

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
of the United Nations  
to the Secretary General of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
of the United Nations

Concerning the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination  
and its Optional Protocol  
Appendix I: Schedule of ratifications and reservations of the Convention  
Appendix II: Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of the Convention  
Appendix III: Schedule of reservations of the Optional Protocol to the Convention

88 Appendix I: Schedule of ratifications and reservations of the Convention  
Appendix II: Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of the Convention  
11 Appendix III: Schedule of reservations of the Optional Protocol to the Convention

	Page
Preface .....	7
Users' guide .....	9
Introduction .....	12
<b>The right to life: Article 2 and Protocol No. 6 .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: Article 3 .....	18
Slavery and forced labour: Article 4 .....	21
Liberty and security of person: Article 5 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 4 .....	24
The right to a fair hearing: Article 6, Articles 2 to 4 of Protocol No. 7, and Article 13 .....	34
Freedom from retroactive criminal legislation: Article 7 .....	51

Grounds for restricting the exercise of rights under the Convention: paragraphs 2 of Articles 8 to 11 and Article 2 of Protocol No. 4/Article 17/Article 18 .....	52
The rights to privacy, family life, home and correspondence, to marry and found a family and to equality of spouses: Article 8, Article 12, and Article 5 of Protocol No. 7 .....	59
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion: Article 9 .....	68
Freedom of expression and information: Article 10 .....	71
Freedom of assembly and association and the right to form trade unions: Article 11 .....	87
The right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions: Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 .....	97
The right to education: Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 .....	100
The right to free elections: Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 .....	108
The rights of aliens: Article 16, Articles 2 to 4 of Protocol No. 4, and Article 1 of Protocol No. 7 .....	109
Discrimination: Article 14 .....	112
Derogations in time of war or other public emergency: Article 15 .....	117
Reservations and interpretative declarations .....	122
Procedures under the European Convention on Human Rights .....	127
The European Commission of Human Rights .....	132
The European Court of Human Rights .....	143

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe .....	146
The Secretary General of the Council of Europe .....	149
Concluding remarks .....	150
Appendix I: Schema of the implementation machinery of the Convention.....	152
Appendix II: Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of the Convention and Protocols Nos. 1, 4, 6 and 7 .....	153
Appendix III: Selective bibliography on the European Convention on Human Rights .....	156

Following the considerable democratic changes which took place in 1989 in Central and Eastern Europe, member states of the Council of Europe was declared a primary objective and major stage in the "return to Europe". The opening of the Organization to Central and Eastern European countries resulted, however, at the cost of lowering the norms and standards it had established, notably in respect of the protection of human rights.

Foremost among the mechanisms by which the Council of Europe has ensured a high standard of human rights protection throughout its member States is the operation of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its supervisory organs, in particular the European Commission and Court of Human Rights. It must be recalled that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe willing to join the Council have expressed their readiness to sign and ratify the European Convention on Human Rights, including the optional provisions (Articles 25 (right to individual petition) and 45 (complaint jurisdiction of the Court)).

This *Short guide to the European Convention on Human Rights* has been prepared in response to the express needs of potential member States of the Council of Europe for information about the law and practice of the Convention. It highlights many human rights issues and problems that