

Universal Periodical Review

Fourth Cycle

50th Working Group

Marshall Islands



**Rights to Life and Peace
Related Human Rights Issues**

7th of April 2025

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

**We understand the right to life as being
the joyful and universal fulfillment of life,
everyone's responsibility to sustain life,
and as being the right not to be killed.**

We are all at the center of our lives,
We are all global on our single planet,
We all need to respect and to cherish life:
Freely, we are all Centers for Global Nonkilling¹.

Your Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK) has a unique mission
Inspirational for Individuals – Creative for Societies
*“Promote change toward the measurable goal of a killing-free world
by means of infinite human creativity, in reverence for life”.*

Nonkilling is a paradigm, a principle and a plan.
Giving worth to universal life by sustaining it for all individuals and for humanity is the paradigm.
Each and every individual undertaking the equal and universal fulfillment of life is the principle.
A happy humanity, on a happy to live on planet, with a happy future
is the plan and the desired result².

Universal fundamental human methods
– as we have universal fundamental human rights and freedoms –
is the roadmap.

Nonkilling is one of these universal human fundamental methods³.
Valuing life and the quality of life,
to preserve it and make it flourish,
now as for future generations,
by knowing, preventing and measuring
occurrences where life can and should be valued and saved.

The Center for Global Nonkilling was founded in 2008 by Glenn Paige (1929-2017),
Professor of Political Science and author of the widely translated book “Nonkilling Political Science”⁴.
We have United Nations’ ECOSOC consultative status since 2014⁵.
We do Universal Periodic Reviews and participate to the Human Rights Council at all sessions.

We make a systematic call to all States for the urgent and universal ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
We make UPR submissions to all States still in need to do this ratification.
We make a systematic call to all States for the urgent and universal decriminalization of suicides.
We make UPR submissions to all States still in need to do this decriminalization.
We make a systematic call to all people and all States for the enhancement and the implementation of the life and peace constitutions, for the fulfillment and respect of all human rights.
We deliver UPR submissions, statements and recommendations as we deem necessary⁶.

“Happy people breed a happy world”

Universal Periodic Review of The Marshall Islands

We wish a happy, constructive and peaceful UPR
to the People and the Authorities of The Marshall Islands.

This is our second submission for the Universal Periodic Review of The Marshall Islands.

The Marshall Islands are very active at the Human Rights Council during the period under review with a membership period of the Council (2020-2022) and again presently member of the Council. Moreover, two important technical resolutions on the Nuclear legacy of the Marshallese and their land⁷ have been adopted.

Nationally, despite pledges offered with their first candidature to the Human Rights Council⁸, some of our encouragements in favor of the life and peace constitutions in line with these pledges and expressed thereafter in our first submission still need to be met and repeated here.

To support and coordinate local efforts, The Marshall Islands' People and Institutions shall rapidly establish a "National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up" (NMIRF) and a "National Human Rights Institution" (NHRI).

The right to life in the national and international human rights constitutions

The following international legal instruments – the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of *genocide*, the covenant on *civil and political rights* and its optional protocol on the *abolition of the death penalty* and the convention on *enforced disappearances* – are within the human rights constitution the ones mostly concerned with the right to life. They are the minimum international standards needed for any country to show full legal respect for life and the right to life.

National constitutions shall similarly reflect this human and legal stand in favor of life.

The right to life, though it can largely be inferred from the text of the Marshallese Constitution is not mentioned in the Constitution⁹. This could be changed.

Beyond legal aspects, it is consciously evident that it is the beauty and the bounty of life, the ethics, knowledge and human best practices, our strong heart feelings and well understood instincts, our sound and profound understandings, common sense and good will, what we offer to each other and to humanity to live well, with accurate and sustainable living means, it is what our institutions promote and exemplify to pursue progress in quality of life and to achieve a sustainable civilization, History in Dignity everywhere on Earth, it is our personal and collective deeds and feelings, intelligence and commitments that give a future, a meaning and a worth to the lives we all live and lead, leaving no one behind, for ourselves as for future generations.

Prevention of genocide



The right to live is also to duty not to kill, for individuals and inasmuch for societies and groups of people. Every person needs a life, every person needs an identity and to be part of a social group to relate and to live in and with. Every person is part of society and has a right to relate with its government and institutions, everyone deserves and shall receive the possibility of thriving for the good of each and all.

Therefore, all individuals, social and political groups are to be peacefully protected from genocide and all institutions are to peacefully protect all persons, all social and political groups.

We recall that the United Nations Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide has called, for the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the 9th of December 2018 for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide¹⁰. We also recall that the Human Rights Council regularly adopts, by consensus, resolutions making a similar call¹¹.

There is a universal duty to protect all social groups. Ratification of the Convention and adapting local laws is a rather simple commitment and act of Government¹².

Moreover, ratification is a clear and strong sign sent locally as to all humanity that the respect of life and all lives are essential, that the progress towards nonkilling is needed and possible.

Viewing the excellent work done by The Marshall Islands in recent years to overcome the existence of weapons of mass destruction, The Marshall Islands shall have all good reasons to ratify the Genocide Convention.

Ratifying the Convention is also an overall measure preceding or accompanying other preventive measures and policies in favour of life and well-being, locally and globally. Tools and initiatives are available for an efficient prevention of genocides and killings of all sorts¹³.

The Marshall Islands supported all three recommendations received in the past demanding the ratification of the Convention.

I. Hereupon, to progress towards universal nonkilling, we strongly urge and recommend to the authorities of The Marshall Islands the swift ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Ratification before the passage of The Marshall Islands before the Universal Periodic Review Working Group on November 10th (2025) or eventually before the approval of the report by the Council in June or July 2026 will be a delight to the cause of humanity – a highly appreciated and celebrated move for the world and The Marshall Islands.

Prohibition of the death penalty

The Marshall Islands is free from death penalty ever since independence.

We congratulate the Country for this clear stand of exemplarity, a State refusing the power to kill. However, the Second Protocol of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty still needs ratification to confirm this stand and fully join the nonkilling by death penalty nations. The Marshall Islands supported all recommendations made for this purpose.

II. We joyfully recommend the ratification of ICCPR OPII aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

It is with some regret that we note that the supported specific recommendations made to this end by Chile, France, Germany, Montenegro and Spain, as well as the less specific ones made by other States have not yet been implemented. We encourage all these States to offer technical help and support, if needed, to do this ratification as soon as possible.

Illegality of enforced disappearances

To be granted a life is also receiving a right to a presence, to a public presence before the law and to a private presence and acknowledgeable presence with and for all one's kin.

Such enforced disappearances violate numerous human rights, be them in law or in *jus cogens*. Gladly, there is, as know of today, no cases of enforced disappearances listed by the working group on enforced disappearances in The Marshall Islands¹⁴. However, the convention has universal effects and contains provisions regarding cases beyond the national territory¹⁵.

III. Henceforth, we hereby recommend to the State of The Marshall Islands to urgently ratify the Enforced Disappearances Convention.

It is with some regret that we also note that the supported specific recommendations made to this end by Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Lesotho, Niger, Uruguay have not yet been implemented. We encourage these States and others to offer help and support, if needed, to accomplish this ratification.

Other lifesaving and life preserving issues

With a small population, a rather strong social cohesion (on our opinion) and sufficient life enhancing policies, The Marshall Islands can certainly join nonkilling nations.

The right to peace in the national and international constitutions

The international peace constitution

We salute the fact the fact The Marshall Islands has no army, works tirelessly towards nuclear disarmament and recognizes the reciprocal jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

We do encourage progress towards the ratification of existing instruments of the international peace constitution and congratulate We congratulate The Marshall Islands for ratifying the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention in March 2025.

IV. To progress towards universal peace and nonkilling, we recommend the ratification of the following peace and disarmament treaties and conventions:

The optional protocols of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The three Hague conventions on the protection of cultural property.

The Enmod convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

The protocols of the Convention of conventional weapons.

The clusters munitions ban conventions.

The arms trade treaty.

The treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The national peace constitution

The Constitution on The Marshall Islands highlights the right to peace.

However, policy makers still need to grasp a comprehensive approach to making peace gentle and guaranteed to all.

Education

We have no indications showing that the culture of peace and nonviolence (SDG 4.7) has been integrated into the curricula¹⁶. May it soon be so.

Participation

The constitution of The Marshall Islands contains dispositions regarding traditional institutions and customs. It also contains, among various provisions allowing for referendums, the possibility to have a referendum demanded by a 5th of the voting people. Very interestingly, the Marshallese Constitution contains a disposition requesting that, every ten years, an analysis of the constitution is done by the Parliament to see if amendments are advisable¹⁷.

Prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes are to our knowledge present in the Marshall Islands, but need improvement.

Minimum standards of living and climate resilience are mentioned, or widely mentioned in the Policies of The Marshall Islands.

We hope to see peace policies being fully present in the upcoming 2026
VNR report of The Marshall Islands.

**Calling on each and all to attain a nonkilling world,
where life can be peacefully sustained on Earth and in the Marshall Islands,
we welcome the delegation of The Marshall Islands
to Geneva, a City of Peace and we wish to you,
as to all the people of The Marshall Islands,
a constructive, successful, enhancing and fulfilling
Universal Periodic Review.**

¹ <http://nonkilling.org/center/how-to-help>

² It is S.M.A.R.T: Simple, Measurable, Attainable, Realist and Timely.

Simple: Happiness. Measurable: life's existence is a 1 or 0 factor, most simple alive or not; reducing unwanted deaths occurrences (injury and violence) is as well measurable. Achievable: on many lifesaving topics, prevention works and progresses, longevity largely proves it. Realist: life is first among equal human rights, if life is canceled all rights are canceled. Timely: it is always time to save a life, when climate change threatens all human lives it is time to go nonkilling for all lives.

³ Listing some of these fundamental and universal human methods in a somewhat free order of importance would be education, participation, inner and outer celebration of life, peacemaking, minimum standards of living, prevention and nonkilling, and if need be peaceful settlements of disputes. As one may see, both human rights and peace encompass these methods. Keywords could well be "do no harm", "nonviolence", non-maiming and again nonkilling.

⁴ <http://nonkilling.org/center/publications-media/books-translations>

⁵ We are present at all sessions of the Human Rights Council and we systematically do Universal Periodic Reviews submissions since 2015.

⁶ We are apt and equipped, using statistics, indicators and local information for doing complete country portraits of the situation of life in any given country; or to do partial scans of the status of the rights to life and peace in any chosen country. See examples here, the most recent one being San Marino in July 2024, a killing-free country. Shall you wish to see it done for your own country or another one, please contact our office, the author of this submission or our UN team. <https://nonkilling.org/center/nonkilling-monitoring-programs/nonkilling-activity-at-the-un/>

⁷ A/HRC/Res 51/35; our written submission to the report: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2024/call-inputs-addressing-challenges-and-barriers-full-realization-human-rights>; the report A/HRC/57/77; the interactive dialogue with our oral statement: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5777-addressing-challenges-and-barriers-full-realization-and> and the latest resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/57/26>

⁸ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/74/334>

⁹ https://rmicourts.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ConstitutionoftheRepublicoftheMarshallIslands_1.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/171208_AD_International%20Day_FINAL.pdf

¹¹ http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/37/26

The Marshall Islands were member of the Council for the adoption of the two next resolutions on Genocide.

¹² Article 5 of the Constitution, section 1, §3, lit. d. Ratification is the power of the Executive, with the approval of the legislative.

¹³ I. e.: <http://www.gaamac.org/organizations>

¹⁴ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/57/54>

¹⁵ A strong measure that will prevent the occurrence of enforced disappearances will be to include in law, in the criminal code or the criminal procedure code a disposition by which any person arrested has the right to make his arrest known to a person or an institution of his choice within 48 hours of his arrest. A public roster of arrested persons shall be available to persons making a legitimate demand and prolongation of the 48 hours delay may only be authorized, for investigative purposes, for a very short time and non-renewable period.

¹⁶ Sustainable Development Goal Voluntary National Report 2021 of the Marshall Islands, page 51 and 113. <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/marshall-islands/voluntary-national-review-2021>

¹⁷ Articles III and XII, sections 4 and 6.