

Centre for Human Rights
Geneva



Human Rights

**A Compilation
of International
Instruments**



United Nations
New York, 1988

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ST/HR/1/Rev.3

CIDH-4469

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

Sales No. E.88.XIV.1

ISBN 92-1-154066-6

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Introduction

The Centre for Human Rights is publishing the present booklet within the programme of activities carried out in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Indeed, the General Assembly in its resolution 41/150 of 4 December 1986 "considering that the year 1988 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, conceived as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations and having provided the basis for the development of the International Covenants on Human Rights, has been and rightly continues to be a fundamental source of inspiration for national and international efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms", requested the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate activities at the United Nations level to mark this anniversary, and particularly, to publish an updated version of *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*.

In resolution 42/131 of 7 December 1987, the Assembly reiterated this request pursuant to which this fifth edition of the Compilation, which includes instruments adopted up to 31 December 1987, is issued. The date of entry into force is given for all international conventions. A list of the instruments arranged by chronological order of adoption appears at the end of the volume.

On the occasion of the International Year for Human Rights and the International Conference on Human Rights in 1968 the then Division of Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat prepared the first compilation of international instruments relating to human rights, which consisted of the texts of conventions, declarations and certain recommendations adopted by the United Nations up to 31 December 1966. It also included a number of instruments adopted by two specialized agencies of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Revised editions of the compilation were issued in 1973,¹ 1978² and 1983³ to mark the twenty-fifth, thirtieth and

¹ *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.XIV.2).

² *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.XIV.2).