



What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is the organization set up by the world's governments to promote peace and security, development and human rights. It consists of more than 190 countries, including the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).





What are human rights?

Human rights are rights that we enjoy simply because we are human beings. Every person in the world has human rights, including the rights to life, food, education and the right to hold and express opinions without being threatened. Without these rights, people cannot live in dignity. Governments have an obligation to protect and promote human rights.

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An Introduction to OHCHR

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Seoul





What is OHCHR?

OHCHR works for the protection and promotion of rights for all people, regardless of social origin, gender, religion or nationality. OHCHR helps people to understand their rights and assists governments to ensure respect for human rights of all people.

What is OHCHR (Seoul)?

OHCHR opened its office in Seoul in June 2015. The office was set up in order to monitor how human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are being respected, and to work with relevant governments, civil society and other actors to promote and protect human rights.

The mandate of OHCHR (Seoul) includes the following objectives:

- Monitor and document the human rights situation in the DPRK.
- Work with governments, civil society and other actors to enhance their capacity to promote and protect human rights in the DPRK.
- Maintain awareness of the human rights situation in the DPRK through advocacy and communication.

What does OHCHR (Seoul) do?



Receives information about the human rights situation in the DPRK from a variety of sources, including from victims of violations, civil society groups, state actors, the media and others.



Monitors the implementation of human rights commitments that the Government of the DPRK has made.



Shares its findings, including through social media and in reports, which include recommendations to governments and other actors.



Advocates for people to be held accountable if they are guilty of gross violations of human rights.



Promotes respect for groups who are at risk of discrimination, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and persons living in poverty.



Supports the work of governments, civil society and other actors to promote and protect human rights in the DPRK.



Provides technical training and advice to actors monitoring human rights in the DPRK.



How can you help?

Officers from OHCHR (Seoul) regularly conduct interviews to collect and analyse information about the human rights situation in the DPRK. During these interviews they may also want to discuss specific themes or human rights violations.

You can either request an interview or report to OHCHR (Seoul) about developments in the human rights situation in the DPRK by writing to seoul@ohchr.org.

You may request that the information you provide in an interview or a report be kept confidential, or give us permission to disclose it.

