

Oman's Legal Framework



Adopt

- ICCPR
- 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (signed but not ratified)

Freedom of Expression



- Amend the Penal code, particularly articles 97 and 115, ... decriminalizing criticism of the Sultan or ... provisions such as “undermining the stature of the State”
- Amend the new Media Law to remove provisions that can be used to silence peaceful dissent.
- Amend the new Nationality Law by removing provisions allowing for the stripping of nationality for peaceful criticism of the ruler or the state.
- Ensure that journalists and writers work freely and without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering topics that the government may deem sensitive.

Freedom of Association



- Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by removing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limit the freedom of association.
- Amend articles 116-118 that criminalise members of associations that oppose government policies, thereby allowing civil society to participate fully.

Freedom of Assembly



- Bring national legislation Notably Articles 121, and 123 of the penal code, on freedom of peaceful assembly into line with international standards, particularly by removing the penalty for unlicensed public gatherings.
- Adopt best practices on the freedom of peaceful assembly, as put forward by the 2012 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, which calls for simple processes for the notification of assemblies being held rather than permission being required....

Human rights defenders and CSO activists



- Provide civil society members, HRDs and journalists, especially women, with a safe and secure environment in which to carry out their work.
- Undertake a consolidated process of repeal or amendment of legislation and decrees that unwarrantedly restrict the legitimate work of HRDs, in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- End the practice of using the judicial system to try HRDs, journalists and anyone else for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association.