



Availability of Universal Human Rights Protection Mechanisms to Individuals and Groups of Individuals

FOLLOW-UP TO THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

During the Third UPR Cycle, Serbia received two recommendations related to the need for ratification of optional protocols to the conventions, specifically Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Up to this point, the recommendations have not been implemented.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE FIRST REVIEW

However, a greater cause for concern is the fact that even in cases where Serbia has formally enabled people under its jurisdiction to complain to UN human rights committees through an individual complaint in the event of a violation of their rights from the conventions, this mechanism remains ineffective.

It is ineffective due to Serbia's arbitrary compliance with UN committee decisions on individual complaints and lack of a clear legal mechanism for their implementation. Consequently, the provided mechanisms are rarely used, which should by no means be understood as the absence of violations of the rights stipulated by universal human rights treaties. On the contrary, citizens of Serbia often use other international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

RECOMMENDATION

Establish an efficient mechanism for implementing UN treaty bodies' decisions on individual communications and a functional mechanism for monitoring their implementation.

ABOUT ORGANISATION

The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) is a non-partisan, non-political and non-profit association. Established in 1995, BCHR is focused on protection of human rights, education, development of democracy, strengthening of the rule of law and the civil society in Serbia. BCHR has participated in UPR processes since 2012. The Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms is a coalition of NGOs that recognize the need for and relevance of the continuous evidence-based reporting process, monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations these mechanisms have been issuing to Serbia and interaction with Serbian Government bodies for monitoring the implementation of UN human rights recommendations.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mr. Dušan Pokuševski, BCHR Program Director
dusan@bgcentar.org.rs, +381 60 3430 245, www.bgcentar.org.rs