

Universal Periodical Review

Forth Cycle
47th Working Group

BHUTAN



Right to Life

Ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

8th of April 2024

“From the politics of taking life to the politics of affirming it”

**We understand the right to life as being – for everyone – the full enjoyment of life,
as being the right not to be killed,
as being everyone’s responsibility not to kill or let others die.**

The Center for Global Nonkilling works for the fulfillment of life, individually and universally. It has a unique mission, that is both inspirational for individuals and transformative for societies:

*“To promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world
by means open to infinite human creativity in reverence for life”.*

The Center was founded by various persons, notably by Glenn Paige (1929-2017), Professor of Political Science and author of the book “Nonkilling Political Science”, widely translated¹. We are a worldwide congregation of persons, including scholars and practitioners coming from all walks of life. We use our freedoms, responsibilities and knowledge, our conscience to create societies and institutions that do not kill, enabling all individuals, all institutions and societies to live fulfilled nonkilling lives. Valuing and protecting life is the most enhancing and empowering mission of each and all, of everyone and of all human social groups and institutions². As humans, we are all and shall all be nonkilling centres. As citizens of the future we are all global. We hereby partake with, sustain our institutions towards the services to life, happiness and well-being, in present time as for the future.

We are all global on our single planet.
May we all be and become nonkilling!

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The Center for Global Nonkilling uses the Universal Periodic Review and its cycles to highlight and follow the implementation of all aspects of life and of the right to life.

Presently, we make three types of UPR submissions:

- A systematic call for *the urgent and universal ratification of the Genocide Convention*.
- A systematic call for *the urgent and universal decriminalization of suicide*.
- On demand, we do a comprehensive *country portrait*³ staging all the domains of life where the People and the concerned States can and shall progress towards fulfilling life and the right to life, valuing and protecting life, avoiding all preventable accidents and injuries⁴.

From conception till death, these living domains of life include the right to be given and to share an enjoyable life, reproductive rights, prenatal and genetic engineering, abortion, infant and maternal mortality and morbidity, birth registration as needed to be legally recognized as a living person fully entitled with rights and duties; deaths caused by road traffic, suicides, homicides and conflicts, deaths occurring at work, in custody, through leisure accidents or because of fires, falls, drownings and poisoning, or by any other preventable cause⁵. We also support leading efforts towards a healthy and happy longevity and in some circumstances, we may survey the right to die⁶.

Due to constrained capacities so far, we do not or rarely address other issues and rights, though they are fully needed to sustain life such as the rights to health, to a safe environment and to fulfilled standards of living. Yet we stand in our dignity and recall that all rights are equal, interlinked, indivisible and mutually reinforcing and that all rights are needed to lead all lives into well-being and happiness, in a peaceful, sustained and sustainable manner.

*To any of these submissions, we may add reflections and demands regarding the Life and Peace Constitutions.
Improvements of our common legal infrastructures favor the status of life and
forward the establishment of comprehensive and encompassing peace policies.*

“Happy people breed a happy world”

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Thank you for your kind support at www.nonkilling.org

Universal Periodic Review of Bhutan

We wish a happy UPR to the people, the authorities and the country of Bhutan.

Summary

This is our second submission for Bhutan⁷.

This submission deals in priority with the **ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**.

Some of our other requests made to Bhutan during the 3rd cycle and still in need to be met are:

Ratification The international covenant on civil and political rights.

Ratification of the second protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

Ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances.

We appeal to Bhutan, to the People and Authorities of the country to sustain the roads of change, to rejoice in humanity and its sustainable development, in its participative dignity.

Prevention of genocide

Ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is a commitment to the universality of the human species, to the right to life, to the right of everyone to belong to social groups and to have social relations, as needed to develop our common humanity through happy and thriving collective societies and individual identities.

The right to life is also to duty not to kill, for individuals and inasmuch for groups of people. Every person needs to be part of a social group to live, to be part of society and to relate with its government, all thriving for the good of each and all. Therefore, all individuals as well as all social and political groups should be protected against genocide. More than not as tools and initiatives are available for prevention⁸.

We recall that the United Nations Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide has called for the 75th anniversary of the Convention on the 9th of December 2024 for the universal ratification of the Convention⁹. We also recall that the Human Rights Council has adopted, without a vote in April this year a resolution containing a similar call¹⁰.

Nothing in the situation of a country, political or strategic, can justify the absence of tools needed for the prevention of genocide and atrocity crimes. The Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the crime of Genocide is one of these tools and great commitments towards this prevention.

However, we regret that Bhutan has noted in all the cycles of the UPR the four recommendations made to the country for the ratification of the convention¹¹.

The Penal Code of Bhutan, though it was amended in 2021, does not contain provisions related to genocide¹². Bhutan is not either party to the Rome Statute, which would legally cover for the country the crime of genocide. Either one of these dispositions need to be done to implement article V of the Genocide Convention which requires enacting legislation punishing genocide.

We strongly recommend to the authorities of Bhutan:

- 1) To revise the Penal Code to integrate the crime of genocide.
- 2) Or, to ratify the Rome Statute of the Criminal Court
- 3) Thereafter, to swiftly ratify the Genocide convention.

Ratification is one of the means needed to prevent and end genocide, allowing humanity to enter an “age of dignity” and to pursue its existence taking itself and all its members, its survival and the well-being of everyone in due account.

*Calling on each and every one to create a nonkilling world,
A world where life can be lived happily,
A life which can be universally and infinitely sustained on Earth,
We welcome the delegations of Bhutan to Geneva,
A City of Peace.*

*We wish to all the people of Bhutan,
And to their Authorities
A successful Universal Periodic Review,
A rewarding, constructive and fulfilling life.*

¹ <http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-translations>

² <http://nonkilling.org/center/how-to-help>

³ All our UPR submissions are or will be available here: <https://nonkilling.org/center/nonkilling-monitoring-programs/nonkilling-activity-at-the-un>

⁴ Shall you wish to see done such a scan of your own country's status of life and the right to life or done for any other country, please contact our office, the author of this submission, or our UN team.

⁵ For most of causes of death, statistics and efficient preventive methods exist.

The Universal Periodic Review cycles and the Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG) Voluntary National Reports (VNR) largely allow for a regular follow up of progresses made.

⁶ Here is an WHO updated statistic overview of causes of death due to injury and violence (2019-2022):

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240047136>

⁷ Our previous submission is here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/uprbt-stakeholders-info-s33>

⁸ I. e. : <http://www.gaamac.org> or <https://www.globalr2p.org/> and <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/members-of-the-global-network-of-r2p-focal-points/>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/international-day.shtml>

¹⁰ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/55/L.16>

¹¹ <https://upr-info->

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¹² <https://oag.gov.bt/language/en/resources/acts-2/#P>