

Oceania Human Rights
Imagination Immersion Implementation
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Papua New Guinea should build on its record of ratification of international human rights instruments. Oceania Human Rights applauds its role as a leader of ratification in the Pacific region. The recent ratification of the UN the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is applauded. We call for ratification of the remaining core international human rights instruments. The overdue reports for the UN core human rights treaty bodies to express its commitment to human rights in Papua New Guinea. In preparation of the state reports, civil society should be consulted and input included. We also believe the ratification of Optional Protocols will cultivate a culture of human rights where impacted individuals and concerned communities can raise specific cases to the international committees can be reviewed.

Papua New Guinea should participate more actively in the three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council every year. Oceania Human Rights encourages Papua New Guinea to invite the UN Human Rights Council special procedures to be issued a standing invitation. The visits of special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups can create the opportunity to organize communities in conversation and national discussions to promote and protect human rights in Solomon Islands. Also, the reports submitted after the visit can provide roadmap to realize human rights.

Oceania Human Rights is concerned with the death penalty practice in Papua New Guinea. Unfortunately, since the past UPR, PNG has moved in the wrong direction on this important issue. PNG expanded eligible crimes for the death penalty. Oceania Human Rights calls for the implementation of an immediate moratorium.

Human rights and business is a major concern in Papua New Guinea. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reports on extractive industries should guide the current practices by multinational corporations inside Papua New Guinea to guarantee the human rights of indigenous peoples are respected. The indigenous peoples right to land must be a priority. Oceania Human Rights also calls for the creation of a National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights with involvement of indigenous peoples communities in consultations.

Climate Change and Human Rights must be a priority for Papua New Guinea. Oceania Human Rights calls for continued campaigns to respect human rights in responding to climate change. The right of self-determination is foremost regarding climate change for the foreseeable future. However, the imminent human right to water, food and health deserve immediate initiatives from international advocacy by the diplomatic corp to island wide initiatives that protect human rights. The Cateret Islanders situation should continue to be reviewed and the relocation must be rooted in human rights. We also believe that PNG can offer lessons to the Pacific Island neighbors regarding climate

change.

Human Rights Education shall be a priority in all educational institutions from elementary to the University of Papua New Guinea. We believe comprehensive and creative education curriculum can inspire Papua New Guinea citizens to continue to improve daily living and enrich spirit of solidarity. A national conference on human rights education will allow to assess the current best practices and also share ideas for new initiatives. We encourage creation of a certificate and move toward a degree at the University of Papua New Guinea in human rights, peace and democracy.

Oceania Human Rights and Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights remain committed to peace in the Pacific Islands. OceaniaHR and HIHR offer cooperation to coordinate any conferences as well as assist in creation of training programs to promote human rights in Papua New Guinea. OceaniaHR and HIHR also offer volunteer services toward ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments.