

# FACTSHEET 1

## What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

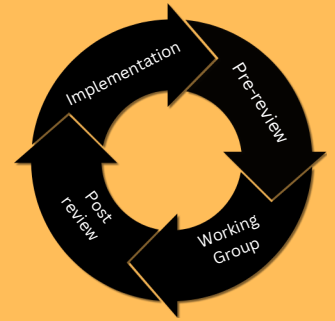


### Summary

The UPR is a process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council in which all United Nations (UN) member states participate in every four-and-a-half years.

This period is known as a 'cycle' which can be expressed as four stages: 1. pre-review, 2. the Working Group, 3. post-review, and 4. implementation.

The outcome is a set of recommendations for the state under review (SuR) to improve the promotion and protection of human rights. These should be implemented by the SuR between cycles.



### Pre-Review

- At the start of a new UPR cycle, three sets of documents are submitted to the UN:
  - A 'National Report' submitted by the SuR following a 'broad consultation' with stakeholders
  - A 'UN Compilation' report based on individual UN body reports (such as the UN treaty bodies)
  - A 'Stakeholder Summary' report based on individual reports submitted by relevant stakeholders including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs.)
- UPR Info, a Geneva-based international organisation, holds 'Pre-sessions' for selected stakeholders to present their reports and encourage state delegations to raise their issues at the SuR's review. Whilst UN permanent missions can be contacted during the cycle, the pre-session provides a useful opportunity for CSO's to discuss the humans rights concerns on the ground. See <http://www.upr-info.org/en>
- The UK's documentation can be found here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/gb-index>.



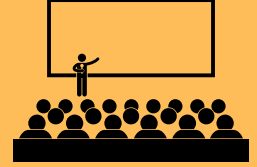
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## At the Review

- A Working Group of the 47 states of the Human Rights Council conduct the review. This is led by a 'troika' (trio) of states.
- With the help of the pre-review documents, the UPR is intended to assess the SuR's compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its nine core treaty commitments, voluntary pledges made by the SuR, and international humanitarian law.
- The review is an interactive dialogue between the SuR and other states and lasts 3.5 hours. It may receive comments, questions, and recommendations and may respond accordingly.



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## Post Review

- A working group report will be published which summarises the SuR's review (approx. 8-12 weeks after the review).
- At the adoption of the report (approx. 8 weeks after the working group report) is published the SuR is required to either 'support' or 'note' each recommendation. The SuR is encouraged to provide detailed reasoning for its decisions.



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## Implementation

- The SuR is expected to implement its recommendations between UPR cycles. As a cooperative mechanism, the UPR has no specific means of enforcement, and is reliant upon the SuR's goodwill.
- The UN strongly encourages the adoption of action plans or other means to coordinate implementation.
- Civil society should be consulted by the SuR throughout this period to inform implementation.
- Civil society, NHRIs, and parliamentarians are crucial for scrutinising and advancing Government progress.

