

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

SCHEME AND GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGEMENT OF

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission has been set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for the better protection of human rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The functions of the Commission are detailed in Section 12 of the Act and apart from enquiry into complaints of violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, includes visits to jails and other institutions, spreading of human rights awareness, encouraging the efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations and institutions working in the field of human rights etc. As the Commission is based in Delhi, it is not possible for the Commission to be present in the different parts of the country to ascertain the position of human rights in these areas. In order to ensure the reach of the Commission to all regions of the country, the Commission has decided to engage Special Rapporteurs who function as the eyes and ears of the Commission.

Special Rapporteur is a title given to an individual who is working on behalf of NHRC within the scope of laid down Guidelines on either a region specific mandate or on thematic issues pertaining to the human rights. "Rapporteur" is a French-derived word for an investigator, who reports to an organized body or to an institution, in this case NHRC.

Objective:

The primary responsibility of the Special Rapporteur is to "examine, monitor, evaluate, advise and report" on human rights problems through "activities undertaken by special procedures, conducting visits and providing advice on emerging issues from the perspective of human rights. The Special Rapporteurs are also engaged in general promotional activities towards promotion and protection of human rights or any other duty as assigned by the Commission. Services of eminent persons who have knowledge or practical experience in dealing with the Human Rights issues and are domain experts may be utilized to assist the Commission in discharging its statutory responsibilities. Accordingly, this scheme for engagement of such persons as Special Rapporteurs has been formulated. The engagement of Special Rapporteur will be governed by the following general conditions:-

1. Nature of Engagement

The engagement of Special Rapporteurs is not a regular appointment. It is a contractual arrangement under which an honorarium is paid for the services rendered by the Special Rapporteurs.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Special Rapporteurs

A person who has held high posts in Government of India or State Government or is an academican of repute or an eminent person who has knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to Human Rights or a domain expert, shall be eligible for appointment as Special Rapporteur.

3. No. of Special Rapporteurs

The Commission may engage as many Special Rapporteurs as it may deemed fit. Special Rapporteurs may be engaged either to cover a specified geographical area or to deal with themes relating to emerging human rights dimensions.

3.1 Special Rapporteurs on Zonal Basis

The engagement of Special Rapporteur on area basis will normally be one for each of the following zones on the basis of geographical layout of the Country:-

S.No.	Zones	States covered
1.	North Zone-I	Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand.
2.	North Zone-II	Uttar Pradesh
3.	West Zone	Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu .
4.	Central Zone-I	Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Rajasthan.
5.	Central Zone-II	Bihar and Jharkhand.
6.	East Zone-I	West Bengal, Odisha and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
7.	South Zone-I	Tamil Nadu, Poducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep.
8.	South Zone-II	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka
9.	North East Zone-I	Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura
10.	North East Zone-II	Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

3.2 This area distribution is, however, subject to change at the discretion of the Commission.

3.3 Special Rapporteurs on Thematic Basis

Engagement of Special Rapporteur for specific subjects will be on need basis on the basis of emerging issues listed below. An illustrative list of thematic emerging human rights issues are given under:-

S.No.	Theme	Subjects covered
1.	Criminal Justice System	(i) Jails (ii) Juvenile Justice (iii) Correctional Homes
2.	Police and Police Reforms	All matters relates of police and police reforms.
3.	Terrorism	(i) Urban Terrorism (ii) Counter Insurgency (iii) Cross Border Terrorism (iv) Left Wing Extremism (Anti Naxalite Operation)
4.	Communal Riots	All matters relates to communal riots.
5.	SC, ST, OBC, Minorities	All matters relates to atrocities on SC, ST, OBC and Minorities
6.	Bonded Labour and Child Labour	All matters relates to bonded labour and child labour
7.	Food	(i) Nutrition (ii) Food Adulteration (iii) Mid day Means Schemes
8.	Elder/Senior Citizens Matters	All matters relates to Elder and Senior Citizens
9.	Spreading Human Rights Education and Gender Equality	All matter relates to Gender Equality and Human Rights Education
10.	Health	(i) Mental Health (ii) HIV/AIDS (iii) Spurious Drugs (iv) Sanitation (v) Silicosis (vi) Diagnosis and Diagnostics Labs
11.	Disabilities	All matters relating to disabilities
12.	Tribal Welfare	All matters relating welfare of Tribals
13.	Environment	All matters relating to Environment.
14.	Issues relating to Women and Child Rights	(i) Sexual Violence and Rape (ii) Domestic violence (iii) Sexual Harassment at work place
15.	Human Trafficking	All relating matters on Human Trafficking
16.	Transgender	All matter relating to Transgender, LGBT Rights

