

"Building Bridges between Local Governments and the Scientific Community to Promote Human Rights"

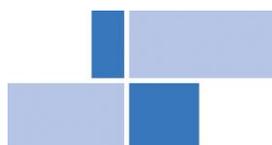
OUTCOME DOCUMENT

of Human Rights Go Local: What Works - Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels 2021 on Field-proven Research Methods on Human Rights, 1-9 February 2021.

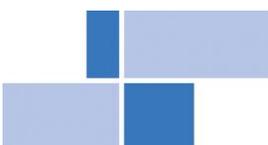
9 February 2021

We, the participants of the first Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels,

- a. recalling the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions on local government and human rights, in particular Resolution A/HRC/RES/45/7,
- b. recognizing the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, without any prejudice to the primary responsibility of the national government in this regard,
- c. recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, which provides in Article 27.1 that everyone has the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits, which encompasses the freedom indispensable for scientific research as well as the conservation, development and diffusion of science,
- d. recalling the recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 39th session on 13 November 2017 and the Education 2030 Agenda,
- e. recalling General Comment No. 25 (2020) on science and economic, social and cultural rights by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- f. recalling that the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (A/C.3/66/L.65) and the Plan of Action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/15/28) stress the relevance and importance of human rights education at the local level,



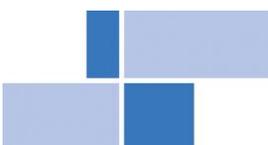
- g. recalling that conceptual frameworks and key principles for Human Rights Cities have been discussed in various forms, including in the Gwangju Guiding Principles on a Human Rights City, the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City,
- h. underscoring the indispensability of local governments to protect, respect and fulfil all human rights of everyone without discrimination of any kind within their function and competence provided for in the respective constitutional and legal system of the state concerned,
- i. recalling that the proximity of local governments to the people is an important asset for the provision of public services that address local needs and priorities compliant with human rights obligations, standards and principles, including gender equality,
- j. recalling that local governments are key actors for the implementation of the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is further concretised in particular by the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as well as by the United Nations New Urban Agenda,
- k. recalling that the 2030 Agenda aims at realizing human rights for all, in particular by calling upon local governments to leave no one behind, ensuring that the rights of people in vulnerable situations including those suffering from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are also defended,
- l. acknowledging that a human rights-based approach to local governance need to be reinforced by the results of locally-owned or accepted participatory research on human rights,
- m. recognizing that human rights research is a valuable means to foster evidence-based decision making on promoting human rights enjoyment at the local level and to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of local public services and responses to human rights issues and thereby the accountability of local governments,
- n. acknowledging that research on human rights at the local level should build on human rights principles and standards and requires participatory methods tailored to the specific context,
- o. recognizing the importance and impact of the collaboration between political decision makers and scientists, researchers or other evidence-providers to ensure a high level of quality in human rights research,
- p. recognizing that scientific freedom is a prerequisite for the credibility and quality of research on human rights at local level,
- q. bearing in mind the vulnerability of the scientific community including human rights researchers to political pressures which could undermine scientific freedom,



- r. noting with concern trends that are putting civil society under severe pressure weakening also the protection of Human Rights Defenders and resulting in poor conditions for conducting research,
- s. affirming the necessity of multi-level-governance approaches for the delivery of human rights at the local and regional levels,
- t. acknowledging the efforts made by city networks and further regional and international initiatives to promote human rights at the local level,
- u. recognizing the importance of partnering with civil society and relevant stakeholders in the pursuit of promoting human rights at the local level,
- v. recognizing the importance of building capacities of local governments and encouraging innovation in the implementation, protection and promotion of human rights, as well as the importance of human rights actors providing guidance, including peer-to-peer advice, sharing of tools and instruments, to all levels of governance,
- w. recalling that the Human Rights City movement is a valuable part of the larger trend toward the localization of human rights norms recognizing cities as key players in the promotion and protection of human rights,
- x. appreciating that self-declared Human Rights Cities increasingly resort to international human rights standards and principles as guidance for urban policies, local programming, and city development,
- y. taking note of the report A/HRC/42/22 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on effective methods to foster cooperation between local governments and local stakeholders including civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights at their level, which underscores, inter alia, that partnerships between local government, civil society and international actors are an important way to overcome local challenges, and presents key lessons for local governments on the methodology developed on human rights indicators and the guidance provided by a human rights-based approach to data,

encourage all local level governments worldwide to

1. base the development of their key policies, programmes and decision-making processes and their monitoring and evaluation on research on human rights at the local level,
2. resort to, cooperate in and promote research taking up established and field-proven human rights research methods for the local level upholding highest quality standards and to refine them within their specific context, also by way of community-based needs assessment and participatory action research,
3. resort to or commission research building on human rights indicators giving account of the respect, the protection and the fulfilment of human rights, where methodologically adequate and feasible, as well as to commit to making local data on human rights available publicly,



4. use the synergies between local efforts to measure the progress in the enjoyment of human rights by everyone and local efforts to measure the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,
5. review existing qualitative and quantitative data in light of the requirements for relevant human rights information and the call to leave no one behind,
6. complement already existing qualitative and quantitative data with information deemed necessary to fill data gaps, including on data for groups left behind or at risk of being left behind,
7. collect further relevant human rights data upholding the data protection provisions and respecting concerns of marginalized groups,
8. strengthen collaborative platforms among the human rights communities and statistics and data communities to implement and abide by the principles of a human rights-based approach to data, and to provide support for the consultation and participation of communities in data collection,
9. acknowledge the benefits of a collaboration with local, national and international research institutions and academia to conduct research on human rights at the local level, including young researchers and innovative research methods,
10. ensure transparency and availability of research data and respect and ensure the scientific freedom of researchers, as well as their freedoms of information, expression, and association, which imply their rights to seek and receive information, to freely communicate research results to others, and to publish and publicize them without censorship, and to collaborate with others both within and across the country's borders,
11. strengthen the engagement with civil society, the local populations and all relevant stakeholders and create the space for them to participate in research on human rights at the local level,
12. cooperate with National Human Rights Institutions, as well as regional and international organizations to identify areas where existing research and results can benefit, promote and strengthen efforts at the local level,
13. exchange knowledge and innovation with other local governments, including by joining and collaborating with city networks and human rights cities, in order to promote human rights at the local level and globally,
14. exchange knowledge and innovation with research institutions worldwide with the aim to build bridges between local governments and the scientific community in order to globally promote human rights at the local level.

