

INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR)

PURPOSE

The ICCPR recognizes the inherent dignity of each individual and undertakes to promote conditions within states to allow the enjoyment of civil and political rights. Countries that have ratified the Covenant are obligated “to protect and preserve basic human rights... [and] “compel[ed] to take administrative, judicial, and legislative measures in order to protect the rights enshrined in the treaty and to provide an effective remedy.” There are currently 74 signatories and 168 parties to the ICCPR.

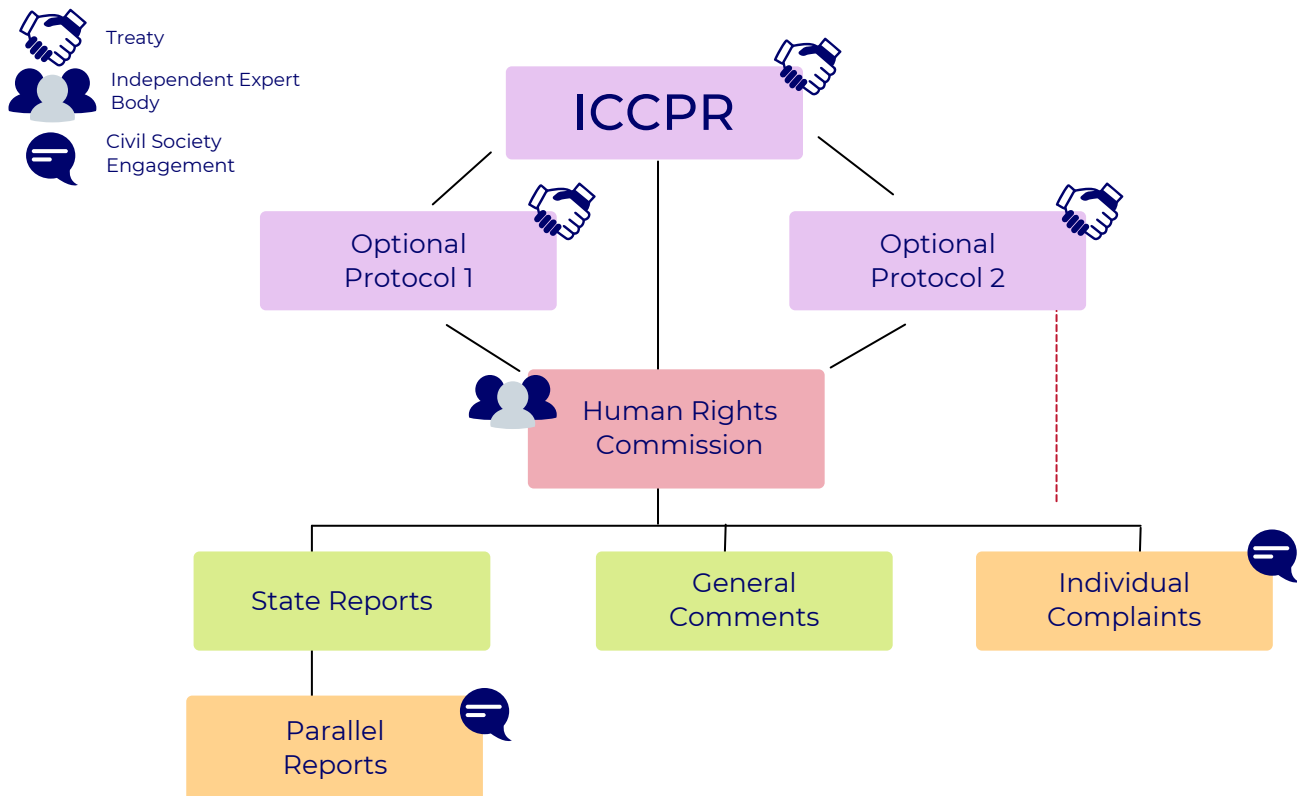
STATE OBLIGATIONS

ICCPR commits member States to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial. Article 4 allows for certain circumstances for States Parties to derogate from their responsibilities under the Covenant, such as during times of public emergencies. However, State Parties may not derogate from Articles 6, 7, 8 (paragraphs 1 and 2), 11, 15, 16 and 18.

THEMES & VALUES

Articles 2 and 3 provide for the unifying theme and value of the Covenant. They are based on the notion of non-discrimination. Article 2 ensures that rights recognized in the ICCPR will be respected and be available to everyone within the territory of those states who have ratified the Covenant (State Party). Article 3 ensures the equal right of both men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set out in the ICCPR.

ICCPR OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



Samoa became a party to the ICCPR in 2008