

HRCM Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the Maldives, April –May 2015 (22nd session) September 2014



Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM)

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) was first established under Presidential Decree on December 10, 2003. On August 18, 2005, the Human Rights Commission Act was ratified, thereby making the HRCM the first independent and autonomous statutory body in the Maldives. The amendments brought to the Human Rights Commission Act in August 2006 broadened the mandate and powers of the HRCM, making it compliant with the Paris Principles. With the ratification of the Constitution in August 2008, the HRCM was made an independent and autonomous constitutional body.

The HRCM currently holds 'B' status with the International Co-ordination Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) and is an Associate Member of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).

In December 2007, the HRCM was designated by a Presidential Decree as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (OPCAT). As prescribed under the OPCAT, the HRCM was designated as the NPM in legislation with the ratification of the Anti-torture Act in December 2013.

The report focuses on prominent human rights issues faced, along with the implementation status of the recommendations from the 1st UPR review. Accordingly report outlines on 18 thematic areas which comprises of civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Each thematic area is concluded by recommendations. Report was compiled based on information received from the relevant stakeholders including government authorities, institutions, civil society in addition to existing in-house monitoring and data. In addition, HRCM also conducted a series of meetings in the past three months to facilitate constructive dialogue on the implementation of the recommendations. HRCM is represented in the steering committee established by the government during the first UPR review. Regrettably, this committee failed to fulfil its intended obligation.

Abbreviations

DV	Domestic Violence
FPA	Family Protection Authority
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HRCM	Human Rights Commission of the Maldives
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
LRA	Labour Relations Authority
MLG	Ministry of Law and Gender
MoE	Ministry of Education
MPS	Maldives Police Service
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
TM	Transparency Maldives
UN	United Nations