SOUTH AFRICA





HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF RESPONSE

Relevance of human rights recommendations in responding to the pandemic

OHCHR aims to put human rights at the heart of the response of States, UN partners, civil society and the private sector to COVID-19. It focuses on supporting six priority areas: 1. Respect for all human rights and addressing specific issues which might be less visible or more sensitive; 2. Vulnerable people and groups; 3. Participation, inclusion and access to information; 4. Economic and social rights; 5. Integrating human rights into the UN system response; and 6. UN Human Rights Mechanisms contribution to COVID-19 response.

The graph shows recommendations addressed to South Africa by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms: the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures mandate holders and the Treaty Bodies in the 5 years prior to the pandemic, which OHCHR assesses as particularly relevant in responding to the pandemic in an inclusive and sustainable way. All recommendations addressed to South Africa can be found at the Universal Human Rights Index at https://uhri.ohchr.org/.

Eradicate poverty and improve people's living standards

Ensure effective access to social protection for vulnerable groups

Raise the national minimum wage and regularly adjust it to the cost of living

Combat corruption

(CESCR; CRC; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)



Adopt framework legislation protecting the right to adequate food and nutrition

Eradicate child food insecurity and malnutrition

(CESCR; CRC)



Improve the access and quality of health services across the country

Eliminate the disparity in health-care provision between rural and urban areas

Reduce infant and child mortality

(CRC; CESCR; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)





Improve the access and quality of education, including for children in rural areas and with disabilities and albinism

Prioritize the retention of girls in schools

(CRC; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)

Improve conditions in detention centres and avoid overcrowding

Prevent law enforcement and security forces from using excessive force

Protect freedoms of expression and information, association and peaceful assembly

Combat corporal punishment, and harmful traditional, customary or religious practices

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG **INSTITUTIONS**

(CCPR; CESCR; CAT; CERD; SR VAVV; IE on albinism; UPR)

Provide adequate social housing, including in urban areas and informal settlements

Prevent forced evictions, including of indigenous peoples, and provide effective remedies to the victims

(CESCR; CRC; UPR)





GENDER EQUALITY 5

Eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls, including in informal settlements

Ensure accountability of perpetrators, and redress and means of protection for victims, including shelters

Promote women's empowerment and gender equality

(CCPR; CAT; CRPD; SR VAVV; IE on albinism; UPR)



Enable all households, schools and health centres to have access to safe drinking water and sanitation (CRC; UPR)

Combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Combat and investigate hate crimes and hate speech, and prosecute perpetrators

(CCPR; CERD; SR VAVV; UPR)





LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Protect LGBTI persons and persons with albinism against stigmatization, violence, harassment and discrimination

Ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities

Ensure that people living with HIV have access to affordable antiretroviral drugs

Ensure access to basic services for toreigners, migrants and asylum seekers

(CCPR; CESCR; CERD; CRPD; IE on albinism; UPR)



Reduce unemployment, regulate the informal economy and combat child labour

Improve access by young people and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, to decent

Close the gender pay gap and address vertical and horizontal segregation

(CESCR; CRC; CRPD; SR VAVV; UPR)