

Grounding the Global:
A Guide to Successful Engagement with the UN Special
Procedures Mechanism

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¹ The overall framework of this information is framed based on the three documents: (i) Background Material on the UN Special Procedures and the SRVAW mandate prepared by the OHCHR; (ii) Standpoint Viewpoint: Guidelines for Regional Consultations with the UN SRVAW, APWLD (2003); and (iii) 15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences (1994-2009) – A critical review.

History of APWLD and the UN Special Procedures Mechanism

In 1985, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) was established with the belief that equality, development and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and articulate solutions. For over 25 years, APWLD has been empowering women to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development. Today, APWLD is at the forefront in promoting, protecting and fulfilling women's human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and other relevant international human rights instruments.

In 1993, APWLD's network members were part of a lobby group that advocated at the UN Conference on Human Rights, for the creation of a new mechanism within the UN system to address violence against women, its root causes and consequences. One year later in 1994, the UN Commission on Human Rights (Human Rights Council since 2006) appointed Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy to the newly created position of UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences (UN SRVAW).

APWLD began holding Asia Pacific Regional Consultations with the UNSRVAW in 1995 with the intention to facilitate the flow of information between women from Asia Pacific and the SRVAW. The annual Consultation has since evolved into a space for women in the Asia Pacific to have direct interaction with the UN Special Procedures mandate holders, including but not limited to the SRVAW, establishing a space to strengthen women's advocacy, networking and voice.

The Special Procedures of the United Nations have often been referred to as the 'eyes and ears' of the Human Rights Council. Without the Special Mechanisms the eyes of the Council fix mainly on State representatives and the ears are filled with carefully orchestrated statements on the efforts of states to meet human rights obligations. Non Government Organisations (NGOs) with the resources and means to travel to Geneva do their best to be seen and heard but the limitations of the inter-governmental system mean they rarely move from the peripheral vision of the Council members.

The Special Mechanisms move the line of sight from States to people, to civil society, to the structural causes of violations. However the limitations of the mandate allow for limited country visits (generally only two per year) and require a state to invite the Special Rapporteurs. The annual regional consultation with the UNSRVAW, facilitated by APWLD, magnifies the vision and amplifies the hearing of the Council.

The consultations allow us to think, discuss and voice our collective anger about the causes of women's inequality in the Asia Pacific without the constraints and rules of treaty bodies. They place women and women's rights organisations at the heart of the conversation, not on the periphery as observers. The consultations give women the opportunity to tell their stories of pain, of courage, of success and of repression in a supportive environment, but an environment that matters to the 'ears' of the Human Rights Council.

The consultations have reinforced the special procedures mechanism by providing critical information on women’s political, social, cultural and economic realities as well as firsthand testimonials from specific cases in the Asia Pacific region, not otherwise available to the special procedures. The consultations give women a rare opportunity to have their voices heard at the UN by having direct, face-to-face access to the mandate holders.

‘Having direct contact with the UNSRs is a powerful agent of change and hope for indigenous women. We were heard, our issues and concerns were tabled in the presence of UNSRs and regional leaders. As a country represented for the first time, we have gained so much. We are now equipped and have established linkages with our friends, the SRs and the world. Now we know how and where to start in leading and representing our indigenous women and peoples.’

A participant to the 2009 consultation from Papua New Guinea

Recently, APWLD has engaged with other Special Rapporteurs whose mandates intersect with the annual theme of our consultations. This collaboration has resulted in the expansion of gender and women’s human rights concerns into other mandates.²

The Impact of APWLD Consultations with the Special Procedures Mandate Holders

Some of the notable successes of APWLD’s consultations with the UN Special Procedures mandate holders include:

1. The recognition of specific forms of violence against women as human rights concerns including:

- a. *Honour Killings:*

This extreme form of violence against women and girls was addressed in the report of the SRVAW (1999) with the critical information provided by women’s groups from Pakistan through the consultations. Women’s rights groups from Pakistan used the findings of the report in support of their existing campaign to raise public pressure internationally and nationally. The inclusion of honour killings in the SR’s report strengthened international reference points for the local campaign and aided in putting it on the global women’s rights agenda.

² In 2004, APWLD held a regional consultation on ‘Interlinkages between Violence Against Women and Women’s Right to Adequate Housing,’ in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Mr. Miloon Kothari. In 2008, with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. S. James Anaya, on ‘Violence against Indigenous Women in Asia Pacific.’ In 2009, with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr. Jorge Bustamante and the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian on ‘Demanding protection for foreign domestic workers and all women migrants.’

b. *Comfort Women:*

Since the early 1990's, survivors of the Japanese military sexual slavery, or 'comfort women' have come forward to bear witness and mobilise international public opinion, asking for an official apology and reparations. Networking with women facilitated the SRVAW's visit to Asia to thoroughly investigate the situation by collecting evidence as well as by hearing the testimonies of various women. The SRVAW's report to the Commission on Human Rights which urged the Government of Japan to comply with its responsibilities under international human rights and humanitarian laws and provide reparations to the survivors itself was an important form of rehabilitation to those who were being silenced for so long.

2. Joint consultations with the SRVAW and other mandate holders contributed to the recognition of an intersectional approach to address multiple forms discrimination:

- a. The consultation with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing (2004) led to mandate holders including the impact of gender-based discrimination and violence against women on women's equal right to adequate housing in Asia-Pacific in his report. It assisted in broadening the equality and non-discrimination principles enshrined in CEDAW.
- b. Substantial work with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders established a framework understanding and articulating the specific risks and vulnerabilities faced by women human rights defenders (WHRDs). It brought international visibility and momentum for gender-specific redress and protection to WHRDs.
- c. The joint consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (2008) revealed the importance of adopting an intersectional approach (particularly gender, poverty, class/caste, rural location and nationality) to address violence against indigenous women.

3. National laws and policies have been altered as a result of the consultations:

a. *Indonesia – Domestic Violence Act (2004)*

As a result of the media attention given to the consultation and the SRVAW's recommendations to government, Indonesian women's organisations were able to lobby the government to push through the Domestic Violence Act, which was enacted in late 2004.

- b. *Thailand – Criminalisation of Marital Rape (2007)*
As a result of the Consultation, the Minister responsible for women’s affairs declared that he would push to amend legislation in Thailand since 2007.
- c. *Mongolia – National Action Plan on combating Domestic Violence (2007)*
Following the Consultation, the SRVAW met with Mongolian government representatives who made a commitment to adopt a National Action Plan on combating domestic violence. This plan was adopted and approved on the 12th of September 2007. The SRVAW’s visit to Mongolia also had an impact on the Judiciary’s implementation and interpretation of the new Domestic Violence Legislation.
- d. *Thailand – changes to immigration detention centre polices (2009)*
Following the Consultation, participants had a meeting with a Commissioner from the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand to address the issues of sexual harassment and violence in immigration centres. As a follow up action, the Commissioner initiated a meeting with Thai NGO’s and representatives from Immigration Office, which resulted in a commitment to place women assistants in replacement of the current male assistants to the Immigration Officers. It is expected that this action will lead to the reduction of rights violations including sexual violence in immigration and to develop gender-sensitive policies in immigration detention centres.

4. Consultations have led to the formation of important networks and institutions:

- a. *Indonesia – establishment of the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan)*
APWLD facilitated the first SRVAW’s visit to Indonesia in 1998. Local women’s groups translated and popularised the report of the SRVAW, which addressed the use of rape as an instrument of torture and intimidation by certain elements of the Indonesian army in Aceh, Irian Jaya and East Timor, to publicise human rights violations of the Indonesian government and its military troops nationally and internationally. This led to the establishment of the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) which remains a vital institution to address violence against women as a form of discrimination against women.
- b. *International Campaign on women human rights defenders (WHRDs)*
In 2003, APWLD, together with Amnesty International and International Women’s Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific, organised a regional consultation with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders,

where the issue of women as human rights defenders was first introduced and discussed. In 2005, the International Campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) was launched, with the 29th of November designated as International Day for WHDRs in recognition of their important role in advocating for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

Limitations of the Consultations

a. Acceptability of the Mandate Holders' Findings and Recommendations

On occasion, the information gap between the APWLD consultations and the UNSRVAW reports resulted in women's groups not accepting the findings and recommendations of the UNSRVAW. This is evident in the participants' response to the 2000 UNSRVAW report, which focused on the issue of trafficking in the Asia Pacific Region. The participants noted that despite the wide consultations, the diversity of opinions among NGO's working to address trafficking was not reflected in the UNSRVAW's report. Women's groups in the Philippines for instance, were unable to use the report to advocate against trafficking in their country.

Interestingly, the consultations that followed after the release of the 2000 report gave space for women's groups to question the UNSRVAW on why she had not included the divergent views in her report; and gave the UNSRVAW an opportunity to explain her position. In spite of the difference of opinions, the dialogue aided the collective conceptualisation of trafficking, as well as the strategies to address it.

There are occasions where states do not accept the findings in the Special Rapporteur's report, particularly where the UNSRVAW challenged states for their violations of women's rights. An example of this was the Japanese Government's rejection of the UNSRVAW's findings on the violations to 'comfort women'.

b. Lack of Implementation by States of the Mandate Holders' Recommendations

Another limitation is the lack of implementation by States of the recommendations made by the mandate holders in their reports. To some extent, this is due to States not sufficiently acknowledging the importance of the findings and recommendations of mandate holders. This could stem from the fact that States do not view these as binding recommendations. Women's rights groups could play an important role in strengthening the impetus on States to respond to the mandate holders' recommendations by pressuring their respective governments to implement the recommendations. The role of women's rights groups in this respect is particularly important given the mandate holders' lack of resources to monitor State implementation and their due diligence obligation.

c. Access to the Reports of Mandate Holders

One of the limitations affecting women's rights and other civil society groups is a lack of access to the mandate holders' reports. Increased accessibility to mandate holders' reports will assist national and local women's rights groups to use them in their advocacy work.

Despite these limitations the annual consultations provide an important forum for women from the region to contribute to the mandates of the Special Procedures by detailing the regional specificities of rights violations and inequality that women experience. They provide a unique opportunity for women to collaborate with other women's rights activists in the region and have become an integral part of the SRVAW's working methods, creating a model for other regions to engage with the special procedures. This has led to the organisation of regional consultations in Africa, Central Asia and Europe to communicate region-specific concerns to the SRVAW, as well as acting as a framework for other mandate holders to engage with civil society in various regions.³

³ 15 years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (1994-2009) – A Critical Review (2009), pp.6-7.

APWLD Regional Consultations with the UN Special Procedures mandate holders

Year	Place	Theme
1995	Colombo, Sri Lanka	UNSRVAW's First Report (with SRVAW)
1997	Colombo, Sri Lanka	State Violence and Violence Against Women in Situations of Armed Conflict/ Trafficking (with SRVAW)
1998	Colombo, Sri Lanka	State Policies in Relation to Domestic Violence (with SRVAW)
1999	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Trafficking, Social and Economic Policies that Constitute to VAW/ Honour Killings (with SRVAW)
2000	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Women in Armed Conflict / Trafficking in Women (with SRVAW)
2001	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Women in Armed Conflict, Family Violence and Cultural Forms of Violence (with SRVAW)
2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Violence Against Women: Developments in the Asia Pacific Region, 1995 – 2002 (with SRVAW)
2003	New Delhi, India	Interlinkages between Violence Against Women and Women's Right to Adequate Housing (with SRVAW)
2003	Bangkok, Thailand	Trends in the situation of human rights defenders: focused discussion on women human rights defenders (with SRSG on HRDs)
2004	Jakarta, Indonesia	Sexuality and Violence Against Women (with SRVAW)
2005	Bangkok, Thailand	Access to Justice: Holding the State Accountable for Violence Against Women by Non-State Actors (with SRVAW)
2006	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Intersection between Culture and Violence Against Women (with SRVAW)
2007	Manila, Philippines	Political Economy, Globalisation and Militarisation (with SRVAW)
2008	New Delhi, India	Violence against Indigenous Women <i>(Joint Consultation with the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, and on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people)</i>
2008	Manila, Philippines	Demanding Protection for Foreign Domestic Workers and All Women Migrants <i>(Joint Consultation with the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of migrants, and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences)</i>
2008	Bangkok, Thailand	Situation in Women Human Rights Defenders in Asia Pacific: Commemorating the 3 rd International WHRD Day (with SR on HRDs)
2009	Bangkok, Thailand	Violations of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights (with SRVAW)
2010	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Intersectionality: the Multiple Dimensions of Women's Equality (with SRVAW)

1. What are Special Procedures?

“Special procedures” is the general name given to the mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights and later the Human Rights Council, to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Currently, there are 33 **thematic** and 8 **country** mandates. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provides these mechanisms with personnel, logistical and research assistance to support them in the discharge of their mandates.

Special procedure mandates usually call on mandate holders to examine, monitor, advise and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries or territories (referred to as country mandates), or on major phenomena of human rights violations worldwide (referred to as thematic mandates). Special procedures are either an individual (bearing the title of “Special Rapporteur”, “Special Representative of the Secretary-General”, “Representative of the Secretary-General” or “Independent Expert”) or a working group usually composed of five members (one from each region).

The mandates of the special procedures are established and defined by the resolution creating them. Mandate-holders of the special procedures serve in their personal capacity, and do not receive salaries or any other financial compensation for their work. The independent status of the mandate-holders is crucial in order to be able to fulfil their functions in all impartiality. A mandate-holder’s tenure in a given function, whether a thematic or a country mandate, will be no longer than six years (two terms of three years for thematic mandate-holders).

2. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1994/45, adopted on 4 March 1994, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and consequences. The mandate was assumed by the Human Rights Council pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 2006 and Human Rights Council decision 2006/102. In March 2011, the mandate was extended for a period of three years by Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/16/L.26).

⁴ The overall framework of this information is framed based on the three documents: (i) Background Material on the UN Special Procedures and the SRVAW mandate prepared by the OHCHR; (ii) Standpoint Viewpoint: Guidelines for Regional Consultations with the UN SRVAW, APWLD (2003); and (iii) 15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences (1994-2009) – A critical review.

Her framework for VAW

In their reports, the Special Rapporteurs have elaborated on the forms of violence as follows:

- Violence in the family – domestic violence including, battering, marital rape, incest; forced prostitution by the family; violence against domestic workers and the girl-child (non-spousal violence, violence relate to exploitation); sex-selective abortion and infanticide; traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, son preference, early marriage, dowry-related violence, and religious or customary laws
- Violence in the community – such as rape and sexual assault; sexual harassment; violence within institutions; trafficking for purposes of forced prostitution or domestic labour; violence against women migrant workers; and pornography
- Violence perpetrated or condoned by the state – such as gender-based violence women in situations of armed conflict; custodial violence; violence against refugees and internally displaced persons; and violence against indigenous and minority groups.⁵

According to her mandate, the Special Rapporteur is requested to:

(a) Seek and receive information on violence against women, its causes and consequences, from Governments, treaty bodies, specialised agencies, other Special Rapporteurs responsible for various human rights questions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including women’s organisations, and to respond effectively to such information;

(b) Recommend measures, ways and means, at the local, national, regional and international levels, to eliminate violence against women and its causes, and to remedy its consequences;

(c) Work closely with other special procedures and human rights mechanisms of the Council and with the treaty bodies, taking into account the request of the Council that they regularly and systematically integrate the human rights of women and a gender perspective into their work, and cooperate closely with the Commission on the Status of Women in the discharge of its functions;

(d) Adopt a comprehensive and universal approach to the elimination of violence against women, its causes and consequences, including causes of violence against women related to the civil, cultural, economic, political and social spheres.

The definition of violence against women used by the Special Rapporteur follows the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104 on December 1993.⁶

⁵ Yakin Ertürk in her first report to the CHR, suggested adding the “transitional arena”, which, due to globalisation and increased transnational processes, has emerged as a fourth level where women are encountering new vulnerabilities.

⁶ The definition of violence against women: any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

In the discharge, of the mandate the Special Rapporteur:

- ***Submits annual thematic reports to the Human Rights Council***

The Special Rapporteur has been asked to submit an annual report on the activities undertaken and themes analysed under the mandate to the Human Rights Council. The thematic reports in the last several years have focused on the following topics: reparations to women who have been subjected to violence (2010); political economy and violence against women (2009); indicators on violence against women and State response to it (2008); the relationship between culture and violence against women (2007); the due diligence obligation to prevent and combat violence against women (2006); and intersections between HIV/AIDS and violence against women (2005). In addition to her thematic report, in 2009 the Special Rapporteur also issued a critical review of the 15 years of work of the mandate.⁷ The Special Rapporteur's thematic report for 2011 explores the issue of intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination in the context of violence against women. In 2012 we are likely to see the mandate's report focus on the application by states of the "due diligence" framework to eliminate VAW.

In each report, the UNSRVAW spells out the elements of the problem, identifies the legal standards, and provides a general survey of incidents and issues (which include investigated factual situations). Her report also makes recommendations to states, inter-governmental and NGO's for addressing the issues of VAW. For specific concerns, country visits, or communications with governments, the UNSRVAW includes an addendum to her report.

TIPS

Women's human rights advocates can assist this process by sharing information on laws and practices that are effective in promoting state accountability, as well as reporting patterns of widespread impunity. All information for the UNSRVAW is submitted before the month of November, allowing the UNSRVAW ample time to incorporate the information in her report. Submissions can be sent by mail or fax to: Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR-UNOG, United Nations, 1211 Geneva 10. Switzerland, (Fax:(004122) 917 9006), email:urgent-action@ohchr.org.

Her report is submitted to the Human Rights Council Secretariat in the month of April of the following year. She presents her report in June annually to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Copies of all the UNSRVAW reports and other relevant documents are available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/>

⁷ A/HRC/11/6/Add.5, 15 Years of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (1994-2009) – A critical review.

- **Undertakes fact-finding country visits**

Mandate holders also carry out 2 or 3 **country visits** ('field missions') a year to investigate the situation of human rights at the national level. These country visits can be carried out separately or jointly with other special rapporteurs or working groups. Mandate holders typically send a letter to the Government requesting to visit the country, and, if the Government agrees, an invitation to visit is extended. Some countries have issued a "**standing invitation**", which is an open invitation extended by a Government to all thematic special procedures. By extending a standing invitation States announce that they will always accept requests to visit from all special procedures. As of June 2010, a total of 73 countries had extended a standing invitation to thematic procedures, only 4 of which are from the broader **Asia region**, namely Iran, Mongolia, South Korea, and Kazakhstan.

During such missions, the experts assess the general human rights situation in a given country, as well as the specific institutional, legal, judicial, administrative and **de facto** situation under their respective mandates. During the country visit the experts will meet with national and local authorities, including members of the judiciary and parliamentarians; members of the national human rights institution, if applicable; non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and victims of human rights violations; the UN and other inter-governmental agencies; and the press when giving a press-conference at the end of the mission. After their visits, special procedures mandate-holders issue a mission report containing their findings and recommendations. Reports on country visits are also presented to sessions to the Human Rights Council as addenda to the annual thematic reports.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women has also conducted some country visits jointly with other mandate holders or in collaboration with other regional bodies and mechanisms. Examples include: the joint mission to Moldova with Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in July 2008; the mission to Darfur with the Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; and the joint visit to Turkey in November 2008 with the European Parliament's Rapporteur on Women's Rights.

Since the inception of the mandate in 1994, the Special Rapporteur has visited and issued country reports on a total of 35 countries, 11 of which are in the broader **Asia- Pacific region**. They include: Iran (February 2005); Bangladesh, Nepal and India (November 2000); Indonesia and East Timor (November 1998, and follow up visit to East Timor in April 1999); and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea and Japan (July 1995). More recently the Special Rapporteur also conducted country visits to the Central Asia region, namely to Tajikistan (May 2008) and the Kyrgyz Republic (November 2009).

Terms of Reference for Fact-finding missions by Special Procedures

The terms of reference for country visits were adopted at the fourth annual meeting of the special rapporteurs (E/CN.4/1998/45) and are intended to guide Governments in the conduct of the visit. During fact-finding missions, special procedures mandate holders as well as United Nations staff accompanying them, should be given the following guarantees and facilities by the Government that invited them to visit its country:

- (a) Freedom of movement in the whole country, including facilitation of transport, in particular to restricted areas;
- (b) Freedom of inquiry;⁸
- (c) Assurance by the Government that persons, whether officials or private individuals, who have been in contact with the special rapporteur/representative in relation to the mandate, will not, as a result, suffer threats, harassment or punishment or be subjected to judicial proceedings;
- (d) Appropriate security arrangements without, however, restricting the freedom of movement and inquiry referred to above;
- (e) Extension of the same guarantees and facilities mentioned above to the appropriate United Nations staff who will assist the Special Rapporteur before, during and after the visit.

TIP

Women's rights groups can encourage the SRVAW to conduct a country visit in their country by both a. writing to the SRVAW and suggesting she seek approval to conduct a country visit and;
b. lobbying your government to invite the SRVAW to conduct a country visit.

- ***Transmits communications to Member States on reported human rights violations***

The Special Rapporteur transmits urgent appeals and allegation letters (communications) to States addressing reported individual cases and general situations of concern to her mandate.

The communications, always sent with the victim's consent, are based on reliable and credible information received from governments, intergovernmental organisations or civil society.

The dialogue established with governments by the Special Rapporteur and the transmission of allegations concerning their countries in no way implies any kind of accusation or value judgment on the part of the Special Rapporteur, but rather a request for clarification that aims to ensure, in cooperation with the government concerned, the effective prevention, investigation, and punishment of acts of violence against women as well as compensation for victims of such violations.

⁸ In particular as regards:

- (i) Access to all prisons, detention centres and places of interrogation;
- (ii) Contacts with central and local authorities of all branches of government;
- (iii) Contacts with representatives of non-governmental organizations, other private institutions and the media;
- (iv) Confidential and unsupervised contact with witnesses and other private persons, including persons deprived of their liberty, considered necessary to fulfil the mandate of the special rapporteur; and
- (v) Full access to all documentary material relevant to the mandate.

Summaries of all communications sent by the Special Rapporteur and government responses received are published in addenda to the annual thematic reports.

Communications sent by special procedures to States in the Asia Pacific Region during the last 5 years:

During the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008, 1818 communications were sent to countries in the Asia-Pacific region by special procedures (34 % of total communications). Of these 18.1 % of the cases concerned women.⁹ Approximately during the same period of 5 years,¹⁰ the VAW mandate itself transmitted a total of 222 communications to 24 Member States in the Asia-Pacific region.¹¹

VAW communications sent between 1 March 2009 and 20 March 2010:

In 2009, a total 689 communications were sent by special procedures as a whole to Governments in 119 countries. 66% of these were joint communications of two or more mandate holders.¹²

Between 1 March 2009 and 20 March 2010, the VAW mandate itself sent 38 communications to 28 Member States.¹³ Of these 8 countries were from the broad **Asia region** and included India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and the Philippines. These communications addressed a wide variety of issues and forms of violence against women, inter alia: failure to prevent and respond to VAW with due diligence; sexual violence and other forms of VAW amounting to torture or ill-treatment; violence against women human rights defenders; violence against women facing multiple and intersecting layers of discrimination; and discriminatory legislation.

The mandate issues most of its communications jointly with other mandates. Indeed during this period, 34 out of the 38 communications were sent jointly with other mandate holders, including the mandate on the situation of human rights defenders, freedom of expression, torture, and freedom of opinion and expression. In each of the communications, the Special Rapporteur has asked Governments to respond to a detailed set of questions in order to clarify the allegations submitted. Of the 28 States concerned, only 14 Governments responded to communications sent by the VAW mandate during that period.

9 SPD information coordination and management unit, "Special Procedures and the Asia-Pacific region", January 2009, p. 1.

10 More precisely from 1 January 2004 - 31 March 2009.

11 A large percentage of these communications were sent to the following countries, inter alia : Pakistan, China, Iran, Nepal, India, Myanmar, Philippines, and Bangladesh. Communications were also sent to other countries such as Fiji, Australia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, amongst others.

12 United Nations Special Procedures, Facts and Figures 2008, OHCHR, p.7.

13 See A/HRC/14/22/Add.1, Communications to and from Governments.

- *Participates in consultations with civil society*

Consultations with civil society have become an integral part of the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences. Regional and national consultations provide important input into the work of the Special Rapporteur by highlighting regional and national specificities, and provide an opportunity for women's groups from a specific region/country to inform the Special Rapporteur of the violations of women's rights occurring in their region/country. In addition, some consultations have focused on discussions around the elected topic of the Special Rapporteur's annual report to the UN Human Rights Council.

Consultations with civil society also allow NGOs to become familiar with opportunities the Special Rapporteur's mandate offers in advancing their national and regional initiatives. The Special Rapporteur is grateful to those NGOs taking the lead in organising these consultations and encourages them to provide reports on the findings of the consultations or other outcomes documents.

Recent consultations:

- Asia Pacific Regional Consultation coordinated by APWLD and WAO "The Multiple Dimensions of Women's Equality", Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (11-12 January 2011); National Consultation on violence against women, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (13 January 2011).
- First ever Regional Consultation with NGOs from Central America and the Caribbean, in San Salvador, El Salvador (March 2010) - on Violence against women in Central America and the Caribbean.
- Africa Regional Consultation on sexual violence against women and girls, including in times of peace, Lusaka, Zambia, January 2010.
- Asia Pacific Regional Consultation organised by **APWLD** "My Body, My Life, My Rights: Addressing Violations of Women's Sexual Rights and Reproductive Rights", Bangkok, Thailand: 7-8 December 2009.
- Africa Regional Consultation on Violence against Women in the Context of Conflict in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya, December 5-6, 2008. Held jointly with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.
- Regional and National Asia-Pacific consultation organised by **APWLD and MASUM**, New Delhi, India, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples (October 2008) – on violence against indigenous women.
- Regional and national consultations with NGOs from the CIS/Eastern Europe region, St-Petersburg (September 2008).
- Regional and National Asia-Pacific consultation organized by **APWLD and WLB**, in Manila, Philippines (September 2007) – on political economy, globalisation and militarisation.
- Regional Consultation with women's organizations from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in Tbilisi, Georgia (May 2007) – themes discussed included violence in times of armed conflict, domestic violence and trafficking.
- Regional Consultation with European NGOs in London, United Kingdom (January 2007) – discussions focused on domestic violence and the situation of immigrant and refugee women.
- Regional and National Asia-Pacific consultation organized by **APWLD and NCAV**, in Ulanbatur, Mongolia (September 2006) – on the intersections between culture and violence against women.

- Africa Regional and National Consultations, Khartoum, Sudan, September 2004 – discussions focused on a wide range of issues, from harmful traditional practices to violence against women in situations of armed conflict. Held jointly with the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on women’s rights in Africa.

Special Rapporteurs on VAW :

- Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), 1994 – July 2003
Ms. Coomaraswamy, a lawyer by training and formerly the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, is an internationally known human rights advocates who has done outstanding work as the 1st SRVAW. Ms. Coomaraswamy was a director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka, leading research projects in the field of ethnicity, women and human rights. She was a founding member of APWLD. She served as a member of the Global Faculty of the New York University School of Law. She currently holds the position of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict since April 2006.
- Dr. Yakin Ertürk (Turkey), August 2003 – July 2009
Dr. Ertürk has been on the faculty of the Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, since 1986. She also taught at the Centre for Girls, at King Saud University in Riyadh (1979-1982) and from 1979 to 1981 served as its Chair. Between 1997 and 2001 she joined the United Nations, serving first as Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Oct.1997- Feb.1999), then as Director of The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) at UN Headquarters in New York (March 1999 – Oct. 2001).
- Ms. Rashida Manjoo (South Africa), since August 2009.
Ms. Manjoo(LLM) is an advocate of the High Court of South Africa and has taught and conducted research at a number of universities. Most recently she was the Des Lee Distinguished Visiting Professor at Webster University, USA where she taught courses in human rights with a particular focus on women’s human rights and transitional justice. She has also served as a clinical instructor and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow with the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School, and is a Research Associate in the Law Faculty of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She is the former Parliamentary Commissioner of the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) and was involved in training programs for judges and lawyers at the Law, Race and Gender Research Unit, University of Cape Town. She is the founder of the Gender Unit at the Law Clinic at the University of Natal and the Domestic Violence Assistance Program at the Durban Magistrates Court (the first such project in a court in South Africa).

For further information about the mandate and all available reports please visit the OHCHR website: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/>

For communications to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, please write to: vaw@ohchr.org

3. Entry Points and Strategies for Civil Society to Engage with Mandate Holders

CSOs are invaluable partners in the work of the Special Procedures mandate holders and the VAW mandate. This is reflected in the longstanding and prominent relationship that the VAW mandate has maintained with NGOs from all regions of the world, including through regular regional consultations such as organised by APWLD. In addition to regional consultations, NGOs are key partners with regard to other regular activities of the mandate, and most notably with regard to communications and country missions. Entry points and strategies outlined below can be used to engage with other mandate holders as well not necessarily limited to the VAW mandate.

Submitting Communications

While some complaints are received directly from individuals affected, the large majority of violations are brought to the attention of the Special Rapporteur by NGOs. This accessible complaint mechanism offers the advantage of not requiring that one exhaust domestic remedies (as Convention Optional Protocols do), and can be used in conjunction with other international mechanisms. Although it is not required to use any particular form in submitting a case, a questionnaire for some mandates is available (form for the VAW mandate is attached as Annex B for this purpose. The minimum information which should be provided in a complaint includes: the identity of the victim, and that of the alleged perpetrator (when known); the identification of the person or organisation submitting the complaint; the date and place of the incident; and a detailed description of the circumstances of the incident in which the violation took place. It is especially vital that NGOs ensure and specify that they have obtained the consent of the victim on behalf of whom they are acting. This means that: the victim is aware and agrees that the NGO sends a case to special procedures on her behalf; is informed that if Special Procedures takes up the case a letter concerning the alleged violation and containing their name will be sent to the government; and a summary of the case will appear in a public report by the Special Rapporteur. In addition to individual cases of human rights violations, the Special Rapporteur on VAW for instance, also considers complaints relating to patterns of violations against women and other situations of concern, such as laws or bills which appear to be in violation of women's rights and likely to lead to VAW.

Cooperation during Country Visits

In the context of country visits, NGOs also play a key role. NGOs can provide suggestions regarding the countries to visit and the timelines of missions, as well as advise on who to meet with, the key issues of concern to women, and the places to visit. In addition, they often assist in the preparation of missions by informing and working with organisations and communities to prepare meetings with the Rapporteur. Country visits offer an important occasion for NGOs not only to voice their concerns, but also their recommendations to the Special Rapporteur. Given the visibility and momentum provided by the Special Rapporteur's visits, they can represent a unique opportunity for NGOs to report on the situation in their countries and promote change. NGOs play a further and critical role in the follow up to the mission, with regard to the dissemination of the Special Rapporteur's report, and the ongoing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of its recommendations. Some NGOs have taken up the practice of reporting annually on the progress made on these recommendations such as in the Philippines on the issues of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and disappearances.

This follow up work by NGOs can also be complemented by their contribution to other human rights processes including, through the submission of NGO reports to treaty bodies such as the Committee to CEDAW and submissions in the context of the universal periodic review (UPR), in which they continue highlighting the situation of human rights and the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.

Influencing Nomination, Selection and Appointment of Mandate Holders

In 1993, APWLD's network members were part of a lobby group that advocated at the UN Conference on Human Rights, for the creation of a new mechanism within the UN system to address violence against women, its root causes and consequences. One year later in 1994, the UN Commission on Human Rights (Human Rights Council since 2006) appointed Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, a founding member of APWLD, to the newly created position of UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences (UN SRVAW). Since then, as part of APWLD's strategy to ensure the UN Special Procedures are responsive to the concerns of women from the region, APWLD has been very actively participating in nomination, selection and appointment of mandate holders. NGOs can play a key role in having a qualified mandate holder who will discharge the mandate in an accountable, independent and effective manner.

a. General criteria

According to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, Annex, the following general criteria will be of paramount importance while nominating, selecting and appointing mandate-holders:

- (a) expertise;
- (b) experience in the field of the mandate;
- (c) independence;
- (d) impartiality;
- (e) personal integrity; and
- (f) objectivity.

Due consideration should be given to gender balance and equitable geographic representation, as well as to an appropriate representation of different legal systems. Eligible candidates are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights (paras. 39-41).

b. Public list of candidates

Further to Council decision 6/102 the OHCHR Secretariat has prepared a standardised form for candidates to fill in. This form is based on the technical and objective requirements stipulated in the decision, so as to facilitate the selection of relevant candidacies from the public list as soon as appointments for particular mandates are necessary. A standardised form can be found at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>.

The OHCHR Secretariat maintains a public list which is regularly updated (as called for in Council resolution 5/1, Annex). The public list of candidates is now available on the Human Rights Council Extranet <http://portal.ohchr.org/portal/page/portal/HRCExtranet/SpecialProcedures>.

c. Who can make nomination?

Those entities which may nominate candidates as special procedures mandate-holders according to Council resolution 5/1, Annex, are:

- (a) Governments;
- (b) Regional Groups operating within the United Nations human rights system;
- (c) international organisations or their offices (e.g. the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights);
- (d) non-governmental organisations;
- (e) other human rights bodies;
- (f) individual nominations (para. 42).

The accomplished form for candidates for Special Procedures mandate holders should be submitted to the Secretariat at the following addresses: hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, (Mailing address: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211, Geneva 10; Fax: +41(0)22 917 9008).

TIPS: You can identify a suitable candidate for the mandate in vacancy and mobilise support from your networks to endorse your candidate. There can be more than two candidates that you are supporting simultaneously as it is critical for women's rights groups to put forward many strong candidates to be shortlisted.

d. List of vacancies

For the Special Procedures mandate holders lists of vacancies, please regularly visit the OHCHR website: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>.

e. Consultative Group recommendations to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Consultative Group, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, submits to the President, 'at least one month before the beginning of the session in which the Council would consider the selection of mandate holders, a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandates in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements'.

TIPS: APWLD finds it powerful to lobby the Consultative Group members by sending a letter with endorsing organisations and individuals listed to support our own candidates. Your letter of support needs to be submitted to the Consultative well in advance so to inform their discussion and consideration of candidates. The information on the members of the Consultative Group can be found at the HRC extranet <http://portal.ohchr.org/portal/page/portal/HRCExtranet/Members-CG>.

f. List of candidates for the Special Procedures mandate holders

On the basis of the recommendations of the consultative group and following broad consultations, in particular through the regional coordinators, the President of the Council will identify an appropriate candidate for each vacancy and presents to member States and observers a list of candidates. The appointment of the special procedures mandate-holders will be completed upon the subsequent approval of the Council.

TIPS:

If your candidate is shortlisted by the Consultative Group, it is advisable to send another letter of support to the Human Rights Council President who will conduct broad consultations with all concerned parties before finalising the appointments. To inform the President's consultations and final process of the selection, APWLD also furnishes a copy of our support letter to the all Permanent Missions in Geneva. For contact information of the Permanent Missions in Geneva, please visit UNOG website [http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600582E34/\(httpPages\)/8CEC446B720477DA80256EF8004CB68C?OpenDocument&expand=1&count=10000](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600582E34/(httpPages)/8CEC446B720477DA80256EF8004CB68C?OpenDocument&expand=1&count=10000)

You can simultaneously ask your network members and partners to contact the Foreign Ministry in their government's capitals or their countries' Ambassadors in Geneva to support your candidate. Your partners can write their own letter or forward the letter you have prepared.

Other related strategies

a. Advocacy

International level

- Promoting individual cases to the attention of the international community, including other NGO's;
- Using the findings and recommendations of the mandate holders' to support claims for States to meet their international obligations;
- Publicising the findings, recommendations and relevant events of the mandate holders at the international level to promote awareness of women's human rights.

National level

- Publicising the findings and recommendations of the mandate holders on violations and necessary actions to take, by informing the media, national officials and other NGOs;
- Lobbying local and national officials for new legislation, policies and amendments to national constitutions, by using the recommendations and legal analyses identified by the mandate holders to support advocacy proposals;
- Using the report and relevant events of the mandate holders to promote awareness of women's human rights;
- Engaging with mandate holders during their country visits and linking them directly with victims and survivors;
- Collate and follow-up on Government's response to issues raised by mandate holders.

b. Research

Providing information (i.e. statistics; law and policies; strategies and best practices; corroborated and accurate cases) for mandate holders' reports.

c. Training

Developing and implementing human rights training programmes for police, military, ministry officials, court officials, health officials, media representatives as well as provide training for women human rights defenders on how to use international human rights mechanisms.

d. Networking

- Advancing issues related in the reports through NGO campaigns;
- Working with mandate holders on issues that impact women and require a gender analysis: addressing intersectionality and integration of gender and women's human rights into the Special Procedures mechanism;
- Building linkages with other NGOs to develop strategies for information sharing with mandate holders.

e. Awareness-raising

- Translating the reports of mandate holders into local languages;
- Accessing mandate holders to ensure that UN processes on women's human rights issues reflect the positions of women's rights movements as well as Governments. To achieve this, information on the Special Procedures needs to be popularised among women's rights groups.

Women's rights groups have been playing a central role in advancing women's human rights by engaging with the mandate holders of the UN Special Procedures. It further contributed to making the UN mechanisms responsive to the women's lived realities. In turn, the work of the Special Procedures can support the work of women's rights groups at the local and national levels, by calling international attention to women's human rights issues.

Glossary of Terms

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. It comprises all 192 members of the United Nations and provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the United Nations Charter. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body as to women's human rights where representatives of member states gather to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is part of the Secretariat of the United Nations and is led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position created in 1993. It is responsible for leading the UN human rights programme and for promoting and protecting all human rights established under the UN charter and international human rights law.

Treaty Bodies

Treaty Bodies (also called 'Committees') are made up of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the UN human rights treaties by State parties. There are currently nine human rights treaty bodies, eight of which monitor the core international human rights treaties while the ninth treaty body, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture is mandated to conduct visits to places where persons may be deprived of their liberty in order to prevent torture. In addition, a tenth treaty body will be established under the Convention on enforced disappearance in 2011.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council, established by General Assembly resolution 60/251, is the principal United Nations inter-governmental body made up of 47 States, responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights world-wide. The Council was created on 15 March 2006 (replacing the former Commission on Human Rights) with the objective of addressing situations of human rights violations and issuing recommendations on them.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process, established by General Assembly resolution 60/261 on March 2006, which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. It is a

cooperative process which, by 2011, will have reviewed the human rights records of every country. The UPR is one of the key elements of the new Council which reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ultimate aim of this new mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.

Special Procedures

Special procedures is the general term used to refer to the mechanisms established by the former Commission on Human Rights and assumed by the Human Rights Council to monitor, advise and publicly report on the human rights situations in specific countries or territories (country mandates) or on a particular phenomena of human rights violations worldwide (thematic mandates). A key feature of the special procedures is their ability to respond rapidly to allegations of human rights violations occurring anywhere in the world at any time.

Special procedures/mandate holders are either an individual (called ‘Special Rapporteur’, ‘Special Representative of the Security-General or ‘Independent Expert’) or a group of individuals (called ‘working group’) that’s usually composed of five members that are drawn from each of the United Nations regional groups: Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and others.

Country Visits

A country or field visit (also referred to as a fact finding mission) is when a mandate holder visits a particular country to investigate the human rights situation at the national level. Usually the mandate holder will send a request to visit the country and if the government agrees, it will respond with an invitation. During the country visit the mandate holder accesses both the general human rights situation in the country as well as the specific institutional, judicial, administrative and de facto situation under their particular mandate. This includes meeting with national authorities, representatives of civil society, victims of human rights violations, the UN country team, academics, the diplomatic community and the media.

Annual Thematic Reports

Annual Thematic Reports are the annual reports submitted by mandate holders to the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken and the themes analysed under the particular mandate. Thematic studies are useful tools to guide Governments as well as civil society on the normative content and implementation of human rights norms and standards.

Communications

Special Procedures can take action on individual cases, based on information that they receive from relevant and credible sources. Interventions are known as “communications” and are usually made in the form of ‘urgent appeals’ or ‘letters of allegation’. *Urgent appeals* are sent when the alleged violations are time-sensitive in terms of involving loss of life, life-threatening situations or

either imminent or ongoing damage of a very grave nature of victims. *Letters of allegation* are sent when the urgent appeal procedure does not apply, to communicate information and request clarification about alleged human rights violations.

Public List of Candidates and List of Vacancies

Based on the nominations received, OHCHR prepares, maintains and periodically updates a public list of eligible candidates. This includes candidates' personal data, areas of expertise and professional experience. OHCHR also publicises all upcoming vacancies of mandates.

Consultative Group

The Consultative Group, with one member from each of the five regional groups, serving in their personal capacity, examines the OHCHR public list and proposes its own list of candidates for the consideration of the President of the Human Rights Council for vacancies of Special Procedures mandates.

Due Diligence

Due diligence refers to the state's obligation to prevent, investigate and punish human rights violations perpetrated by both States and non-state actors.

Annex A

Current Mandate Holders: Thematic Mandates (as of April 2011)

Mandate	Name /Country of Origin of Mandate Holder	Contact
1. SR on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	Ms. Raquel Rolnik (Brazil)	srhousing@ohchr.org
2. Working Group on people of African descent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Maya Sahli (Algeria) ▪ Ms. Monorama Biswas (Bangladesh) ▪ Ms. Verene Shepherd (Jamaica) ▪ Ms. Mireille Fanon Mendes (France) ▪ Ms. Mirjana Najcevska (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) Chairperson-Rapporteur 	africandescent@ohchr.org
3. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow (Senegal) Chairperson-Rapporteur ▪ Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (Pakistan) ▪ Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile) ▪ Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) ▪ Mr. Mads Andenas (Norway) 	wgad@ohchr.org
4. SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Ms. Najat Maalla M'JID (Morocco)	srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org

	Mandate	Name /Country of Origin of Mandate Holder	Contact
5.	Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights	Ms. Farida Shaheed (Pakistan)	ieculturalrights@ohchr.org
6.	SR on the right to education	Mr. Kishore Singh (India)	sreducation@ohchr.org
7.	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Jeremy Sarkin (South Africa) Chairperson-Rapporteur ▪ Mr Ariel Dulitzky (Argentina/United states of America) ▪ Ms. Jazminka Dzumhur (Bosnia and Herzegovina) ▪ Mr. Olivier de Frouville (France) ▪ Mr. Osman El-Hajje (Lebanon) 	wgeid@ohchr.org
8.	SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Mr. Christof Heyns (South Africa)	eje@ohchr.org
9.	Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	Ms. Maria Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona (Chile)	ieextremepoverty@ohchr.org
10.	SR on the right to food	Mr. Oliver de Schutter (Belgium)	srfood@ohchr.org
11.	Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of states on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	Mr. Cephas Lumina (Zambia)	ieforeindebt@ohchr.org
12.	SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Mr. Maina Kiai (Kenya)	
13.	SR on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Mr. Frank La Rue (Guatemala)	freedex@ohchr.org
14.	SR on freedom of religion or belief	Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany)	freedomofreligion@ohchr.org
15.	SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	Mr. Anand Grover (India)	srhealth@ohchr.org
16.	SR on the situation of human rights defenders	Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (Uganda)	defenders@ohchr.org urgent-action@ohchr.org

	Mandate	Name /Country of Origin of Mandate Holder	Contact
17.	SR on the independence of judges and lawyers	Ms. Gabriela Knaul (Brazil)	srindependencej@ohchr.org
18.	SR on the rights of indigenous people	Mr. James Anaya	indigenous@ohchr.org
19.	SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons	Mr. Chaloka Beyani (Zambia)	idp@ohchr.org
20.	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Faiza Patel (Pakistan) ▪ Mr. Alexander Ivanovich Nikitin (Russian Federation) ▪ Mr. Jose Gomez Del Prado (Spain) ▪ Ms. Najat Al-Hajjaji (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) ▪ Ms. Amada Benavides de Perez (Colombia) 	mercenaries@ohchr.org
21.	SR on the human rights of migrants	Mr. Jorge A. Bustamante (Mexico)	migrant@ohchr.org
22.	Independent Expert on minority issues	Ms. Gay McDougall	minorityissues@ohchr.org
23.	SR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	Mr. Githu Muigai (Kenya)	racism@ohchr.org
24.	SR on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences	Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia)	srslavery@ohchr.org
25.	Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki (Indonesia)	iesolidarity@ohchr.org
26.	SR on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism	Mr. Martin Scheinin (Finland)	srct@ohchr.org
27.	SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Mr. Juan Mendez (Argentina)	sr-torture@ohchr.org
28.	SR on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	Mr. Calin Georgescu (Romania)	srtoxicwaste@ohchr.org

Mandate	Name /Country of Origin of Mandate Holder	Contact
29. SR on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (Nigeria)	srtrafficking@ohchr.org
30. Special Representative of the SG on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	Mr. John Ruggie (United States of America)	lwendland@ohchr.org
31. SR on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (Portugal)	iewater@ohchr.org
32. Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice	Ms. Emma Aouij (Tunisia) Ms. Mercedes Barquet (Mexico) Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia) Ms. Frances Raday (Israel/United Kingdom) Ms. Eleonora Zielinska (Poland)	
33. SR on violence against women, its causes and consequences	Ms. Rashida Manjoo (South Africa)	vaw@ohchr.org

Current Mandate Holders: Country Mandates (as of April 2011)

Mandate	Name/Country of Origin of Mandate Holder	Contact
1. Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	Mr. Fatsah Ouguergouz (Algeria)	
2. SR on human rights in Cambodia	Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi (Nepal)	hr-dprk@ohchr.org
3. SR on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mr. Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia)	ie-haiti@ohchr.org
4. Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	Mr. Michel Forst (France)	sr-myanmar@ohchr.org
5. SR on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana (Argentina)	sropt@ohchr.org
6. SR on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	Mr. Richard Falk (United States of America)	ie-somalia@ohchr.org
7. Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	Mr. Shamsul Bari (Bangladesh)	sudan@ohchr.org
8. Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	Mr. Mohamed Chande Othman (Tanzania)	

Annex B

Submission Format for SRVAW

Confidential Violence against Women Information Form

1. PETITIONER: (This information, if taken up by the Special Rapporteur, will remain confidential).

(a) Name of person/ organisation:

.....
.....

(b) relationship to victim(s)

.....
.....

(c) Address:

.....
.....

(d) Fax/tel/e-mail, web-site:

.....
.....

(e) Date petition sent:

.....
.....

(f) Other:

.....
.....

2. ALLEGED INCIDENT

(i) information about the victim(s):

(a) Name:

.....
.....

(b) Sex:

.....
.....

(c) Date of Birth or Age:

.....
.....

(d) Nationality:

.....
.....

(e) Occupation:

.....
.....
.....

(f) Ethnic / religious / social background, if relevant:

.....
.....
.....

(g) Address:

.....
.....
.....

(h) Other relevant information: **(such as passport, identity card number):**

.....
.....
.....

(i) Has the victim(s) given you her consent to send this communication on her behalf?

.....
.....
.....

(j) Has the victim(s) been informed that, if the Special Rapporteur decides to take action on her behalf, a letter concerning what happened to her will be sent to the authorities?

.....
.....
.....

(k) Is the victim(s) aware that, if this communication is taken up, a summary of what happened to her will appear in a public report of the Special Rapporteur?

.....
.....
.....

(l) Would the victim(s) prefer that her full name or merely her initials appear in the public report of the Special Rapporteur?

.....
.....
.....

(Please note that the full names of victims appear in communications with governments unless it is indicated that exposing the victims' names to the government would place the victims at risk of further harm. In the public report, the names of victims under the age of 18 and victims of sexual violence will not be disclosed, but initials will be used)

(ii) information regarding the incident:

(a) Detailed description of human rights violation:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(b) Date:

(c) Time:

(d) Location/country:

(e) Number of assailants:

(f) Are the assailant(s) known or related to the victim? If so, how?

.....
.....
.....

(g) Name or nickname of assailant(s) (if unknown, description, scars or body marks such as tattoos, clothes/uniform worn, title/status, vehicle used):

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(h) Does the victim believe she was specifically targeted because of her sex?
If yes, why?

.....
.....
.....

(i) Has the incident been reported to the relevant State authorities? If so, which authorities?

.....
.....
.....

When?

.....
.....
.....

(j) Have the authorities taken any action after the incident?

.....
.....
.....

If so, which authorities?

.....
.....
.....

What action?

.....
.....
.....

When?

.....
.....
.....

(l) If the violation was committed by private individuals or groups (rather than government officials), include any information which might indicate that the Government failed to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish, and ensure compensation for the violations.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(m) Has the victim seen a doctor after the incident took place? Are there any medical certificates/notes relating to the incident concerned?

.....
.....
.....

(iii) Laws or policies which are or are likely to cause or contribute to violence against women

(a) If your submission concerns a law or policy, please summarize it and the effects of its implementation on women’s human rights. Provide concrete examples, when available.

.....
.....
.....

Please inform the Special Rapporteur of any further information which becomes available after you have submitted this form, including if your concern has been adequately addressed, or a final outcome has been determined in an investigation or trial, or an action which was planned or threatened has been carried out.

PLEASE RETURN TO
THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
OHCHR-UNOG, 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
(Fax: 00 41 22 917 9006,
e-mail: urgent-action@ohchr.org)
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Annex C

International Human Rights Instruments

International Human Rights Instruments refers to treaties and other international human rights law documents and obligations. There are nine core international human rights treaties, some of which are supplemented with optional protocols that deal with specific concerns.

Core Treaties

ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/disappearance-convention.htm
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/disappearance-convention.htm
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of all Persons with Disabilities http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/disabilities-convention.htm
ICERD	International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cerd.htm
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cmw.htm Ratification of Core International Human Rights Instruments: Asia-Pacific Countries

Signature/Ratification of Core International Human Rights Instruments: Asia-Pacific Countries

Core Treaties	Bangladesh	Burma	Brunei	Cambodia	China	Cook Islands	Fiji	India	Indonesia	Japan	Kazakhstan	Korea; Democratic Republic of (North)
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
2. International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol of ICCPR (ICCPR-OP1)				✓							✓	
▪ Second Optional Protocol of ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2)												
4. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol of ICESCR (ICESCR – OP)											✓	
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OPCEDAW)	✓			✓		✓					✓	
6. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
▪ Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT)				✓							✓	
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CRC on involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC)	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
▪ Optional protocol to CRC on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8. International Convention in the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)	✓			✓					✓			
9. International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED)								✓	✓	✓	✓	
10. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CRPD(OP-CRPD)	✓			✓			✓				✓	

Core Treaties	Korea; Republic of (South)	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Malaysia	Mongolia	Nepal	Pakistan	Papua New Guinea	The Philippines	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Solomon Islands
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2. International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol of ICCPR (ICCPR-OP1)	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	
▪ Second Optional Protocol of ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2)		✓				✓			✓			
4. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol of ICESCR (ICESCR – OP)					✓							✓
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OPCEDAW)	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
6. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
▪ Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT)		✓										
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CRC on involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
▪ Optional protocol to CRC on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
8. International Convention in the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)		✓							✓		✓	
9. International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPEd)			✓		✓							
10. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
▪ Optional Protocol to CRPD(OP-CRPD)					✓	✓						✓

Core Treaties	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Tonga	Vanuatu	Vietnam
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide			✓		✓
2. International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	✓	✓	✓		
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	✓	✓		✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol of ICCPR (ICCPR-OP1) ▪ Second Optional Protocol of ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2) 		✓			
4. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	✓	✓			✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol of ICESCR (ICESCR – OP) 		✓			
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	✓	✓		✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OPCEDAW) 	✓	✓		✓	✓
6. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	✓	✓			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT) 		✓			
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol to CRC on involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC) ▪ Optional protocol to CRC on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC) 	✓	✓		✓	✓
8. International Convention in the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)		✓			
9. International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED)				✓	
10. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	✓		✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optional Protocol to CRPD(OP-CRPD) 					