



Organisation's name and website:

United Against Torture Consortium

The United against Torture Consortium (UATC) pools the strengths and expertise of six leading anti-torture organisations, in partnership with over 200 civil society organisations in more than 100 countries, to strengthen and expand the anti-torture movement.

The UATC is composed of the following organisations World Organisation Against Torture ([OMCT](#)), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims ([IRCT](#)) and the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture ([FIACAT](#)) with the Association for the Prevention of Torture ([APT](#)), [Omega Research Foundation](#) and [REDRESS](#).

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Recommendations:

All states commit to ensure that no person is subjected to torture by taking measures to prevent, investigate, sanction, and fully repair all acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, in compliance with international law and standards.

Justification:

The United Against Torture Consortium (UATC) welcomes the invitation to input to the Summit and Pact of the Future and the decision to make human rights a cross cutting theme for the process. The UATC firmly believes that any process to build a sustainable future for all persons on the planet must have human rights at the foundation.

Our organisations work for a world without torture and other ill-treatment, which is one of the gravest and still most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Torture creates severe physical and psychological trauma in the victim, their family and community and the trauma

continues for generations. It creates tremendous human suffering, social isolation and economic hardship. The use of torture and other ill-treatment can also have far-reaching consequences on society as it undermines the rule of law and erodes the trust between citizens and the institutions responsible for upholding justice. Widespread torture can contribute to social unrest, political instability, and hinder efforts to establish peace and security at the global level.

Torture and ill-treatment is often committed in combination with other violations, including the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killings and fair trial violations. It also affects the enjoyment of other rights, including a broad range of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to non-discrimination, freedom of association and expression, the right to defend rights, and the right to a healthy environment. In this way, it prevents millions of people globally from pursuing or even imagining a better future.

The tools that we use to fight against torture, good governance, accountable institutions, independent oversight, human rights-based policing, comprehensive reparations for victims and building more empathetic societies that do not tolerate torture and other ill-treatment, are also central features of what we believe should be the foundation for a global Pact for the Future.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Recommendations:

States commit to provide adequate financing for criminal justice systems to effectively prevent, investigate, and prosecute acts of torture and other ill-treatment, and repair victims and survivors.

Justification:

In most countries where the UATC works, criminal justice systems are inadequately financed. Together with weak rule of law, corruption, and bad governance, the lack of resources often impacts the ability criminal justice actors to effectively prevent and respond to torture and other ill-treatment.

As a result, oversight mechanisms face significant challenges in monitoring persons and situations at high risks of torture and ill-treatment; the police and the judiciary are inadequately equipped to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment in accordance with human rights standards; courts have significant backlogs; and places of detention do not have the capacity nor the facilities and services to provide detainees with living conditions that comply with international human rights standards.

Furthermore, the mechanisms responsible for supporting and providing reparations to victims and survivors of torture and other ill-treatment are grossly underfinanced, which means that most victims have no support through the criminal process, no support to seek reparations and when rewarded, reparations, including rehabilitation, are not provided to victims and survivors because the services are not funded.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Recommendations:

States commit to putting prevention, justice, reparations for grave human rights violations, including torture and other ill-treatment, and survivor voices central to international peace and security efforts.

Justification

We know from the work of UATC in more than 100 countries that peace and security will only be sustainable if our societies are built on a foundation of prevention, justice and reparations for those who suffer torture and other ill-treatment. We also know that prevention, justice, and reparation are only effective if the impacted victims and survivors, especially women, play a central role in the process.

Despite evidence that women's participation is vital to achieving and sustaining peace and that women are critical change agents, often leading peace movements and driving community recovery after conflict, they are largely excluded from peace negotiations and processes. Women's ability to participate in conflict-resolution and be part of the design of peace processes remain urgent to achieve progress toward more inclusive, equal and stable societies.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Recommendations:

States commit to protecting human rights defenders working to eradicate torture and ill-treatment against digital attacks and surveillance.

States commit to supporting the use of science and technology for investigating torture, ill-treatment and other grave human rights violations including by enhancing cooperation in gathering, analyzing, preserving, and sharing digital information that might serve as evidence in accountability processes.

Justification:

Human rights defenders working against torture and ill-treatment around the world are exposed to digital attacks, including the surveillance of their emails, calls, social media accounts and other forms of communication; the hacking of their websites, email, and social media networks; and the installation of spyware and other attacks. Digital threats and attacks require States to investigate such attacks effectively to allow the work of HRDs to continue. Social media and digital companies can facilitate the investigation, by allowing access to information required to investigate the origin of such threats and attacks on defenders.

Impunity for grave human rights violations is alarmingly high. Yet, nowadays it is possible for investigators to gather data and evidence about human rights violations from a wide range of

digital sources, including videos, photographs, material uploaded to the internet and social media platforms, as well as satellite imagery. This has significant potential to strengthen accountability for torture and ill-treatment. Therefore, states should reinforce their efforts to maximize the use of technology in the fight against impunity for grave violations of human rights.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Recommendations:

States commit to protecting freedom of assembly and association including by ensuring the facilitation of protests according to international human rights standards, in particular those prohibiting torture and ill-treatment, and that the use of force and weapons is avoided and only used as a measure of last resort.

States should integrate human rights education, including on the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, into school curricula in order to promote a culture of respect for human rights among young people who will be the decision makers of the future.

Justification:

In recent years, across the world, young people have gone to the streets to protest for a better future. They are protesting for climate action; for improved social and economic rights; for civil and political rights and democratic freedoms; and to have governments that are more accountable to their people. Unfortunately, they are too often met by brutal force from the police who expose them to torture and ill-treatment and deprive them of their right to protest.

This happens because the police are using equipment that should never be applied against civilians; because the police misuse their standard equipment, for example by shooting teargas canisters in the faces of protesters; and because these incidents are rarely investigated and police officers and their superiors held accountable.

The ability to protest without risking death, torture or other ill-treatment, is vital to ensuring that young people and future generations are able to influence the future they will be living in. Therefore, the Pact of the Future should have an explicit focus on protecting the right to protest.

Education progress continues to stagnate globally, as the global number of out-of-school children has risen by 6 million since 2021 and now totals 250 million. Even when in school, millions of children receive a poor-quality education that leaves them lacking essential skills and knowledge. There is a low uptake of human rights education in formal schooling. Strengthening human rights education is key to foster an understanding of human rights and the global prohibition against torture and ill-treatment among youth and empower them to become change-makers.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Recommendations:

States commit to strengthening the effectiveness of UN anti-torture mechanisms including by increasing their resources, implementing their decisions, and ensuring effective participation by civil society organisations, rights holders, victims and survivors of torture and other ill-treatment.

Justification:

UN anti-torture mechanisms are an essential component of the global promotion of human rights and eradication of torture and ill-treatment. However, due to limited resources they are unable to fully implement their monitoring and promotion mandates as envisaged by the relevant human rights treaties that govern their work. This means the dialogues with states face significant delays and individual complaints take years before a decision is made.

The mechanisms rely extensively on information and technical input provided by civil society organisations, rights holders, victims, and survivors. Nevertheless, the ability to effectively engage with these actors is threatened by the limited resources and time available for the anti-torture mechanisms to do their work.

Finally, while many states engage with the individual mechanisms in good faith and make serious efforts to implement their recommendations, there are still too many that do not engage or implement their recommendations diligently. This undermines the significant potential of these mechanisms to become drivers of national enjoyment of human rights and protection against torture and ill-treatment.

To effectively implement their mandates, UN anti-torture mechanisms need to be equipped with adequate financial resources. This should be complemented with strong commitments by States to fully implement their decisions and recommendations at the national level, in close cooperation with civil society organizations belonging to the anti-torture movement, as well as rights holders, victims, and survivors.