

# On the Road to Human Rights, We Walk Together



Taiwan  
**Annual Report 2023**  
National Human Rights Commission



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## From the Chairperson

# On the Road to Human Rights, We Walk Together

In 2023, the fourth year since the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (hereinafter the NHRC, or the Commission), it has both continued ongoing tasks and embarked on pioneering work. It has improved its internal operations and formulated the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan, setting the framework for the next three years of work. Additionally, the NHRC has published multiple human rights investigative reports, proposing government agencies with specific recommendations for improvement. On the international front, the Commission was invited for the first time to attend the Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) as an observer. It also organized a series of activities related to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promoting human rights education across all sectors of society.

In 2022, we underwent international reviews of Taiwan's national reports on five human rights conventions, including the ICCPR and ICESCR in May; CRPD in August; and CRC and CEDAW in November. To standardize follow-up, in February 2023, we established the NHRC Operational Regulations on Supervising the Implementation of Concluding Observations on Human Rights Conventions. Among the numerous concluding observations, considering the urgency of human rights violations and the Commission's limited workforce and resources, we identified key points to be prioritized and incorporated them into the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for phased implementation.

The Commission then held intense discussions on the Medium-Term Strategic Plan, with a two-day April workshop where consultants, commissioners, and staff hashed out consensus on its goals, content, and timeline. Since the NHRC operates on a committee basis, integrating the diverse opinions of commissioners from different fields and formulating feasible work plans within the constraints of limited time, workforce, and resources was a complex and lengthy task. Thanks to all the commissioners and staff, and to the NGO partners who provided input, we officially released the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan on August 1. It includes 4 major strategies encompassing 21 issues, setting the framework for future human rights affairs.


Additionally, we published multiple reports, including the *Special Report on Migrant Workers' Child-Rearing in Taiwan*, the *Final Report on the 2021 National Preventive Mechanism against Torture Pilot Inspection Project*, the *Special Report on the Rights of Inmates with Disabilities*, and the *Report on the Implementation of Gender Equality Education in Correctional Institutions*. These reports constitute part of the Commission's exercise of its duty to promote and safeguard human rights.



“ **The advancement of human rights is based on the principle that all human beings are born free and equal, with no discrimination whatsoever.** ”

In terms of international exchanges, we also made significant progress. In September 2023, the NHRC was invited as an observer to attend the APF Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference for the first time. The conference theme was Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Paris Principles, along with the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the first session, 30 Years of Promoting and Protecting Human Rights across Asia and the Pacific, in my capacity as chairperson I expressed gratitude to the APF for its active and long-term support in establishing Taiwan’s NHRC. After visiting Taiwan and meeting with the Legislative Yuan, Judicial Yuan, Control Yuan, Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, NGOs, and legal scholars and experts, the APF ultimately provided a professional evaluation and recommended setting up the NHRC under the Control Yuan. Therefore, since its creation, the Commission has not only promoted and protected human rights in Taiwan according to the Paris Principles but has also sought to give back to the Asia-Pacific region by sharing Taiwan’s experience in transitioning from authoritarianism to democracy and in striving for freedom, women’s rights, and gender equality.

The idea that “all human beings are born free and equal” is the foundation of human rights, and 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the UN’s adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To promote the concept of human rights, the Commission collaborated with Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd. for the first time to issue four types of human rights stamps. Additionally, it partnered with Taiwan’s landmark Taipei 101 to illuminate the tower on December 10, Human Rights Day, with a light display of the messages “Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75,” “Born Free and Equal,” and “12/10 Human Rights Day” in both Chinese and English, aiming to engage the public and raise awareness of human rights. In November, the NHRC also responded to the Human Rights 75 Initiative by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosting an international conference themed Climate Change and Human Rights — The Role of National Human Rights Institutions. Representatives were invited from the APF, the Pacific Community, and national human rights institutions from France, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Mongolia. Over 200 participants, including domestic scholars, government agencies, and NGOs, joined the event, highlighting the NHRC’s efforts to engage internationally on significant issues.

This annual report presents the substantial progress the Commission made in 2023, advancing the promotion and protection of human rights. We remain deeply committed to establishing gradually a pluralistic, independent, and effective body. With our newly developed Medium-Term Strategic Plan, we are ready to take on 2024, working together in close collaboration with domestic and international government agencies and civil society organizations to keep moving forward. 

Chairperson 





## Members



**Tsai Chung-yi**

Vice Chairperson

August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024



Taiwan is committed to participating in the international community and striving for equality for all.



**Wang Yu-ling**

Member



Ensuring that everyone living in Taiwan leads a dignified life is the ultimate goal under the ideal of a nation founded on human rights.



**Wang Jung-chang**

Member

Vice Chairperson August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023



I'm sure that Taiwan will remain a safe and live-able country after the abolition of the death penalty.



**Tien Chiu-chin**

Member



The state has a responsibility to fulfill its commitment to environmental human rights and protect the children of the future.



**Chi Hui-jung**

Member



I hope that people of any and all genders will be able to live joyfully, healthily, and with hope in Taiwan.



**Kao Yung-cheng**

Member

Vice Chairperson August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021



Despite the difficulties in restoring the truth with regard to transitional justice or wrongful convictions, it is essential to uphold the fundamental values of human rights.





### Yeh Ta-hua

Member

“ We must respect children’s subjectivity and create a nondiscriminatory environment where children can freely express themselves. ”



### Upay Kanasaw

Member

“ Putting ethnic mainstreaming into practice will establish a pluralistic society with mutual respect and equality. ”



### Su Li-chiung

Member

August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023.

“ Changing the policy mindset of treating migrant workers as guest workers will help build a respectful and inclusive pluralistic society. ”



### Lai Chen-chang

Member

August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023.

“ Taiwan, as a free nation, can conduct exchanges with other countries on human rights issues. ”



### Pu Chung-cheng

Member

August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024

“ Transcending prejudices of race, language, culture, and skin color is the foundation for a harmonious multiethnic society. ”

# Highlights and Impact of Human Rights Promotion in 2023

1

## **Gathering National Human Rights Institutions Representatives to Discuss Emerging Human Rights Issues under Climate Change**

On the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Commission responded to the UN Human Rights 75 Initiative's November thematic spotlight on climate change/environment by holding the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development. We invited 12 key representatives from 9 national human rights institutions and international organizations to participate. Additionally, we organized a series of activities related to Human Rights 75, such as the "Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75" poster design competition, aiming to increase awareness of human rights among our citizens.

2

## **Invited to Participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) for the First Time**

For the first time, the Commission was invited to participate as an observer in the APF Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference. This opportunity enabled us to establish relationships within the international human rights network and fostered further exchanges and high-level dialogue with representatives and experts from many national human rights institutions. This engagement has laid the groundwork for further substantive cooperation.

3

## **Formulation of the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan**

Through the creation of our first Medium-Term Strategic Plan, the Commission consolidated consensus among commissioners. This plan outlines the priority human rights issues that we will focus on promoting from 2023 to 2026.

# 4

## **First Issuance of the *Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities*, Prompting Government Agencies to Issue Corresponding Guidelines**

To combat discrimination and inequality faced by persons with disabilities, the Commission issued Taiwan's first national-level *Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities*. This document clarifies the concept of reasonable accommodation and has encouraged government agencies to develop guidelines tailored to their own respective duties and responsibilities.


# 5

## **Issuance of the *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination***

The Commission is committed to protecting the human rights of Indigenous peoples, new immigrants, migrant workers, and noncitizens. We issued the *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, clarifying the measures taken by the government and the challenges it faces in implementing the convention. Our evaluation offered multiple recommendations for legislative and policy changes. The International Review Committee affirmed our independent assessment and incorporated it into their Concluding Observations.


# 6

## **Participation in the Constitutional Court, Helping Bring Domestic Law into Compliance with International Human Rights Standards**

In 2023, the Commission participated as an expert agency in seven Constitutional Court cases related to human rights. During oral arguments, we emphasized the importance of international human rights law for the domestic judiciary. The outcomes of three of these cases were consistent with our stance, highlighting the significant impact of the Commission's opinions in bringing domestic law into line with international human rights standards. 

## Overview of Achievements in 2023

**1**



Released the *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, presenting a list of **140** deficiencies and recommendations to all levels of government

**3**



Monitored the Executive Yuan's National Human Rights Action Plan, offering **22** opinions

**4**



Participated in Constitutional Court proceedings, providing opinions in **7** cases

**2**



Issued **7** press releases expressing the Commission's positions on various human rights situations

**5**



Published **4** human rights reports and **1** reference guide

**6**

Accepted **101** cases of complaints



Handling method	Number of cases
Formal investigation	3
Inquiry or analysis, with response to complainant	75
Referred to competent authorities for processing	11
Kept on file without further action	12

7

## Social dialogue with domestic nongovernmental organizations



Issues	Number of NGOs participating	Number of sessions
Provision of independent opinions on human rights conventions	19	16
The human rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, migrant workers, migrant fishers; youth housing rights, the death penalty, and the national preventive mechanism against torture	294	80
Major events	40	2
Total	353	98

8

## Promotion of Human Rights Education



### Collaboration with the National Academy of Civil Service/Civil Service Protection and Training Commission to provide

- Case study materials for promotion training: 9 topics
- Special seminars for the basic training of those passing senior examinations: 4 topics
- Special seminars for the training for civil servants with junior rank seeking promotion to senior rank: 3 topics
- Special seminars for the training for civil servants with elementary rank seeking promotion to junior rank: 2 topics

### Development of human rights training courses for government agencies (and schools)

- 14 core courses
- 35 podcast episodes
- Teaching guides for 10 human rights sites

### Promotion of collaboration with universities

- 8 universities participated in the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan
- 4 universities participated in the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Plan

### Use of diverse formats to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Including a print-Braille dual media version, an easy-to-read version, a youth version, and online videos

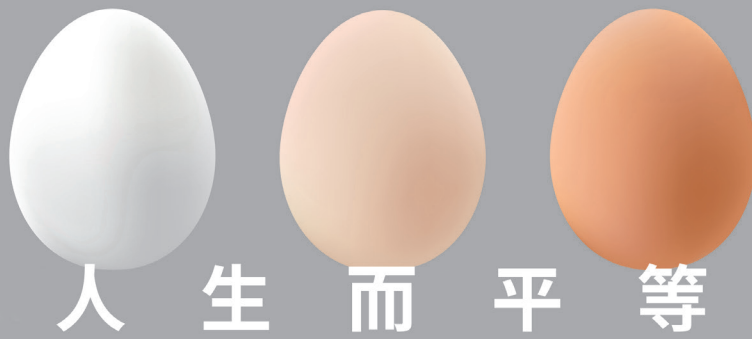
Note: Unless otherwise specified, all data provided is for the period between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.



Part

## Reports and Recommendations

To realize the vision of making Taiwan a nation with full respect for human rights, the Commission continues to enhance the promotion of relevant law and policy, strengthening the country's human rights foundation. This includes the publication of reference guidelines, independent opinions on international human rights conventions, and human rights special reports, as well as participation in the Constitutional Court and the promotion of human rights education.



*Everyone is Born Equal*, by Yang Jie-an  
2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Public Category, Honorable Mention



## *Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities*

# Helping All Agencies End Discrimination and Enforce Equal Rights for People with Disabilities

A student with low vision faced difficulties during a mock exam because the print on the exam was too small, and the grids on the answer sheet were too tiny. Compared to other students, the student needed to spend more time completing the answers and could only finish half the exam in the time allowed. The teacher noticed this issue and consulted with the student on their specific needs. In the next exam, adjustments were made by enlarging the print on the exam and the answer sheet, reducing the extra time required for reading due to low vision and enabling the student to complete all questions within the allotted time.

### **Compiling Domestic and International Literature, Case Studies, and Advisory Opinions to Complete the Guidelines**

The aforementioned case is an example of reasonable accommodation in daily life. Reasonable accommodation is based on the concept of equality for persons with disabilities, aimed at eliminating the obstacles they face in the equal enjoyment of basic human rights and freedoms. It involves proposing individualized, effective, and suitable adjustments to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in specific educational or work contexts. Refusal to provide reasonable accommodation must be justified by the responsible party, proving that it constitutes an undue burden.

Starting in 2022, the Commission, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, has referred to relevant literature from New Zealand, France, the United States, Japan, and the European Network of Equality Bodies. It also organized 2 expert consultation meetings, inviting experts and scholars in the field of disabilities to provide their opinions; 1 consultation meeting with non-governmental organizations representing persons with disabilities, inviting 15 groups to participate so that persons with disabilities could express their views; and 1 consultation meeting with 8 administrative agencies.


After synthesizing domestic and international literature and expert opinions, the Commission compiled case studies of reasonable accommodation from both domestic and international sources and completed the *Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities*, publishing them on the official website so that government agencies can take reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities into consideration in the promotion of public policies.

### **Government Agencies Responded by Developing Reasonable Accommodation Guidelines**

The purpose of the general guidelines is to promote the development of guidelines for

matters within the responsibility of each government agency. Therefore, during the drafting process, the Commission invited agencies whose duties are especially relevant to reasonable accommodation, including the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, Executive Yuan Directorate-General of Personnel Administration, Ministry of Examination, Ministry of Civil Service, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Transportation and Communications, to confer together on the details. The goal was to expedite the development of more detailed and practical reasonable accommodation guidelines by these agencies within their respective areas of

responsibility. After the release of the guidelines, the Workforce Development Agency under the Ministry of Labor completed the *Reasonable Accommodation Handbook for Employment Services for Persons with Disabilities*, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare is also drafting “Guidelines for Agencies Developing Reasonable Accommodation Measures” (tentative title).

The Commission looks forward to seeing more government agencies establish their own reasonable accommodation guidelines for matters under their purview, accelerating Taiwan’s implementation of equal rights for persons with disabilities. 

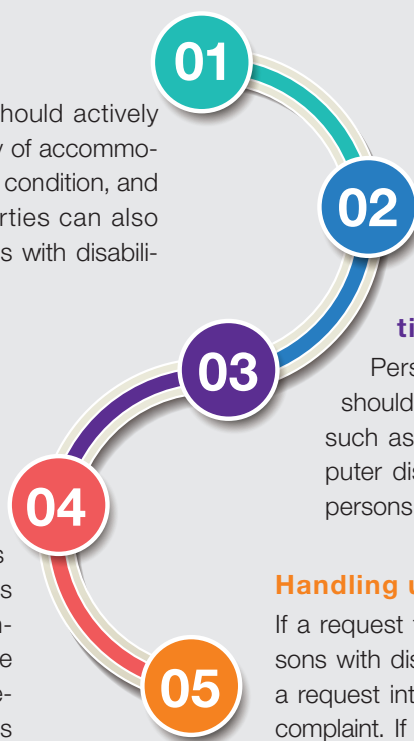
### Five Steps for Reasonable Accommodation Proposed in the Guidelines

#### Making needs known

Persons with disabilities should actively inform the responsible party of accommodation needs related to their condition, and potentially responsible parties can also proactively inquire if persons with disabilities have relevant needs.

#### Assessing whether reasonable accommodation causes an excessive burden

Once appropriate measures that meet the needs of persons with disabilities are identified, if the responsible party cannot provide specific evidence that implementing these measures would cause an excessive burden on the organization, then reasonable accommodation should be carried out.



#### Dialogue and negotiation

There should be dialogue and negotiation between persons with disabilities and the responsible party, with the content recorded as a basis for future reasonable accommodation.

#### Confirming appropriate accommodation measures

Persons with disabilities and the responsible party should confirm appropriate accommodation measures, such as using accessible images and text, larger computer displays, or enlarged fonts to facilitate reading for persons with disabilities.

#### Handling unacceptable rejections

If a request for reasonable accommodation is rejected, persons with disabilities can propose alternative solutions, make a request internally to the responsible party, or file an official complaint. If these methods do not resolve the issue, persons with disabilities can file a petition or administrative appeal with the competent authority. If the results of such an appeal are still unacceptable, a lawsuit may be filed in court (administrative or civil litigation).



## *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*

# Aligning with International Human Rights Conventions to Advance Domestic Human Rights

In April and May 2023, during Free Speech Month organized by the National Taiwan University Student Association, students displayed a self-made banner that played on an idiom “blow one’s top,” alluding to the perceived unfairness of a policy for securing admission for Indigenous students. In July of the same year, police officers in Changhua County, in an effort to intensify their crack-down on unaccounted-for migrant workers, employed violence in the arrest of a 17-year-old second-generation new immigrant of Vietnamese descent, resulting in a head injury. The possible excessive use of force in this incident sparked public outrage.

### **The Government Releases the Initial Report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**

The frequent incidents of discrimination against various ethnic groups highlight the urgent need for Taiwan to intensify its efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and promote human rights. In 1966, our country signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). After subsequent ratification and deposit procedures, ICERD became the only international human rights convention for which our country completed all procedures before withdraw-

ing from the United Nations. In December 2022, the government released its first national report on ICERD (the *ICERD National Report*). In July 2023, the Commission published the *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's*

### **Documenting the First Drafting of the Independent Opinions on ICERD**

To draft the *Independent Opinions on ICERD*, the Commission, through meetings, forums, and on-site visits, reviewed the adequacy of legal protections related to racial and ethnic group rights, identified gaps in policy implementation, and evaluated the government’s efforts and challenges in enforcing ICERD.

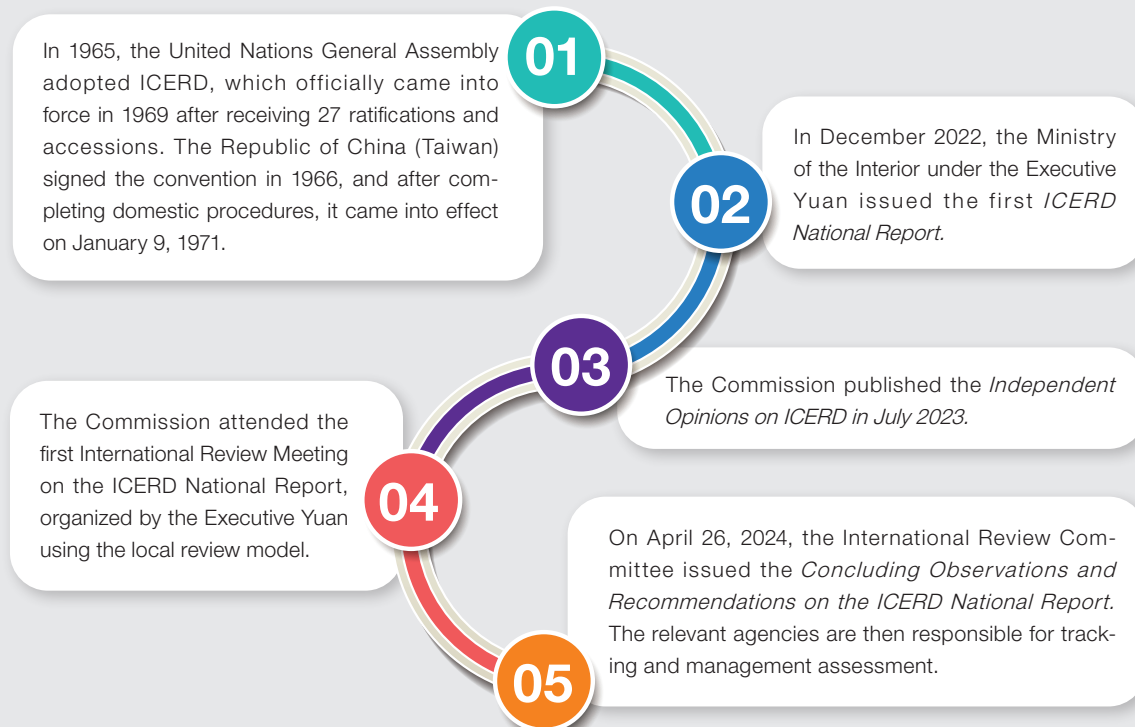
Between October 2022 and May 2023, the Commission held 3 consultation meetings, 4 symposiums with nongovernmental organizations, and 3 forums with government agencies, while at the same time requesting explanations and statistical data from 18 government agencies. Additionally, by conducting on-site visits to Indigenous communities and referencing NHRC human rights special reports, related commissioned research projects, and investigations by the Control Yuan, the Commission gained a comprehensive understanding of relevant policies and equality measures.

The Commission would like to especially acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the late Assistant Professor Lin Shu-ya from the Department of Law at Providence University, whose suggestions on the *Independent Opinions on ICERD* and long-term advocacy for human and Indigenous peoples’ rights were deeply appreciated.

*Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (the *Independent Opinions on ICERD*), identify-

ing pathways to improvement in addressing human rights deficiencies concerning Indigenous peoples, new immigrants, migrant workers, and noncitizens.

### The *Independent Opinions on ICERD* in Relation to Review Procedures for National Reports on Human Rights Conventions



### Respecting the Eight Major Rights of Indigenous Peoples Gaps Remain in Public Health and Medical Services

To promote understanding between ethnic groups and eliminate racial discrimination, the *Independent Opinions on ICERD* present 30 recommendations addressing current problems with regard to the human rights of Indigenous peoples (see the table below). Among these recommendations, those concerning the rights to access public health and medical care highlight long-standing issues of unequal health care resources and social discrimination. The Commission believes that the government’s current health and welfare

policies for Indigenous peoples lack the participation of Indigenous peoples themselves and fail to take account of their cultural uniqueness. Consequently, these policies do not provide appropriate or culturally safe health and welfare services tailored to different ethnic groups and communities. It is recommended that the government include mechanisms for Indigenous participation in the policy-making process to jointly develop medical services and mechanisms suited to local needs.

The Commission asserts that health is a basic human right. In addition to examining health disparities among Indigenous peoples through

objective health indicators, the government should also conduct assessments to evaluate their subjective well-being at irregular intervals. For instance, the government should measure

the satisfaction rates regarding respect and friendliness towards different ethnic groups and cultures in Taiwan.

## Recommendations on Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Rights	Current problems and related recommendations
Land and other natural resources	Conduct a comprehensive review and plan appropriate Indigenous land policies. Examine and amend consultation mechanisms to progressively fulfill the obligation to recognize and restore Indigenous peoples' land and natural resource rights. Consultation mechanisms should fully respect the rights of Indigenous peoples to free, prior, and informed consent.
Belong to an Indigenous community or nation	Amendments to the Indigenous Peoples Status Act, or the drafting of any similar new bill, should effectively guarantee the self-identification and ethnic will of Indigenous peoples.
Use an Indigenous name exclusively	The current name registration regulations prohibit registration solely in an Indigenous language. Indigenous persons should have the right to choose their own language for registration. Training programs should be implemented to enhance the professional competence of public officials in relevant departments.
Employment	Investigate the employment status of Indigenous peoples in all government agencies. Review the mechanisms for the training, examination, assignment, and promotion of Indigenous teachers and military and police personnel to improve the feasibility of employing individuals with Indigenous identity. Strengthen the training of Indigenous teachers so that the right of Indigenous students to education will not be affected.
Education	Ensure that Indigenous students have opportunities to take teacher training courses. Ensure that educators have a deep understanding of Indigenous cultures and provide appropriate guidance to students, achieving the goal of universal Indigenous peoples education. Design appropriate Indigenous language education policies for preschool children in urban areas to build up their confidence and sense of identity.
Housing	Address the issues of land ownership, insufficient tribal farmland and water resources, and limited living space and industrial development brought about by the Permanent Housing Policy following Typhoon Morakot, and formulate culturally sensitive land and housing policies.
Equal and adequate public health, medical care, social security, and social services	The health indicators of Indigenous peoples still lag behind the national average. The government should develop localized Indigenous medical services and establish medical care mechanisms to improve service capacity and sustainable development.
Equal participation in culture	Ensure that any policies involving Indigenous cultural rights or having significant impacts on them are formulated with the consultation and consent of Indigenous peoples. Ensure that rights holders participate in policy-making freely, without coercion, and are fully informed. Additionally, recognize the indigeneity of the Plains Indigenous persons and ensure their right to cultural participation.

### Eliminating Inconsistent Regulations on the Rights of New Immigrants to Obtain Nationality and Residency

At the end of 2023, the number of new immigrants and migrant workers in Taiwan was 592,000 and 753,000, respectively, making them minority groups within the country. However, incidents of discrimination against them by law enforcement or the general public frequently occur.

Therefore, the *Independent Opinions on ICERD* present nine recommendations (see the table below) based on the current living conditions of new immigrants in Taiwan and the status of their related rights and policy implementations. One of these concerns the regulations and application requirements for new immigrants to obtain nationality and residency, which remain inconsistent. For

example, the regulations for Chinese spouses and other foreign spouses applying for residency and naturalization differ. The former are subject to the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, while the latter are governed by the Nationality Act. Additionally, after Chinese spouses legally apply for residency or permanent residency, their direct lineal relatives over the age of 70 can apply for permanent residency in Taiwan, but the Nationality Act has no such provision.

The Commission believes that the government should engage in dialogue with society to ensure that the new immigrants can obtain citizenship or naturalization without discrimination, and that it should review the regulations concerning the permanent residency of elderly direct lineal relatives in Taiwan.

### Recommendations on New Immigrants' Rights

Rights	Current problems and related recommendations
Freedom of entry and exit	The national policy at present time dictates Overseas Marriage Interviews Procedures for specific countries, including China and countries in Southeast Asia. It is recommended that the government should adopt an objective assessment indicators and regulations, including which country should be elected, to ensure that new immigrants enjoy the right to freedom of entry and exit.
Obtain nationality and residency	The government should ensure that the conditions for Chinese spouses and other foreign spouses applying for residency, nationality, or permanent residency for elderly direct lineal relatives in Taiwan do not constitute discrimination.
Housing	Eligibility to apply for social housing could be appropriately relaxed based on the circumstances of different groups in society. This includes new immigrants who have not yet obtained Taiwanese nationality or those who are victims of domestic violence and have no financial means.
Inheritance	The government has proposed amendments to laws regarding the entitled compensation owed to the families and successors of deceased public servants. However, this process of amendments has been dragging on for over a decade. It is time for these amendments to be finalized and widely publicized to safeguard the rights of families and successors. Similarly, laws and regulations should be adopted to ensure that non-nationals have the right to inherit from their spouses.

**Addressing the Issue of the Undocumented Children of Unaccounted-for Migrant Workers**

Regarding the protection of migrant workers’ rights, the *Independent Opinions on ICERD* present 33 problems and related recommendations (see the table below). With the extension of the employment period for migrant workers to 14 years in 2015, the number of migrant workers having children in Taiwan and their need for family reunification have inevitably increased. Amid these changes, children born to migrant workers become undocumented due to parents’ difficulties in applying for legal residency with the National Immigration Agency, their

unwillingness to do so, or because unaccounted-for migrant workers choose to give birth privately. This leads to an inability to accurately track the status of these undocumented children (noncitizen children and youth living with their parents). Given that undocumented children lack rights to placement, childcare, education, and medical care, the Commission believes that the best interests of the child should take precedence over enforcement and investigation. This would allow missing or unaccounted-for migrant worker parents to seek help without fear, thereby assisting undocumented children in receiving appropriate care and developmental opportunities.

**Recommendations on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights**

Rights	Current problems and related recommendations
Judicial equality	According to the Employment Service Act, if migrant workers commit a serious violation of the law, their employment permits can be revoked. The Ministry of Labor should carefully consider the necessity and reasonableness of the criteria used to define what constitutes “serious” violations under this regulation. Additionally, revision of the State Compensation Law should be accelerated to eliminate the reciprocity principle, ensuring that all individuals within our country, regardless of nationality, have equal rights to compensation.
Interpretation services	The lack of a principal agency to consolidate the interpretation services has led to significant disparities in the pay, benefits, and quality of interpreters, further undermining the provision of legal aid for migrant workers. The government should promptly establish a comprehensive, cross-agency legal interpretation service, including the courts, the police authorities and the immigration authority, with qualification levels and interpreting specialization categories.
Security of person	Migrant workers face risks such as restricted freedom of movement, confiscation of passports, and excessive overtime, leading to forced labor conditions. The government is advised to formulate specific measures to simplify administrative procedures for the transnational employment of migrant workers and reduce the intervention of labor brokers.
Obtain nationality and residency	The current Employment Service Act strictly limits the right to family reunification for blue-collar migrant workers, resulting in differential treatment from other noncitizens. Additionally, in the past, the residence period for migrant workers was limited to prevent them from becoming immigrants. Although the Long-term Retention of Skilled Foreign Workers Program has been newly implemented, the government still needs to face the fact that migrant workers are no longer a supplementary workforce, and should come to view migrant workers as guest workers.

Rights	Current problems and related recommendations
Employment	Under the Employment Service Act, migrant workers can only be employed on fixed-term contracts and cannot freely choose their employers. It is recommended that migrant workers be allowed to move freely within a specific industry after a certain period to reduce negative impacts. Additionally, the government should take measures to narrow the gap in labor standards between migrant domestic workers and local workers, as well as improve the labor standards for foreign fishermen hired overseas, ensuring effective protection of equal rights.
Housing	Migrant workers' accommodations are not separated from factory premises, leading to incidents such as factory fires resulting in casualties. Additionally, due to the lack of friendly facilities for fishermen, foreign fishermen are forced to bathe in makeshift outdoor conditions on boat decks or at the docks. Employers should be actively supervised to provide safe living environments that are culturally and religiously appropriate.
Organize and join unions	Compared to local workers, migrant workers face practical difficulties in organizing unions. The government should assist migrant workers in freely organizing and joining all types of unions and actively increase the unionization rate among migrant workers.
Equal and adequate public health, medical care, social security, and social services	When migrant workers suffer occupational injuries, they face difficulties such as the danger of being repatriated and complexities in claiming social insurance benefits. The competent authorities should assist in simplifying relevant procedures. Additionally, unaccounted-for migrant workers who experience occupational injuries are unable to receive any social security. The government should avoid depriving noncitizens of access to preventive, therapeutic, and palliative health services, or restricting such access, and should establish mechanisms to assist unaccounted-for migrant workers in obtaining medical care.

### Protecting Foreign Students in Taiwan from Labor Exploitation

In addition to the aforementioned groups, the Commission has also put forward recommendations for specific noncitizens such as foreign students (see the table below). There have been past incidents where foreign students were recruited to study in Taiwan by unscrupulous intermediaries, only to be forced into labor and exploited, becoming victims of a new form of human trafficking. The *Independent Opinions on ICERD* also suggest that the competent authorities should strengthen the frequency of inspections, enhance early warning capabilities, and amend the law to protect foreign

students from forced labor.


### Accelerate Passage of a Social Equality Bill to Eliminate the Trauma of Microaggressions

The *Independent Opinions on ICERD* recommend accelerating passage of a comprehensive bill on social equality to eliminate discrimination and protect disadvantaged groups.\* Simultaneously, human rights education should be strengthened in educational settings and in the public and private sectors to eradicate the implicit trauma caused by unconscious microaggressions. The government is also urged to expedite the analysis and establishment of punishment types



and standards for hate speech and hateful behavior, regulate the spread of hate speech on digital platforms, and most importantly, provide complaint channels for victims of discrimination. Continuous efforts should be made to promote educational training and media campaigns for schools, civil servants, and law enforcement personnel.

The Commission expects that the *Independent Opinions on ICERD* will serve as a

starting point for working with government agencies to jointly address inequalities among ethnic and social groups caused by an inadequate regulatory system or improper policy implementation. The Commission will also work together with the public towards eliminating discrimination rooted in cultural stereotypes, accelerating the promotion of ethnic mainstreaming policies, and creating a pluralistic society with equality and respect. 

### Recommendations on Noncitizens' Rights

Rights	Current problems and related recommendations
Obtain nationality and residency	Currently, nationals from 17 specific countries face stricter visa review and naturalization requirements. The government should promptly review whether these differential treatment regulations are justified, reasonable, and necessary.
Employment	The government should strengthen the inspection of foreign students' part-time work circumstances and amend the law to include the forced labor indicators set by the International Labour Organization.
Education	Stateless exiled Tibetans studying in Taiwan face visa issues, allowing only case-by-case handling and requiring them to leave and reenter the country every six months. The government should address these legal issues with a comprehensive solution. Additionally, a cross-ministerial complaint mechanism should be established to provide guidance and relief channels for overseas compatriot students studying in Taiwan.
Equal and adequate public health, medical care, social security, and social services	Noncitizen inmates cannot take part in the National Health Insurance system after their residence permits are revoked or terminated, unlike inmates who are citizens, whose insurance premiums are paid by the government. The government should assess the feasibility of amending the National Health Insurance Act to include foreign inmates.

\*Before this report went to press, the Executive Yuan Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice proposed the draft Anti-Discrimination Act on May 2, 2024, seeking opinions from all sectors of society.

## *Special Report on Migrant Workers' Child-Rearing in Taiwan*

# Ensuring Work Rights and Reproductive Rights to Stabilize Taiwan's Industrial and Social Development

Bonnie, an Indonesian migrant worker who had been working in Taiwan for over ten years, met an employer who treated her like family. When she was pregnant with her first child, the employer not only did not raise any objections but instead took her to the hospital for regular prenatal check-ups and helped her with postpartum confinement, allowing her to have her child without any worries. Later, when she unexpectedly became pregnant with her second child, the employer's persuasion and support led her to dismiss the idea of abortion, and she became a mother of two who balances work and childcare.

There are many migrant workers in Taiwan like Bonnie who worry that pregnancy will affect their work, or who lack sufficient resources to support them, making it difficult to continue working while raising children in Taiwan. Protecting the work and reproductive rights of these migrant workers has always been a key task for the Commission. Currently, many domestic laws have been drafted in accordance with international conventions to ensure maternal protection and the employment rights of female migrant workers. However, to enhance the protection of these rights, the Commission released the

*Special Report on Migrant Workers' Child-Rearing in Taiwan* (hereinafter the Report) in 2023, providing a deeper understanding the current labor rights of pregnant migrant workers in our country and the actual difficulties they face with regard to pregnancy and childcare, and making relevant recommendations. We hope to provide a comprehensive support environment so that migrant workers can feel secure working in Taiwan.

### **Inadequate implementation of policies and laws makes it difficult to protect the work and reproductive rights of migrant workers**

Since the introduction of foreign migrant workers, their number in Taiwan has been increasing year by year. They not only help mitigate the labor shortage in our industries but also support families with long-term care needs, and have become an indispensable labor source. According to the Ministry of Labor, as of the end of January 2024, the number of migrant workers in Taiwan was roughly 760,000, nearly 50 percent of whom were female, while 99 percent of migrant workers in the social welfare sector were female. The marriage, childbirth, and child care concerns of female migrant workers in Taiwan are thus an especially important issue

that cannot be neglected.

Of the nine core UN human rights conventions, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and Convention on the Rights of the Child all point out that it is the common responsibility of the government and society to ensure that people are not discriminated against because of race, color, sex, language, religion, or nationality or other status, and have the right to fair employment treatment, good working conditions, and social security. They explicitly state that the government should protect the right to work and reproductive rights of female workers, and children's right to development and right to health.

In order to align with international human rights standards, Taiwan has incorporated these five conventions into domestic law, and the Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Health and Welfare have also added new measures year by year to protect the pregnancy rights of migrant workers. However, due to various practical challenges, it has been difficult to effectively implement related laws and policies, resulting in repeated occurrences of female migrant workers, when pregnant or after childbirth, fleeing or abandoning their children. This has led to difficulties in child placement and care, identity verification, and residency rights. In view of this situation, the Commission, exercising its authority, initiated this investigation to explore how Taiwan can

implement favorable working conditions for pregnant migrant workers and provide effective support measures.

### **Six major challenges faced by pregnant migrant workers**

The investigation employed individual interviews, questionnaires, consultation meetings, and perusal of government agency files to gain a comprehensive understanding of the actual situations faced by pregnant female migrant workers in Taiwan with insufficient support in terms of the right to work and social support networks. The Report identifies six major challenges faced by female migrant workers during pregnancy and child-care:

1. The lack of comprehensive supporting measures for policies and insufficient dissemination of information about them leaves female migrant workers unprotected by maternity laws; the situation for home caregivers is particularly difficult.
2. The extension of the number of years migrant workers may work in Taiwan has exacerbated the difficulties female migrant workers face in balancing work and family or marital needs.
3. Migrant workers lack childcare resources and familial support, forcing them to take the risk of relying on mutual aid within their communities or informal care resources.
4. When the father is unwilling to share parenting responsibilities, female migrant workers suffer immense psychological pressure, further aggravating their work and life challenges.
5. When female migrant workers go missing, the children born to them in Taiwan

and taken into hiding end up with no legal residency status and lose access to their fundamental rights of healthcare, social welfare, and education.

6. Brokers, who are responsible for communication between migrant workers and employers, are often less supportive of migrant workers having and raising children in Taiwan while maintaining their jobs than the employers themselves. This results in pregnant migrant workers frequently being unable to obtain accurate information and assistance from brokers, while employers also struggle to manage the situation appropriately through brokers.

### **Eight major recommendations for improving government policies so that pregnant migrant workers become a stable labor force**

The six major difficulties faced by pregnant migrant workers highlight the inadequacies and lack of flexibility in current law and policy. Even though the law allows pregnant migrant

workers to continue working and permits their children to stay in Taiwan, practical considerations still make it difficult for them to balance work and childcare. Therefore, the *Report* proposes eight specific recommendations (see the figure below) to ensure the labor and reproductive rights of legal migrant workers, end their fear of being dismissed due to pregnancy, and effectively prevent them from going missing as a result of pregnancy. This would help avoid the related issues regarding childbirth and childcare discussed above.

The *Report's* recommendations may serve as reference for the government in future revisions of migrant worker management policies, enhancing the human rights protection of pregnant migrant workers and their children. It is hoped that migrant workers will feel safe and secure working in Taiwan, and that the spirit of international human rights conventions will be upheld, realizing the vision of deepening Taiwan's democracy and becoming a nation founded on human rights. 

## **Eight Major Recommendations for Improving the Right to Work and Reproductive Rights of Legal Migrant Workers**

1

### **Survey on Work and Childcare Needs of Pregnant Migrant Workers**

The government should immediately commence data collection and investigation, particularly regarding the daily life and childcare needs of pregnant migrant workers (including those who are unaccounted for) and their contract periods, in order to take appropriate measures.

2

### **Policy Review, Integration, and Information Sharing**

The Executive Yuan should review how pregnant migrant workers are dealt with and applicable laws and interpretations, as well as information on support services provided by the government and by nongovernmental organizations. A multilingual information-sharing platform should be established so that migrant workers, employers, and brokers are informed about relevant regulations and services.

3

### **Strengthening Legal Knowledge and Protection Mechanisms for Migrant Workers**

Accurate legal knowledge must be conveyed to migrant workers, to avoid information gaps. To reinforce the protection mechanisms under existing laws, a contract termination verification mechanism should be implemented, consultation and complaint handling mechanisms should be improved, and migrant workers should be assisted in forming unions.

4

### **Enhancing Protective Measures for the Rights of Pregnant Migrant Workers**

Accommodations for legal migrant workers during pregnancy should be strengthened; the use of assistance measures provided by the Principles for Handling Migrant Worker Pregnancies should be increased; obstacles to migrant workers returning to their home countries to settle their children should be eliminated; and a resource platform for pregnant migrant workers should be continuously expanded.

5

### **Strengthening Measures to Protect the Rights of Migrant Workers' Children**

Childcare expenses for migrant workers should be subsidized; undocumented children in the company of their unaccounted-for migrant worker parents should be assisted in coming out of the shadows; and childcare placement cooperation mechanisms should be established with the migrant workers' countries of origin to ensure the rights of their children.

6

### **Improving the Regulation and Service Quality of Labor Brokers**

It is recommended that the substantive content of statutory services provided by labor brokers, such as plans for taking care of the basic needs of a migrant worker's daily life, be clearly defined. Additionally, regulations or guidelines for agreements between employers and employees should be established to ensure that the pregnancy-related needs of migrant workers are met, and that reasonable cost standards are set.

7

### **Developing Alternatives to Address Workforce Gaps**

Specific and flexible workforce substitution plans should be developed, and respite care service quotas should be increased to fill the workforce gap during the maternity leaves of household caregivers. This would ensure that the rights and interests of both care recipients and migrant workers are protected.

8

### **Enhancing Protection of Migrant Workers' Marriage and Family Reunification Rights**

It is recommended that the law be amended or that other appropriate measures be taken to protect the rights of migrant workers to marriage and family reunification. Regardless of whether the children of migrant workers are born in Taiwan, they should be allowed to reside in Taiwan to receive care from their mothers, enabling them to work in Taiwan with peace of mind.

## *Final Report on the 2021 National Preventive Mechanism against Torture Pilot Inspection Project*

# Proposing Recommendations for Improvement for Rights Violation in Children and Youth in Detention

Taiwan has over two thousand detention facilities such as correctional institutions, immigration detention centers, and placement and care institutions for children and adolescents, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The protection of human rights in these facilities cannot be overlooked.

In line with the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention against Torture) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), the Commission passed the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture Pilot Inspection Project in 2021.

In recent years, investigations by the Control Yuan have revealed numerous incidents of bullying, group fights, riots, and sexual assault in juvenile correctional institutions and placement facilities for children and adolescents. This project prioritized the inspection of eight locations, including juvenile correctional institutions under the Ministry of Justice and placement institutions for children and adolescents under the Ministry of Health and Welfare, to identify the risks of torture or improper treatment in such facilities in Taiwan. In 2023, the Commission completed the *Final Report on the 2021 National Preventive Mechanism*

*against Torture Pilot Inspection Project*, providing a basis for administrative agencies to improve human rights in correctional and placement institutions.

### **In-depth Investigation of Correctional and Placement Institutions to Uncover Human Rights Violations**

According to the provisions of OPCAT, state parties to the Convention against Torture must establish a national preventive mechanism to ensure that all government agencies implement the convention's regulations, serving as a national-level mechanism for the prevention of torture.

On December 10, 2020, the Cabinet has proposed a draft bill on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and OPCAT and submitted it to the Legislative Yuan for approval. The draft bill, however, could not be passed before the legislative term ended, and as a result, Taiwan has yet to establish a national preventive mechanism against torture. Nevertheless, the Commission, to fulfill its supervisory responsibility, approved the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture Pilot Inspection Project in 2021 and established a special project execution team for the prevention of torture.

From the initiation of the project in August

2021 to January 2022, the Commission completed visits to five juvenile correctional institutions and three placement facilities for children and adolescents. Each inspection team was composed of two NHRC commissioners, external experts, and a qualified psychiatrist. They inspected the facilities' infrastructure and conducted individual interviews with detained children and adolescents, and with staff. Through these inspections, the Commission observed that risks of human rights violations exist in some correctional and placement institutions and, therefore, provided relevant authorities with the following recommendations for improvement to enhance human rights protections.

**Recommendations for Juvenile Correctional Institutions**

**1. Personal safety and improper treatment:** avoid using restraints during outings whenever possible; prohibit staff from carrying and using weapons within the institution; make the minimum age of criminal responsibility at least 14; avoid unnecessary body searches; install emergency call buttons in shower rooms and toilets; do not use labor service or the suspension/reduction of visitations or correspondence as forms of pun-

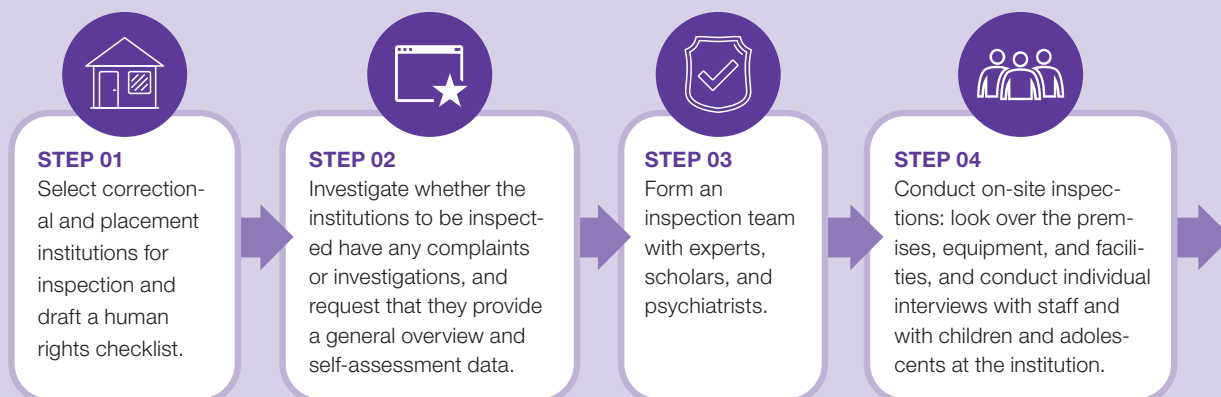
ishment; carefully assess the applicability of the progressive treatment system; assign accommodations according to the principle of age separation, keeping young prisoners separate from adults; use surveillance cameras to meet security needs and monitor, promptly address, and investigate any improper treatment, violence, or bullying.

**2. Education and counseling:** provide skill training courses that help students reintegrate into society and resume their education; improve disability assessments for new students to understand their needs and allocate special education resources and teachers appropriately; after transforming juvenile reform institutions into correctional schools, establish coordination and cooperation mechanisms to resolve conceptual conflicts between the correctional and education systems.

**3. Medical care, hygiene, exercise, culture, and recreation:** balance the staffing of educators and increase students' free exercise time; regularly update library holdings with books suitable for detained students, and use multimedia to enhance their access to library resources.

**4. Resources for daily life, residential environment, external contact, and**

**Methodology and Inspection Procedures for the 2021 National Preventive Mechanism against Torture Pilot Inspection Project**



**communication:** security measures should protect privacy; improve visitation and communication methods to protect the privacy of juveniles, and allow unrestricted conversations with family members.

**5. Feedback and rights remedies:** establish a friendly, safe, trustworthy, confidential, and timely grievance or complaint mechanism, and make external complaint channels known to inmates.

**6. Other matters:** assist students in completing their studies while in school and ensure students' right to reintegrate into society, the competent authorities should actively coordinate with local courts to expedite the process of applying for parole eligibility, and work with the Judicial Yuan to address issues related to the duration and frequency of temporary transfers.


prevent inappropriate differential treatment or more serious discrimination.

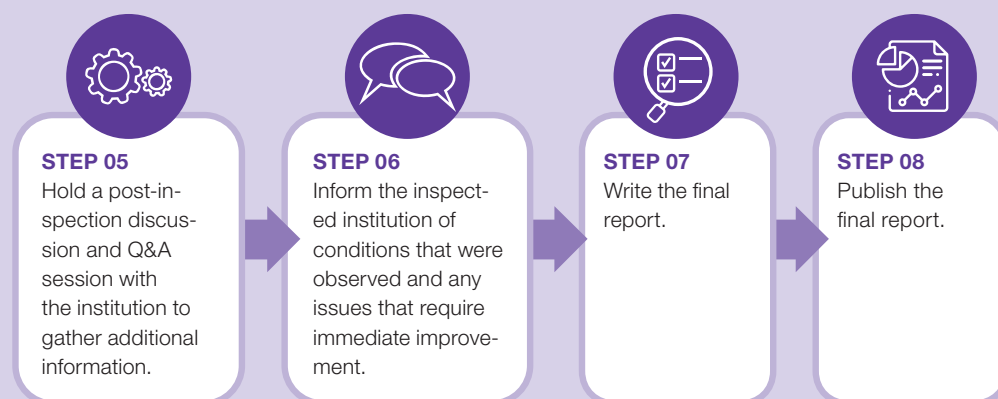
**2. Education and counseling:** adjust the curriculum and teaching methods to align with the 12-year Basic Education system; allocate full-time special education teachers and provide special education training for institutional staff to ensure the educational rights of children and adolescents with disabilities; design vocational training courses considering the needs of the domestic labor market, and regularly review and update the curriculum and teaching facilities.

**3. Medical care, hygiene, exercise, culture, and recreation:** Enhance resources for counseling on psychological and sexual issues for children and adolescents, and maintain their right to age-appropriate play and recreational activities.

### Recommendations for Placement Institutions for Children and Adolescents

**1. Personal safety and improper treatment:** improve the educational training of administrators of the calming room to forestall punitive disciplinary management such as solitary confinement or isolation under the guise of protection; reassess the appropriateness of differentiating new and old students' clothing within the institution to

To uncover human rights violations, establish dialogue, and collaborate to strengthen human rights protection, the Commission has published this report providing recommendations for improving juvenile correctional institutions and placement institutions for children and adolescents, encouraging such facilities to take it upon themselves to improve human rights conditions. 





## *Special Report on the Rights of Inmates with Disabilities*

# Protecting the Basic Survival Right of Inmates with Disabilities

Yong-hui, who as a teenager lost his left arm in an accident, struggled to find work due to his physical disability. Through a friend's introduction, he began selling lottery tickets. However, because of the long working hours he started to use drugs to stay alert, resulting in multiple incarcerations in rehabilitation centers and prisons. Later, he was imprisoned again for selling drugs to cover his father's funeral expenses.

He faces numerous challenges in prison, including his amputated arm, which has caused chronic scoliosis, pressing on his lower limb nerves, and requiring him to take painkillers four times daily for relief. Additionally, his right leg has gradually atrophied, making movement difficult. These issues have made it hard for him to adapt to prison life, leading to frequent feelings of fear, irritability, depression, anger, and resentment. As a result, he wrote letters to many government agencies, hoping someone would recognize his plight.

### **Project Background**

Before being imprisoned, persons with disabilities can receive a monthly living allowance ranging from NT\$3,000 to NT\$8,000, depending on the severity of their disability and their total family income. However, this allowance is canceled once they are incarcerated. After entering prison, some persons with disabilities continue to face poverty.

Although they can manage daily living activities, if they do not have support from friends or family, and their disabilities prevent them from working, they lose financial support from both inside and outside prison. This makes them among the most vulnerable in the prison population, living in extremely difficult conditions.

To ensure their human rights are adequately protected, the Commission released the *Special Report on the Rights of Inmates with Disabilities*. In addition to holding interagency meetings, the Commission asked the Ministry of Justice to provide a list of inmates with disabilities who are unable to work and have not been granted special accommodations. Based on this list, the Commission conducted visits to 7 prisons and interviewed 68 inmates and staff members. After compiling the interview results and consulting with experts and scholars, the Commission compared its findings with current government policies and regulations to provide concrete recommendations.

### **The Most Vulnerable in Prison— Inmates with Disabilities**

The general public often believes that inmates in prison live off the government, getting free room and board. In reality, apart from the one-time issuance of underwear, a toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, a towel, and a bar of soap upon entry, inmates

must pay for everything else with their own money, including medical expenses. However, some inmates come from impoverished backgrounds, have strained relationships with their families, or are estranged from their families. As a result, inmates with disabilities face three significant challenges while incarcerated:

**1. Impoverished inmates with disabilities rely on friends, family, or cellmates for financial support:**

Inmates are considered economically disadvantaged if their trust account balance is below NT\$500. In such cases, prisons provide basic necessities quarterly. However, these supplies are insufficient in both variety and quantity (each set must last three months).

Without financial support from friends or family, inmates must rely on assistance from their cellmates or work illicitly to obtain daily necessities, a situation which fails to meet their basic living needs.

**2. Poverty in prison directly affects inmates' right to health:**

Inmates often endure illnesses in silence because they cannot afford medical expenses. Those who cannot afford dentures must swallow their food whole. When inmates incur medical debts, any money sent by friends or family or earned from work is seized to cover these costs, with no consideration for the amount needed for the inmate's basic living expenses, leaving many inmates completely penniless.

**3. Difficulties abound in applying for disability assessments in prison:**

Whether inmates need to renew an expired disability certificate or their physical and mental condition has changed

since incarceration, resulting in an obvious disability, the current application and reassessment processes are hindered by complex administrative and medical care procedures. This has led to a significant underestimation of the number of inmates with disabilities. Consequently, inmates cannot access necessary medical, rehabilitation, and assistive device subsidies in prison and, upon release, cannot receive relevant social welfare benefits due to the lack of legal disability status, impeding their reintegration into society or transition to long-term care facilities.

**Four Major Recommendations for Safeguarding the Human Rights of Inmates with Disabilities**


Article 10, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates: "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person." If inmates lose their basic dignity due to an inability to sustain themselves in prison, the state has the obligation to provide adequate assistance to ensure their basic living conditions are met. In other words, this is a human rights obligation of the state and should not be handled through charitable donations or fundraising relief based on the individual circumstances of inmates. Therefore, after consolidating its visit and interview data with relevant consultation opinions, the Commission has put forward four recommendations (see the figure on the next page).

Chief Justice and President of the Judicial Yuan Hsu Tzong-li once asked, in his capacity as a justice, "Why should we care about



the human rights of inmates?” As he put it: “Although inmates’ personal freedoms are restricted in prison, this does not mean they are banished by the Constitution and become ‘abandoned people’ or ‘outcasts’ who are not protected by basic rights. Inmates are nationals in prison uniforms, not ‘nonnationals’.... Therefore, only when inmates are allowed to live with dignity in prison will they be able to successfully rein-

tegrate into society in the future and live with other members of society.”

Based on the findings set out in the report, the Commission believes that even though inmates are incarcerated in prison, the government must reconsider its responsibility to uphold their basic dignity of life and safeguard their right to health from infringement. 

### **Four Major Recommendations for Safeguarding the Human Rights of Inmates with Disabilities**

**1**

#### **Provide reasonable in-kind and cash assistance to disadvantaged inmates to maintain their basic dignity.**

The Ministry of Justice should adjust the criteria for determining the poverty status of inmates and increase the supply of daily necessities (in-kind assistance). For impoverished inmates with disabilities, it is recommended that the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health and Welfare reconsider providing an appropriate living allowance (cash assistance) after deducting food and accommodation costs.

**2**

#### **Limit deductions for outstanding debts and ensure inmates have money for basic living expenses.**

The Ministry of Justice should prioritize inmates with medical needs. A cap should be set on deductions for medical debts so that inmates are not left penniless, and do not end up forgoing treatment for minor illnesses which could later become serious health issues.

**3**

#### **Facilitate more friendly application and reassessment procedures for disability certification.**

The standard of healthcare for inmates should be equivalent to what they would receive in the community. The government should assist inmates with disabilities in applying for disability certification and reassessment. Attention should also be given to unreported cases, that is, inmates with significant disabilities who lack certification, to ensure they do not lose the rights and benefits to which they are entitled due to complex administrative and medical care procedures.

**4**

#### **Enhance long-term care for disabled and elderly inmates.**

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health and Welfare should jointly strengthen the long-term care and rehabilitation mechanisms for disabled and elderly inmates within prisons. This would prevent their condition from deteriorating due to a lack of services and facilitate their successful reintegration into society upon release.

## *Report on the Implementation of Gender Equality Education in Correctional Institutions*

# Enhancing Education to Deepen Gender Equality Awareness among Correctional Personnel

A woman was sentenced to 12 months in prison and taken directly from court to prison to serve her sentence. Before her trial, she had not been detained, and not expecting to go straight to prison, had left her two children in the care of a neighbor. Now that she is in prison, who should be responsible for informing them about her incarceration, and how should she arrange care for her children?

This is a scenario from the human rights training materials designed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for correctional institution staff. Because of the significance placed on gender equality in correctional institutions by the core UN human rights treaties, the OHCHR has developed a series of training materials that include gender awareness and empowerment.

To align with international human rights standards and enhance the gender equality awareness of correctional personnel in our country, the Commission, within its mandate, has made improving human rights knowledge among correctional institution staff and judicial personnel a key focus, publishing the *Report on the Implementation of Gender Equality Education in Correctional Institutions* in 2023.

The Commission wrote this report to get an

understanding of the actual situation regarding gender equality education in Taiwan's correctional institutions, bringing together relevant regulations on promoting gender equality education and the conclusions and recommendations of international review committees on the country's national reports on human rights conventions, along with an analysis of the implementation of gender mainstreaming education and training in correctional institutions from 2018 to 2022.

### **Room for Improvement in Gender Equality Education in Correctional Institutions**

The Executive Yuan issued the Gender Equality Training Program for All Agencies on October 21, 2004, and it has undergone eight revisions to date. Based on this program, the Ministry of Justice has included the participation rate in gender mainstreaming training as a key performance indicator. For example, the 2014–2017 Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Plan set a target participation rate of 80 percent for personnel at the Ministry of Justice and its affiliated agencies, while the 2019–2022 Gender Equality Promotion Plan set a target participation rate of over 90 percent for correctional institutions.

However, according to the results of the gender equality affairs guidance evaluations

announced by the Executive Yuan every two years, the Ministry of Justice was rated grade B in both 2019 and 2021. It is clear that, despite the many years the government has been promoting gender mainstreaming training, the Ministry of Justice still has room for improvement in implementation effectiveness.

The report analyzes the results of the gender mainstreaming education implemented by the Agency of Corrections and its affiliated institutions under the Ministry of Justice from 2018 to 2022, with ten key findings:


1. The overall participation rate has increased yearly, yet it reached 90 percent only in 2021 and 2022, with an average participation rate of 87 percent over five years, which does not meet the Ministry of Justice's key performance indicators for gender equality education.
2. As the main supervisory body for correctional institutions, the Agency of Corrections had an average participation rate of only 79 percent over five years, of which only 43 percent of supervisory personnel participating in 2020.
3. While the Ministry of Justice has been promoting gender mainstreaming education since 2014, all together for nearly 10 years, the Agency of Corrections itself and 40 percent of its affiliated institutions failed to achieve an average participation rate of 90 percent over the past five years.
4. Although the overall participation rate of supervisory personnel in the Agency of Corrections and its affiliated correctional institutions reached 90 percent from 2018 to 2022, in more than 20 percent of its affiliated institutions, their supervisory personnel still did not achieve an average participation rate of 90 percent.
5. Across all types of correctional institutions, the participation rate in gender mainstreaming education training from 2018 to 2022 generally showed an increasing trend; however, correctional schools had the lowest average participation rate, at only 65 percent over five years.
6. Among correctional schools, Ming Yang High School had the lowest participation rate in gender mainstreaming education training from 2018 to 2022, with an average of only 50 percent, followed by Li Zhi High School.
7. By job type within correctional institutions, the five-year average participation rate was less than 50 percent for special education teachers in correctional schools, clinical psychologists, accounting clerks, clerks, counseling psychologists, and teachers. Those who were involved in the counseling and management of inmates and those who oversaw or supervised gender equality education training generally had participation rates below the Ministry of Justice's key performance indicators, excepting in drug abuser treatment centers and juvenile detention houses, where participation rates were better.
8. The participation rate in advanced training for personnel handling gender equality tasks in correctional institutions was generally low, with an average of only 60 percent over five years. Nearly 20 percent of the institutions reported a participation rate of zero percent annually.
9. From 2021 to 2022, online learning and video viewing in the gender mainstreaming training courses organized by the Agency of Corrections and its affiliated agencies increased from 16 percent to 42 percent, an increase of about 163 percent, rendering the empowerment courses somewhat superficial.

10. The lecturers for traditional classroom courses were mainly colleagues from within the same institution, but none of them were drawn from the gender talent pool.

### Four Major Recommendations for Improving Gender Equality Education in Correctional Agencies under the Ministry of Justice

In summary, the report provides four major recommendations for the implementation of gender equality education in correctional agencies (see the figure below). These recommendations aim to enhance Taiwan's capacity to promote and deliver gender equality edu-

cation, and to develop feasible directions for future progress.

The report has been published on the NHRC website, and has been sent to the Ministry of Justice for reference in the future promotion of gender mainstreaming education in correctional agencies. Additionally, considering that the Commission has incorporated the enhancement of human rights knowledge for correctional and judicial personnel into its 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan, the following recommendations may be helpful in implementing the plan. 

#### Four Major Recommendations for Improving Gender Equality Education in Correctional Agencies under the Ministry of Justice

1

##### Learn from the Experience of Other Countries

To prevent training from becoming merely a formality, it is recommended that gender equality education for correctional personnel in Taiwan should consult UN guidelines and human rights training manuals (including those on issues of gender equality and prohibiting discrimination). Furthermore, relevant local studies and training programs should be developed.

2

##### Train According to Job Position

Corresponding professional courses should be developed based on the characteristics of different job positions within each correctional agency. The Training Institute for Correctional Officers should reevaluate the feasibility of incorporating gender mainstreaming education in professional courses, and strengthen gender awareness training at the supervisory level.

3

##### Establish a Tracking and Counseling Mechanism

A tracking and counseling mechanism for gender mainstreaming education should be established for correctional schools as soon as possible to develop training and counseling programs based on the nature of such schools and the specific roles and needs of their professional personnel. Additionally, the effectiveness of implementation should be tracked on a regular basis to enhance the gender equality expertise and sensitivity of relevant staff.

4

##### Emphasize Advanced Courses

Attention should be paid to the participation in advanced courses of personnel handling gender equality affairs in correctional institutions. It is also important to understand and address the reasons why some institutions do not have personnel handling gender equality affairs, in order to effectively strengthen the professional knowledge and skills of relevant staff, and help them bring such knowledge and skills to bear.

## Participation in Taiwan Constitutional Court Proceedings

# Articulating Opinions and Advocating for Human Rights According to International Human Rights Standards

According to its mandate, the National Human Rights Commission shall “conduct systematic studies of the Constitution and legal statutes based on international human rights standards in order to propose necessary and feasible recommendations to amend the Constitution, legislation and laws.” From its inception, the Commission has actively

participated in the constitutional interpretation process, emphasizing the importance of international human rights law in domestic judicial proceedings during oral arguments. In 2023, as an expert agency, the Commission participated in seven human rights-related Taiwan Constitutional Court cases. The following is a summary of the Commission’s opinions.

### **TCC Judgment 112-Hsien-Pan-7 (2023)—Case on Establishing Multiple Corporate Unions in Factories or Sites under the Same Corporation**

Establishment of the Corporate Union of the Maintenance Division of China Airlines (hereinafter the Maintenance Union) was approved by the Taoyuan City government in September 2015. However, in November of the same year, the China Airlines Employees Union filed an appeal with the Ministry of Labor, requesting the revocation of the Maintenance Union’s registration. The Ministry of Labor argued that the Maintenance Union did not meet the criteria for establishing a company-level trade union as stipulated by the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Union Act due to a lack of independent personnel, budgeting, and accounting. Subsequently, the Taipei High Administrative Court annulled the approval of the Maintenance Union’s registration. Upon further appeal, the Maintenance Union’s case was dismissed by the Supreme

Administrative Court for lack of merit. Consequently, the Maintenance Union filed a petition for constitutional interpretation, arguing that the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Union Act appear to violate the Constitution of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and several international human rights conventions.

On February 21, 2023, appearing before the Constitutional Court, the Commission emphasized that Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Labour Organization Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (No. 87), along with the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No. 98), all protect workers’ rights to freedom of association and freedom from

anti-union discrimination. The Commission argued that the requirements for the establishment of trade unions stipulated by the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Union Act could potentially cause employers' management rights to override workers' right to solidarity. This not only restricts workers' freedom of association but also undermines the purpose of establishing factory-level unions, thereby interfering with union tasks and functions. This contravenes the principles of the Labor Union Act and violates international human rights con-

ventions protecting labor rights.

The Constitutional Court ultimately delivered its verdict on May 19, 2023, aligning with the Commission's opinion. The Court ruled that the requirements for establishing company-level trade unions stipulated by the Enforcement Rules of the Labor Union Act contravene the constitutional principle of legal reservation. As a result, these provisions will lose their effect no later than two years from the date of this ruling's announcement.

### **TCC Judgment 112-Hsien-Pan-8 (2023)—Case on the Criminalization of Defamation II**

This case involves a consolidated decision where a Mr. Chu and seven other citizens used social media posts or comments, emails, or publications to present text and photographs that could damage the reputation and character of others. Consequently, they were each separately convicted of defamation under the Criminal Code by the Taiwan High Court, the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court, and the Taiwan High Court Taichung Branch Court. Mr. Chu et al. argued that the defamation provisions of the Criminal Code and Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 509 violate the constitutional principle of proportionality and infringe on freedom of speech, prompting them to file for a constitutional interpretation.

In the Constitutional Court session of March 14, 2023, the Commission referenced Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 19 of the ICCPR, as well as General Comment No. 34 on that article.

The Commission asserted that, when balancing defamation law and freedom of speech, before decriminalization of defamation the state must ensure effective protection of individual reputations. Defamation judgments should adhere to the principle of proportionality; otherwise, they constitute an infringement on freedom of speech. Additionally, regarding Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 509, the Commission suggested that the Constitutional Court should clearly define the standard of fact-checking responsibility borne by the declarant and assess whether defamation cases can be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Constitutional Court delivered its verdict on June 9, 2023, determining that the defamation provisions of the Criminal Code do not violate the constitutional principle of proportionality or the intent of the Constitution to protect freedom of speech, thus rejecting the petitioners' claims.



### **TCC Judgment 112-Hsien-Pan-9 (2023)—Case on Search and Seizure of Law Firm's Offices**

On May 30, 2011, the Taipei City Field Division of the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau, with approval from the Taiwan Shilin District Court, entered an office of Lee and Li, Attorneys-at-Law (hereinafter Lee and Li) with a search warrant. This action was taken based on suspicions of insider trading by personnel of a certain company. The investigators seized relevant communications, emails, and electronic records. Lee and Li contested this, arguing that the Taiwan Shilin District Court violated the constitutional principle of proportionality by not first attempting to obtain the documents through a production order. Their appeal was dismissed by the Taiwan High Court. Lee and Li further argued that the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure concerning search and seizure infringe on the privacy rights of law firms and the attorney-client privilege, thereby violating the constitutional rights to a fair trial and to freedom of confidential communication. This prompted a request for a constitutional interpretation.

On March 27, 2023, the Commission appeared before the Constitutional Court, stressing the attorney-client privilege, which is intended to protect free and uninhibited communication between lawyers and their

clients, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the ICCPR and General Comment No. 32 on that article. Additionally, to uphold this trust-based legal professional privilege, Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Article 17 of the ICCPR regard law firms as within the scope of privacy protection. Therefore, any search of law firms and seizure of communications between lawyers and clients should comply with the principles of due process. The Commission suggested that the Constitutional Court interpret the protections provided by Articles 14 and 17 of the ICCPR as part of the constitutional guarantees of the right to a fair trial and to privacy.

The Constitutional Court verdict, rendered on June 16, 2023, largely agrees with the Commission's opinion. The Court ruled that the Code of Criminal Procedure's failure to exclude documents and materials arising from the exercise of attorney-client privilege from the scope of searchable and seizable items violates the constitutional guarantees of lawyers' right to work and defendants' right to a fair trial. The Court mandated that the Code of Criminal Procedure be amended in accordance with the judgment within two years from the date of the ruling.

## TCC Judgment 112-Hsien-Pan-11 (2023)—Case on the Phantom Voters/ False Census Registration to Alter the Composition of an Electorate

This case involves multiple consolidated cases where several citizens relocated their household registrations four months prior to local elections and then voted on election day. Prosecutors filed charges against them, and the Taiwan Hualien District Court, Fuchien High Court Kinmen Branch Court, and Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court separately found that the individuals had used illegal means to influence the voting results or intended to ensure the election of specific candidates by fraudulently relocating their household registrations to obtain voting rights. They were convicted under the Criminal Code of the crime of obstructing the accuracy of voting results. The defendants argued that the regulations on the crime of obstructing voting results and the requirement in the Public Officials Election and Recall Act to reside continuously in an electoral district for more than four months to exercise voting rights violate the principles of proportionality and legal clarity, as well as the constitutional guarantees of freedom of movement, voting rights, and equality. Consequently, they requested a constitutional interpretation.

On April 11, 2023, the Commission appeared before the Constitutional Court, arguing that

in a democratic nation, voting rights, freedom of movement, and the right to family privacy should be highly protected. Any state restrictions on these rights should comply with Article 25 (voting rights), Article 12 (freedom of movement), Article 17 (right to privacy), and Article 26 (equality and nondiscrimination) of the ICCPR, as well as the constitutional protections of fundamental rights. The Commission argued that the authenticity and accuracy of household registration relocation and whether individuals actually reside at their registered address fall under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the household registration authorities. Using the Criminal Code to penalize phantom voters in elections directly or indirectly infringes on citizens' voting rights, freedom of movement, personal political inclinations, and family privacy, thus violating the constitutional principles of proportionality and equality.

The Constitutional Court ruled on July 28, 2023, that the provisions of the Criminal Code concerning the crime of obstructing the accuracy of voting results do not violate the principle of legal clarity and are not in conflict with the constitutional guarantees of voting rights and equality, nor with the principle of proportionality.

### **TCC Judgment 113-Hsien-Pan-2 (2024)—Case on Life Sentence Prisoners Serving Remaining Sentence after Revocation of Parole**

This case involves multiple consolidated cases where several citizens sentenced to life imprisonment were granted parole but later had their parole revoked because they intentionally committed a crime or violated rehabilitative measures. According to the Criminal Code at the time of their crimes, they were required to serve 20 or 25 years of their remaining sentence before continuing to serve other penalties. The individuals filed objections with the courts and, after exhausting all remedies, requested a constitutional interpretation, arguing that the provisions for revoking parole for life imprisonment under the Criminal Code violated the constitutional guarantees of equality and personal freedom, as well as the principle of proportionality.

On December 19, 2023, during proceedings at the Constitutional Court, the Commission pointed out that Article 10 of the ICCPR stipulates that the primary purpose of the prison system is the reformation and social rehabilitation of prisoners. Additionally, General Comment No. 35 on the ICCPR indicates that parole revocation for violating conditions of release must not be disproportionate to the seriousness of the violation. The Commission argued that the provisions for revoking parole for life imprisonment in the Criminal Code

fail to consider factors such as the length of time served before parole, the nature of the reoffending behavior, the effectiveness of the prisoner’s rehabilitation, and the potential negative impact of a fixed remaining sentence on the prisoner’s reintegration into society. These provisions are not only inconsistent with the intent of the ICCPR, they constitute “cruel and inhuman treatment” as described in Article 3 of the ECHR. Furthermore, when the laws under which the life imprisonment sentence was imposed are abolished or amended, or when the provisions for serving the remaining sentence after parole revocation are changed, the principle of applying the most favorable law to the defendant, as recognized in Article 7 of the ECHR, should be upheld.

In due course, the Constitutional Court announced its verdict on March 15, 2024, largely agreeing with the Commission’s opinion. The court ruled that the provisions in the Criminal Code for fixed remaining sentences do not comply with the principle of proportionality and violate the constitutional guarantee of personal freedom. These provisions will lose their effect no later than two years from the date of announcement of the judgment.

### TCC Judgment 113-Hsien-Pan-3 (2024)—Case on the Criminalization of Public Insult I

A citizen surnamed Zhu publicly posted mocking and abstract invective language on an online platform, damaging another person's social status and reputation. He was convicted of the crime of public insult under the Criminal Code by the Kaohsiung District Court. In response, Mr. Zhu petitioned for a constitutional interpretation, arguing that the public insult provisions of the Criminal Code violate the freedom of speech protected by the Constitution.

On December 25, 2023, during a Constitutional Court hearing, the Commission emphasized that Article 19 of the ICCPR protects an individual's right to hold opinions without interference and to freely express themselves. General Comment No. 34 on the ICCPR also states that any restriction on the right to freedom of expression must be based on respect for the rights or reputations of others or the protection of national security or public order, or of public health or morals, and must meet the criteria of necessity and proportionality. Additionally, Article 10 of the ECHR stipulates that any restrictions on freedom of speech must be only such as are necessary in a democratic society.

The Commission argued that if the Constitutional Court deems the crime of public insult as necessary in a democratic society, then although the crime does not inherently violate the freedom of speech protected by the Constitution, any imposed punishment must still adhere to the principle of proportionality. The Commission also pointed out that the Criminal Code lacks specific and objective criteria for determining what constitutes insult, raising concerns about whether it meets the principle of legal clarity, which the Constitutional Court should consider.


On April 26, 2024, the Constitutional Court ruled that the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding public insult do not violate the principle of legal clarity and are not in conflict with the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution.

### Case of Insulting a Public Official (Hui-Tai Case No. 13556)

This case also involves balancing the crime of insult with freedom of speech. During a trial involving the obstruction of official duties, a judge in Criminal Division Three of the Changhua District Court found that the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding the insult of public officials and public insult appear to be unconstitutional. Consequently, the judge decided to stay the proceedings and requested a constitutional interpretation.

In its examination report, the Commission reiterated the protections for freedom of speech outlined in Article 19 of the ICCPR, General Comment No. 34 on the ICCPR, and Article 10 of the ECHR. Regarding laws related to disrespect for, insult to, or lack of respect for institutions; lack of respect for

the national flag and symbols; contempt for heads of state; and protection of the reputation of government officials, General Comment No. 34 on the ICCPR also states that laws cannot impose harsher penalties solely on the basis of the personal status of the person attacked. The Commission argued that the crime of insulting a public official not only does not comply with the spirit of General Comment No. 34 on the ICCPR, but also raises concerns about not being a necessary norm in a democratic society and violating freedom of speech.

This case is still under review by the Constitutional Court, and no verdict has been announced yet.\* 

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\*The original Chinese version of this annual report was finalized for printing on May 8, 2024, prior to the Constitutional Court's decision on May 24 of the same year.

## Project for the Development of Human Rights Education Curricula and for Establishment of a Teaching Resources Platform

# Promoting the Development of Human Rights Education Materials to Enhance National Human Rights Awareness


Education is crucial in the promotion of human rights. Education to inculcate human rights consciousness in public sector and educational personnel is the only way to ensure that they uphold human rights while executing their duties. In line with the first and second phases of the United Nations' World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Commission is actively assisting the public sector and educational institutions in promoting human rights education. We commissioned the National Academy for Educational Research to implement the Project for the Development of Human Rights Education Curricula and for Establishment of a Teaching Resources Platform, to develop human rights training courses for these sectors, providing reference materials for those planning and conducting training sessions.

### Development of Four Types of Human Rights Education Courses

Given that responsibilities vary among departments in the public sector and in education, the goal of this project is to develop general preparatory courses which provide trainees with basic knowledge of international human rights conventions, nurture respect for human rights, and raise awareness of important human rights issues. So far, the project has developed four types of human rights training courses, which can be further adapted to suit

the specific needs of any particular agency.

- 1. Core courses:** These courses introduce the essential contents of international human rights conventions, focusing on fundamental knowledge and case studies.
- 2. Podcast programs:** These programs invite human rights experts to discuss specific human rights issues in a talk-show format, helping trainees gain a deeper understanding of these topics.
- 3. Field visit courses:** Ten historical sites where human rights violations occurred or which are otherwise relevant to human rights were selected for field visits, with courses created to allow trainees to personally experience and understand the historical context through the site visit.
- 4. Online courses:** In keeping with the trend in digital learning, core courses are converted into online courses to meet the needs of distance education.

To maximize the use of human rights training courses, the project has also established the Human Rights Education Curriculum and Teaching Resources Network (<https://twhumanrightscourses.com/>). The four types of courses mentioned above are converted into web pages for trainees to use, enhancing the human rights knowledge and awareness of public sector and educational personnel. 

## The Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan

# Cultivating Human Rights Awareness and Critical Thinking Skills through a Diverse Range of Activities

To encourage young people to play more active roles as citizens and participate on their own accord in public affairs and democratic decision-making processes, and to cultivate their ability to protect their own human rights and those of others, the United Nations Human Rights Council chose youth (aged 15–24) as the focus group for the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

In line with international standards, the Commission collaborated with domestic universities in 2023 to implement the Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan through an open application process. Plans submitted by National Chengchi University and seven other universities were approved. Themes included the rights of new immigrants, migrant workers, and Indigenous peoples; environmental human rights; migrant fishers' rights; the #MeToo movement; the medical human rights of refugees and immigrants; and the roles of women in the childcare system, with a total of 2,033 participants.

In the following, the empowerment courses offered by National Chengchi University, National Chin-Yi University of Technology, and Soochow University are introduced. These courses were jointly organized by the Commission and the universities, using immersive learning methods such as role-playing, documentary making, and drama to cultivate young people's human rights awareness and knowledge.

## National Chengchi University—Guiding Students in an Exploration of How to Implement Environmental Human Rights in a Democracy

In relation to environmental human rights, National Chengchi University chose the theme of nuclear waste site selection, using public hearings and referendum activities to guide students deep into the issue. Three lectures from different perspectives gave students knowledge in relevant fields. Next, students discussed the issue in groups and engaged in role-playing from different standpoints to debate the viewpoints of various stakeholders. At this stage, the lecture speakers also participated in the student discussions, exchanging views and providing direct feedback.

In the final presentation stage, students acted as planners, designing the procedures for nuclear waste site selection proposals. This allowed students to think deeply about how to make the process more just and what issues should be taken into account.

After the activities, students provided much

positive feedback. One student said that obtaining information on environmental human rights from the media often felt indirect. This course, however, brought them into the field, facing real events and directly interacting with stakeholders, leading to deeper insights and impacts. The student expressed a greater willingness to use what they had learned for critical thinking and action, continuing to follow and care about developments in environmental human rights.

Through the National Chengchi University activities, students were able to gain an in-depth understanding of how to pursue environmental human rights and housing rights in a democracy. This not only will help the younger generation frame and think about such issues, but will also build momentum for Taiwan's national visions of achieving a nuclear-free homeland by 2025 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

### Overview of Human Rights Education Activities at National Chengchi University

<b>Partner</b>	Centre for Innovative Democracy, National Chengchi University
<b>Course title</b>	Separation and Reunion in the South: Living with Nuclear Power
<b>Approach</b>	With nuclear waste site selection as the theme, guiding students to explore issues of environmental and housing rights through role-playing
<b>Course format</b>	A three-day two-night camp, including three seminars, three cultural and ecological tours, and special topic discussions and presentations
<b>Participants</b>	Undergraduate and graduate students
<b>Number of participants</b>	30 students and 11 group leaders, 41 in total



**National Chin-Yi University of Technology—Developing Empathy among Students for Migrant Workers through a Diverse Range of Events**

Taiwan is facing labor shortages and an aging population due to its declining birth rate. The government is actively considering migrant worker and immigration policies to enhance the adjustment and allocation of the country's labor force. National Chin-Yi University of Technology believes that in formulating migrant worker policies, the government must also pay attention to the human rights of migrant workers. Therefore, the university chose the theme of migrant workers' human rights, using a range of interactive learning methods to help student youth understand the issues through experiential activities.

Before the start of learning camp activities, the organizer arranged for eight National Chin-Yi University of Technology students to follow along with two migrant workers and film a day in their lives. This not only allowed these group leaders to personally experience the lives of migrant workers, but also enabled them to

quickly guide participants into the scenario for learning activities. Additionally, varied activities including thematic lectures, documentary screenings and discussions, and experiential courses provided participants with a more in-depth understanding of migrant workers' human rights and related policies, helping to eliminate their prejudices against migrant workers. The camp concluded with discussions and presentations.

Through expert lectures, hands-on experiences, and impactful video presentations, participants gained a deeper understanding of migrant workers' human rights. Analysis of pre- and postactivity questionnaires revealed that the percentage of participants who understood the concept of human rights increased from 50 percent to 80 percent, with nearly half of the participants expressing willingness to engage in youth human rights and migrant worker rights activities in the future.

**Overview of Human Rights Education Activities at National Chin-Yi University of Technology**

<b>Partner</b>	Department of Healthcare Industry Technology Development and Management, National Chin-Yi University of Technology
<b>Course title</b>	2023 Youth Human Rights Education Exploration Camp
<b>Approach</b>	Introducing different aspects of migrant workers' human rights to help student youth understand, empathize, and discuss, thereby internalizing the concept of human rights
<b>Course format</b>	A two-day workshop that included four lectures, board games, field visits combined with adventure activities, documentary making/screening and discussions, group discussions in workshops, and final presentations
<b>Participants</b>	High school and university students
<b>Number of participants</b>	A total of 47 students


## Soochow University—Integrating International Human Rights Conventions with the #MeToo Movement and Migrant Worker Issues

The 2023 #MeToo movement that shook Taiwanese society has garnered widespread attention, along with high-profile migrant worker issues. Consequently, Soochow University chose the #MeToo movement and migrant workers' human rights as its two main themes.

The organizers held three seminars and a one-day workshop on the #MeToo movement, exploring the protection and violation of rights within the movement through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Migrant worker issues were approached through a field visit to Nanfang'ao Fishing Port, where participants learned about the local fishing industry and its historical context. They also held discussions with the Yilan

Migrant Fishermen Union, Taiwan's first labor union formed by migrant workers, to gain a more profound understanding of the current state of Taiwan's fishing industry and the issues of labor exploitation faced by migrant fishermen. This helped the young participants become more aware of social injustice, encouraging them to actively participate in public discussion and think critically about human rights values.

The younger generation is the future driver of human rights promotion and the realization of democratic values. Through diverse and enriching empowerment courses, participants not only came to empathize with the situations faced by other groups, but also learned to combine human rights knowledge with practical scenarios, developing critical thinking skills to apply to the issues and aiming to actively participate in human rights activities in the future. 

### Overview of Human Rights Education Activities at Soochow University

<b>Partner</b>	Master of Social Sciences in Human Rights program, Soochow University
<b>Course title</b>	Open Your Eyes to Human Rights—Deepening Youth Human Rights Education
<b>Themes</b>	#MeToo movement, migrant workers' human rights
<b>Course format</b>	Three series of special lectures, one full-day workshop, one field visit, and two film screening discussions
<b>Participants</b>	Undergraduate and graduate students
<b>Number of participants</b>	376 participants in total



Part

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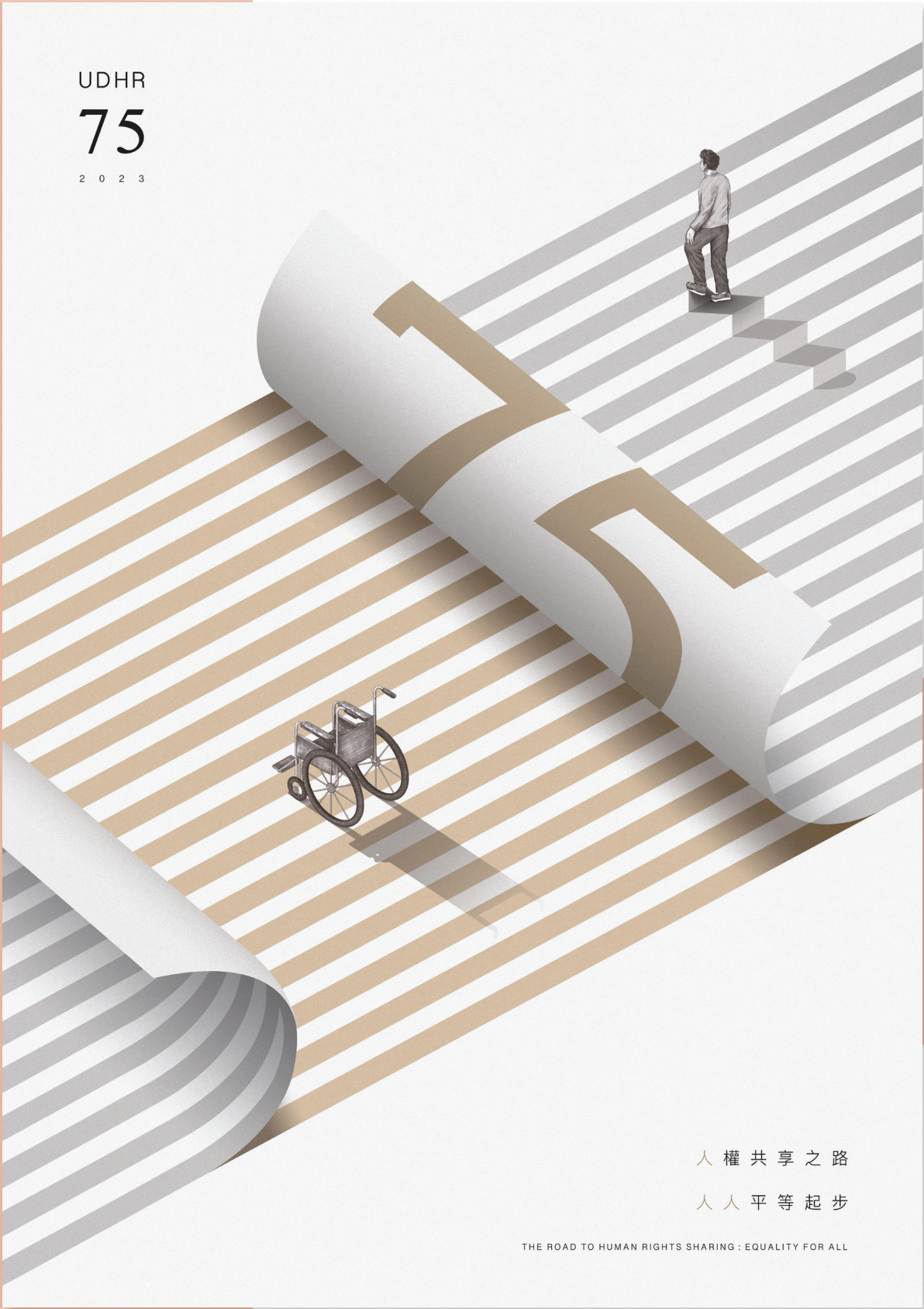
## Human Rights 75

Between 1946 and 1948, the United Nations drafted and adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Our country's representative made significant contributions to this process. Despite later withdrawing from the United Nations, we have continued to promote human rights together with the world. In 2023, the Commission organized a series of events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UDHR, highlighting our steadfast commitment to advancing human rights.

UDHR

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THE ROAD TO HUMAN RIGHTS SHARING : EQUALITY FOR ALL

*The Road to Human Rights Sharing, Equality for All*, by Wu Zheng-lun  
2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Public Category, Silver Award

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In 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt,  
US representative to the United Nations,  
holds up a poster of the newly adopted  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

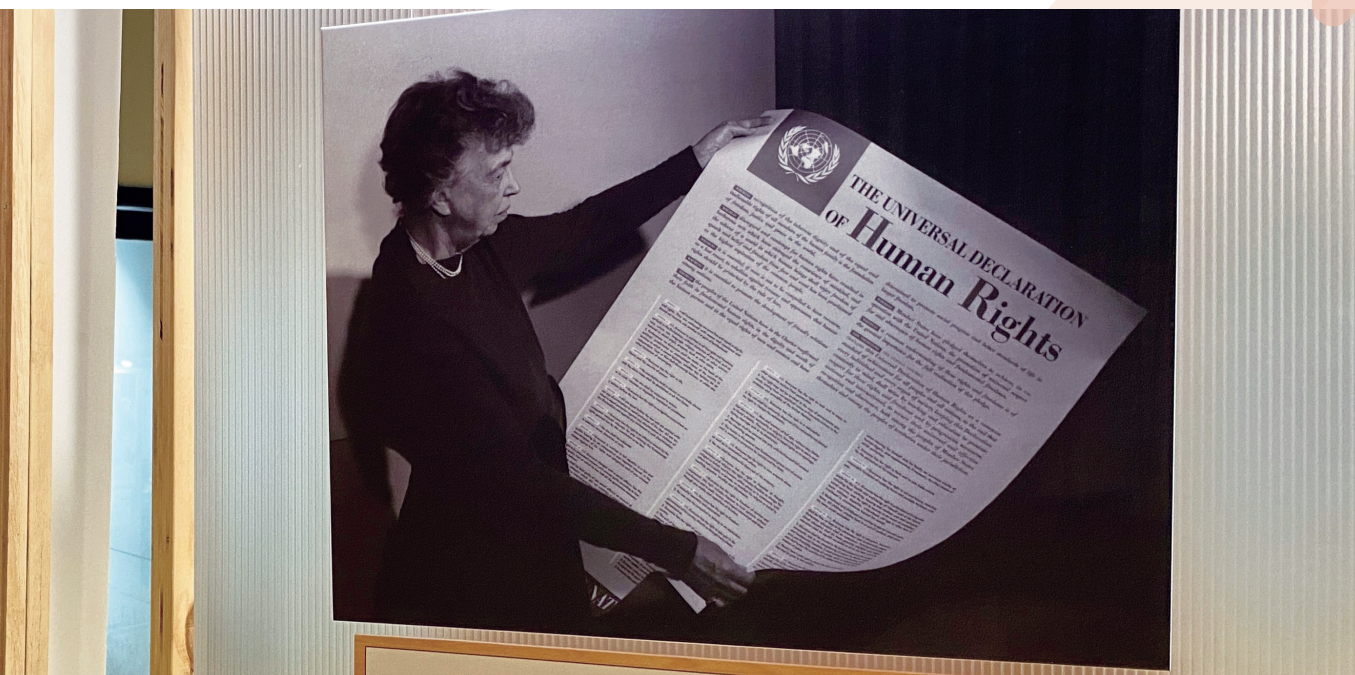
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## Responding to the UN's Human Rights 75 Initiative

# Working with the World to Promote Human Rights Awareness

In 1948, the advent of a new era was symbolized by the image of Eleanor Roosevelt, US representative to the United Nations, displaying a poster of the newly revised Universal Declaration of Human Rights. P.C. Chang, who served as representative of the Republic of China to the United Nations and Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission, made outstanding contributions to the revision of the Declaration. The universality of human rights stated in Article 1 of the Declaration bears the imprint of Chang's pluralistic vision. Eleanor Roosevelt once recalled that Chang, with his erudition and great eloquence, ensured that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights embraced diverse cultures and did not reflect just one school of thought.

Although Taiwan later withdrew from the United Nations and could no longer promote human rights as a member state, it has not stood idly by over the 75 years of advancement in the global human rights movement. In the 1970s, amid the surge of international anti-colonialism and the flourishing development of international human rights laws, Taiwanese human rights activists were very much in evidence. In 2000, Taiwan experienced its first democratic transition of power, and the new government not only actively pursued rejoining the United Nations but also prioritized advancing the nation based on human rights principles. Starting in 2009, the government gradually introduced and implemented core UN human rights conventions, voluntarily subjecting itself to the oversight of these human rights



mechanisms. In 2020, in accordance with the Paris Principles, the Taiwanese National Human Rights Commission was officially established by law, demonstrating Taiwan's unwavering commitment to promoting human rights.

Having experienced the darkness of political authoritarianism and human rights violations, this country has now shown a steadfast commitment to the protection of human rights. The activities of the National Human Rights Commission since its establishment three years ago have been widely recognized internationally. With the 75th anniversary of the issuance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2023, the Commission has continued to move alongside the international community, responding to the Human Rights 75 Initiative with a range of activities to enhance human rights awareness.

In 2023, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations launched a series of activities under the slogan Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All, reaffirming the timeless significance of the Declaration and striving to realize its promise of the rights of all people to freedom, equality, and justice.

As the national human rights institution, our commission bears the responsibility of overseeing the Taiwanese government's implementation of international human rights conventions. In 2023, we responded to the UNs Human Rights 75 campaign by organizing a series of initiatives to help Taiwanese citizens align with the international community, become global citizens and work with the world to promote human rights awareness and reassess the importance of human rights to humanity.

## Human Rights 75 Poster Design Competition and Special Exhibition

Responding to Human Rights 75 with cultural and artistic activities, the Commission organized the second Human Rights Poster Design Competition in 2023, themed Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75. For the first time, we opened submissions internationally, attracting creators from Finland, China, Hong Kong, Macau, and other regions. A total of 915 posters incorporating human rights concepts were submitted for the competition, divided into two categories: Student and Public. Ultimately, 36 winning entries were selected.

In order to promote awareness of human rights through the poster design competition, the Commission held an awards ceremony on December 10, World Human Rights Day. Throughout the submission period, we also organized several human rights poster exhibitions at the Tainan Main Public Library, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and National Taiwan Arts Education Center. We

have selected 85 outstanding works from the submissions, along with a 1978 political campaign poster from the martial law period. These items were featured in the “Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75” special exhibition at the Pier-2 Art Center in Kaohsiung. These exhibitions collectively attracted over 700,000 visitors. To enhance promotion efforts, the poster design competitions official website also hosted a You Are Essential to Human Rights message campaign, allowing the public to engage in dialogue with the design works, and fostering a stronger sense of human rights awareness.

The competition, exhibitions and message campaign not only prompted the public to revisit the importance of human rights through design works, but also showcased Taiwan’s efforts in conjunction with 2023 International Human Rights Day to enhance domestic understanding of human rights issues and disseminate human rights principles.



2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Public Category Gold Award, Shi Ying-ting's *Speak out! Metoo Warriors!* (left); Student Category Gold Award, Xu Wen-ting's *Cyberbullying Hurts* (right).

## Issuance of Human Rights Postage Stamps in Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The NHRC, in collaboration with Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd., has issued a set of four Human Rights Stamps themed around the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To promote human rights through postage stamps, the Commission collaborated with Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd. to issue a set of four Human Rights Stamps on December 8, 2023. The themes include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The stamps feature the English abbreviations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the human rights conventions as the main focus, combined with distinctive colors and symbols to convey the fundamental concepts of dignity, freedom, and equality.

At the Human Rights Stamps first day of

issue ceremony, Chairperson Chen Chu noted that although Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, nor a signatory of the nine core UN instruments on human rights, it has integrated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into domestic law by passing enforcement acts. This demonstrates Taiwan's concrete efforts to align with UN human rights instruments. The issuance of human rights stamps will help domestic society understand the importance of human rights and the achievements of the Commission in promoting human rights.



### Translation of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Youth Edition*

Promoting human rights through book publishing, the German branch of Amnesty International (AI) published a youth version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in German in October 2021. The Commission translated it into Mandarin in traditional Chinese characters, printed it, and distributed copies to all elementary schools across Taiwan (approximately 2,627 schools) and all public libraries. Through its clear, easy-to-understand, and well-illustrated content, this book helps teachers in implementing and deepening human rights education, with the result that more young people in Taiwan understand human rights concepts and issues and can think critically about them. Teachers who received the donated books have provided feedback indicating that it is an effective tool for human rights education and also expressing a desire for a digital version so that human rights education can be more

effectively promoted through online media.

In addition, the Commission, as part of its efforts to produce diverse forms of human rights educational materials, also published print-Braille dual media and easy-to-read versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



**Youth version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated and published by the NHRC, and donated to all elementary schools across Taiwan.**

### Universal Declaration of Human Rights Promotional Video

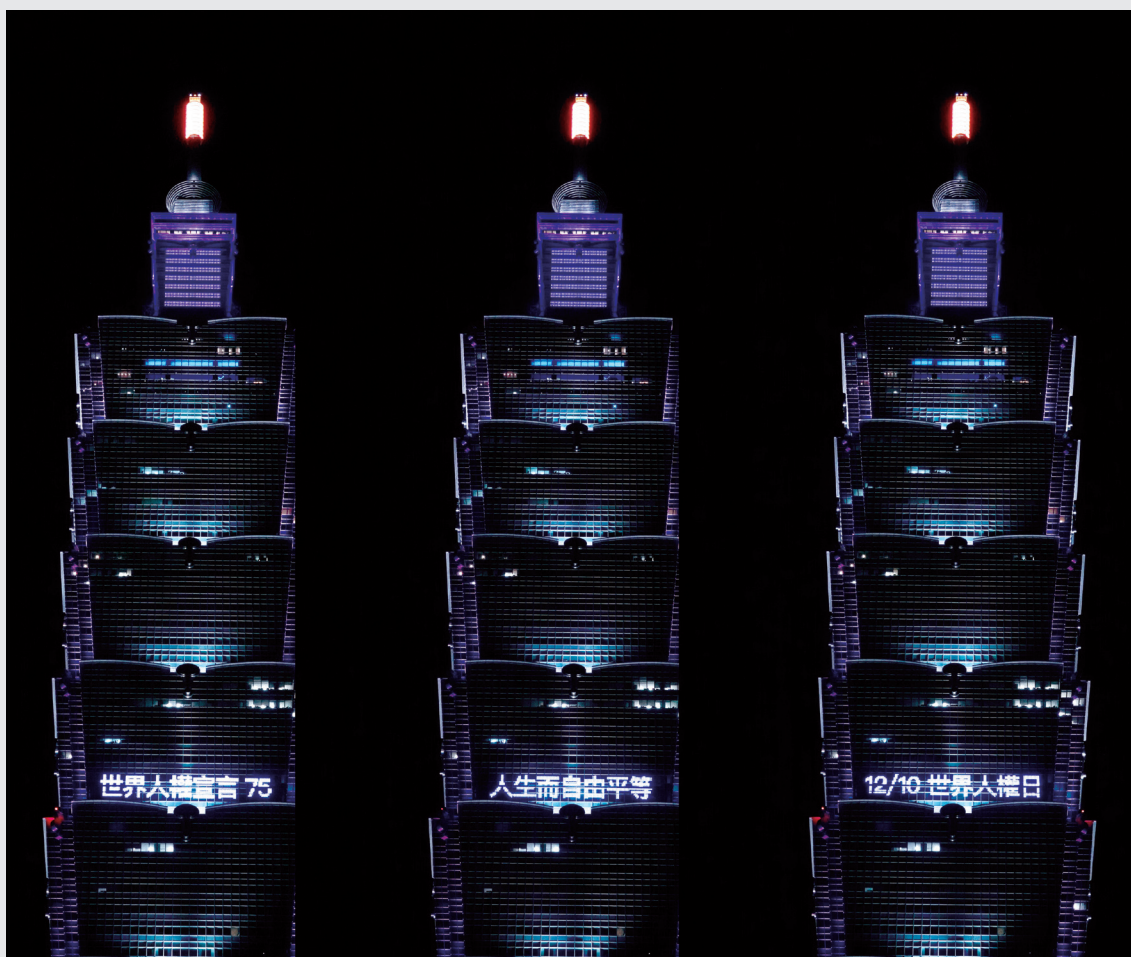
To promote human rights through video, the Commission has produced a promotional video with the theme of the Human Rights 75 Initiative Dignity, Freedom, Justice for All. The video is designed to promote human rights education and introduces the core concepts and articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It helps the public understand the birth of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the values it incorporates, and its historical significance, thereby enhancing human rights awareness in Taiwanese society.

In order to reach a wider audience, the promotional video for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been produced in both Chinese and English versions, which have been disseminated online through the Commission's official website, Facebook, and YouTube channels. The YouTube videos have accumulated a total of 242,607 views, while the Facebook posts have reached 68,980 visitors, spreading awareness of human rights to even more Taiwanese people.

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75th Anniversary Taipei 101 Light Display

To promote human rights through association with well-known landmarks, the commission conducted a light display on the exterior walls of Taiwan's landmark Taipei 101 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on December 10, Human Rights Day. The display featured the phrases Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75, Born Free and Equal, and 12/10 Human

Rights Day in both Chinese and English. This event joined other countries in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, calling on the public to recognize the importance of human rights and to strive together for freedom and equality. 



Part of the light display in the NHRC collaboration with Taipei 101 is seen in this photo from the evening of December 10, Human Rights Day.



# Part 3

## International Exchange

To align with the pace of international human rights advocacy, the Commission has maintained close interactions and established relationships with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and international human rights organizations worldwide. In 2023, the Commission's engagement with international partners has deepened, progressing from observational visits to high-level dialogues, which will facilitate substantive cooperation with the Commission's international partners in the future.



*Freedom*, by Huang Xin-yan  
2022 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Student Category, Honorable Mention

From Visits and Observations to High-level Dialogues,  
and on to Substantive Cooperation

## Close Engagement with the Asia Pacific Forum

To connect with the international community, the Commission has, since its establishment in August 2020, gradually deepened its links with the international human rights network through a bidirectional interaction model that includes overseas visits and observation, as well as representatives and experts from international human rights organizations visiting Taiwan, enabling the Commission to keep pace with trends in human rights advocacy.

In 2023, the Commission's connections with the global human rights promotion network became even stronger. Human rights experts from nearly 20 countries across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, totaling 18 visiting delegations, came to Taiwan to visit the Commission. At the same time, the Commission also organized delegations to India to participate in the Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), and to Canada on a fact-finding visit. An in-depth look at the Commission's interaction with international human rights networks in 2023 shows that the Commission's international exchanges have progressed from visits and observations to high-level dialogue, and have even begun to develop into substantive cooperation with

other NHRIs on some issues. This shows that the Commission has become an important platform for cooperation between Taiwan and the NHRIs of other countries.

To illustrate this breakthrough concretely, this section will focus on attendance at the APF Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference in India to show how the Commission is actively integrating with the international human rights network. The section will also highlight the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development to demonstrate how the Commission, by inviting representatives and experts from several NHRIs to Taiwan, succeeded in facilitating high-level dialogue. This paved the way for the Commission to engage in substantive cooperation with members of the international human rights network such as the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), opening up more potential for human rights development in the future.

A look at the course of development from international exchanges and relationship building to substantive cooperation shows how the efforts of the Commission over time have kept the pace of Taiwan's promotion of human rights ahead of international trends. 

### Summary Table of Mutual Exchanges between the Commission and APF from 2020 to 2023

Date	Exchange	Description
<b>Nov. 2020</b>	Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director of the APF Secretariat, and his colleagues communicated with the Commission's members via video conferencing.	The APF side shared their experience in developing systematic inquiries and investigations and drafting strategic plans with the Commission's staff.
<b>May 2022</b>	The Commission and the APF held a two-day high-level dialogue.	Conducted in-depth discussions on topics such as the Commission's goals and priorities, interaction with the international human rights system, and collaboration with other stakeholders.
<b>Nov. 2022</b>	The APF helped arrange for the participation of Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay, a member of the Indian National Human Rights Commission in the Commission's Human Rights Thematic Forum.	Dr. Mulay delivered remarks at the forum on the role of the national human rights institutions in implementing human rights-based Sustainable Development Goals.
<b>May 2023</b>	Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director of the APF Secretariat; Pip Dargan, Principal Adviser, APF Leadership Services; and Dr. Ahmed Shahid, APF Capacity Development Manager, communicated with the Commission via video conference.	The APF side discussed relevant planning for capacity-building programs with the Commission's staff.
<b>Jul. 2023</b>	Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director of the APF Secretariat, visited members of the Human Rights Commission.	The two sides discussed the content of the Commission's 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan and exchanged views on future training and cooperation plans regarding systematic inquiries and investigations, investigation of human rights violations, human rights education, and other issues. Subsequently, relevant meetings were initiated.

Source: NHRC

**Actively Engaging in International Exchange >>>>**

**Attending the APF Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference in India**

**Invited for the First time, Demonstrating Fruitful Exchange Results**

Established in 1996, the APF has been holding a biennial conference every second year alongside its annual general meeting since 2011. These conferences focus on significant human rights issues, inviting NHRIs, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and scholars and experts from the Asia-Pacific region to exchange experiences and discuss effective strategies. Before 2019, the Control Yuan actively sought to participate in the first to fifth APF biennial conferences to maintain communication with this important international human rights organization.

**APF Takes the Initiative to Invite Taiwanese Human Rights Institution to the Annual General Meeting**

Upon the Commission’s establishment in August 2020, it immediately initiated more active exchanges with the APF across a range of human rights promotion efforts (as shown in the table above). During a video conference between the APF Secretariat and Commission staff in May 2023, the APF took the initiative to invite the Commission to attend the annual meeting and biennial conference in New Delhi, India, as an observer in September that year. This marked the first

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A delegation from the Switzerland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Swiss Federal Assembly visited the NHRC to exchange experience in promoting democracy and human rights.



Held a guest lecture by experts from the Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), “The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Promoting the Abolition of the Death Penalty,” sharing international practical experience and the role NHRIs can play.



A delegation from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Korea, visited the NHRC to exchange experience in promoting transitional justice and human rights education.

time since 2007 that one of Taiwan's official institutions was actively invited by the APF, highlighting how countries in the Aisa-Pacific now recognize the efforts of many different sectors of Taiwanese society to promote human rights.

At the beginning of the annual meeting, APF Chairperson Doo-Hwan Song introduced the observer delegations from four countries with a roll call, including the Cook Islands, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates. The Taiwanese delegation observed the entire proceedings of the APF annual meeting.

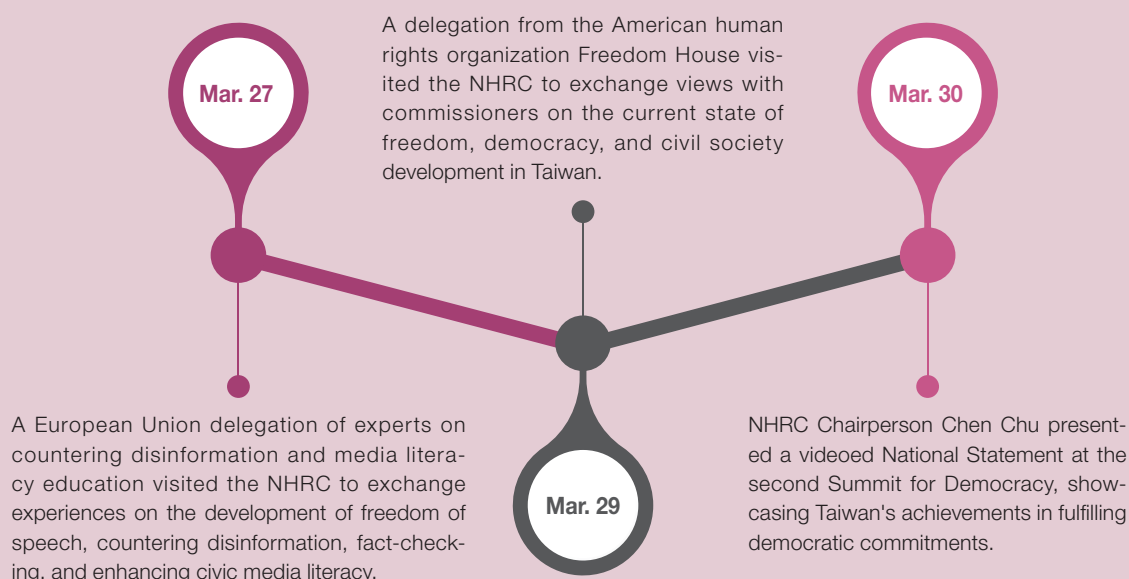
### Actively expressing opinions to showcase Taiwan's vigorous human rights promotion

The 2023 APF Biennial Conference focused on Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 30 years of NHRIs and the Paris Principles, along with in-depth discussions and sharing of practical experience regarding the impact

of climate change on human rights.

Attendees included human rights institutions, government representatives, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and scholars from across the Aisa-Pacific, with an estimated attendance of over 150 people. Representatives from the Commission actively sought opportunities to speak during Q&A sessions.

Chairperson Chen Chu first expressed gratitude to the APF for its long-term assistance in establishing the National Human Rights Commission in Taiwan. She also thanked the organizers for inviting the Commission to attend as an observer and noted Taiwan's determination to uphold international human rights conventions. Additionally, she expressed willingness to share Taiwan's experiences in democratic development, gender equality, women's political participation, and the legalization of same-sex marriage with other NHRIs.







NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu speaks at the 2023 APF Biennial Conference.

During discussion on climate change, Commissioner Wang Jung-chang pointed out that Taiwan, as an island nation, is profoundly affected by extreme weather events. He asked attendees how policies

related to climate change can fully incorporate the participation of persons with disabilities. This question sparked considerable discussion and positive feedback.

### Chronicles of International Exchanges

A delegation from the Tibet Religious Foundation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the NHRC to discuss the human rights situation in Tibet, the difficulties Tibetans face in coming to Taiwan, and ways to strengthen friendly interactions between Taiwan and Tibet.

Apr. 11

A six-member delegation led by Alain Richard, Vice President of the French Senate and Chairman of its Taiwan Friendship Group, visited the NHRC.

Mar. 31

Citizen Congress Watch (together with the New School for Democracy) and a delegation of international human rights scholars and experts visited the NHRC.

Apr. 26

To respond to one of the agenda topics, “Promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Commitment to Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All,” the Commission’s delegation shared postcards featuring selected works from our Human Rights Poster Design Award. These works covered themes such as women’s autonomy, freedom of speech, the prohibition of human trafficking, and the rights of persons with disabilities. The postcards were distributed to APF members to jointly commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and received very positive feedback.

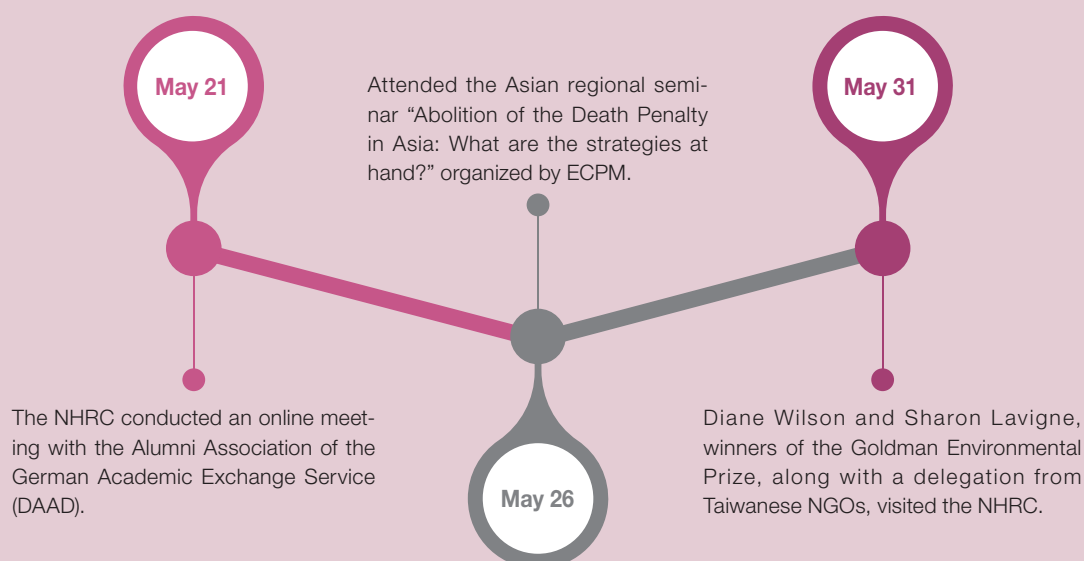
### Informal exchanges expressing goodwill and establishing a foundation for future interactions

In addition to participating in the annual meeting and biennial conference, members of the Commission’s delegation took advantage of the conference breaks to actively engage with representatives from other NHRIs in atten-

dance, expressing goodwill and fostering friendships in their respective fields of expertise. Representatives from multiple countries indicated that they look forward to future exchanges and cooperation.

Members of the Commission’s delegation also held discussions with Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director of the APF Secretariat, and Thuy Doan-Smith, APF Capacity Development Manager, at their hotel. The delegation expressed sincere gratitude to the APF Secretariat for its assistance during the conference and exchanged views on participation in the conference and continued engagement with NHRIs in the Aisa-Pacific.

APF Participation in the APF Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference in India has been hugely beneficial in facilitating the Commission’s invitations to international human rights experts from multiple countries when hosting human rights events, helping establish a platform for high-level dialogue. 



**Establishing a High-Level Dialogue Platform >>>>**

Hosting the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development

# Representatives of National Human Rights Institutions Gathered in Taiwan to Discuss the Future of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change

Over the past decade and more, climate change has led to frequent natural disasters around the world, resulting in more and more people losing their rights to survival and housing. People are increasingly aware that climate change is posing serious challenges to human rights. Resolution 76/300 adopted by the UN General Assembly in July 2022 “recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right,” emphasizing that all

human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated. People around the world are being affected by environmental degradation, especially women, children, and vulnerable groups such as Indigenous peoples, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

In line with the direction of international efforts to promote overall human rights, Taiwan passed its first National Human Rights Action

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The Human Rights Education Resource Center of the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, and a delegation from the Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education in South Korea visited the NHRC.



Dr. Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and her delegation visited the NHRC.



Former Chairperson of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, Jens Modvig, and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dainius Pūras, attended a seminar on the prevention of torture and experience-sharing.



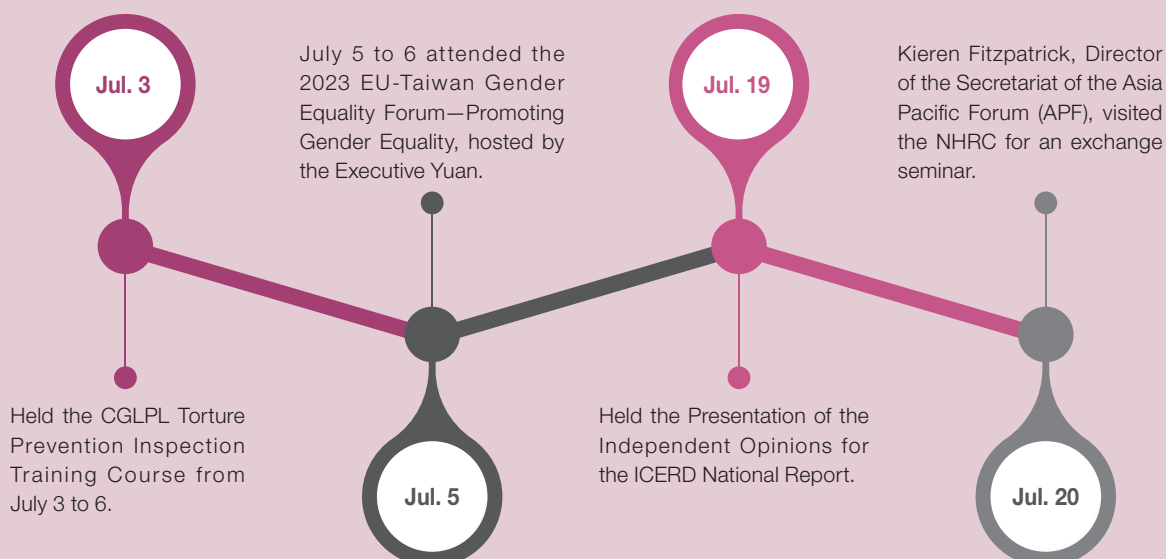


The NHRC hosts the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development: Climate Change and Human Rights — The Role of National Human Rights Institutions, inviting representatives from other NHRIs and international organizations to engage in discussion with government agencies, civil society groups, and scholars.

Plan in May 2022, listing climate change and human rights as one of eight major human rights issues, expressing concern about the impact of climate change on disadvantaged groups.

In line with the November thematic spotlight on Climate Change/Environment set by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission held the 2023 International

Conference on Human Rights Development on November 22 and 23, 2023, under the theme Climate Change and Human Rights — The Role of National Human Rights Institutions. The conference helped nations get a firm grasp of global development trends in climate change and human rights issues, while simultaneously calling on the public to recognize and address the human rights issues caused by climate change.





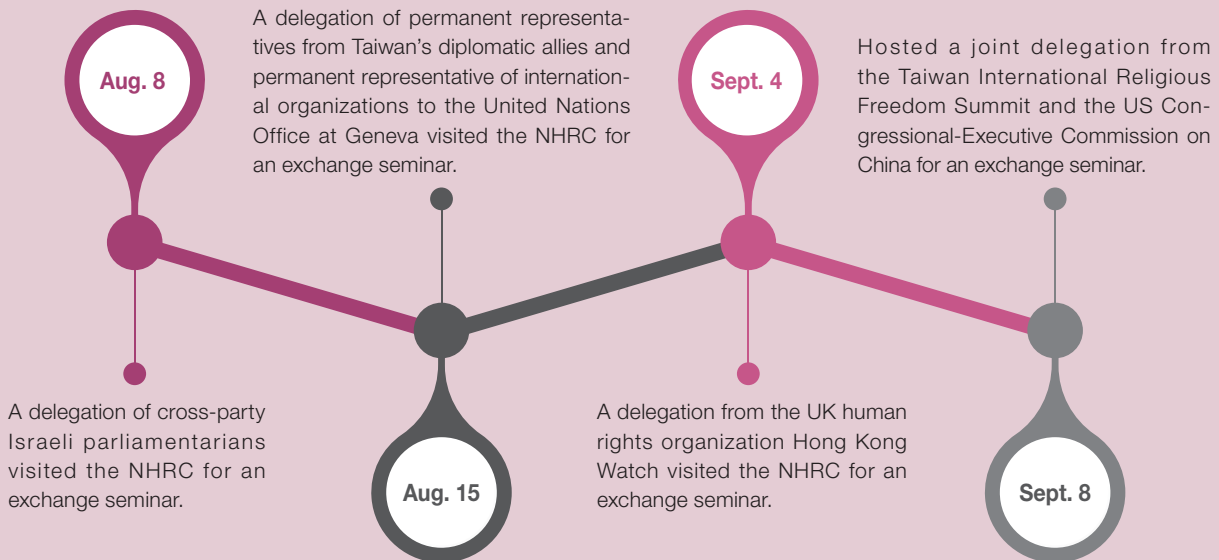
**12 Representatives of National Human Rights Institutions and International Experts Helped Make the Event a Success**

After careful preparation by the Commission’s staff, 12 important representatives of human rights institutions from 9 countries or international organizations including Australia, Fiji, France, Denmark, the European Union, the United States, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Mongolia were invited to attend the conference. Representatives included Marina Eudes, President of the Sub-Committee on International and European Issues of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH); Pip Dargan, Principal Adviser, APF Leadership Service; Angeli Fleur, Information Commissioner for the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; Miles Young, Director of the Human Rights and Social Development Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); Mette Thygesen, International Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights; Tengku

Mohamed Fauzi, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM); Juan Gómez-Riesco, Legal and Policy Officer at the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission, in the Company Law Unit; Michael Ashley Stein, Executive Director, the Harvard Law School Project on Disability/Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School; Michel Tabbal, Advisor on International and European Issues/ Environmental and Climate Matters at the CNCDH; Ganbat Ganbold, Officer in Charge of International Mechanisms, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia; Otgontungalag Tsevel, Member of the Human Rights Defenders Committee, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia; and Antoine Madelin, Member of the CNCDH and Director for International Advocacy of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

The experts from various countries were invited to participate in the symposium either in person or online. Along with 10 Commission

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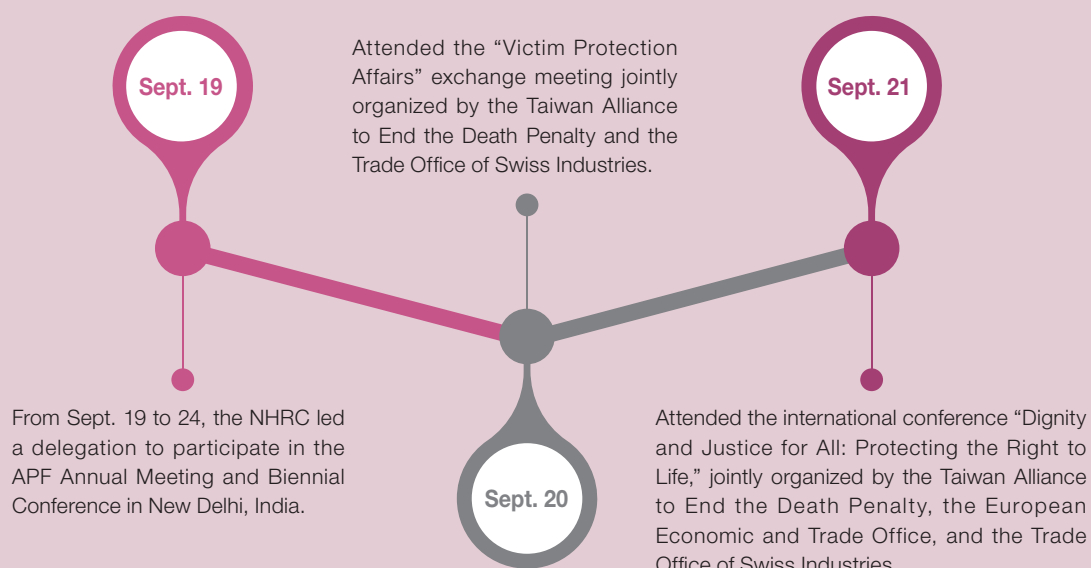
members and consultants, and 13 experts and scholars, government representatives, and NGO representatives from Taiwan, they explored human rights violations caused by climate change, human rights issues in national policies for mitigating climate change, and how to strengthen the role of NHRIs to ensure and promote human rights under climate change.

### Clarifying the Role of Human Rights Institutions in Mitigating Climate Change

In addition to three keynote speeches, the entire symposium was structured around six discussion sessions covering, in order, the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility, the Impact of Climate Change on the Human Rights of People in Vulnerable Situations, National Human Rights Institutions: Strategies for Monitoring the Implementation of International Human Rights Conventions, Strengthening Human Rights Complaint Mechanisms, and

Strategies for Co-operation and Engagement with NGOs. The detailed and comprehensive agenda allowed domestic and international human rights experts to effortlessly initiate dialogue and engage in in-depth discussions.

Regarding the role of NHRIs in climate change mitigation, Commissioner Tien Chiu-chin emphasized in her remarks that in the early stages, climate change was generally perceived as an ecological issue, with governments primarily concerned about disaster prevention and the economic impact of disasters. Few foresaw the wide-ranging impact of climate change on human rights. In recent years, however, there has been a growing awareness of the profound impact of climate change on various aspects of society and human rights, including the rights to life, housing, water, and work, particularly exacerbating the plight of vulnerable groups such as Indigenous women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons, and persons with disabilities. In view of this, the Commission





has urged the government to conduct a child rights impact assessment when formulating climate change-related laws and measures. The Commission will continue to monitor the impact of climate change on human rights, provide independent opinions and suggestions, and urge the government to fully respect the human rights of affected groups in mitigation and adaptation measures.

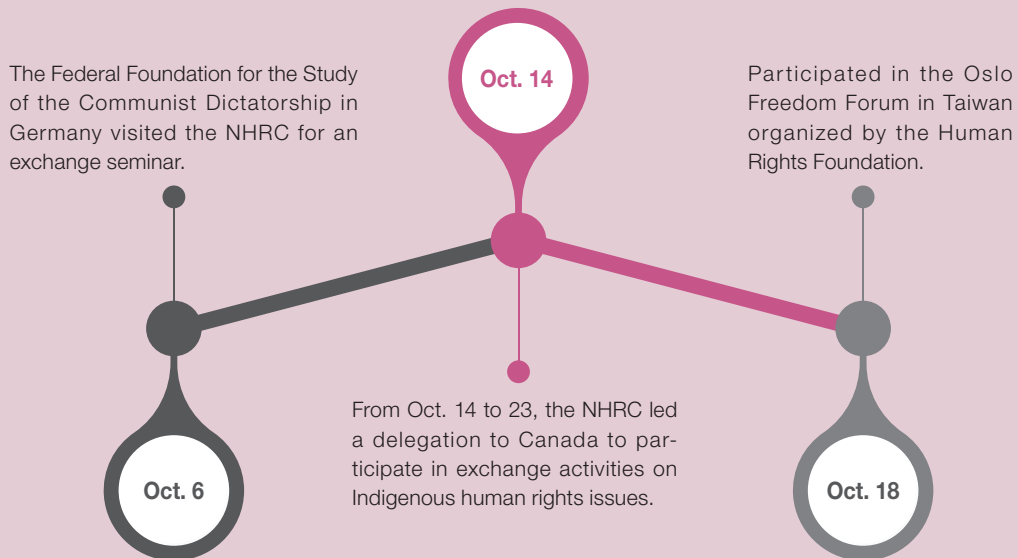
**In-depth Exchange and Mutual Understanding Facilitate Substantive Cooperation in the Future**

The practical experience and professional insights shared by experts from different countries regarding climate change and human rights protection also helped the Commission’s staff gain an understanding of international trends in human rights issues and draw lessons from the experience of human rights institutions in other countries. These insights can serve as guidelines in promoting future related endeavors.

In addition, the lively discussions during the conference on the roles and responsibilities of NHRIs prompted the Commission’s staff to explore how to enhance the independence and effectiveness of human rights institutions, including oversight, complaint mechanisms, and collaboration with civil society organizations. This has enabled the Commission to better promote human rights protection and align with international human rights standards.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Commission also arranged networking receptions and site visits, providing staff with more opportunities to interact with members and staff from other NHRIs. This has facilitated the establishment of follow-up communication channels and promoted the development of more stable relationships, thereby fostering further substantive cooperation between our organization and human rights institutions in other countries. 

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## Substantive Advancement in International Cooperation >>>>

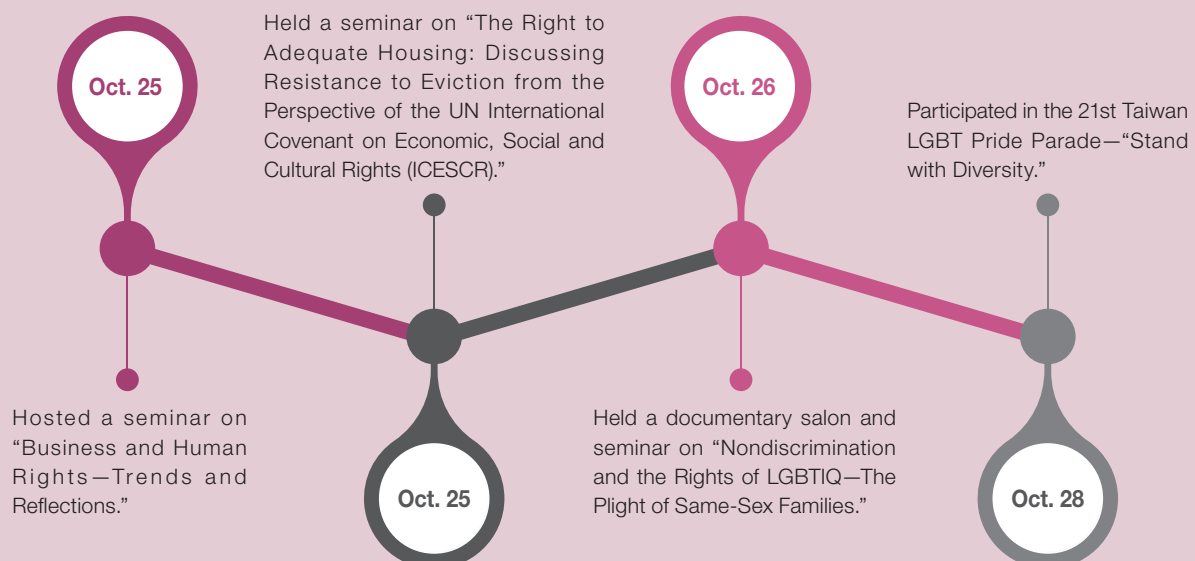
Bilateral Exchange Meeting with the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines,  
and Visit from APF Secretariat Director Kieren Fitzpatrick

# Establishing Cooperative Relationships with International Human Rights Organizations

On the long journey of human rights promotion, achieving substantive cooperation with the international human rights network is an arduous task. Building on the foundation of mutual exchanges with the international human rights network over the past few years, the Commission managed to cooperate substantively with multiple NHRIs in 2023, significantly enhancing Taiwan's human rights reputation and status internationally.

### Deepening Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines

Among this substantive cooperation, the bilateral exchange meeting with the CHRP was based on the interactions between the two parties during the APF Annual Meeting, as well as the participation of the Philippine representatives in the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development held in Taiwan, which led





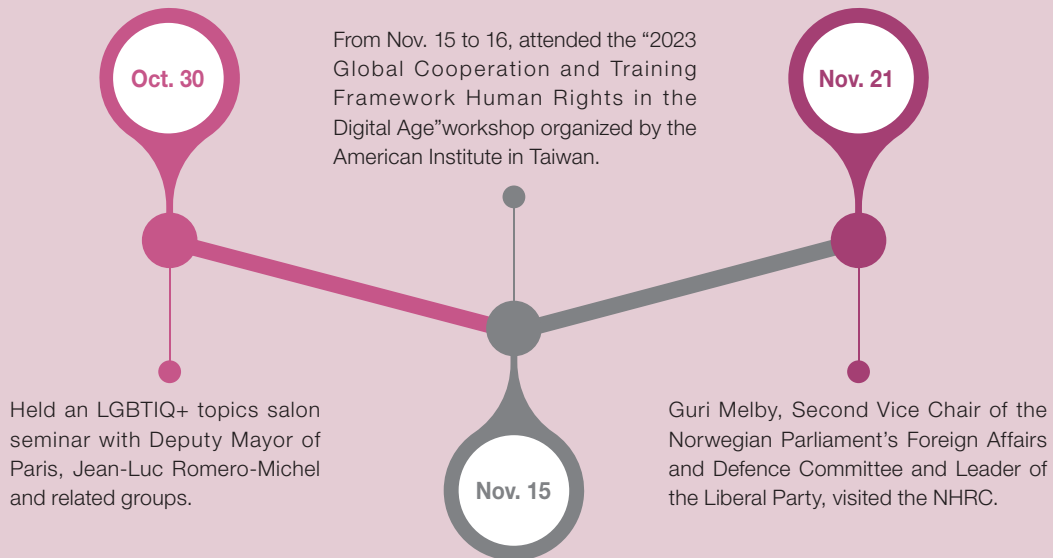


to a further bilateral video conference on December 15, 2023. During the meeting, representatives from both sides engaged in in-depth discussions and shared experiences on issues including the supervision of government implementation of human rights conventions by NHRIs, methods for investigating complaints, protection and assistance for rights victims, swift responses to high-profile cases, individual convention monitoring mechanisms, and cooperation between central and regional offices.

In the area of human rights education, the CHRP shared its efforts in promoting human rights education among law enforcement personnel and at different levels of the educational system. Its considerable achievements in this area left a profound impression. The Commission hopes to continue learning from the CHRP's efforts in promoting human

rights education in the future. Regarding migrant workers, Chairperson Chen Chu noted that Taiwan has always attached great importance to their rights. There are approximately 150,000 Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan, and they contribute significantly to Taiwan's economic development and society. She said that she hopes that future cooperation between the national human rights institutions of the two countries will safeguard the rights of Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan. The CHRP also expressed its willingness to engage in further discussions with the Commission on this matter. Following this bilateral exchange meeting, the two countries' national human rights institutions look forward to establishing a mechanism for cooperation in the protection and promotion of human rights and also desire opportunities for reciprocal visits between commissioners and staff to deepen their friendship and cooperation.

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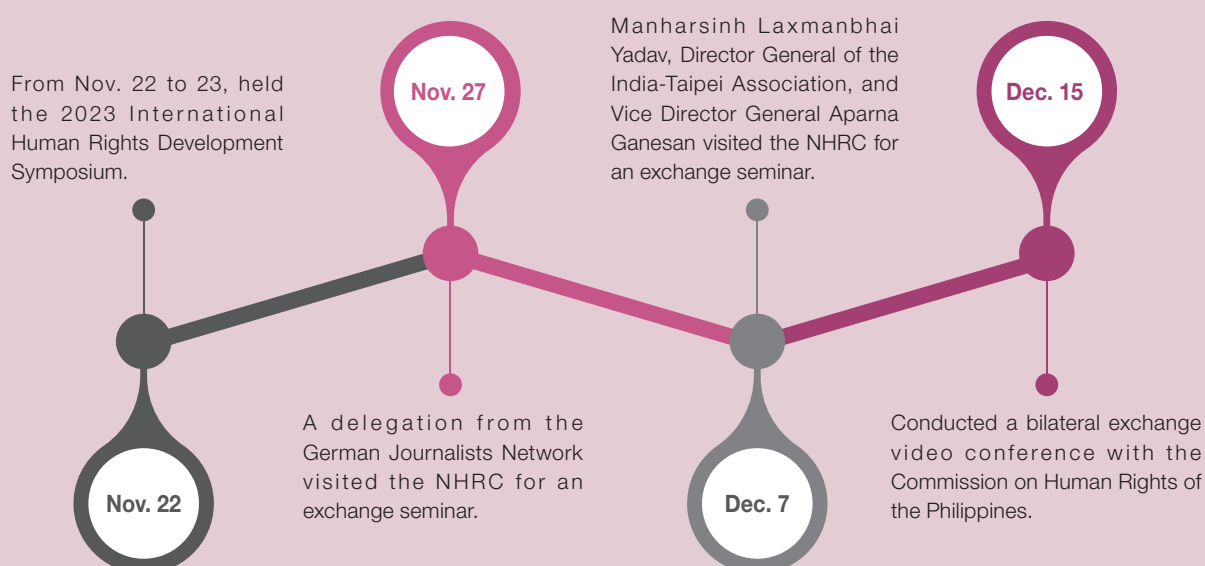


### Establishing Consensus on Future Cooperation with the APF

Since its establishment, the Commission has maintained close communication with the APF. Director Kieren Fitzpatrick and other representatives from the APF Secretariat held a video conference with the Commission's staff in May 2023 to exchange initial opinions on establishing mechanisms for future communication and cooperation. In July 2023, Mr. Fitzpatrick visited Taiwan to meet with members of the Commission. In addition to gaining an understanding of the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan formulated by the Commission, he engaged in in-depth discussions with Commission members and staff on accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), strengthening the organization and efficiency of NHRIs, investigating cases of human rights violations, conducting systematic visitations and research plans, and

training and cooperation plans with regard to human rights education.

Many aspects of this exchange proved helpful to Commission staff, such as the APF's provision of many important manuals and guidelines on foundational capacity building for NHRIs and discussions on how the APF investigates cases of human rights violations. This input from the APF provided references for the Commission's future implementation of medium- and long-term strategic plans and also established a basis for consensus and opportunities for substantive cooperation between the two parties in the future. 





Part

4

## Feature Articles

Human rights, though a universal value, encompass a wide range of issues and are rich in meaning. In order to raise the public's awareness of human rights, this publication has selected two themes—the national preventive mechanism against torture and human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples—with the goal of deepening readers understanding of these two human rights issues.



**FREEDOM OF SPEECH, EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS**

*Words Can Break the Cage*, by Chen Wei-ting  
2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Public Category, Honorable Mention

## CGLPL-NHRC Exchanges

# Advancing Taiwan's Path to Establishing a National Preventive Mechanism Against Torture

Author: Anne-Sophie Bonnet  
Controller and in charge of international relations,  
Controller-General for Places of Deprivation of Liberty (CGLPL), France

The Controller-General for Places of Deprivation of Liberty (*Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté*, CGLPL), established by Law no. 2007-1545 of 30 October 2007, is an independent administrative authority responsible for “monitoring the conditions of management and transfer of persons deprived of their liberty, so as to ensure that their fundamental rights are respected.” It is the French national preventive mechanism against torture, specifically created to comply with the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) following France’s ratification of that instrument.

### France's National Prevention Mechanism

The Controller-General’s mandate is to ensure the protection of all fundamental rights of persons who are deprived of their liberty, whether they are in prison, police custody, a mental health facility, an immigration detention center, a courthouse holding cell, or a juvenile reformatory. The law does not list the sites that the CGLPL can visit, nor the fundamental rights to be monitored.

Sites to be inspected are simply defined as those in which people are detained in accordance with an administrative or judicial decision. The lawmakers were more precise with regard to mental health facilities, stipulating that the Controller-General’s may visit “any healthcare facility authorised to admit patients hospitalised without their consent.”

The law protects the independence of the CGLPL in order for it to properly carry out its duties. First and foremost, it explicitly states that the Controller-General “shall not take instructions from any authority.” The procedures it provides for the appointment of the Controller-General, management of resources, and recruitment of inspectors and staff guarantee the independence of the CGLPL. It also sanctions any obstruction of CGLPL investigations or reprisal against persons who cooperate with the CGLPL.

The CGLPL thus ensures that the right to life, the right to physical and mental integrity, and the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment are respected. It is responsible for ensuring a fair balance between respect for fundamental rights and considerations of public order and securi-

ty, in particular with regard to the rights to privacy and family life, to work and training, and to access to healthcare, as well as to freedom of expression, conscience, and thought. It also investigates the working conditions of staff and other stakeholders at detention sites, as they can directly affect the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

To these ends, in accordance with OPCAT, the CGLPL may, at any time, visit any site within French territory where persons are detained, to verify their living conditions and investigate circumstances at the site, as well as its organization and operations. Inspectors enjoy unobstructed access to all parts of the site, and can meet confidentially with persons deprived of their liberty and with staff or other stakeholders.

As part of its mission, the CGLPL makes recommendations to public authorities. In addition to reports published following each site visit, the office may decide to publish specific recommendations regarding one or more sites or general advisory opinions on a cross-cutting issue in the *Official Journal [of the French Republic]*. All such documents are available on the institution's website ([www.cgpl.fr](http://www.cgpl.fr)).

The law which created it stipulates that the CGLPL shall cooperate with competent international organizations. This autonomy regarding international relations is essential for the CGLPL, giving it international visibility and allowing its teams to draw on related experience and expertise that help them improve and reflect on their work and prac-

tice. In this context, the CGLPL participates in numerous regional and international conferences on subjects relating to the inspection of places where people are deprived of their liberty.

It also contributes independently to reviews conducted by United Nations treaty bodies by submitting alternative reports regarding compliance with different human rights conventions in places where people are deprived of their liberty and by taking part in review sessions in Geneva. Moreover, it maintains bilateral exchanges with similar institutions and participates in training activities each year.

It was in this context that the CGLPL received a visit in Paris on December 8, 2022, from Taiwan's National Human Rights Commission. The meeting piqued CGLPL's interest in the structure of the NHRC under the Control Yuan, and in its mandate and powers. The project to set up a national preventive mechanism against torture in Taiwan naturally led the two institutions to consider future avenues of cooperation, and the CGLPL was invited to provide training for NHRC members and staff in Taipei.

This training program offered an opportunity to review the main principles underpinning a national preventive mechanism against torture and the importance of planning an institutional strategy and establishing operating rules. Receiving and responding to complaints, the interplay between complaints and visits, and on-site investigations were also discussed, as these fall within the remit of the NHRC. The training further focused



Controllers under France's Controller-General for Places of Deprivation of Liberty (CGLPL) exchange views with Commission members and staff as part of the NHRC's training program on torture prevention inspections.

on the methodology of site visits, exploring the different stages of a visit including confidential interviews, observation of venues and situations, and the importance of triangulating information collected by inspection teams. Other topics considered included ethics and security, relations with other actors (public institutions, civil society, media), the different types of reports published by the CGLPL, and the different ways to follow up on recommendations. Two thematic clusters focused on the inspection of police detention sites and psychiatric institutions. It was a pedagogical challenge for the CGLPL to design a training module on the inspection of psychiatric institutions, as certain complex legal aspects are specific to the French system, but a rich discussion on this specific topic nevertheless ensued among participants.

Finally, a training cluster was dedicated to the NHRC report on its pilot program of visits to eight prisons for minors conducted in 2021, which gave the CGLPL insight into the approach and methodology developed by the NHRC. To prepare itself for these visits, the NHRC chose a limited number of indicators that it developed based on international standards under different conventions. By contrast, the CGLPL tends to examine all aspects of management while relying upon a significantly large number of indicators. On site, the NHRC multidisciplinary team spoke with numerous persons deprived of their liberty selected by random sampling. For its part, the CGLPL team interviews individuals at their request and persons identified because of their vulnerability. That the NHRC has opted to publish a single report


following its visits to eight establishments, addressing its recommendations to each type of site structure involved, is of great interest to the CGLPL, which usually publishes a report following each visit to a place where people are deprived of their liberty.

Presenting different aspects of its methodology implied examining the evolution of the CGLPL's working methods since its creation. In this context, discussions with the NHRC highlighted the importance of working out standardized methodological tools, as well as an organizational structure that can facilitate the flow of information among inspectors with varied professional backgrounds. Tools developed over time contribute to the coherence and proper functioning of the institution. The training program also involved a review of the CGLPL's accumulated knowledge and its current priorities and activities, allowing participants to gauge the progress made since the institution's creation and identify challenges still to be addressed.

Discussions on the role playing exercises designed by CGLPL inspectors provided much food for thought, confirming the importance of providing periodic training to detention site inspectors, including experienced ones, with more real life scenarios and discussion of the difficulties that may be encountered during site visits. Moreover, the exchange of views on legal issues was very animated. Such training can be seen as part of the effort to mainstream a comprehensive approach to human rights, a methodology used by a growing number of national prevention mechanisms, in the relatively recent

legal field of deprivation of liberty, where national and international standards coexist at the same time.

### **National Human Rights Commission's Workshop on Training for Torture Prevention Inspections**

The exchanges between the CGLPL and NHRC took place in the larger context of discussions on the integration of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and its Optional Protocol, into Taiwan's domestic legislation. Shortly before this training, two international experts were in Taiwan participating in a seminar on the prohibition of torture, organized on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. In the future, Taiwan will certainly establish a national preventive mechanism against torture in accordance with OPCAT. Hopefully, our lively and friendly discussions will prove useful in this respect. At any rate, the CGLPL would be honored to be able to support the establishment of this mechanism according to its identified needs, as well as to continue cooperative activities with it once it is established. 



## Two Goals for the Promotion of Human Rights Education with Regard to Indigenous Peoples

# Establishing a National Consensus against Discrimination and Cultivating Human Rights Awareness

In the past two years, there have been countless incidents of discrimination against Indigenous people in Taiwanese society, from the bullying and suicide of an Indigenous student at a junior high school in Taichung in 2022, to the appearance of banners with racist wording at a high school fair and a university in 2023, as well as discriminatory behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic when Indigenous elders struggled with the procedures for the name-based distribution of face masks and rapid test kits. Clearly, there is an urgent need to ramp up the promotion of human rights education with regard to Indigenous people. In this respect, the NHRC believes Taiwan should proceed in two directions. The first is building a consensus against discrimination through the strengthening of education policies with regard to respect for, inclusion of, and opposition to discrimination against Indigenous groups. The second is the active awareness raising of the public at large regarding the rights of Indigenous peoples, and the nurturing of the public's critical thinking abilities when it comes to issues related to the development of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

To help bring Taiwan's human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples in

line with the aforementioned two directions, this article integrates and analyzes material from the handbook *Indigenous Peoples Rights* (jointly published by the NHRC and the Council of Indigenous Peoples) and the *Independent Opinions on Taiwan's Initial Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (hereinafter *Independent Opinions on ICERD*), drafted by the NHRC. It also takes into account the experience of Canadian human rights institutions and organizations in promoting the human rights of Indigenous peoples and the implementation of the NHRC's Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Program by National Dong Hwa University, National Pingtung University, and Providence University. It explores how Taiwan's human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples should be promoted in the future to enhance the protection of the country's Indigenous peoples' human rights.

### Improvement Still Needed in Transitional Justice and Human Rights Education

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ICERD both state that Indigenous peoples have the right to establish teaching methods

centered on their languages and cultures, and enjoy equal access to education. At the same time, school education should present Indigenous culture and traditional content accurately and appropriately. In 2016, President Tsai Ing-wen apologized to Indigenous peoples on behalf of the government, recognizing the Nation's responsibility to engage in a transitional justice process to right the wrongs suffered by Indigenous peoples. When chairing the third meeting of the Presidential Office Indigenous Historical Justice and Transitional Justice Committee in 2017, the president again called on all sectors of society to work together to understand the history and culture of different ethnic groups.

However, whether the rights of Indigenous peoples as stipulated in UNDRIP or in the Constitution can be realized and whether the transitional justice project for Indigenous peoples can be effectively promoted depends on all citizens believing in the equality of all ethnic groups, including Indigenous peoples. Therefore, it is crucial to expand the target of education on Indigenous peoples to make it universal. Despite the government's good intentions and solid promotion of the Program on Developing Indigenous Education, paragraph 90 of the Independent Opinions on ICERD points out that there is a shortage of Indigenous teachers in the current system. The low proportion of Indigenous teachers may result in cultural differences between students and teachers, affecting students' right to education.

This shortage of Indigenous teachers is especially pronounced in junior high schools,

inevitably having a negative impact on the transmission of Indigenous culture and the cultivation of rights awareness. Paragraphs 92 and 93 mention that half of the Indigenous population has migrated to urban areas, making it particularly important to increase the number and improve the quality of Indigenous language teachers and reinforce urban Indigenous students' self-identification as Indigenous. Additionally, paragraphs 35 and 36 indicate that current regulations are insufficient in preventing racist and hateful speech and behaviors, especially on online platforms where anonymity exacerbates the issue. For improvement to occur, these shortcomings must be addressed at all levels. This article will now further analyse the country's change of approach to history and to the promotion of transitional justice, as well as the implementation of the human rights education needed for all citizens to come to recognize the necessity to protect Indigenous peoples' rights.

### **Transitional Justice Faces History, Promoting Ethnic Reconciliation**

The handbook *Indigenous Peoples Rights* reiterates that in Taiwan, "only through the interplay of historical justice for Indigenous peoples, transitional justice education, human rights education, and legal education" can the true mainstreaming of ethnic groups be achieved.

Additionally, Taiwan has looked to international examples for effective human rights practices. Notably, in 2013 the Canadian government facilitated an exchange visit for the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee to Canada. The

Canadian Human Rights Commission has been repeatedly accredited as an A-status institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles and has long been committed to protecting Indigenous rights. In October 2023, NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu led a delegation to Canada to visit human rights institutions, the parliament, museums, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR; formerly the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada [TRC]), among other organizations. During the visit, many Canadian experts discussed the controversies surrounding Residential Schools and their impact on Indigenous children, recognizing the initiation of transitional justice as a means to address the issue.

The Residential School system was in operation from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. The Canadian government, under the pretext of assimilationist policies, forcibly sent Indigenous children to residential schools operated by the government or religious groups, leading to thousands of deaths over that time due to corporal punishment and abuse. The TRC spent 6 years collecting testimony from over 6,500 witnesses and published a summary report to restore the historical truth. Understanding the truth, apologizing, and promoting reconciliation, as well as events held each year on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, help members of the public face this dark history together and move toward fairness and justice.

In this vein, the Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, besides showcasing Indigenous artifacts, also help educate the public, empha-

sizing the promotion of dialogue, story sharing, and community collaboration. The Canadian Museum of History, from site selection and architectural design to artifact display, is closely linked to Indigenous peoples, with the head of the museum emphasizing the importance of respecting Indigenous voices in exhibitions, particularly when presenting darker aspects of history. Additionally, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights has several galleries dedicated to Indigenous peoples, not only commemorating specific historical events but also showcasing how to defend local human rights. For instance, the Indigenous Perspectives gallery presents Indigenous viewpoints on human rights through film, while the Treaty Exhibition area underscores the notion that treaties are not static documents but the basis for ongoing dialogue across generations.

### **Promoting the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Program**

Transitional justice education and human rights education are equally important and closely interrelated, as evidenced by the trauma-informed approach of Canada's NCTR in promoting ethnic reconciliation. In the Commission's collaboration with three universities on activities under the Indigenous People's Human Rights Education Program, six strategies for promoting human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples emerged, the first being to approach the subject through historical context. In practical implementation, the Commission referred to international human rights documents and aligned with the Plan of Action for the Fourth Phase of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education, focused on

youth human rights education. Under the Plan for Collaboration between the National Human Rights Commission of the Control Yuan and Universities to Promote Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education, the six promotion strategies of cultivating empathy through historical context, understanding and appreciating Indigenous cultures, in-depth discussion of topical events, focusing on identity and Indigenous community development, introducing international human rights conventions and principles, and introducing the rights of Indigenous peoples and related legal practices aim to achieve the two primary goals of fostering respect, inclusion, and opposition to discrimination, and cultivating rights awareness.

The content of the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Program as implemented by National Dong Hwa University, National Pingtung University, and Providence

University is described in the following section of the article, exploring our country's efforts in promoting human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples.

### Goal 1: Respect, Inclusion, and Opposition to Discrimination

To achieve the goal of respect, inclusion, and opposition to discrimination, and to instill the concept of ethnic equality among all citizens, Strategies one to four from the figure below are recommended. Applying the strategy of cultivating empathy through historical context, Providence University collaborated with the Centre for Applied Theatre, Taiwan, to bring the drama course *Umas's Wish* to five high schools. This course immerses students in an incident from 40 years ago involving Indigenous youth, imparting a real feel for the plight of Indigenous youth facing labor exploitation and oppression, thereby fostering empathy that will help eliminate discrimination.

## Goals and Promotion Strategies for the Implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Program





Under the strategy of understanding and appreciating Indigenous cultures, all three universities fostered their public recognition and acceptance through the active promotion of Indigenous music, film, and tribal cultures. For example, National Dong Hwa University used craft courses and community visits to promote ethnic identity; Providence University encouraged contemporary Indigenous youth to engage in creative work related to their own backgrounds through literature and music seminars or by preserving folk songs and historical recordings to revive Indigenous sounds. Employing the strategy of in-depth discussion of topical events, Providence University held seminars to explore common behaviors and attitudes that may be unintentionally discriminatory, prompting the public to reflect on hidden biases and discrimination against Indigenous people.

While cultivating respect, inclusion, and opposition to discrimination through the aforementioned three strategies, it is also essential to actively pursue Indigenous identity and community development. Lectures organized by National Dong Hwa University inviting young people returning to their own ethnic communities to share life experiences, and seminars hosted by Providence University with the theme Wandering/Returning Home: Music as a Path to Identity all contributed to promoting identity and community development.

### **Goal 2: Cultivating Public Awareness of Rights**

Strategies five and six from the figure are appropriate for cultivating awareness of

Indigenous peoples' rights. For example, National Dong Hwa University and National Pingtung University integrated practical challenges to community development, such as the geothermal power generation BOT project in Kanadun Village and issues related to Typhoon Morakot and permanent housing, with traditional Indigenous territories, consultation and consent procedures, and housing rights. This approach gave participants a solid grasp of what rights really mean in practical situations, not stopping at the level of theoretical discussion.

### **Maximizing Promotional Effectiveness Using Limited Resources**

Comparing the experience of other countries and the provisions of international human rights conventions, and combining these with the implementation and results of the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Education Program as discussed above, this article makes the following observations and recommendations to further Taiwan's promotion of human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples:

**1. Expand the Target Audience for Education:** The current policy on human rights education with regard to Indigenous peoples in our country aims for universal Indigenous peoples education. Therefore, consideration should be given to extending the target audience in order for it to include students without Indigenous background. For example, lectures arranged for school events could be opened to the general public, thus helping educate more of society.


## **2. Focusing on Empowering Urban Indigenous People:**

According to the Council of Indigenous Peoples, about half of the Indigenous population has migrated to urban areas, with the cities of Taoyuan, New Taipei, and Taichung being the top three areas. Students and the general public in these areas need to get a better understanding of issues such as opposition to discrimination and Indigenous identity. It is recommended that more attention should be paid to these groups in the future, and that relevant activities be held in these areas.

## **3. Continue to Promote Human Rights Education with regard to Indigenous Peoples:**

The lecture and course designs for the activities conducted by the three universities were all planned and designed by faculty members with expertise in Indigenous peoples' rights. They combined theory and practice, and received positive participant feedback. This experience and its related educational resources should be shared with teachers within the educational system to accelerate the promotion of Indigenous peoples' rights education.

In Taiwan, there is still much work to be done in advancing and publicizing transitional justice for Indigenous peoples. Transitional justice should be part of human rights education, beginning with understanding historical truths. In 2022, during Taiwan's third periodic review on ICCPR and ICESCR compliance, an independent group of international human rights experts recommended that the Commission take a leading role in human rights education. In response, the

Commission has been integrating the expertise and resources of a growing number of academic research centers, reaching out to the general public through more practical and diverse activities, and helping students acquire knowledge and understanding of Indigenous peoples' rights. In the future, the Commission will continue its cross-agency collaborations with the National Academy for Educational Research, National Academy of Civil Service, and Council of Indigenous Peoples, and other agencies, while partnering with museums and institutions dedicated to public education. These efforts will range from raising awareness of anti-discrimination to highlighting the Indigenous rights, to maximize the impact of these initiatives. 



Part

## Strategies for Advancing Human Rights

With the vision of “becoming the conscience of the nation and a pillar of support for marginalized groups”, while adhering to the principles of *pluralism, independence, and effectiveness* as a national human rights institution, the Commission completed the formulation of its first Medium-Term Strategic Plan in 2023 to guide the promotion of its affairs from 2023 to 2026. Encompassing 4 major strategies and 21 issues, the plan aims to accelerate Taiwan’s progress toward becoming a nation with full respect for human rights.

DIVERSE  
↓  
DIALOGUE  
↓  
IMPROVE



HUMAN RIGHTS

多元對話 ↓ 進步人權

*Diverse Dialogues, Advancing Human Rights*, by Lu Hong-wen  
2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Public Category, Honorable Mention



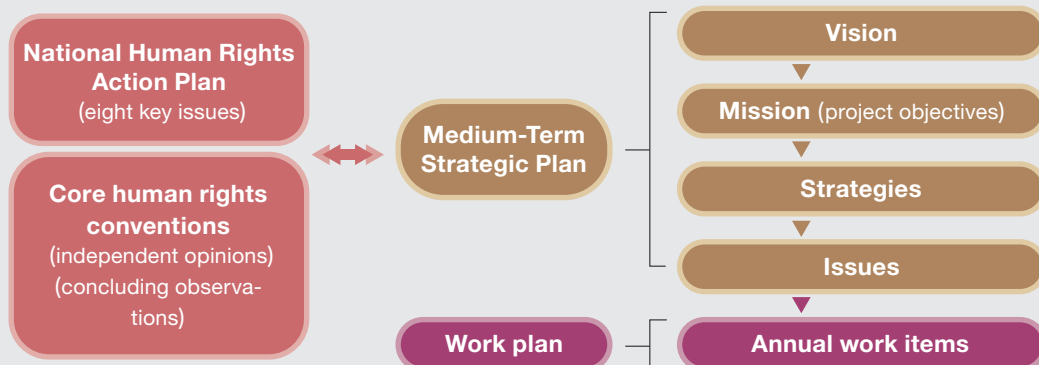
## Formulating the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan

# 4 Strategies and 21 Issues Becoming the Conscience of the Nation and a Pillar of Support for Marginalized Groups

To ensure that human rights development proceeds swiftly and smoothly, a clear strategic direction is needed. Therefore, since its inauguration in August 2020, the Commission has adhered to the principles requiring national human rights institutions to be *independent*, *specialized*, and *pluralistic*. The Commission’s vision and core mission are to “become the conscience of the nation and a pillar of support for marginalized groups”. Starting from 2021, the Commission has annually formulated strategic plans, defined key tasks, and implemented the functions and powers stipulated in Article 2 of the Organic Act of the Control Yuan National Human Rights Commission (hereinafter the Organic Act) to achieve the goal of promoting and protecting human rights.

In the three years since its establishment, the Commission’s organizational structure and operation have gradually matured. To strengthen the promotion of human rights affairs, in a shift from its original approach of formulating annual strategic plans, the Commission has followed the lead of other national human rights institutions worldwide in adopting the mechanism of medium-term strategic planning, initiating the drafting of such a plan in April 2022. After more than a year of data collection, meetings, discussions, and solicitation of outside opinion, the Commission finally completed the drafting of its 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan (hereinafter the Strategic Plan) in August 2023.

### Relationships between the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan and the Executive Yuan’s National Human Rights Action Plan, Core Human Rights Conventions, and Other Related Plans

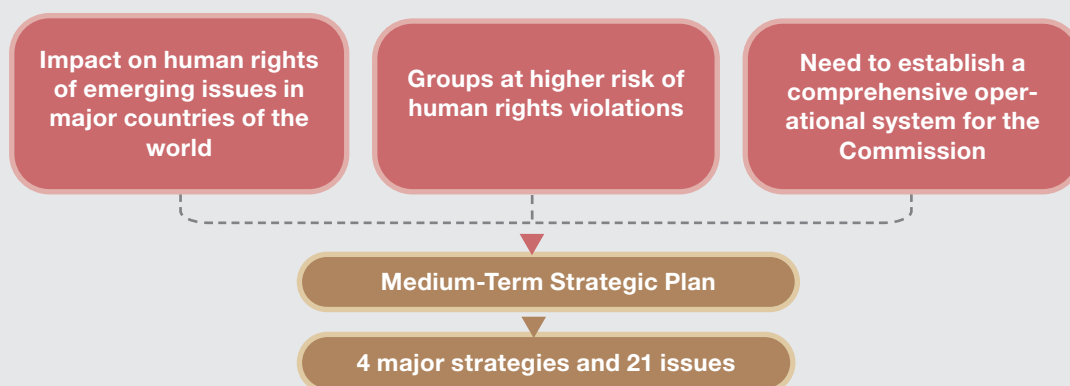


### Completing formulation of the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan in three phases

In the course of formulating the Strategic Plan, the Commission gradually clarified three

relationships with the core human rights conventions and other plans, establishing three principles for content selection (see the figure below) as a reference for priority issues to be promoted in the next three to four years.

#### Content Selection Principles for the 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan



#### Phase one (April to December 2022): Extensive data collection; strategy and topic selection

Starting in April 2022, the Commission began collecting data from countries such as the United Kingdom (Scotland), Australia, and South Korea, clarifying the individual roles and functions of the Strategic Plan and the Executive Yuan’s National Human Rights Action Plan. Subsequently, the Commission inventoried its issues of concern when drafting independent opinions, together with

issues covered in the concluding observations on human rights conventions. It also collected opinions from civil society organizations and human rights advisors, while further integrating into the plan the Commission’s powers and functions as set out in the Organic Act. By December 2022, the first draft of the Strategic Plan was completed, covering 6 major strategies and 33 issues.

#### Phase two (January to May 2023): Discussion by all Commissioners, streamlining strategies and issues


Following completion of the first draft, the Commission immediately convened discussion meetings. From January to May 2023, five plenary Commission discussion meetings, one consultation with advisors, and a two-day strategy building workshop were

held. Through marathon discussions, the original 6 major strategies were merged into 4, and the original 33 issues were reduced to 28, then further consolidated to 21, completing a new version of the draft Strategic Plan.

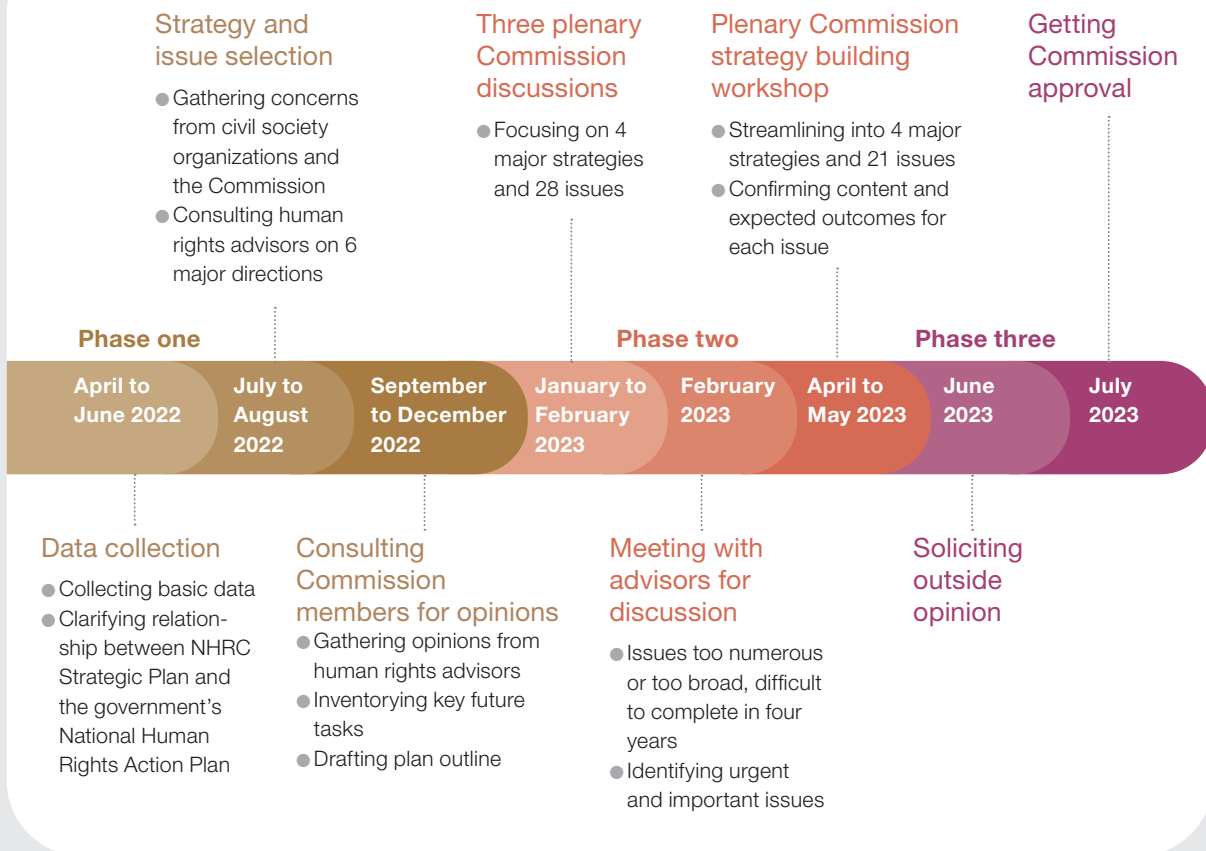


**Phase three (June to July 2023):  
Solicitation of outside opinion, submission for Commission approval**

To gather outside opinion, the Commission announced the content of the Strategic Plan, covering 4 major strategies and 21 issues, on its official website and Facebook page from June 12 to 30, 2023, for public feedback. During this period, the Commission simultaneously consulted with human rights advisors and actively contacted 19 alliances, associ-

ations, foundations, and other NGOs related to human rights conventions, asking for their assistance in informing relevant groups. The Commission then adjusted the plan based on the collected feedback. Ultimately, on July 25, 2023, during the 43rd official monthly meeting of the Commission, the plan was submitted and approved. 

**Steps in the Formulation of the Strategic Plan**



## 2023–2026 Medium-Term Strategic Plan Covering 4 Major Strategies and 21 Issues



To become the conscience of the nation and a pillar of support for marginalized groups



To promote human rights development and enhance social freedom and equality

### Strategy 1

**Optimize the Commission's operational effectiveness**

1. Strengthen the legal framework of the commission's operations.
2. Establish mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and study mechanisms for monitoring children's rights.
3. Gradually establish mechanisms for taking part in accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).
4. Strengthen monitoring mechanisms for national human rights affairs and the implementation of international human rights conventions.
5. Create mechanisms for civil society organization participation and dialogue.
6. Strengthen human rights complaint channels.

### Strategy 2

**Monitor and promote the human rights of disadvantaged groups**

1. Promote the integration of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol into domestic law.
2. Explore adequate housing rights for households subjected to forced demolition and relocation.
3. Promote the gradual abolition of the death penalty.
4. Promote equal access to justice.
5. Improve employment and economic security for women with caregiving responsibilities.
6. Monitor the human rights protection of offenders with psychosocial disabilities.
7. Supervise the protection of migrant workers' rights.
8. Promote the mainstreaming of ethnic groups and monitor the rights that Indigenous people are concerned about.
9. Review mechanisms for handling cases of campus violence by teachers against students.
10. Study and discuss the impact of emerging issues on human rights.

### Strategy 3

**Supervise and promote human rights education**

1. Enhance the human rights literacy of civil servants, police officers, correctional officers, judicial personnel, and military personnel.
2. Promote awareness of human rights among media practitioners.
3. Establish a human rights information center to keep up with international human rights trends and facilitate the application of human rights information.

### Strategy 4

**Actively participate in international human rights cooperation networks**

1. Participate in the international review of national reports on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to align with international human rights mechanisms.
2. Actively take part in international human rights affairs to enhance the expertise of specialists in this area.

Part

6

# | Appendix



*Embrace Equality*, by Liu Yu-qiao  
2023 Human Rights Poster Design Competition, Student Category, Honorable Mention

## Organizational Operations in Compliance with the Paris Principles

# Promoting Human Rights Development through Pluralism, Independence, and Effectiveness

As an independent National Human Rights Institution, the Commission has adhered to the standards outlined in the UN Paris Principles since its establishment, formulating regulations governing its organizational operations and powers to ensure that it can effectively promote human rights development and fulfill its mission of enhancing social freedom and equality.

In 2023, the Commission continued to uphold principles of openness and transparency, continuously adjusting and optimizing its organizational operations. In the following, the Commission's composition, remuneration of its members and staff, and its financial report for 2023 are explained. In addition, the Principles for Filing and Investigating Petitions and Complaints and the Operating Procedures for the International Affairs Advisory Group, developed specifically in response to the expansion of the Commission's affairs, are explained.

### Pluralism in Committee Composition

The Commission is concurrently chaired by the president of the Control Yuan. Alongside the chairperson, seven other members of the Control Yuan serve as *ex officio* members of the Commission, each holding a six-year term. Additionally, two other members

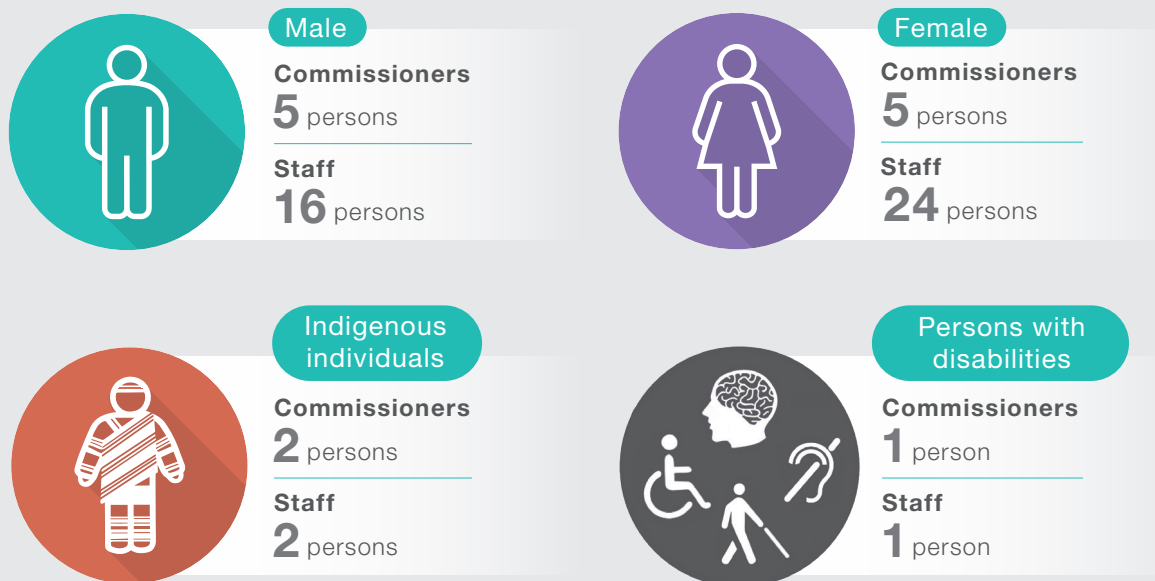
of the Control Yuan are appointed annually by the president of the Control Yuan to serve one-year terms. Consistent with the emphasis in the Paris Principles on diversity in National Human Rights Institutions, the 2023 Commission consisted of 10 members and 40 staff, representing a range of specializations and ethnic groups in the human rights field, including Indigenous individuals and persons with disabilities (see Figure 1). Moreover, women made up a significant 60 percent of the Commission's staff, and female personnel of senior rank with decision-making authority accounted for 57 percent (see Table 1), surpassing the proportions of both female civil servants (42.8 percent) and female personnel of senior rank (39.1 percent) in the national civil service system.

Furthermore, the Commission has appointed 16 human rights advisors (see Table 2), primarily from academia, who represent diverse professional backgrounds, and ethnic groups, to provide professional advice on all aspects of the Commission's affairs.

Table 1: Staff Members Job Grades and Gender Percentage Distribution

Job grade	Female			Male			Current staff	Percentage distribution
	Number	%	% by job grade	Number	%	% by job grade	Number	%
Senior rank	4	57%	17%	3	43%	19%	7	18%
Junior rank	12	55%	50%	10	45%	63%	22	55%
Elementary rank	0	0%	0%	1	100%	6%	1	2%
Specialists under contract	8	80%	33%	2	20%	12%	10	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 1: Members of the Commission





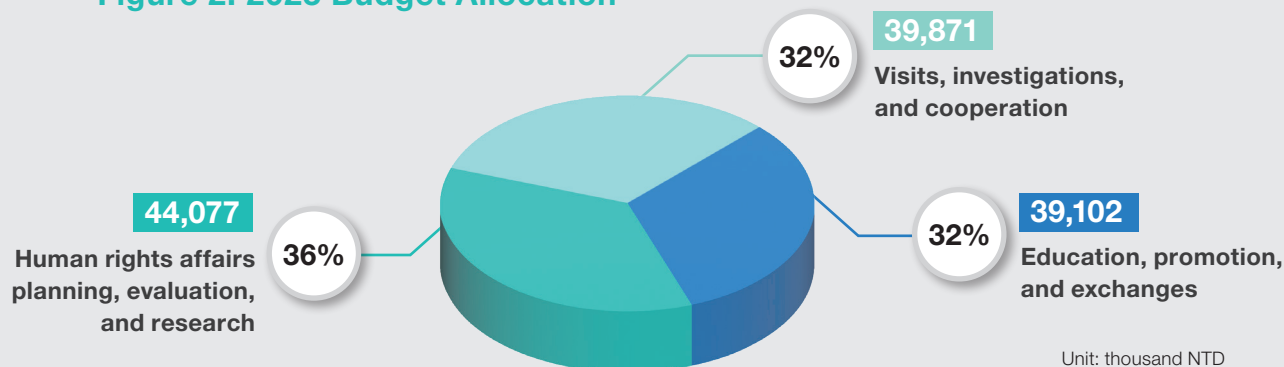
**Table 2: Human Rights Consultants (2023-2024)**

Name	Position
Awi Mona	Professor and Chair, Department of Law & Indigenous Law Program, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Dong Hwa University
Chen Chun-hung	Professor, Department of Political Science, Soochow University
Chen Yi-chien	Professor, Graduate Institute for Gender Studies, Shih Hsin University
Ho Rong-hsing	CEO, The Reporter Cultural Foundation
Hong Wei-sheng	Attorney at Law; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and Policy, National Taipei University
Hsiao Hsin-huang	Chairman, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation
Huang Mab	Liberal Arts Chair Professor, Soochow University
Huang Song-lih	Professor, Institute of Public Health, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University; Convener, Covenants Watch
Liao Fu-te	Research Professor, Institutum Iurisprudentiae Academia Sinica
Liu Chin-hsing	Former national policy advisor to the President's Office
Liu Shu-chiung	Professor, Department of Social Work, National Taiwan University
Sun Nai-yi	Professor, College of Law, National Taiwan University
Teng Yen-sen	Adjunct Professor, Department of Law, Soochow University
Tran Thi Hoang Phuong	Lecturer, Foreign Language Center, National Chengchi University; President, Vietnamese Club Taiwan
Tu Wen-ling	Dean, International College of Innovation, and Professor, Department of Public Administration, National Chengchi University
Wei Chien-feng	Attorney at Law; Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Law, Soochow University

### Financial Transparency

In line with the Paris Principles, which require national human rights institutions to have adequate resources to fulfill their duties and responsibilities, the Commission's budget for the fiscal year 2023 was NT\$123,050,000 (see Figure 2). The final annual expenditure was NT\$111,283,809, for an execution rate of 90.44 percent.

Regarding remunerations, the salaries for commission members and staff are determined according to the Public Functionaries Remuneration Act; the Civil Service Allowance Distribution Regulations; the Regulations Governing the Payment of Remuneration to Military, Public, and Teaching Personnel; and the Control Yuan Guidelines for the Employment and Appointment of Personnel.

**Figure 2: 2023 Budget Allocation**

### Formulating the New NHRC Principles for Filing and Investigating Human Rights Petitions and Complaints

From its establishment in August 2020 to the end of 2022, the Commission accepted a total of 54 complaints. In 2023, it accepted 101 complaints, indicating significant growth. With the increasing number of complaints and their diverse and complex nature, the Commission drew up and announced the National Human Rights Commission Principles for Filing and Investigating Human Rights Petitions and Complaints in May 2023.

Procedures for handling cases accepted by the Commission vary depending on the content of the complaint. If a case may be subject to administrative appeal, litigation, a request for state compensation or relief, or if it involves misconduct by civil servants or administrative agencies, it is referred to the responsible authority for action after review and approval by the case processing team, with a report submitted to the Commission. Cases involving torture, discrimination, or other human rights violations, where the cir-

cumstances are serious, are placed on file and investigated following review by the case processing team and subsequent approval by the Commission.\*

Additionally, in January 2023, the Commission established a Sign Language Video Interpretation Service to assist individuals with hearing impairments to file complaints in person. Through sign language interpreters, the key points of a complaint can be immediately recorded, making the process more accessible.

### Establishing the NHRC International Affairs Advisory Group

Due to the increased frequency of the Commission's interactions and collaboration with international human rights networks, the NHRC International Affairs Advisory Group was established in August 2023. Four advisors with expertise in international affairs have been invited to provide advice on planning, coordinating, coordinating and executing international exchanges for the Commission. 

\*The case processing team is composed of the Vice Chairperson of the Commission and two other Commission members. Every three months, two members rotate, with the order of rotation determined by lot.

## 2023 Calendar

### January 2023

- Jan. 6**
  - Collaborated with the Organization for Migrant Fishers' Rights (OMFR) to hold a Stakeholders Forum on Action and Dialogue on the Human Rights Issues of Foreign Fishing Crew (second session).
- Jan. 16**
  - Convened the 37th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
  - Held the Human Rights Poster Special Exhibition from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28.
- Jan. 17**
  - Hosted an inter-agency forum on the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report, first session.
- Jan. 30**
  - Conducted visits Jan. 30 and 31 at Chiayi Prison and Pingtung Detention Center under the Inmates with Disabilities Human Rights Project.

### February 2023

- Feb. 1**
  - Hosted an inter-agency forum on the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report, second session.
- Feb. 3**
  - Conducted visits at Taoyuan Women's Prison and Taoyuan Prison under the Inmates with Disabilities Human Rights Project.
- Feb. 9**
  - Hosted an inter-agency forum on the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report, third session.
  - A delegation from the Switzerland-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Swiss Federal Assembly visited the NHRC to exchange experience in promoting democracy and human rights.
- Feb. 13**
  - Conducted a consultation meeting with related NGO groups on the Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities.
- Feb. 14**
  - Collaborated with the OMFR to hold a Stakeholders Forum on Action and Dialogue on the Human Rights Issues of Foreign Fishing Crew (third session).
- Feb. 18**
  - Conducted an exchange seminar with Covenants Watch.
- Feb. 20**
  - Convened the 38th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
  - Held an exchange meeting for commissioners and NHRC consultants.
- Feb. 21**
  - Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on Establishing Multiple Corporate Unions in Factories or Sites under the Same Corporation (111-Hsien-Min-350, 2022).
  - A delegation from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, South Korea, visited the NHRC to exchange experience in promoting transitional justice and human rights education.
  - Hosted a consultation with Indigenous experts and scholars on the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report, Taipei session.

## March 2023

- Mar. 10** • Conducted a consultation meeting with administrative agencies on the Guidelines for Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities.
- Mar. 14** • Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on the Criminalization of Defamation II (110-Hsien-Erh-247, 2021).
- Mar. 15** • Held a guest lecture by experts from the Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), “The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Promoting the Abolition of the Death Penalty,” sharing international practical experience and the role NHRIs can play.
- Mar. 21** • Conducted visits Mar. 21 and 22 at Tainan Prison and Tainan Second Prison under the Inmates with Disabilities Human Rights Project.
- Mar. 27** • A European Union delegation of experts on countering disinformation and media literacy education visited the NHRC to exchange experience on the development of freedom of speech, countering disinformation, fact-checking, and enhancing civic media literacy.
  - Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on Search and Seizure of Law Firm's Offices (Hui-Tai-11067).
- Mar. 28** • Convened the 39th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- Mar. 29** • A delegation from the American human rights organization Freedom House visited the NHRC to exchange views with commissioners on the current state of freedom, democracy, and civil society development in Taiwan.
- Mar. 30** • NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu presented a videoed National Statement at the second Summit for Democracy, showcasing Taiwan's achievements in fulfilling democratic commitments.
- Mar. 31** • A delegation from the Tibet Religious Foundation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the NHRC to discuss the human rights situation in Tibet, the difficulties Tibetans face in coming to Taiwan, and ways to strengthen friendly interactions between Taiwan and Tibet.

## April 2023

- Apr. 11** • Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on the Phantom Voters/False Census Registration to Alter the Composition of an Electorate (Hui-Tai-9433).
  - Citizen Congress Watch (together with the New School for Democracy) and a delegation of international human rights scholars and experts visited the NHRC.
- Apr. 12** • Attended the first session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Conclusions and the Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.
- Apr. 14** • Held the first meeting of the 2022 Annual Report Editorial Committee.
- Apr. 19** • Attended the second session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.

**Apr. 20** • Participated in a meeting with the Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice of the Executive Yuan (staff-level).

**Apr. 25** • Convened the 40th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.

**Apr. 26** • Attended the third session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.  
• A six-member delegation led by Alain Richard, Vice President of the French Senate and Chairman of its Taiwan Friendship Group, visited the NHRC.

**Apr. 27** • Held a review meeting with experts and scholars regarding the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report.

**Apr. 30** • Held a strategy building workshop Apr. 30 and May 1 on human rights promotion strategies and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions accreditation mechanism.

## May 2023

**May 3** • Attended the fourth session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.

**May 4** • Hosted a consultation with Indigenous experts and scholars on the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report, Hualien session, on May 4 and 5.

**May 10** • Held a review meeting with experts and scholars regarding the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report.

**May 12** • Attended the second stage International Review Conference for the Concluding Observations on the Third National Report on the Two Covenants hosted by the Council of Indigenous Peoples.

**May 17** • Attended the fifth session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.  
• Attended the second stage International Review Conference for the Concluding Observations on the Third National Report on the Two Covenants hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

**May 18** • Held a training and case-sharing session led by Professor Liou Tzong-der on the relationship between the Administrative Procedure Act and human rights.

**May 19** • Held the first session of Training on Death Penalty Issues—"Guided Reading of *The Difficulty of Killing*."

**May 21** • The NHRC conducted an online meeting with the Alumni Association of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

**May 22** • Attended the second stage International Review Conference for the Concluding Observations on the Third National Report on the Two Covenants hosted by the Ministry of Justice.

- May 23** • Convened the 41st meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- May 24** • Attended the sixth session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.  
• Held the second meeting of the 2022 Annual Report Editorial Committee.
- May 26** • Attended the Asian regional seminar "Abolition of the Death Penalty in Asia: What are the strategies at hand?" organized by ECPM.
- May 29** • Attended the second stage International Review Conference for the Concluding Observations on the Third National Report on the Two Covenants hosted by the Ministry of Education.
- May 31** • Attended the second stage International Review Conference for the Concluding Observations on the Third National Report on the Two Covenants hosted by the Executive Yuan and Ministry of Justice.  
• Diane Wilson and Sharon Lavigne, winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize, along with a delegation from Taiwanese NGOs, visited the NHRC.

## June 2023

- Jun. 7** • Held the second session of Training on Death Penalty Issues—"The New System under the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act and Restorative Justice."
- Jun. 12** • The Human Rights Education Resource Center of the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, and a delegation from the Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education in South Korea visited the NHRC.
- Jun. 13** • Attended the second stage review meeting hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the action response form for the Concluding Observations of the International Review of the Second National Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).  
• Held the third session of Training on Death Penalty Issues—"Options Other than the Death Penalty/Death Penalty Alternatives."
- Jun. 14** • Held the third meeting of the 2022 Annual Report Editorial Committee.
- Jun. 16** • Attended the first session of the meeting on Elements of Human Rights Indicators hosted by the Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice of the Executive Yuan.
- Jun. 17** • Held a forum on the treatment system for offenders with psychosocial disabilities, first session.
- Jun. 19** • Attended the second session of the meeting on Elements of Human Rights Indicators hosted by the Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice of the Executive Yuan.  
• Attended the seventh session of the meeting for the Review of Taiwan's Fourth Report on the Implementation of CEDAW Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Review Committee hosted by the Executive Yuan.  
• Attended the second stage review meeting involving interdepartmental issues related to the action response form for the Concluding Observations of the International Review on the Second National Report on the CRPD.

- Jun. 20**
  - Attended the second stage review meeting hosted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the action response form for the Concluding Observations of the International Review on the National Report on the CRPD.
  - Held a training lecture on interview techniques.
- Jun. 21**
  - Attended the eighth session of the Concluding Observations and Recommendations Review Meeting for the Fourth National Report on CEDAW hosted by the Executive Yuan.
- Jun. 26**
  - Attended the second stage review meeting involving interdepartmental issues related to the action response form for the Concluding Observations of the International Review on the Second National Report on the CRPD.
- Jun. 27**
  - Dr. Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and her delegation visited the NHRC.
  - Convened the 42nd meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- Jun. 28**
  - Held a seminar and experience exchange on the prevention of torture.
- Jun. 30**
  - Held a forum on the treatment system for offenders with psychosocial disabilities, second session.

## July 2023

- Jul. 3**
  - Held the CGLPL Torture Prevention Inspection Training Course from July 3 to 6 (with France's Controller-General for Places of Deprivation of Liberty).
- Jul. 5**
  - July 5 to 6 attended the 2023 EU-Taiwan Gender Equality Forum: Promoting Gender Equality, hosted by the Executive Yuan.
- Jul. 12**
  - Held the fourth meeting of the 2022 Annual Report Editorial Committee.
  - Held the fourth session of Training on Death Penalty Issues—"The History and Future of the Movement to Abolish the Death Penalty in Taiwan."
- Jul. 13**
  - Held the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75th Anniversary: 2023 Human Rights Poster Special Exhibition from July 13 to Oct. 22.
- Jul. 19**
  - Held the Presentation of the Independent Opinions for the ICERD National Report.
- Jul. 20**
  - Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director of the Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.
  - Held a forum on the treatment system for offenders with psychosocial disabilities, third session.
- Jul. 21**
  - Held a training lecture on the relationship between the Juvenile Justice Act and human rights.
- Jul. 25**
  - Convened the 43rd meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.

## August 2023

- Aug. 1** • Elected the NHRC vice chairperson and members of the International Affairs Advisory Group, and held a processing team meeting to review the human rights petitions and complaints.
- Aug. 4** • Held a forum on the treatment system for offenders with psychosocial disabilities, fourth session.
- Aug. 7** • Held the sixth session of Training on Death Penalty Issues—“Evaluation and Analysis of the 2013 EU-Sponsored Death Penalty Poll, the 2022 Death Penalty Poll by the Crime Research Center of National Chung Cheng University, and Other Death Penalty Polls.”
- Aug. 8** • A delegation of cross-party Israeli parliamentarians visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.
- Aug. 15** • A delegation of permanent representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations from Taiwan’s diplomatic allies visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.
- Aug. 16** • Collaborated with the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation to hold the “TAEF-IDE (Institute of Developing Economies) Joint Symposium: Migrant Workers in Asia: Patterns, Issues, and Policies.”
- Aug. 18** • Attended the “Symposium on Textbooks and Transitional Justice Education” hosted by the National Academy for Educational Research.
- Collaborated with the Foundation for Women’s Rights Promotion and Development to hold a forum on “CEDAW and Mental Health: Addressing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence.”
- Held a regional consultation meeting (Taoyuan, Hsinchu, and Miaoli session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Aug. 21** • Held a focus group meeting with children and adolescents with disabilities on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Aug. 22** • Convened the 44th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- Aug. 26** • Collaborated with National Chin-Yi University of Technology to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Cultivating New Human Rights Forces from Youth, Building a Friendly and Inclusive Taichung” from Aug. 26 to 27.
- Aug. 28** • Attended the ninth session of the Conclusion and Recommendations Review Meeting for the Fourth National Report on CEDAW hosted by the Executive Yuan.
- Aug. 29** • Held a regional consultation meeting (Taichung, Changhua, and Nantou session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.



## September 2023

- Sept. 1** • From Sept. 1 to 3, collaborated with National Cheng Kung University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Exploring the Pulse of Southwestern Taiwan: Ethnic Identity, Culture, and Industrial Human Rights Issues Workshop.”
- Sept. 4** • A delegation from the UK human rights organization Hong Kong Watch visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.
- Sept. 6** • Collaborated with the Foundation for Women’s Rights Promotion and Development to hold a forum on “Creating a Friendly Reproductive Environment through Child Care Systems and Amendments to the Assisted Reproduction Act.”
- From Sept. 6 to 8, collaborated with National Chengchi University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Separation and Reunion in the South: Living with Nuclear Power.”
- Sept. 7** • Held the first meeting of the NHRC’s International Affairs Advisory Group.
- Sept. 8** • Held a collaborative meeting on how to assist in safeguarding the basic rights of undocumented children whose migrant parents are missing or in hiding in Taiwan, in coordination with the Department of Human Rights and Transitional Justice of the Executive Yuan.
- Hosted a joint delegation from the Taiwan International Religious Freedom Summit and the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China for an exchange seminar.
- Sept. 11** • Held a lecture on “Personal Human Rights Experiences in China and How Taiwan Should Face Chinese Hegemony.”
- Sept. 13** • Held a regional consultation meeting (Hualien and Taitung session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Sept. 19** • From Sept. 19 to 24, the NHRC led a delegation to participate in the APF Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference in New Delhi, India.
- Sept. 20** • Collaborated with Soochow University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Open Your Eyes to Human Rights: Deepening Youth Human Rights Education—Multiple Narratives of the #MeToo Movement.”
- Collaborated with the Foundation for Women’s Rights Promotion and Development to host a forum on “Economic Security for Divorced Women.”
- Attended the “Victim Protection Affairs” exchange meeting jointly organized by the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty and the Trade Office of Swiss Industries.
- Sept. 21** • Attended the international conference “Dignity and Justice for All: Protecting the Right to Life,” jointly organized by the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, the European Economic and Trade Office, and the Trade Office of Swiss Industries.
- Sept. 22** • From Sept. 22 to 23, collaborated with Cheng Shiu University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Human Rights Empowerment: Enhancing Indigenous Cultural Capacity.”

- Sept. 23** • Collaborated with Soochow University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Open Your Eyes to Human Rights: Deepening Youth Human Rights Education Field Visit.”
- Sept. 25** • Held a lecture titled “Redefining International Medical Work Rights in the Post-Pandemic Era.”
- Sept. 26** • Collaborated with Soochow University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Open Your Eyes to Human Rights: The Challenges of Sentencing in #MeToo Cases.”  
• Convened the 45th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- Sept. 27** • Held a focus group meeting with Indigenous persons with disabilities on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.

## October 2023

- Oct. 6** • The Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.  
• Collaborated with Soochow University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Open Your Eyes to Human Rights: Deepening Youth Human Rights Education—Deconstructing the Misogyny of the #MeToo Movement.”  
• Held a regional consultation meeting (Yunlin, Chiayi, and Tainan session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Oct. 12** • Held a regional consultation meeting (Taipei, New Taipei, Keelung, Yilan, Kinmen, and Matsu session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Oct. 13** • From Oct. 13 to 15, collaborated with Taipei Medical University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“A Plan for Cultivating Human Rights Literacy in Biomedical Leaders.”
- Oct. 14** • From Oct. 14 to 23, the NHRC led a delegation to Canada to participate in exchange activities on Indigenous human rights issues.  
• Collaborated with Soochow University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan full-day workshop—“Open Your Eyes to Human Rights: Deepening Youth Human Rights Education—Finding the Glimmer After the #MeToo Movement.”
- Oct. 18** • Participated in the Oslo Freedom Forum in Taiwan organized by the Human Rights Foundation.  
• Held a regional consultation meeting (Kaohsiung, Pingtung, and Penghu session) on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.
- Oct. 21** • From Oct. 21 to 22, collaborated with National Chi Nan University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“Seeking Common Ground While Preserving Differences; Working Together with Youth in Human Rights Training to Create a Diverse, Harmonious, and Beautiful Nantou.”

**Oct. 23** • Held a focus group meeting with elderly persons with disabilities on the monitoring mechanism of the CRPD.

**Oct. 24** • Convened the 46th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.

**Oct. 25** • Hosted a conference on “Business and Human Rights—Trends and Reflections.”  
• Held a conference on “The Right to Adequate Housing: Discussing Resistance to Eviction from the Perspective of ICESCR.”

**Oct. 26** • Held a documentary salon and seminar on “Nondiscrimination and the Rights of LGBTIQ—The Plight of Same-Sex Families.”  
• From Oct. 26 to 27, collaborated with National Chiayi University to conduct the 2023 Youth Empowerment Human Rights Education Plan—“We Can Change: Co-Creating New Female Power for Childcare.”

**Oct. 28** • Participated in the 21st Taiwan LGBT+ Pride Parade—“Stand with Diversity.”

**Oct. 30** • Held an LGBTIQ+ topics salon seminar with French human rights experts and related groups.

## November 2023

**Nov. 3** • Collaborated with the Ministry of Education’s K-12 Education Administration and the Human Rights Education Resource Center of National Tainan Girls’ Senior High School to conduct the first session of the 2023 Academic Year Teachers Professional Growth Program, Holocaust Education Series—Online lecture: “Discrimination, Hatred, Social Division, and Democratic Collapse—How Could the Holocaust Happen?”

**Nov. 8** • Collaborated with the Foundation for Women’s Rights Promotion and Development to host the “2023 Women and Gender Issues Policy Forum and First Anniversary Retrospective on the Fourth International Review of CEDAW.”

**Nov. 9** • Held the second meeting of the NHRC’s International Affairs Advisory Group.

**Nov. 15** • From Nov. 15 to 16, attended the “2023 GCTF International Workshop on Human Rights in the Digital Age” workshop organized by the American Institute in Taiwan.  
• Soochow University students visited the NHRC.

**Nov. 21** • A delegation led by Ms. Guri Melby, the Liberal Party leader and the second vice chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense of the Storting (parliament) of the Kingdom of Norway visited the NHRC.

**Nov. 22** • From Nov. 22 to 23, held the 2023 International Conference on Human Rights Development Conference.

**Nov. 27** • A delegation from the German Journalists Network visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.

**Nov. 28** • Convened the 47th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.

## December 2023

- Dec. 1** • Held the Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75 special poster exhibition for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the National Taiwan Arts Education Center from Dec. 1 to Dec. 10.
- Dec. 7** • Manharsinh Laxmanbhai Yadav, Director General of the India-Taipei Association, and Vice Director General Aparna Ganesan visited the NHRC for an exchange seminar.
- Dec. 8** • Collaborated with Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd. to host the first day of issue ceremony for four Human Rights Stamps from the Human Rights Series.
- Dec. 10** • Held the award ceremony for the “Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75” poster design competition.  
• Put on a light display on Taipei 101 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Dec. 15** • Conducted a bilateral exchange video conference with the Commission on Human Rights of the Republic of the Philippines.
- Dec. 19** • Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on Life Sentence Prisoners Serving Remaining Sentence after Revocation of Parole (109-Hsien-Erh-333, 2020).
- Dec. 25** • Attended Taiwan Constitutional Court hearing on the Case on the Criminalization of Public Insult I (111-Hsien-Min-900243, 2022).
- Dec. 26** • Convened the 48th meeting of the first cohort of the NHRC.
- Dec. 27** • Held a training lecture on the protection of rights for domestic and migrant workers.
- Dec. 29** • Held the Color Our Rights: Designing for Human Rights 75 special poster exhibition for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at Pier-2 Art Center in Kaohsiung from Dec. 29, 2023, to Jan. 29, 2024. 

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**Designed and Printed by**

Herdo Integrated Marketing Co., Ltd.

8F., No. 13, Ln. 73, Anxiang Rd., Xindian Dist.,

New Taipei City 23158, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Tel: +886-2-8912-5780

**Price:** NT\$995

**Published:** November 2024

*(Original Chinese version published in July 2024)*

**Frequency:** Annual

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ISSN: 3005-5016



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