

**TITLE 26 - FAMILY**  
**CHAPTER 12 - HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ACT 2015**

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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
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**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ACT 2015**

**AN ACT** to create a new Chapter under Title 10 of MIRC in order to establish a Human Rights Committee; to provide for its membership, functions, powers and administration; to establish a complaints mechanism for the redress of human rights violations, and for related purposes.

*Commencement:*

*October 19, 2015*

*Source:*

*P.L. 2015-49*

**PART I - PRELIMINARY**

**§1201. Short Title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the *Human Rights Committee Act 2015*.

**§1202. Interpretation.**

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Bill of Rights**” means the Bill of Rights contained in Article II of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

“**CEDAW**” means the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as adopted by the United Nations on 18 December 1979 and entering into force on 3 September 1981;

“**Committee**” means the Human Rights Committee established Section 1204;

“**complainant**” means a person who submits a complaint to the Committee under this Act;

“**CRC**” means the Convention on the Rights of the Child as adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1989 and entering into force on 2 September 1990;

“**CRPD**” means the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as adopted by the United Nations on 13 December 2006 and entering into force on 3 May 2008;

“**human rights**” means the rights embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948, the core international human rights treaties, other international human rights instruments, and the rights and freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights;

“**human rights treaty bodies**” means the United Nations Committees of independent experts of recognized competence in human rights, who are nominated and elected by States Parties to monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties;

“**international human rights treaties**” means the CEDAW, CRC and CRPD, to which the Marshall Islands is a State Party, and any other core or other international human rights treaties to which the Marshall Islands may become a State Party;

“**Minister**” means the Minister in assistance;

“**respondent**” means the person against whom a complaint is made under this Act;

“**UN Human Rights Council**” means the inter-governmental body within the United Nations responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world, addressing and making recommendations on situations of human rights violations, and discussing thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention;

“**UPR**” means the Universal Periodic Review;

“**Working Group**” means the Working Group established under Section 1209.

### §1203. Purpose.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- (a) establish a multi stakeholder body to promote the human rights of all persons living in the Marshall Islands;

- (b) promote the implementation of international human rights standards, including international human rights treaties to which the Marshall Islands is a State Party;
- (c) promote an inclusive and coordinated cross-sectoral approach to the implementation of human rights reporting and programs;
- (d) promote understanding of and compliance with the Bill of Rights and legislation promoting human rights, including the *Domestic Violence Protection and Prevention Act 2011*, the *Child Protection Act 2015*, and the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2015*; and
- (e) establish a complaints mechanism for the redress of human rights violations.

## PART II - HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

### §1204. Establishment of the Human Rights Committee.

- (1) The Human Rights Committee, formerly known as the Resources Development Committee, is established.
- (2) The Committee comprises multi-stakeholder members from the following Government offices, private sector, and civil society organizations:
  - (a) Chief Secretary, who is the Chairperson;
  - (b) Secretary of Internal Affairs, who is the Vice Chairperson;
  - (c) Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
  - (d) Secretary of Resources and Development;
  - (e) Secretary of Health;
  - (f) Secretary of Education;
  - (g) Secretary of Finance;
  - (h) Attorney-General;
  - (i) Public Defender;
  - (j) Police Commissioner;
  - (k) Clerk of Nitijela;
  - (l) Director, Economic Planning Policy and Statistics Office;