

ICCPR Article 6 Right to Life Call for Submissions 2015

The UN Human Rights Committee is planning to prepare a General Comment on the "Right to life" (article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)).

They invite written contributions (deadline: 12 June 2015) and will be holding a Half-day General Discussion on 14 July 2015.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/GC36-Article6Righttolife.aspx>

The Committee has adopted a note on the General Comment outlining its likely scope:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CCPR/CCPR-C-GC-R-36.doc>

Issues to be addressed with regard to persons with disabilities include: "Protection against dangerous conduct not resulting in deprivation of life; [...] Applicability of the article to the unborn and other forms of human existence (frozen embryos, clones etc.) [i.e. pre-natal genetic screening for disabilities] [...]; The relationship between the right to life and the right to die (e.g., euthanasia); Contents of legal protection (e.g., prevention, investigation, prosecution and effective remedy); [...] Strict control of exceptions (e.g., contents of possible legal exceptions, such as legal defenses and immunities [...]); Possible exceptions to the duty to protect life by law (e.g., suicide, abortion); [...] Meaning of 'deprivation of life', and whether it includes anything other than deliberate killings and other acts or omissions intentionally or inevitably leading to loss of life; [...] The need to meet necessity and proportionality requirements in assessing arbitrariness of deprivation in different fields (e.g., [...] medical treatment etc.) [...]; Scope and nature of the obligations assumed under the Genocide Convention, which are relevant to this paragraph [i.e. eugenic genocide on disabled fetuses ...]; Possible extension of protection to persons with mental disabilities [from the death sentence;] Application to non-State actors and multi-national actors [i.e. private hospitals and pharmaceutical companies ...]; Remedies, including the duty to investigate, prosecute and provide reparation, compensation and satisfaction; [...] Special protection afforded to certain individuals and populations, including [...] persons with disabilities; [...] Discrimination in the application of the right to life".

Submissions (in English, French or Spanish) should be sent electronically in Word format to kfox@ohchr.org and sthodiyil@ohchr.org, indicating "Half Day of General Discussion on Article 6" in the subject line. 22 hard copies should also be sent to the Committee's Secretariat by 12 June (address: OHCHR, Human Rights Committee Secretariat, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, attention: Kate Fox / Sindu Thodiyil). As most Committee members use English as their working language, documents submitted in French and Spanish should, to the extent possible, be translated into English. Written contributions will be posted on the OHCHR website.

Those wishing to speak at the Half-Day General Discussion should also inform the Secretariat by the same deadline, after which time for presentations will be allocated. Those having provided written contributions in advance will be allocated more time for oral presentations. Following the presentations, Committee members will have an opportunity to ask questions of and receive responses from the presenters. If time remains there will be a further opportunity for comments by participants.

Deadline for registration to participate in the DGD: 19 June 2015