriction (Netherlands);

Para. 59.173

Ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is protected, including via online public platforms (New Zealand).

# THAILAND

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/49/17), 2021<sup>30</sup>

Para. 51.86

Promote and protect (...) media freedom (...) (Latvia).

# TIMOR-LESTE

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/50/12\), 2022](#)<sup>33</sup>

Para. 116.77

Revise the media law to ensure that it is in line with international standards and best practices related to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression (Uruguay).

# VIET NAM

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3\), 2019](#)<sup>34</sup>

Para. 46 (...)

It should also promote pluralistic media that can operate free from undue State interference.

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/7\), 2019](#)<sup>36</sup>

Para. 38.166

Authorize the publication of independent newspapers (...) (Denmark);

Para. 38.174

Consider revising national legislation, including (...) the media laws, in order to harmonize it with international standards regarding the right to freedom of expression (...) (Brazil);

Para. 38.183

Amend, within one year, the 2015 Penal Code, Decree 174/2013, Decree 72/2013, Decree 27/2018, the 2018 law on cybersecurity and articles 4, 9, 14 and 15 of the 2016 press law to guarantee offline and online freedom of the press (...), and the right to privacy, in line with articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);

Para. 38.188

(...) allow free operation of national and international media (Norway);

Para. 38.194

Abolish prior censorship in all fields of cultural creation and other forms of expression, both online and offline (...) and by fostering a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);

Para. 38.195

(...) promote actions to ensure the freedom and independence of the media (Japan);

Para. 38.196

(...) allow bloggers, journalists and other Internet users to promote and protect human rights (Romania);

Para. 38.209

Take further steps to ensure an independent and pluralistic media landscape, including by reducing political influence on media outlets (Austria).



# **Right to Information**

# CAMBODIA

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee on the Rights of the Child, \(CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6\), 2022<sup>2</sup>](#)

Para. 23

(...) (b) Ensure that the draft laws on access to information and cybercrime protect children's right to privacy, protect children from harmful content and materials and online risks, and provide for mechanisms to prosecute violations.

### [Human Rights Committee, \(CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3\), 2022<sup>3</sup>](#)

Para. 35

(...) (d) Review and revise its current and pending legislation, including the Sub-Decree on the National Internet Gateway, draft amendments to the Press Law and the draft laws on cybercrimes and on access to information, to avoid the use of vague terminology and overly broad restrictions.

### [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, \(CERD/C/KHM/CO/14-17\), 2020<sup>38</sup>](#)

Para. 47

The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly made available to all State bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention, including municipalities, and publicized on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.



# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/17\), 2019<sup>6</sup>](#)

Para. 110.96

Amend the law on telecommunications, and adopt the law on access to information in line with international standards of the right to the freedom of expression and the right to privacy (Switzerland).

# UN Special Procedures

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/33/62\), 2016<sup>9</sup>](#)

Para. 61 (...)

- (k) Publicly disseminate drafts of laws at an early stage to facilitate meaningful consultations on them and their compatibility with human rights;
- (l) Ensure the full dissemination of the law on peaceful demonstrations and the implementing guide thereon, supported by appropriate training programmes for provincial authorities and law enforcement officials to ensure that the law is correctly applied; and consider preparing similar guidelines on the application of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations and trade union law, in cooperation with stakeholders, to ensure that the law is applied in a manner consistent with the State's human rights obligations.

## [Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia \(A/HRC/27/70\), 2014<sup>10</sup>](#)

Para. 81 (...)

- (g) Give effect to the right to participate in public life by clearly instructing all the ministries and any other State institutions to organize public consultations on draft laws and to release such drafts publicly, inviting comments from any interested member of the public, prior to submission to the Council of Ministers. That applies in particular to the draft laws

reportedly under preparation on associations and nongovernmental organizations and cybercrimes, as well as all other draft laws that carry implications for the enjoyment of human rights.

## **INDONESIA**

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/7\), 2017<sup>11</sup>](#)**

Para. 141.32

Repeal all legislation and regulations that restrict women and girls from accessing information and advice related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights, including contraception (Canada).

## **LAO PDR**

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

#### **[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/44/6\), 2020<sup>15</sup>](#)**

Para. 115.103

Guarantee unhindered and private access to domestic and foreign media information for all, both offline and online (Estonia).

# MALAYSIA

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/40/11\), 2019<sup>18</sup>](#)

Para. 151.136

Enact legislation guaranteeing the right of access to information and ensure its full implementation (Slovakia).

# MYANMAR

## UN Treaty Bodies

### [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD/C/MMR/CO/1\), 2019<sup>20</sup>](#)

Para. 42 (...)

- (a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to enjoy the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, including in its efforts to achieve Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure that information provided to the general public is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;
- (c) Ensure access to information and communications technology, taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that websites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium;
- (d) Develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and other relevant professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

## **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/4-5), 2016<sup>48</sup>**

Para. 39 (...)

- (e) Ensure the access of women and girls to information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as their access to related services, including contraceptives.

## **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

### **UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/13), 2021<sup>21</sup>**

Para. 33.134 (...)

adopt an access to information law (...) (Czechia);

Para. 33.144

Adopt and implement a law guaranteeing the right to access to information held by public authorities (Sweden).

## **PHILIPPINES**

### **UN Treaty Bodies**

#### **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1), 2018<sup>49</sup>**

Para. 39

The Committee recommends that the State party adopt amendments to section 22 of Republic Act No. 7277 and other related measures to ensure that persons with hearing impairments are provided with language subtitles in its newscast programme.

# SINGAPORE

## Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

### UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/48/16), 2021<sup>27</sup>

Para. 59.164

Introduce a freedom of information provision guaranteeing access to public information and data (Switzerland);

Para. 59.294

Take measures to increase accessibility in television broadcasts by encouraging service providers to adopt closed-captioning and sign language interpreters across television stations (Malta).

# THAILAND

## UN Treaty Bodies

### Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/THA/CO/1), 2016<sup>50</sup>

Para. 42

The Committee recommends that the State party develop and use accessible communication formats, such as Braille, tactile formats, sign language, easy-read and others, for mass media and public information ensure the accessibility of government websites and take with concrete and effective measures to control and monitor accessibility and apply sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that the State party officially recognize Thai Sign Language in legislation to ensure its full and effective application in the State party and increase training and certification initiatives to ensure the availability of professional Thai Sign Language interpreters.

# Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/12\), 2017<sup>25</sup>](#)

Para. 51.187

Continue proactive efforts to ensure that migrant workers can access rights as prescribed by applicable laws, including (...) access to information and proper documentation (Viet Nam).

## TIMOR-LESTE

### UN Special Procedures

## [Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples \(A/HRC/42/37/Add.2\), 2019<sup>51</sup>](#)

Para. 88

On any project that directly or indirectly impacts the lives, lands, territories and resources of local communities, the Government should ensure: (b) transparency, including making information readily available to the public.

## VIET NAM

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

## [UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/7\), 2019<sup>36</sup>](#)

Para. 38.181

Promote access to information in accordance with Viet Nam's national law (Malaysia);

Para. 38.213

Increase and ensure Vietnamese citizens' access to information, including by increasing radio and television coverage in all parts of the country (Cyprus).

# End Notes

1. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/42/11>
2. <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6>
3. <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/KHM/CO/3>
4. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/6>
5. <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2>
6. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/17>
7. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/39/73>
8. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/36/61>
9. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/33/62>
10. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/27/70>
11. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/36/7>
12. <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/LAO/CO/1>
13. <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/LAO/CO/3-6>
14. <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/OPSC/LAO/CO/1>
15. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/6>
16. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/39/Add.2>
17. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/3-5>
18. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/11>
19. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/53/Add.1>
20. <https://undocs.org/CRPD/C/MMR/CO/1>
21. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/13>
22. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/59>
23. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/68>
24. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/70>
25. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/36/12>
26. <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/SGP/CO/1>
27. <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/SGP/CO/4-5>
28. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/48/16>
29. <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/THA/CO/2>
30. <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/THA/CO/1>
31. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/17>
32. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/43/Add.1>
33. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/50/12>
34. <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3>
35. <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/VNM/CO/2-4>
36. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/7>
37. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/28/57/Add.1>
38. <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/KHM/CO/14-17>
39. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9>
40. <https://undocs.org/CMW/C/PHL/CO/2>
41. <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/THA/CO/1-2>
42. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8>
43. <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/IDN/CO/1>
44. <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/PHL/CO/5-6>
45. <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/THA/CO/4-8>
46. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/THA/CO/6-7>
47. <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/VNM/CO/1>
48. <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/4-5>
49. <https://undocs.org/CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1>
50. <https://undocs.org/CRPD/C/THA/CO/1>
51. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/42/37/Add.2>



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