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Latvia

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.



I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

1. International human rights treaties²

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1992)	ICCPR-OP 2 (2013)	OP-CAT
	ICESCR (1992)		ICRMW
	ICCPR (1992)		ICPPED
	CEDAW (1992)		
	CAT (1992)		
	CRC (1992)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2005)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2006)		
<i>Reservations and/or declarations</i>	CRPD (2010)		
	OP-CRC-AC (Declaration, art. 3 (2), mandatory age of recruitment 19 years, voluntary age of recruitment 18 years, 2005)		
<i>Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action³</i>	ICCPR-OP 1 (1994)		ICERD, art. 14
	CAT, art. 20 (1992)		OP-ICESCR
	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2010)		ICCPR, art. 41
			OP-CEDAW
			CAT, arts. 21 and 22
			OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW
		ICPPED	

2. Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court		
	Palermo Protocol ⁴		
	Conventions on refugees and stateless persons ⁵		

<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁶		
ILO fundamental conventions ⁷		ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 ⁸
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education		

1. The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights advised Latvia to ratify the core international human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party, particularly those affording the right of individual petition.⁹
2. In 2013, the Committee against Torture invited Latvia to ratify OP-CAT, ICPPED, ICRMW, OP-ICESCR and OP-CEDAW.¹⁰
3. The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia make the declarations under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.¹¹
4. The Office of the United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Latvia lift its reservations to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular to article 34.¹²

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. In 2014, the Human Rights Committee welcomed amendments to the Asylum Law adjusting the mandate of the State Border Guard and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in dealing with asylum applications (2013).¹³ UNHCR noted that the amendments established an obligation to immediately release asylum seekers from a detention centre when the grounds for detention ceased to exist, and that the implementation of the new standards would contribute to improving the protection environment in Latvia.¹⁴
6. UNHCR noted the adoption of amendments to the Citizenship Law in 2013 that, inter alia, aimed to simplify the process of citizenship acquisition and naturalization in Latvia. In accordance with the amendments, the consent of only one of the newborn stateless child's parents is required in order to register the child as a Latvian citizen. It noted that the adoption of amendments to the Citizenship Law and the organization of awareness-raising campaigns among the stateless population had contributed to the implementation of a number of recommendations made during the first universal periodic review cycle. It remarked, however, that gaps still remained in ensuring the prevention and reduction of statelessness.¹⁵
7. The Committee against Torture welcomed amendments to the Law on Enforcement of Sentences concerning the resocialization of prisoners (2011), and the abolition of the death penalty from the Criminal Law (2011).¹⁶
8. The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt recommended that Latvia amend the Law on Budget and Financing of Independent Bodies to ensure that public accountability bodies are financially and institutionally independent. In addition, every effort must be made to ensure that the budgets of those bodies are not reduced in times of austerity so that they are able to continue performing their functions effectively.¹⁷

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Status of national human rights institutions¹⁸

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle</i> ¹⁹
Ombudsman	-	A (2015)

9. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that budget cuts had had a negative effect on the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to exercise its mandate effectively and recommended that Latvia provide the Ombudsman's Office with adequate financial and human resources, in order to exercise its mandate in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).²⁰

10. The Human Rights Committee welcomed the Gender Equality Action Plan 2012-2014²¹ and the National Strategy for the Prevention of Human Trafficking 2014-2020.²²

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	August 2003	-	-	Sixth, seventh and eighth periodic reports, overdue since 2007
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	May 2007	-	-	Second, third and fourth reports overdue since 2009
Human Rights Committee	November 2003	2012	March 2014	Fourth report due in 2020
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	July 2004	-	-	Fourth to sixth periodic reports overdue since 2013
Committee against Torture	November 2007	2012	November 2013	Sixth report due in 2017
Committee on the Rights of the Child	June 2006	2013 (to CRC, OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC)	-	Third to fifth reports pending consideration in 2016; initial OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-report pending consideration in 2016
Committee on the Rights of Persons	-	2014	-	Initial report pending consideration

with Disabilities

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Human Rights Committee	2015	Conditions in police, remand and prison facilities; protection against hate crimes; and national minorities and education ²³	Reminder sent in 2015 ²⁴
Committee against Torture	2008	Fundamental safeguards; asylum seekers juvenile justice; and investigation of use of force and ill-treatment ²⁵	2010; ²⁶ further information requested ²⁷
	2014	Legal safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty; detention conditions; and use of restraints ²⁸	2015 ²⁹

B. Cooperation with special procedures³⁰

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Racism Sale of children	Foreign debt
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, one letter was sent to the Government, which did not reply	

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

11. Latvia contributed financially to OHCHR in 2011, 2013 and 2014.³¹

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

12. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reported racist speech, violence and discrimination against vulnerable groups, including Roma and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and reported an increase in violence against minorities. It recommended that Latvia fight racially motivated crimes and counter the use of racist discourse in politics and in the media, implement criminal law provisions aimed at combating racially motivated crimes and punishing perpetrators and define incitement to violence on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity as a criminal offence.³²

13. In March 2013, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance addressed a letter to Latvia referring, inter alia, to allegations that a public demonstration was organized on 16 March 2013 in Riga to celebrate the Latvian veterans who fought with the Nazi armed forces during World War II.³³

14. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that Latvia might be encouraged to further promote education for all, especially by implementing programmes to ban discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.³⁴

15. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned at the status of non-citizen residents and the situation of linguistic minorities. It recommended that Latvia ensure the full enjoyment of rights by non-citizen residents and linguistic minorities and facilitate their integration into society.³⁵

16. The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt recommended that Latvia facilitate the process of naturalization of non-citizens who have resided in the country for decades and/or are children of such persons, to ensure that they are afforded equal access to employment, education, health care and social security. Naturalization should be facilitated through the provision of free training courses in preparation for the relevant examinations and through exemptions for those who have reached retirement age, persons with disabilities and those who have studied in Latvia.³⁶

17. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the impact of the language policy of Latvia on linguistic minorities and the discriminatory effects of the language proficiency requirement on the employment and work of minority groups. It recommended that Latvia revise the Language Law to ensure that any restriction on the rights of non-Latvian speakers is non-discriminatory.³⁷

18. UNHCR recommended that Latvia facilitate the integration of refugees by combating stereotypes and prejudice against them among the general public.³⁸

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

19. The Committee against Torture was concerned at reports relating to deaths in custody as a result of violence.³⁹ The Human Rights Committee was concerned about deficiencies in the application of appropriate penalties in instances of death in places of detention and the lack of an independent mechanism to examine instances of death in psychiatric institutions.⁴⁰ Both recommended that all instances of death in places of detention be properly investigated.⁴¹

20. The Committee against Torture was concerned that, since torture was not a separate offence under the Criminal Law, the penalties for torture had been incorporated into different articles of the Criminal Law that were not appropriate to punish such criminal offences. It was also concerned that acts of torture were subject to a statute of limitations of 10 years, which might result in impunity for such acts.⁴² It recommended that Latvia amend legislation to include a definition of torture in conformity with the Convention,⁴³ that it include torture as a specific offence in the Criminal Law with appropriate penalties and that it ensure that there is no statute of limitations for acts of torture.⁴⁴ The Human Rights Committee raised the same concerns.⁴⁵

21. The Committee against Torture was concerned at allegations of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by law enforcement personnel at the time of apprehension and during investigation in police facilities.⁴⁶ The Human Rights Committee was also

concerned at reported physical violence and ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement personnel.⁴⁷

22. While noting the reduction of prisoners and detainees since the adoption of the criminal policy document in 2013, the Committee against Torture was concerned that no amendments had been adopted concerning the duration of pretrial detention, including in police custody. It recommended that Latvia reduce the duration of pretrial detention and devise alternative measures to incarceration, that there be no pretrial detention in police stations and that persons remanded in custody be promptly transfer to a prison.⁴⁸ The Human Rights Committee was also concerned about lengthy police detention for administrative offences and recommended the elimination of such practices.⁴⁹

23. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the material conditions of detention in places of deprivation of liberty fell short of international standards, particularly for prisoners serving life sentences and remand prisoners.⁵⁰ The Human Rights Committee was concerned about poor material conditions in many police, remand and prison facilities.⁵¹ The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia improve the material conditions in all prisons and police detention centres and that it ensure the existence of impartial and independent mechanisms to monitor places of deprivation of liberty.⁵²

24. The Committee against Torture was concerned at persisting inter-prisoner violence and recommended that Latvia investigate all such cases.⁵³

25. The Committee against Torture was concerned by reports of unjustified use of restraints in prisons, such as handcuffing of prisoners serving life sentences when outside their cells.⁵⁴ The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia guarantee safeguards to inmates.⁵⁵

26. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the application of forced medication in high dosages and the use of isolation wards in State-run social care centres for adults with mental disabilities. It recommended that Latvia devise a proper regulatory framework for mental health and social care institutions, prohibit the non-consensual use of psychiatric medication, electroconvulsive therapy and other restrictive and coercive practices and ensure an independent monitoring system for mental and social care institutions.⁵⁶ The Committee against Torture recommended the investigation of all complaints of ill-treatment of persons with mental and psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions and that it ensure effective legal safeguards for all persons with mental and psychosocial disabilities.⁵⁷

27. The Committee against Torture remained concerned that domestic violence was not defined as a specific crime under Criminal Law and that marital rape was not recognized as a separate criminal offence.⁵⁸ The Human Rights Committee was also concerned at the absence of protection measures and the lack of systematic assistance to the victims.⁵⁹ The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia adopt comprehensive legislation on violence against women that would establish domestic violence and marital rape as specific offences in the Criminal Law, and that it investigate all reports of domestic violence, including sexual violence and violence against children, and prosecute perpetrators.⁶⁰ The Human Rights Committee recommended that adequate assistance, including psychosocial counselling, be ensured.⁶¹

28. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that Latvia remained a country of origin for trafficking in human beings for sexual and labour exploitation, particularly of young women. It recommended that Latvia enhance proper identification and referral mechanisms, that it investigate and prosecute such acts, and that it reinforce the mechanisms of support, rehabilitation, protection and redress to victims.⁶² The Committee against Torture also recommended that Latvia enforce anti-trafficking legislation.⁶³

29. UNHCR noted that, during the first universal periodic review cycle of Latvia, several States recommended that Latvia continue to step up efforts to combat trafficking, paying special attention to its victims. UNHCR supported these recommendations and recommended that the Latvian authorities establish a system for the identification and referral of victims or potential victims of trafficking at border crossing points and inside the territory, in order to ensure that victims of trafficking who may be in need of international protection can have their case assessed in line with the UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection relating to victims of trafficking.⁶⁴

30. The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt urged Latvia, in cooperation with destination countries, to reinforce measures to prevent trafficking in persons, provide effective support and redress to victims, investigate and prosecute offenders and step up efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking.⁶⁵

31. UNHCR considered that, although the amendments to the Asylum Law adopted in 2013 had introduced positive changes, the new legal provisions had not incorporated all the required safeguards to ensure that detention is only applied as a measure of last resort, for the shortest possible period of time and only when necessary and proportionate, on the basis of an individual assessment in each case. Furthermore, it considered that amendments had not imposed an obligation to first consider alternatives to detention. The current Asylum Law provided no definitions of the grounds “abuse of asylum procedure” and “risk of absconding”, even though such reasons were frequently invoked for detention, potentially leading to an arbitrary application of those grounds by the State Border Guard and courts. It also recommended that Latvia consider introducing a provision in the Asylum Law to exempt asylum seekers with specific needs, such as children, nursing mothers and women in the later stages of pregnancy, survivors of torture or sexual violence and traumatized persons from detention. It further recommended that Latvia avoid the detention of children.⁶⁶

32. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the detention of asylum seekers, including children, in poor condition facilities and the lack of clear legal grounds on the basis of which asylum seekers might be placed in detention upon arrival; obstacles in gaining access to asylum procedures; and the determination of refugee or asylum status through the accelerated procedure.⁶⁷ It recommended that Latvia amend the Asylum Law to establish safeguards against the arbitrary detention of asylum seekers.⁶⁸

33. The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia detain asylum seekers only as a measure of last resort and that it refrain from detaining minors.⁶⁹ The Human Rights Committee also recommended that Latvia ensure that living conditions and treatment in all immigration detention centres are in conformity with international standards.⁷⁰

C. Administration of justice and the rule of law

34. The Committee against Torture was concerned at the lack of efficiency of the judicial system, unjustified slowness of both civil and criminal proceedings and the backlog of cases.⁷¹ The Human Rights Committee was also concerned at delays in the completion of criminal trials involving detention on remand while awaiting final judgements.⁷² The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia reform the judicial system and strengthen the judiciary in line with relevant international standards.⁷³ The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia observe safeguards of the right to a fair trial.⁷⁴

35. The Committee against Torture was concerned that persons deprived of their liberty did not enjoy in practice all fundamental legal safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, such as access to a lawyer and an independent doctor. It recommended that Latvia afford,

by law and in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the outset of the deprivation of liberty, in particular access to an independent doctor and the right of detainees to inform a relative or person of their choice.⁷⁵ It was also concerned at reports of a shortage of lawyers and that lawyers providing “State-ensured legal aid” were reluctant to do so for lack of appropriate remuneration.⁷⁶

36. The Committee against Torture was concerned at information that complaints and allegations concerning physical violence and ill-treatment by police officers had been examined by the Internal Security Office of the State Police, which was part of the police force.⁷⁷ While noting the intention of Latvia to reform the Internal Security Office of the State Police and the Prison Authority, The Human Rights Committee remained concerned that they were not fully independent, as complaints had been investigated by a police force investigator and senior members of the prison authority.⁷⁸

37. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the low number of investigations and disciplinary sanctions for acts of physical violence and ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement personnel. It recommended that allegations of torture and ill-treatment be effectively investigated, and that alleged perpetrators be prosecuted.⁷⁹ The Committee against Torture was also concerned at the absence of a data collection system on cases of ill-treatment, and recommended that reports of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel be investigated both at the disciplinary and the criminal levels, by an independent mechanism with no institutional or hierarchical connection between the investigators and the alleged perpetrators.⁸⁰ It finally recommended that persons suspected of having committed acts of torture or ill-treatment be immediately suspended from their duties throughout the investigation.⁸¹

38. The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia amend its legislation to include explicit provisions on the right of victims of torture and ill-treatment to redress, including fair and adequate compensation and rehabilitation.⁸²

39. UNHCR recommended that Latvia ensure that detained asylum seekers be provided with effective access to free legal assistance and representation.⁸³

D. Freedom of expression

40. UNESCO encouraged Latvia to decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards.⁸⁴

41. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that the investigation of the physical attack against the journalist Leonids Jakobsons had been pending since March 2012. It recommended that Latvia guarantee freedom of expression, the press and opinion, including by effectively investigating attacks against journalists.⁸⁵

42. In the framework of the 2015-2017 consultations related to the revision and monitoring of the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers, UNESCO encouraged Latvia to report to it on any legislative or other steps undertaken by the State under review, with the aim of implementing the international standard-setting instrument, adopted by UNESCO in 1974. It further invited Latvia to pay particular attention to the legal provisions and regulatory frameworks that ensure that scientific researchers have the responsibility and the right to work in the spirit of the principles enshrined in the Recommendation.⁸⁶

E. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

43. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the persisting wage gap between men and women in the private sector and the high unemployment rate of women. It recommended that women be allowed to enjoy equal pay for work of equal value and that Latvia address the equal access of women and men to freely chosen occupations.⁸⁷

F. Right to health

44. UNHCR recommended that Latvia ensure that detained asylum seekers be given access to State-provided health-care services on an equal basis with other detained, arrested or sentenced persons.⁸⁸

G. Right to education

45. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the prevalent negative effects on minorities of the transition to Latvian as the language of instruction, under the Education Law. It recommended that Latvia support the teaching of minority languages and cultures in minority schools.⁸⁹

46. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that certain municipalities had placed Roma children in separate classes from other children. It recommended that Latvia eradicate the segregation of Roma children in its education system.⁹⁰

47. UNESCO stated that Latvia could be encouraged to further promote inclusive education.⁹¹

48. UNESCO stated that Latvia should be strongly encouraged to further submit State reports for the periodic consultations of UNESCO education related standard-setting instruments.⁹²

H. Minorities

49. UNHCR noted that some 262,622 non-citizens and 180 officially recognized stateless persons resided legally in Latvia.⁹³ It observed that, while that group was generally entitled to rights that go beyond the minimum rights prescribed by the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, there nonetheless remained important differences in the treatment of that population compared with citizens of Latvia. Those differences related to a variety of rights, including employment, property purchases, political rights and pensions. It observed that the Government continued to integrate policies that addressed non-citizens but that the pace of integration continued to slow. It recommended that Latvia undertake take further legal policy and/or practical steps to reduce statelessness, by facilitating naturalization or by other measures; and that it consider amending the Citizenship Law to provide for the automatic acquisition of citizenship by children born on the territory of Latvia who would otherwise be stateless, including as a result of being born to non-citizen or stateless parents.⁹⁴

50. While welcoming the significant reduction in the number of so-called non-citizen residents, and the amendments to the Citizenship Law in May 2013 allowing for a simplified naturalization procedure, the Committee against Torture was concerned at the large number of non-citizens residing permanently in Latvia. It recommended that the country facilitate the granting of citizenship to and naturalization and integration of non-

citizens; and that it grant automatic citizenship at birth to children of non-citizen parents who do not acquire any other nationality, with a view to preventing statelessness.⁹⁵

51. With regard to the rights of national minorities in the field of employment, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt recommended that Latvia ensure proportionality of language and citizenship requirements in the labour market, and that it eliminate excessively restrictive regulations on professional language proficiency, which have a discriminatory effect on the working opportunities of minorities.⁹⁶

52. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that Roma suffered from discrimination and social exclusion, especially in employment, housing, health and education. It recommended that Latvia ensure the effective enjoyment by Roma of all rights without any discrimination.⁹⁷

I. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

53. UNHCR noted that, as a result of its 2011 memorandum of understanding with the State Border Guard, the identification of persons in need of international protection at the border crossing points had improved in Latvia, but that some concerns remained.⁹⁸ It recommended that Latvia ensure that persons who may be in need of international protection be proactively identified, including at border-crossing points; that it provide such persons with information about the asylum procedure; and registered as asylum seekers.⁹⁹ It also recommended that Latvia ensure that the requisite safeguards, including access to an effective legal remedy, are available to persons applying for asylum at border-crossing points.¹⁰⁰

54. The Human Rights Committee regretted reported expulsions of refugees and asylum seekers before an appeal against deportation had been adjudicated.¹⁰¹ The Committee against Torture was concerned over the low asylum recognition rate.¹⁰²

55. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia deal with decisions on expulsion, return or extradition expeditiously and in accordance with due process, and that it guarantee access to standardized asylum procedures.¹⁰³ The Committee against Torture recommended that all persons seeking asylum in Latvia be allowed to enjoy all procedural guarantees; and that Latvia ensure that decisions concerning asylum, including under the accelerated procedure, can be appealed and have a suspensive effect in order to avoid the risk of refoulement.¹⁰⁴

56. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia respect the principle of non-refoulement.¹⁰⁵ The Committee against Torture recommended that Latvia refrain from expelling, returning (refouler) or extraditing a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture.¹⁰⁶

57. UNHCR noted that the issue of reception conditions for asylum seekers was addressed in recommendations during the universal periodic review of Latvia.¹⁰⁷ It observed that reception conditions had deteriorated in the course of 2014, and it recommended that Latvia ensure that reception conditions for asylum seekers in Latvia be in line with international and European Union standards by, inter alia, allocating sufficient State funds to ensure that asylum seekers be given an adequate standard of living.¹⁰⁸

58. UNHCR observed that the issue of the integration of persons granted international protection was addressed in recommendations during the first universal periodic review cycle of Latvia.¹⁰⁹ It was concerned that Latvia maintained a number of reservations to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and recommended that Latvia facilitate the integration and naturalization of beneficiaries of international protection, both refugees and

alternative status holders, by lifting its reservations to the Convention and by developing a comprehensive integration strategy and programme that supports the inclusion of beneficiaries in mainstream services and provides targeted support where needed, including with regard to language learning, housing and finding employment.¹¹⁰

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Latvia from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/11/LVA/3).

² The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

³ Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁵ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁶ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the

- Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.
- ⁷ International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- ⁸ ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- ⁹ See A/HRC/23/37/Add.1, para 90.
- ¹⁰ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 25.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- ¹² UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 12.
- ¹³ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 3.
- ¹⁴ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 3.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5. See also A/HRC/18/9, paras. 91.46 (Costa Rica), 91.47 (Netherlands), 91.48 (Brazil), 91.49 (United States of America).
- ¹⁶ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 5.
- ¹⁷ See A/HRC/23/37/Add.1, para 90.
- ¹⁸ According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination), C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- ¹⁹ The list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights is available from <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>.
- ²⁰ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 5.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, para. 6.
- ²² *Ibid.*, para. 3.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- ²⁴ See letter dated 9 June 2015 from the Human Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CCPR_FUL_LVA_20918_E.pdf.
- ²⁵ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/2, para. 28.
- ²⁶ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/2/Add.1.
- ²⁷ See letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf.
- ²⁸ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 28.
- ²⁹ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5/Add.1.
- ³⁰ For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.
- ³¹ See Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Annual Reports 2012, 2013 and 2015. Available from www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/FundingBudget.aspx.
- ³² See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 19.
- ³³ See A/HRC/24/21, sect. II.
- ³⁴ See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, para. 58 (3).
- ³⁵ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 7.
- ³⁶ See A/HRC/23/37/Add.1, para 90.
- ³⁷ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 7.
- ³⁸ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 12.

- ³⁹ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 20.
- ⁴⁰ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 10.
- ⁴¹ Ibid.. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 20.
- ⁴² See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 8.
- ⁴³ Ibid., para. 7.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid., para. 8. See also letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, p. 3. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf.
- ⁴⁵ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 11.
- ⁴⁶ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 12.
- ⁴⁷ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 12.
- ⁴⁸ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 10. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 13 and letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, p. 2. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf.
- ⁴⁹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 13.
- ⁵⁰ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 19. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5/Add.1, paras. 30-53.
- ⁵¹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 15. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 19 (c).
- ⁵² See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 19. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 15.
- ⁵³ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 20. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 15.
- ⁵⁴ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 21. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 15 and CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5/Add.1, paras. 54-59.
- ⁵⁵ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 15.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid., para. 16. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 23 (b).
- ⁵⁷ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 23.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., para. 14. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 9.
- ⁵⁹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 9. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 14.
- ⁶⁰ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 14. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 9 (a) and (c).
- ⁶¹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 9. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 14 (d).
- ⁶² See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 8. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 15.
- ⁶³ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 15.
- ⁶⁴ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 6. See also A/HRC/18/9, paras. 91.35 (Czech Republic), 91.36 (State of Palestine), 91.37 (Algeria), 91.38 (Belarus), 91.39 (Costa Rica), 91.40 (Republic of Moldova), 91.41 (Norway), 91.42 (Canada) and 91.43 (Norway).
- ⁶⁵ See A/HRC/23/37/Add.1, para 90.
- ⁶⁶ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 10.
- ⁶⁷ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14. See also CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 17 and letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, p. 2. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf.
- ⁶⁸ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14.
- ⁶⁹ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 17. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14 (d).
- ⁷⁰ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14.
- ⁷¹ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 11.
- ⁷² See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 17.
- ⁷³ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 11.
- ⁷⁴ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 17.
- ⁷⁵ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 9. See also letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, pp. 1 and 2. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf, and CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5/Add.1, paras. 3-29.

- ⁷⁶ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 9.
- ⁷⁷ Ibid., para. 12.
- ⁷⁸ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 12.
- ⁷⁹ Ibid., para. 12.
- ⁸⁰ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 12. See also CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 12 (a).
- ⁸¹ CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 12.
- ⁸² Ibid., para. 22. See also para. 12.
- ⁸³ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 10.
- ⁸⁴ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, para. 60.
- ⁸⁵ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 18.
- ⁸⁶ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, para. 61.
- ⁸⁷ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 6.
- ⁸⁸ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 10.
- ⁸⁹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 20.
- ⁹⁰ Ibid., para. 21.
- ⁹¹ See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, para. 58 (2).
- ⁹² Ibid., para. 58 (1).
- ⁹³ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 2.
- ⁹⁴ Ibid., pp. 12 and 13.
- ⁹⁵ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 16.
- ⁹⁶ See A/HRC/23/37/Add.1, para 90.
- ⁹⁷ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 21.
- ⁹⁸ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 5.
- ⁹⁹ Ibid., p. 5.
- ¹⁰⁰ Ibid., p. 5.
- ¹⁰¹ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14.
- ¹⁰² See letter dated 25 May 2011 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, p. 2. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/LVA/INT_CAT_FUF_LVA_12090_E.pdf.
- ¹⁰³ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14.
- ¹⁰⁴ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 17.
- ¹⁰⁵ See CCPR/C/LVA/CO/3, para. 14.
- ¹⁰⁶ See CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 17.
- ¹⁰⁷ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 7. See also A/HRC/18/9, para. 91.52 (Islamic Republic of Iran).
- ¹⁰⁸ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, p. 7 and 8.
- ¹⁰⁹ Ibid., p. 11. See also A/HRC/18/9, para. 91.51 (Ecuador).
- ¹¹⁰ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, pp. 11 and 12.