

# Advocacy in Support of International Human Rights



American University, Center for Global  
Peace

# Preconditions for Human Rights Advocacy

- Robust civil society:
  - NGOs are free to operate
  - Freedom of association, speech, assembly
  - Freedom of the press
- Access to human rights education:
  - Primary and secondary schools, communities, universities, law schools

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Domestic

- Human rights law reform (Parliament in consultation with NGOs, HR Min., NHRI)
- Human rights hearings (Parliament, NHRIs, etc)
- Human rights education campaigns (all)
- Human rights monitoring & reporting (NGOs, NHRIs, Parliament)
- Media campaigns on HR issues (all)
- Human rights litigation (NGOs; NHRIs)

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaties

- Participate in treaty drafting at international level (MPs, NGOs, HR Min., NHRIs)
- Participate in regional/int'l HR meetings & trainings for NHRIs and Parliaments (NHRIs, MPs)
- Distribute information on human rights treaties (all)

# Advocacy around Treaties: Good practices

- UN Disability Convention drafting process – broad stakeholder involvement
- Inter-Parliamentary Union – Series on HR treaties & trainings
- NHRI Coordinating Committee – NHRIs working together on common HR issues

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaties

- Debate and support ratification of HR treaties & human rights law-making (Parliament)
- Parliamentary debates on HR treaties (Parliament)
- Mobilize public support in favor of human rights treaties (all actors)
- Human rights education on core treaties (NGOs, judges, law schools, HR Ministry, Commission)

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaty implementation

- Adopt national legislation to give effect to treaties; review legislation (Parliament)
- Ensure national budget reflects human rights priorities (Parliament)
- Meet reporting obligations under treaty (HR Ministry)
- Support civil society initiatives on human rights (Parliament, Ministry, HR Commission, Judges)

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaty implementation

- Obtain information about human rights obligations (Judges)
- Ensure coverage of human rights treaties and procedural mechanisms for judicial training, law schools

# Advocacy Supporting Human Rights: Reporting

- Drafting reports to treaty bodies & consulting with civil society (HR Ministry)
- Provide information for reports (NGOs, NHRI)
- Preparing independent report (NGOs, HR Commission)
- Teaching UN human rights reporting procedures (law schools, NGOs)

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaty reporting good practices

- Netherlands: Parliament adopted law requiring Government to report to Parliament on its implementation of the Women's Convention every four years
- Many countries organize Parliamentary sessions on treaty body recommendations & call on Government members to discuss
- Most States publish their reports to treaty bodies

# Advocacy in Support of Human Rights: Treaty reporting good practices

- Many States involve NGOs in the preparation of reports – Denmark attaches NGO reports to its own reports.
- Judges in India used recommendations of the CEDAW treaty body to interpret guaranteeing the Indian Constitution