

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

Abstract

The Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body within the United Nations, has the function of discussing all human rights issues that require immediate attention. In this way, it addresses violations, promotes human rights assistance and education, ensures the international human rights law, reviews each of the member States records, responds to emergencies, and serves as an international forum for dialogue on this area (OHCHR, 2020).

In 1946, after the end of World War II, the United Nations decided to create a body that would guarantee fundamental rights and freedom. After several decades, they realized the world needed a more specialized branch, therefore they evolved from having the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, to the United Nations Human Rights Council on March 15, 2006 throughout the United Nations General Assembly. Its first president was the Mexican Luis Alfonso de Alba (OHCHR, 2020).

As of today, the Human Rights Council has had 117 members, thus reflecting its diversity. Nowadays, it is conformed of 47 countries, elected by the General Assembly which takes into account the delegation's contribution, their promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their commitment in multiple programs of the United Nations regarding this subject (OHCHR, 2020).

"Victims of trafficking are now regarded as entitled to the full range of human rights and are no longer perceived to be criminals. National human rights institutions have become more independent and authoritative and have a powerful influence on governance. Over a third of all countries have established one or more such institutions. Human rights have become central to the global conversation regarding peace, security, and development" (United Nations Human Rights, 2020).



References:

- OHCHR. (2020). *Promotion and protection of Human Rights around the globe*. Organización de las Naciones Unidas, Ginebra, Suiza.
From: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRbodies/HRC/Pages/Home.aspx>.
Retrieved November 15, 2020.
- United Nations Human Rights. (2020). *Human Rights Achievements*. Organización de las Naciones Unidas, Nueva York, Estados Unidos.
From: <https://at20.ohchr.org/achievements.html>. Retrieved November 15, 2020.

