

Universal periodical review
Fourth cycle

VANUATU



Right to life
**Ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the
Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**

11th of October 2023

“From the politics of taking life to the politics of affirming it”

**We understand the right to life as being the full enjoyment of life,
as being the right not to be killed,
as being everyone’s responsibility not to kill or to let others die.**

The Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) has a unique mission,
inspirational for individuals and transformative for societies:
*“Promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world,
by means open to infinite human creativity in reverence for life”.*

The Center was founded by various persons, notably by Glenn Paige (1929-2017), Professor of political science and author of the book “Nonkilling Political Science”, widely translated¹. We are a worldwide congregation of persons, scholars and practitioners using our freedoms to create societies and institutions that do not kill, thus enabling all individuals to live fulfilling and nonkilling lives. Valuing and protecting life is the most enhancing and empowering mission of each and everyone². As humans, we are all (or all shall be) nonkilling centres. We are all global on our single planet. The Center for Global Nonkilling works for the fulfillment of life, individually and universally.

We use the Universal Periodic Review and its cycles to highlight and follow the implementation of all aspects of life and the right to life.

We make three types of UPR submissions:

- A systematic call for *the urgent and universal ratification of the Genocide Convention*.
- A systematic call for *the urgent and universal decriminalization of suicide*.
- On demand or when accurate, we do as comprehensive as possible *country portraits*³, stating all the domains of life where the People and the concerned State can progress towards fulfilling life and the right to life, if need be towards preventing accidents and injuries⁴. From conception till death, these living domains include the right to be given an enjoyable life, reproductive rights, abortion, prenatal and genetic engineering, infant and maternal mortality and morbidity, birth registration as needed to be legally recognized as a living person – entitled with rights and duties; deaths caused by road traffic, suicides, homicides and conflicts, deaths occurring at work, in custody, through leisure accidents or because of fires, falls, drownings and poisoning, or by any other preventable cause⁵. We support leading efforts towards a healthy longevity and in some circumstances, we may survey the right to die⁶. Due to constrained capacities, we do not or rarely address other issues and rights though needed to sustain life such as the rights to health, to a safe environment and to fulfilled standards of living. Yet we recall that all rights are interlinked and indivisible, mutually reinforcing and that all rights are needed to lead all lives into well-being and happiness.

To any of these submissions, we may add reflections and demands regarding Life and Peace Constitutions. These improvements of our common legal infrastructures favor the status of life and forward the establishment of comprehensive and sustainable peace policies. They are sometimes developed further and as annexes to our submissions.

Summary

This is our second submission for Vanuatu⁷.

It deals exclusively with the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Our other requests made to Vanuatu during the 3rd cycle still need to be met, namely:

- Ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances.
- Ratification of the second protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

We appeal to Vanuatu, to the People and Authorities of the country to open the roads of change and to join humanity in its sustainable development, in its participative dignity.

Preventing genocide

The ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is a commitment to the universality of the human species and a total rejection of all forms of racism. It is also an honor that testifies for the capacity of peoples and institutions to peacefully respect all individuals, in all walks of life and of all faiths, whatever their social groups are or may be, as a principle and so, without expecting the slightest reciprocity in return.

No peer recommendation was made to Vanuatu during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. During the third cycle, a recommendation was made by Armenia (91.9) and sadly it was noted, without explanations⁸.

Ratification of the Convention requires a decision to ratify the convention and a notification of it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As required by the Convention, the crime of genocide shall be punishable under national law. The crime of genocide is not, to our knowledge, punishable under the Vanuatu Penal Code⁹. Nevertheless, Vanuatu is party to the Rome Statute, which specifically criminalizes genocide¹⁰. Thus, with due reserve, we consider that under the law applicable in the country, genocide is a punishable crime, and that the ratification of the Genocide Convention can intervene without further legal changes, or while waiting for them.

With sufficient determination, ratification can be achieved rapidly; preferably before Vanuatu's appearance before the working group in April-May 2024 or before the Human Rights Council's final approval in September-October 2024.

Thank you very much.

*Calling on each and every one of us to create a world that no longer kills.
A world where life can be lived happily, universally, and be infinitely sustained on Earth,
Welcoming the delegations of Vanuatu,
To Geneva, a City of Peace,
And we wish to all the people of the Pacific, to their Authorities and to the Delegation
A successful Universal Periodic Review,
As well as a rewarding, constructive and fulfilling life.*

¹ <http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-translations>

² <http://nonkilling.org/center/how-to-help>

³ All our UPR submissions are here: <https://nonkilling.org/center/nonkilling-monitoring-programs/nonkilling-activity-at-the-un>

⁴ Shall you wish to see done such a scan of your country's status of life and of the right to life, or for any country please contact our CGNK-UN team.

⁵ For most of causes of death, statistics and efficient preventive methods exist.

The Universal Periodic Review cycles and the Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG) Voluntary National Reports (VNR) largely allow for a regular follow up of progresses made.

⁶ Here is an WHO updated statistic overview of causes of death due to injury and violence (2019-2022):

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240047136>

⁷ Our previous submission is here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/uprer-stakeholders-info-s32>

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/vu-index>. Including following our oral statement at the Human Rights Council <https://nonkilling.org/center/nonkilling-monitoring-programs/nonkilling-activity-at-the-un/> (Vanuatu).

⁹ [https://fiu.gov.vu/docs/Penal%20Code%20\[Cap%20135\].pdf](https://fiu.gov.vu/docs/Penal%20Code%20[Cap%20135].pdf)

¹⁰ https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-10&chapter=18&clang=_en