



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HOUSE STYLE

OPERATIONAL POLICY ON HOUSE STYLE AS APPLICABLE TO ALL LANGUAGES AND HOUSE STYLE IN ENGLISH

FEBRUARY 2026

Amnesty International is a movement of 10 million people which mobilizes the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. Our vision is of a world where those in power keep their promises, respect international law and are held to account. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and individual donations. We believe that acting in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere can change our societies for the better.

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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

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1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1 PURPOSE OF HOUSE STYLE POLICY

This operational policy contains the house style of Amnesty International's International Secretariat.

It first sets out house style as applicable across all languages (Part A). This includes universal rules and guidance regarding abbreviations (in languages where this is applicable), captions, footnotes, figures, maps, the naming of places, people and entities (such as organizations) and international legal instruments, and references (or citations), as well as mentions of disability and illness.

It then sets out house style rules as applicable to the use of English only (Part B). This contains rules and guidance on spelling, punctuation and certain other aspects of grammar. It does not seek to provide a comprehensive guide to these aspects of language, but rather to codify Amnesty International's preferences when multiple accepted options exist in English. These rules and guidance naturally differ from one language to another and are, therefore, not universal.

There are multiple reasons for following house style. Consistently using house style helps produce clear and coherent outputs that reflect the professionalism, accuracy and impartiality of our work, allowing our audience to concentrate on our message. It also aids the readability of our outputs, many of which are consulted by people whose first language is not that of the text they are reading. In addition, given the importance of multilingualism in spreading Amnesty International's message and to our organizational culture and mindful of the fact that the majority of our outputs will be translated into other languages, adhering to these guidelines will facilitate the work of our translators. Finally, it reinforces the idea that Amnesty International speaks with one voice.

The operational policy is intended to save the time of everyone who writes for Amnesty International (originators) or who works with the writing of others, such as reviewers, editors, proofreaders and translators. It helps empower originators to be their own first reviewers and frees up the time of reviewers to focus more on the substance than the form. It also helps staff avoid having to check for precedents in previous Amnesty International outputs to determine matters such as spelling or capitalization. It is also used by translators to ensure that there is alignment in our messaging and that, as stated above, Amnesty International speaks with one voice.

Everyone is expected to follow the self-servicing principle and take responsibility for ensuring their own writing conforms with house style. All reviewers are also expected to ensure that texts they approve conform with house style.

House style should be adhered to in all outputs issued by Amnesty International's International Secretariat. However, this operational policy is not intended to be overly restrictive. There will always be exceptions to the rules on the grounds of appropriateness or common sense. The most important rule is to maintain consistency within the same document.

National entities of Amnesty International (national offices, sections and structures) may have their own house style in English to reflect, in particular, national preferences for spelling and punctuation conventions. However, the house style that is applicable across all languages should be beneficial for them, too.

1.2 PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING HOUSE STYLE POLICY

Amnesty International's house style seeks to align our communications with our core values of "global coverage", "the universality and indivisibility of human rights" and "impartiality and independence", as well

as the need to “disclose human rights abuses accurately, quickly and persistently”, conduct research “systematically and impartially” and “mobilize public pressure”.¹

Accordingly, with respect to the house style that is applicable across all languages, we have created a system for references (or citations) that is accurate and systematic, but not unnecessarily academic, for our main audiences. We have chosen conventions on the naming of places (such as countries), people and entities (such as organizations) that emphasize our impartiality and independence.

With respect to house style in English, we have adopted spelling, capitalization and punctuation conventions that are considered contemporary and international, while recognizing that none are universal.

Our use of terminology corresponds with the principle of the universality and indivisibility of human rights, as enshrined in our human rights policies.

1.3 HOW TO USE HOUSE STYLE POLICY

1.3.1 PART A (ALL LANGUAGES)

Chapter 2 provides the essentials of Amnesty International’s house style as applicable across all languages. Given differences related to spelling, capitalization and punctuation across languages, it is limited mainly to universal rules and guidance regarding abbreviations, captions, footnotes, figures, maps, the naming of places, people and entities (such as organizations) and international legal instruments, and references (or citations), as well as mentions of disability and illness. It is designed to answer key questions and signpost further details given in subsequent chapters.

Chapters 3-5 set out further information on referencing conventions (or citations) and the naming of places (such as countries), people and entities (such as organizations), and international legal instruments. These chapters include concrete examples to illustrate the conventions.

The examples provided in Chapters 2-5 illustrate the application of rules and guidance in the English language, but they are designed to be adaptable to other languages. Note that when reference is made to the use of punctuation such as brackets, commas, full stops and semicolons, these may need to be substituted by their equivalents in languages other than English. In a few instances, mention is made of rules or guidance that apply only to writing in English. These are signposted by phrases such as “In English...”. Beyond this, it is important that originators apply common sense and adapt guidance based on the linguistic environment in which they are operating.

1.3.2 PART B (ENGLISH ONLY)

Chapter 6 provides the essentials of Amnesty International’s house style as applicable to the use of English only. It contains rules and guidance on spelling, including: the use of capital letters and italics; punctuation, such as the use of apostrophes, brackets, bullet points, commas, dashes, ellipses, hyphens and quotation marks; and certain other aspects of grammar, such as the use of collective nouns, numerals, pronouns, relative pronouns, quotations and units of measurement. These rules and guidance naturally differ from one language to another and are, therefore, not universal. The chapter is designed to answer key questions and signpost further details given in subsequent chapters.

Chapters 7-8 set out further information on spelling and capitalization in English, as well as the rationale behind certain house style choices.

¹ Amnesty International, *Statute of Amnesty International* (Index: POL 20/8464/2024), August 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol20/8464/2024/en>

Throughout the text, examples are provided to ensure that everyone can understand the guidance, whether or not they are familiar with any technical terms used.

- ✓ Example of text conforming with house style
- ✗ Example of text NOT conforming with house style

To help navigation of the text, cross-references in this style are provided.

Footnotes include:

- practical tips on how to help ensure conformity with house style, signposted by **(Tip)**;
- clarifications where guidance is different from that in *Amnesty International House Style: Operational Policy on Terminology, Names of Places, People and Entities, References, Spelling and Punctuation – January 2025* (Index: POL 40/6239/2023), signposted by **(Change)**;
- references to sources for quotes in the text;
- other supplementary information for the sake of context.

1.3.3 ENGLISH

HOUSE STYLE DICTIONARY

The dictionary that Amnesty International uses for spelling in English is the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>). The house style rules applicable to English refer to it repeatedly.

SPELLCHECK

The AmnestySpell spellcheck app facilitates compliance with house style spelling in English. See “Amnesty Spell spellcheck app” on the Writing Resources site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources/SitePages/Introduction-to-house-style.aspx#amnesty-spell-spellcheck-app>) for further details.

LANGUAGE USAGE

A house style is not designed to answer all questions related to the use of language. Further advice on use of punctuation in English, such as colons, semicolons and commas, is available at The Writer (<http://www.thewriter.com/what-we-think/style-guide>). Further advice on English language usage, such as grammar and syntax, is available in Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage*, 2017.

GRAMMAR CHECKERS

Microsoft Word includes a grammar check function. Use this to identify grammatical issues. There are also multiple online tools and apps to check English grammar, such as Grammarly. They can have some applications, but the advice they give on spelling and punctuation will often conflict with Amnesty International's house style, so use them with care.

1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS AND FUTURE EDITIONS OF HOUSE STYLE POLICY

1.4.1 CHANGES TO PREVIOUS HOUSE STYLE POLICY

This edition of the operational policy on house style updates and supersedes *Amnesty International House Style: Operational Policy on House Style as Applicable to All Languages and House Style in English – January 2025* (Index: POL 40/8948/2025).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

There are substantive changes in five sections of the house style policy, as presented below. More details, including the rationale for the changes, can be found in the relevant sections.

Chapter 2 “House style essentials for all languages”

(section 2.11.2 “People’s names”)

- Consistently place pseudonyms in italics (or equivalent), clarifying at first mention that the name is a pseudonym.

Chapter 3 “References”

(section 3.2.4 “UN documents with UN document numbers in references”)

- No longer include the thematic title of a UN resolution. The reference number is sufficient.
- No longer include the type of UN publication (report) when providing a specific title.
- In general, no longer include a web address for court documents of international and regional tribunals.

Chapter 4 “Names”

(section 4.1.1 “Country names and nationalities”)

- Use “Aotearoa New Zealand” rather than “New Zealand”.
- Use “LiSwati” (singular) and “EmaSwati” (plural) for nationals of Eswatini. No longer use “Eswatini national(s)”.

Chapter 5 “International legal instruments”

(section 5.7 “Crimes under international law”)

- Use “Ljubljana-The Hague Convention”, not “Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty”, as the official abbreviation of “Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes”.

Chapter 6 “House style essentials for English”

(section 6.1.2 “Acronyms and initialisms for entities’ names”)

- Give the full names of “BBC”, “NATO”, “UK”, “US” and “USA” on first mention, just as Amnesty International does for the abbreviations of other countries, regional intergovernmental organizations and broadcasters.

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES

A few typographical errors were identified in the previous edition of the house style policy. These have been corrected.

A few references to other resources were out of date. These have been updated.

1.4.2 FUTURE HOUSE STYLE POLICY

This edition of the operational policy on house style is a step on the way to achieving a vision in which there is not only a set of house style rules applicable to all languages and a set of house style rules for English, but also sets of house style rules for other languages.

1.5 RELATED RESOURCES

1.5.1 FRENCH

DICTIONARIES

The Language Resource Centre uses the following reference dictionary in French: *Le Robert* (<http://www.lerobert.com>).

LANGUAGE USAGE

The Language Resource Centre uses the following resource on language usage in French: *Le Trésor de la Langue Française informatisé* (<http://atilf.atilf.fr>).

FURTHER ADVICE

Contact the Language Resource Centre for further advice on house style in French. See the Translation Function Site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/AISFNCTranslation/SitePages/Translation%20and%20Language%20Strategy%20Department%20Page.aspx>) for contact details.

1.5.2 SPANISH

DICTIONARIES

The Language Resource Centre uses the following reference dictionaries in Spanish: *Diccionario de uso del español de María Moliner* (<http://cvc.cervantes.es/lengua/mmoliner/default.htm>), *Diccionario de la lengua Española* (<http://dle.rae.es>) and *Diccionario panhispánico del español jurídico* (<http://dej.rae.es>).

LANGUAGE USAGE

The Language Resource Centre uses the following resource on language usage in Spanish: *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas* (<http://www.rae.es/recursos/diccionarios/dpd>).

FURTHER ADVICE

Contact the Language Resource Centre for further advice on house style in Spanish. See the Translation Function Site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/AISFNCTranslation/SitePages/Translation%20and%20Language%20Strategy%20Department%20Page.aspx>) for contact details.

1.5.3 ARABIC

DICTIONARIES

The Language Resource Centre uses the following reference dictionaries in Arabic: *Al-Mawrid*, *Al-Mughni Al-Akbar*, *Faruqi's Law Dictionary* and *The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic*.

FURTHER ADVICE

Contact the Language Resource Centre for further advice on house style in Arabic. See the Translation Function Site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/AISFNCTranslation/SitePages/Translation%20Unit%20Page.aspx>) for contact details.

1.5.4 OTHER LANGUAGES

FURTHER ADVICE

Contact the Language Resource Centre for advice on house style in other languages. See the Translation Function Site on SharePoint

(<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/AISFNCTranslation/SitePages/Translation%20and%20Language%20Strategy%20Department%20Page.aspx>) for contact details.

1.5.5 ALL LANGUAGES

A-Z OF TERMS

The *A-Z of Terms: Operational Policy on Terminology*

(<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources/SitePages/Introduction-to-A-Z-of-terms.aspx>), which is regularly updated, contains explanations of key human rights-related terms in alphabetical order, providing guidance on how to use them. It also contains advice on terms to avoid. This information is largely based on Amnesty International's human rights policies.

AMNESTYTERMS

AmnestyTerms (<https://terms-amnesty.memoqworld.com>) is Amnesty International's online multilingual database of terms, featuring over 21,000 human rights and related terms in over 10 languages. The database contains all the terms in the *A-Z of Terms: Operational Policy on Terminology* (see above), with equivalents in other languages.

WRITING GUIDELINES

The Writing Resources site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources>) contains the principles of effective writing for Amnesty International and guidance on the specific structure, style and format of different output types.

BRAND HUB

Amnesty International's Brand Hub (<https://brandhub.amnesty.org>) contains resources on the organization's visual identity, including fonts and layout of type.

RESEARCH GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES

The Research Resources site on SharePoint (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchResources>) contains guidelines and tools related to research and evidence management.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Quality Assurance page on SharePoint

(<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchWritingResourcesHub/SitePages/Quality-assurance.aspx>) sets out the standards that all outputs must meet. It also details agreed review and approval processes for outputs.

PART A

HOUSE STYLE FOR ALL LANGUAGES



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In some sections, examples are given of the application of rules and guidance in the English language; these are designed to be adaptable to other languages. Note that when reference is made to the use of punctuation such as brackets, commas, full stops, semicolons, dashes and quotation marks, these may need to be substituted by their equivalents in languages other than English. Beyond this, it is important that originators apply common sense and adapt guidance based on the linguistic environment in which they are operating.

2.1 ABBREVIATIONS

Use abbreviations (in languages where this is applicable) sparingly. They can make a text harder to read and translate.

You may use abbreviations to replace terms that are repeated *frequently* in the same document. However, on first mention, give the name in full, followed by the abbreviation in brackets (or equivalent). It is acknowledged that some languages use abbreviations, while others do not.

In longer documents, such as reports and briefings:

- Treat the executive summary and rest of the text as two separate documents. If you abbreviate a name in the executive summary, give the name in full again on first mention in the rest of the text before abbreviating again.
- Add abbreviations to the glossary at the beginning of the document.
- Generally, give the full name on first mention in a footnote. However, if the abbreviation has already been provided in the main text, you may use the abbreviation in the footnote without further explanation.

See also "[6.1 Acronyms and initials](#)".

2.2 CAPTIONS

2.2.1 USE OF CAPTIONS

Add captions to all photographs, other images, figures (charts, graphs and diagrams) and maps.

2.2.2 PUNCTUATION IN CAPTIONS

Only end the wording in a caption before the copyright symbol with a full stop if it contains more than one sentence.

2.2.3 COPYRIGHT INFORMATION AND CAPTIONS

Include copyright information for all photographs and other images and for figures and maps from sources other than Amnesty International when reproduced in their original form. Use © (or equivalent) before the name of the copyright holder. Do NOT add a full stop (or equivalent) after the copyright information.

✓ Manasseh Rini © Private

- ✓ A mural outside a school for children with disabilities in Makassar reads “See me, not my disability”, 17 June 2019 © Amnesty International
- ✓ Screenshot of the opening sequence of the video of the song “Balaha” by Ramy Essam, which is critical of the authorities. He released the song and video on 26 February 2018 and posted them on social media. The public prosecution cited the song in evidence against him. © Ramy Essam

See also “[2.6.3 Captions for figures](#)” and “[2.10.2 Captions for maps](#)”.

2.3 CHARTS

See “[2.6 Figures \(charts, graphs and tables\)](#)”.

2.4 DIAGRAMS

See “[2.6 Figures \(charts, graphs and tables\)](#)”.

2.5 DISABILITY AND ILLNESS

2.5.1 PEOPLE FIRST

Always put people first and the disability or illness second. Do not equate the person with the disability or illness. Acknowledge persons with a disability or illness as individuals rather than homogenized as a group.

- ✓ persons with disabilities
- ✓ persons with a physical disability
- ✓ a worker with a disability
- ✗ the disabled
- ✗ disabled people

2.5.2 EMOTIONALLY NEUTRAL TERMS

Use emotionally neutral terms that are not stigmatizing.

In English, for example, people should be described as “living with” a disability or illness rather than “suffering from” or being “afflicted by” or “bound by” or “stricken with” it.

- ✓ He is a wheelchair user
- ✗ He is confined to a wheelchair
- ✗ He is wheelchair-bound
- ✓ She had a stroke
- ✗ She is a stroke victim

- ✓ She has multiple sclerosis
- ✗ She suffers from multiple sclerosis

- ✓ She is living with HIV
- ✗ She is HIV positive

See *A-Z of Terms: Operational Policy on Terminology* (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources/SitePages/Introduction-to-A-Z-of-terms.aspx>) for specific terminology.

2.6 FIGURES (CHARTS, GRAPHS AND TABLES)

2.6.1 USE OF FIGURES

Use figures (charts, graphs and tables) to present significant quantities of data in a form that is easy to understand. If the output will be translated, ensure that editable versions of figures are provided to facilitate their conversion into another language.

2.6.2 STYLE AND LABELLING OF FIGURES

For all figures (see example under “2.6.4 Referencing to figures”):

- introduce the figure with a title, normally situated above the figure
- within the title, include the reference number for the figure, ensuring the numbering is sequential throughout the document (for example, in English, “Figure 1”, “Figure 2”, “Figure 3” and so on);
- also within the title, include subject matter of the figure (for example, “Public prosecution investigations 2013-2018”);
- use clear and concise headings for all columns and rows of tables, and clear and concise labels for axes of graphs;
- in general, use a smaller size of font for the headings and labels than for the title;
- include a key to explain any symbols.

For tables specifically:

- fill blanks in tables and provide an explanation in a note (for example, in English, “n/a” = not available or not applicable);w
- when a table is split over more than one page, repeat the header row(s) at the top of the following page.

2.6.3 CAPTIONS FOR FIGURES

For all figures, include a caption immediately adjacent to the figure, generally below it.

If the source of the figure is not Amnesty International and the figure is reproduced in its original form, include copyright information, using the following format: [Description] © [source], [date of production of figure]

- ✓ Acute malnutrition admission trends 2018 vs 2019 © OCHA Somalia, May 2019

If you have used external data sources to produce the figure, indicate this in the caption.

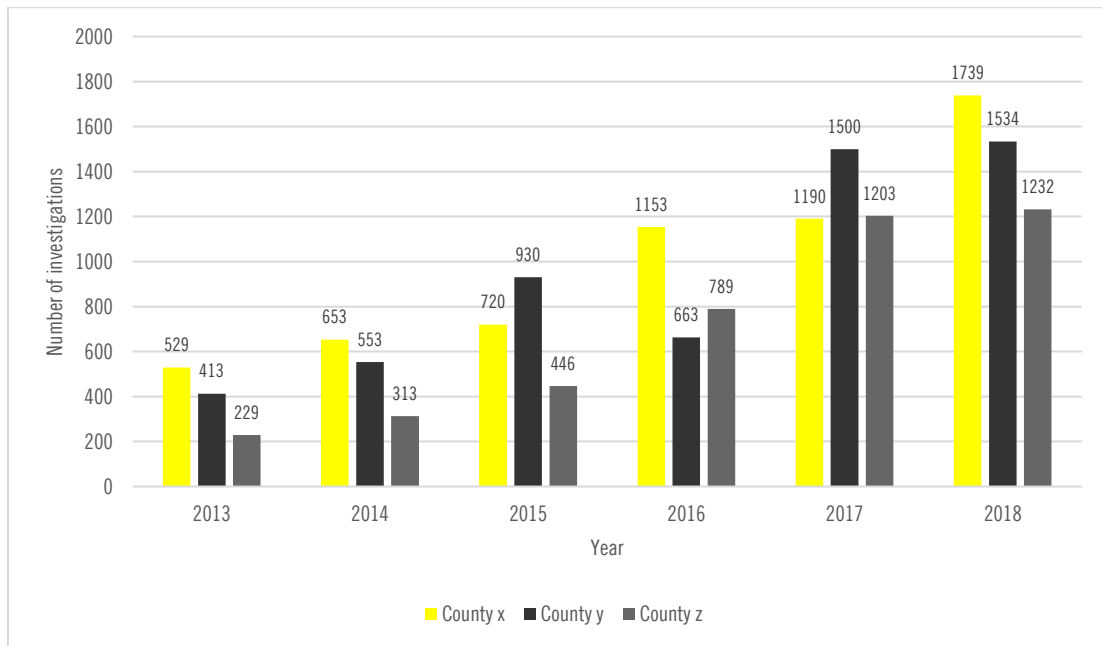
- ✓ The security situation for humanitarian workers worsened over 2019. Amnesty International calculated the number of attacks per month on the basis of data in the AidWorker Security Database, <https://aidworkersecurity.org> (accessed on 5 February 2020).

2.6.4 REFERENCING TO FIGURES

Include a reference to all figures in the body of the text, near to where it is placed.

- ✓ The number of investigations in all three provinces increased significantly between 2013 and 2018 (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Public prosecution investigations 2013-2018



The number of investigations by the public prosecution that were reported as starting in a given year increased every year between 2013 and 2018 in each of the three counties. Amnesty International calculated the number of investigations from information published by the respective public prosecution authorities.

2.7 FOOTNOTES AND ENDNOTES

2.7.1 USE OF FOOTNOTES OR ENDNOTES

Use footnotes unless the template for the type of output you are writing indicates otherwise (for example, annual report entries).

Use footnotes or endnotes to reference sources for statements in the main text or provide useful additional information to the audience, particularly in research and advocacy documents, such as reports, briefings and public statements.

See also “[3. References](#)” for full details on what to include as a reference in footnotes.

2.7.2 INDICATORS FOR FOOTNOTES AND ENDNOTES

In the main text, put the footnote or endnote indicator at the end of the sentence or clause to which they relate. In general, place it after any punctuation, such as a full stop, comma or closing bracket.

- ✓ Several organizations provided evidence to back up this statement.⁴⁶
- ✓ The government announced that it had eradicated torture,⁸ a claim that NGOs have disputed.
- ✓ Indicators of health (defined by the WHO as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”)⁴ have deteriorated.

Begin footnotes and endnotes with a superscript numeral (for example, ¹) followed by a character space.

2.7.3 PUNCTUATION IN FOOTNOTES AND ENDNOTES

Separate with semicolons (or equivalent) multiple references for a single statement in the text.

If beginning a new sentence after a web address, first enter a hard return.

Place a full stop (or equivalent) at the end of the footnote or endnote, except when it ends in a web address.

See also “[2.12 References](#)”.

2.8 GRAPHS

See “[2.6 Figures \(charts, graphs and tables\)](#)”.

2.9 INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

2.9.1 NAMES OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Use the title recorded in the official document library of the organization in which the instrument was adopted or generated.

2.9.2 ABBREVIATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

You may use abbreviations (in languages where this is applicable) to replace the names of documents that are repeated *frequently* in the same document. However, on first mention, give the name in full, followed by the abbreviation in brackets (or equivalent).

- ✓ UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UN Convention Against Torture)

Avoid use of the abbreviation “No.” (number) (or its equivalent in another language) in the titles of international legal instruments.

- ✓ ILO Convention 182
- ✗ ILO Convention No. 182

See “[5. International legal instruments](#)” for naming conventions and common abbreviations of international legal instruments.

2.10 MAPS

2.10.1 LABELLING MAPS

For all maps:

- give the map a concise title describing its focus and place it above, not inside, the map image;
- include a country's capital if it is visible on the map;
- if the map contains symbols or uses colour coding, include a key within the map to explain them, either immediately underneath it or set to the right of it;
- if the map is detailed, include a scale bar.

2.10.2 CAPTIONS FOR MAPS

For all maps, include a caption immediately below the map.

If required, include copyright information and use the following format: [Description] © [source], [date of production of map]

- ✓ Access restrictions in the Hebron area, occupied West Bank, in June 2018 © OCHA, January 2019

If you have adapted a base map and/or used geospatial data sources to include features on the map, indicate this in the caption, using the following format: [Description]. Base map © [source], [date of production of map] data sources: [source 1, source 2]

Substitute “Base map” and “data sources” for the equivalent terms in another language as appropriate.

- ✓ Indigenous territories in Brazil's Amazon region, including those visited by Amnesty International in December 2019. Base map © Google, 24 February 2020, data sources: OCHA, RAISG

2.10.3 DISPUTED BORDERS OR DESIGNATIONS IN MAPS

If the map shows disputed borders or designations, consider adding a disclaimer within the caption.

- ✓ The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any position by Amnesty International on the status of territory.

2.11 NAMES

2.11.1 PLACE NAMES

Use Amnesty International's standard names for names of countries and nationalities.

See “[4.1.1 Country names and nationalities](#)” for more details.

When in doubt regarding spelling, especially in cases of place names transliterated from one language to another with a different script, search for the name in the GeoNames database (<https://www.geonames.org>) and use the preferred spelling. This is identifiable by following these steps:

- click on the name of the place;
- click on “Alternate names”;
- locate the relevant language;
- choose the first spelling, if there is more than one.

Include diacritics (marks such as accents placed over, under or through a letter) when these appear in the preferred spelling. Do not include them when they do not appear in the preferred spelling.

On first reference to a place name, indicate the type of place referred to, using terms such as “capital”, “city”, “town”, “village”, “state” and “region”. When preparing documents for translation, include comments on the type of place, if these are not included in the text, as some languages use different prepositions for different types of places.

See “[4. Names](#)” for more details.

2.11.2 PEOPLE’S NAMES

Generally, give a person’s full name on first reference. After that you may abbreviate the name in a culturally appropriate way but use the same abbreviation throughout the document. If in doubt, use first name and surname throughout.

When using pseudonyms, consistently place them in italics (or equivalent). Clarify at first mention that the name is a pseudonym.²

✓ *Randa* (not her real name)

See “[4. Names](#)” for more details.

See also “[2.16 Titles of people](#)”.

2.11.3 ENTITIES’ NAMES

In general, spell the names of entities, such as organizations, as they do themselves. Check their website if in doubt.

✓ Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

✗ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

For entities whose original name is in another language, use the translation into the language of the document if this is commonly used. In general, there is no need also to provide the name in the original language. You may wish to do so in brackets (or equivalent) on first mention if the name in the original language is also commonly used in texts written in the language of the document (to help identify the entity in question).

✓ France’s National Rally (Rassemblement national) party

✗ France’s Rassemblement national (National Rally) party

Provide in brackets (or equivalent) the name of the entity in the original language on first mention if an abbreviation (such as an acronym or initialism) derived from the name in the original language is commonly used in texts written in the language of the document and will be used on subsequent mentions. In this case, place the abbreviation after a comma (or equivalent) within the same brackets (or equivalent).

✓ Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo, FARC-EP)

² (Change) In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, use italics (or equivalent) rather than double quotation marks (or equivalent). This is to facilitate formulations such as the use of the possessive in English (for example, *Randa’s*).

Use “the Islamic State armed group” (or its equivalent in another language) on first mention and “Islamic State” (without “the”) (or its equivalent in another language) for subsequent mentions.

If the entity is known in the language of the document by the original-language version of its name rather than a translation, use that. Use the transliteration that the entity itself prefers, as expressed on its official website or social media account.

- ✓ Al Jazeera
- ✗ al-Jazeera

For entities such as political groups that have alternative transliterations in common usage, use the preferred spelling on the UN Terminology Database (<https://unterm.un.org>).

- ✓ Al-Qaida
- ✗ al-Qa'ida

See “[4. Names](#)” for more details.

2.12 REFERENCES

Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent), for the elements of a reference to any source:

- author (individual, editor or entity)
- title
- date of publication or broadcasting of source
- location of source (such as web address or UN Document number)
- location in source (such as Article, page or paragraph numbers)

The following are examples illustrating the application of these principles in English. They assume that the names of the authors are being mentioned for the first time and will be mentioned again. For that reason, abbreviations are provided in round brackets for some of them

International legal instruments

- ✓ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention), Article 2(2)(b).

National legislation

- ✓ Canada, Extradition Act, 1999, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/e-23.01/index.html>, Chapter 18, section 1.

Court documents

- ✓ International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), *Prosecutor v. Zdravko Mucić and Others*, Case IT-96-21, Trial Chamber judgment, 16 November 1998, para. 36.

UN documents

- ✓ UN Human Rights Committee (HRC), Concluding Observations: USA, 23 April 2014, UN Doc. CCPR/C/USA/CO/4, paras 5-6.

Amnesty International reports

- ✓ Amnesty International, *Still Waiting for Justice: One Year On from the Violence in Southern Kyrgyzstan* (Index: EUR 58/001/2011), 8 June 2011, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR58/001/2011/en>, pp. 5-6.

Amnesty International press releases

- ✓ Amnesty International, “Cuba: Prisoner releases must lead to new human rights environment”, 8 January 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/01/cuba-prisoner-releases>

Books

- ✓ Javid Rehman, *International Human Rights Law*, 2nd edition, 2009, p. 123.

Dynamic web sources

- ✓ World Bank, “Overview”, Health Nutrition and Population Statistics Database, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 3 February 2018).

Articles by newspapers

- ✓ New York Times, “Venezuela’s Maduro claims control of National Assembly, tightening grip on power”, 5 January 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/05/world/americas/venezuela-noticias-maduro-guaido.html>

Social media posts

- ✓ National Unity Government of Myanmar, Spokesperson for the Office of the President, X post: “Excerpt from Acting President @DuwaLashiLa Speech at cabinet meeting 1/2025”, 17 January 2025, <https://x.com/NUGPressSPOX/status/1876711324299731224>

TV and radio programmes

- ✓ CNN, *Troubled Waters*, 28 February 2019, <https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2019/02/28/cfp-troubled-waters-ghana-documentary.cnn>

Videos

- ✓ hhdckhan, “Free Syrian Army – True Mujahideen 2.0”, 24 October 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSINNEAtPmc>, minute 3:43.

Satellite imagery

- ✓ Planet Labs PBC, Image catalogue ID 20231031_115501_ssc9_u0001, 31 October 2023.

Correspondence

- ✓ Amnesty International, Memorandum to Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Mali, 30 April 2020, on file with Amnesty International.

Interviews

- ✓ Interview by voice call with Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, 25 February 2017.

See “[3. References](#)” for more details and many more examples.

2.13 SEASONS

Avoid using the names of seasons (for example, in English, “summer” or “winter”) to indicate periods of time as they vary from region to region.

2.14 SPACING

Use a single character space, not a double space, between sentences.³ It is acknowledged that some languages use non-breaking spaces before some punctuation.

2.15 TABLES

See “[2.6 Figures \(charts, graphs and tables\)](#)”.

2.16 TITLES OF PEOPLE

2.16.1 COMMON TITLES

Do NOT use common titles before people’s names.

- X** Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss
- X** Monsieur, Madame, Mademoiselle
- X** Señor, Señora, Señorita

2.16.2 HONORIFIC TITLES

Avoid using honorific titles before people’s names for political, aristocratic and religious positions (for example, “Her Majesty”, “Ayatollah”, “Sheikh” and “Lord” in English), military ranks (for example, “Commander” and “Colonel” in English) and professional status (for example, “Dr” and “Professor” in English) outside official communications. Similarly avoid adding titles or abbreviations denoting academic qualifications (for example, “Dr” and “PhD” in English) or national awards (for example, “Sir” and “OBE” in English) before or after people’s names.

2.16.3 HONORIFIC FORMS OF ADDRESS

Use honorific forms of address (for example, “Your Excellency” and “Madam High Commissioner” in English) only when addressing individuals directly, such as in official communications or oral briefings.

³ (Tip) Using the “Replace” function, insert two spaces in the “Find what” field and one space in the “Replace with” field and click on “Replace All”.

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This chapter provides rules and guidance on how to reference sources in footnotes as applicable across all languages. It begins with some general principles on the purposes of references, the elements of references and their structure within a footnote. It then sets out detailed guidance for different sources, including international legal instruments, national legislation, court documents, UN documents, books, other major publications (such as reports), shorter publications (such as press releases), articles in newspapers and magazines, journal articles, blogs and op-eds, dynamic web sources, social media posts, audiovisual sources, correspondence, interviews and meetings. Examples are given of the application of rules and guidance in the English language; these are designed to be adaptable to other languages. Note that when reference is made to the use of punctuation such as brackets, commas, full stops, semicolons, dashes and quotation marks, these may need to be substituted by their equivalents in languages other than English.

3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3.1.1 PURPOSES OF REFERENCES

Use references to:

- identify the source of a statement in the main text, including the original source of a quotation, statistics, data and other evidence;
- substantiate statements made in the text;
- acknowledge the ideas of other authors, reproduced either directly or indirectly;
- present explanatory or supplementary information that is not appropriate within the main text;
- direct the reader to information contained in another part of the text.

3.1.2 ELEMENTS OF REFERENCES TO SOURCES

FORMAT FOR REFERENCE TO SOURCE

- In general, use the following format, separated by commas, for the elements of a reference to any source:
 - **author of source**
 - **title of source**
 - **date of source**
 - **location of source**
 - **location in source**
- Separate with semicolons multiple references for a single statement in the text.
- If beginning a new sentence after a web address, first enter a hard return.
- Place a full stop at the end of the footnote or endnote, except when it ends in a web address.

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

IN GENERAL

- Be aware that the “author” may be an individual author or several authors, an editor or editors, or an institution or institutions.⁴
- Sometimes, a choice has to be made between using the name of an individual or the name of an institution as the author. When in doubt, use the name of the institution, such as a newspaper, particularly if it is better known than the individual author.
- If there are **two authors**, mention both authors and separate them with “and” (or its equivalent in another language) rather than a comma (or equivalent).
- If there are **more than two authors**, use “and others” (or their equivalent in another language) after the name of the first author.

⁴ (Tip) If the “author” is a web-only institution, such as an online news provider, you may need to consult the “About us” section of the website to identify the name of the institution rather than the web address.

- Use **first names and surnames** for individual authors. Avoid middle initials and honorifics (such as “Professor” and “Dr” in English).

✓ Javid Rehman

✗ Professor J. Rehman

✗ Rehman, Javid

- Add “(editor)” or “(editors)” (or their equivalent in another language) after the name(s) of **editors**.

✓ Simone Fennell (editor)

- **Abbreviate long names of institutions** after their first mention if they are used in multiple citations.

✓ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- Also use an abbreviation if it has already been introduced in the main text.

IN ENGLISH

- Do NOT include “**the**” before the names of institutions, whether or not it is an integral part of their name.

✓ New York Times

✗ The New York Times

- Include **definite articles in other languages** if they are an integral part of the name of the author (for example, “Le Monde”, “El País”, “Die Zeit”, “Al Jazeera”). Do NOT include definite articles in other languages if they are not an integral part of the name (for example, “Nouvel Horizon”, “Reforma”, “Bild”, “Okaz”). If in doubt, check their website.

- **Capitalize** using title case regardless of the capitalization style used by the source.

See “[8. Capital letters in English](#)” for more details.

TITLE OF SOURCE

SUBTITLES

- When a publication has a title and subtitle, in general include both. Separate them with a colon (or equivalent), regardless of the punctuation used in the original title in the source.

✓ *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019*

✓ “OMCT: End and investigate violent repression of peaceful protests”

- When a publication has a second subtitle, include this if important. Separating the subtitles by a dash (or equivalent), regardless of the punctuation used in the original title in the source.

✓ “Pakistan: Security – Situation report as of 1 May 2020”

- Do NOT include the output type, such as “report”, “thematic report”, “briefing paper” or “press release” in English, in the title unless it is an integral part of the title. Mere mention of the output type on the cover of the source does NOT mean it is an integral part of the title.

✓ *Perpetuating Impunity: Israel’s Failure to Ensure Accountability for Violations of International Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*

✗ *Briefing Paper: Perpetuating Impunity – Israel’s Failure to Ensure Accountability for Violations of International Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OUTPUTS

- If the output has an Amnesty International index number, include this in round brackets (or equivalent) after the name.
 - ✓ *In Search of Safety: Peru Turns Its Back on People Fleeing Venezuela* (Index: AMR 46/1675/2020).
- If the title or subtitle includes the **country name**, do NOT add a superfluous mention of the country name at the start.
 - ✓ *In Search of Safety: Peru Turns Its Back on People Fleeing Venezuela*.
 - ✗ *Peru: In Search of Safety: Peru Turns Its Back on People Fleeing Venezuela*.
- Remember always to cite previous Amnesty International documents when quoting from them.

IN ENGLISH

- Use the original **spelling** of the source even if this does not conform with house style spelling.
- **Use italics and title case** for the titles of major publications such as books, reports and briefings (10 pages or more is a useful rule of thumb), court cases and major broadcasts or productions such as television and radio series and programmes, podcast series, films and plays.
 - ✓ *In Search of Safety: Peru Turns Its Back on People Fleeing Venezuela*.
- Use **quotation marks and sentence case** (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the titles of shorter publications such as articles in newspapers, news stories, press releases, public statements, Urgent Actions, blogs, op-eds and other pieces from websites, and the titles of shorter broadcasts or productions such as videos and songs.
 - ✓ “Pakistan: Security – Situation report as of 1 May 2020”
- Use **single quotation marks** for quotations inside titles that carry double quotation marks regardless of whether they were single or double in the original title in the source.
 - ✓ “Chile slams Security Council’s ‘deafening silence’”
 - ✗ “Chile slams Security Council’s “deafening silence””
- **Use title case** without italics or quotation marks for the titles of other sources, such as international and national legal instruments, UN documents that are not reports, databases and correspondence.
 - ✓ Concluding Observations: Papua New Guinea
 - ✓ Law of the Judiciary
- Use **quotation marks and sentence case** without italics for the titles of subdivisions of sources, such as the chapters of a book or report, or the episodes of a TV or radio series.
 - ✓ “Conditions of imprisonment or detention”

See “[8. Capital letters in English](#)” for more details.

DATE OF SOURCE

- Include the **full date** of publication or broadcasting of the source wherever possible.
 - ✓ 3 January 2019
- Provide only the **month and year** if the date is not available.
 - ✓ January 2019

- Provide only the **year** if neither the date nor the month is available.
✓ 2019
- Indicate if static content (such as a report) is **undated**. You do NOT need to do so for dynamic content, which is often undated.
✓ Undated
- Indicate the **date of updating** if applicable in round brackets (or equivalent).
✓ 11 November 2017 (updated on 3 June 2021)

LOCATION OF SOURCE

WEB ADDRESSES

- Generally, include a web address for sources available on the internet. However, generally, do NOT include one for international instruments and standards, UN documents with UN document numbers or books. These are normally easy to find with a simple internet search.
- Keep **prefixes** (protocols), such as “http://”, “https://” and “www.”.
✓ <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>
✗ [oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)
- Ensure web addresses are **clean**, as in they do NOT contain superfluous character strings such as tags, query strings or search parameters. Superfluous character strings often appear after “?”
✓ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gaza-statement-high-representative-israel's-operation-rafah_en
✗ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gaza-statement-high-representative-israel%E2%80%99s-operation-rafah_en?channel=eeas_press_alerts&date=2024-05-15&newsid=0&langid=en&source=mail
- Do NOT convert web addresses into a **shortened format** or allow special characters to become encoded.⁵
✓ [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{\"itemid\":\[\"001-97979\"\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{\)
✗ [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#\[%22itemid%22:\[%22001-97979%22\]\]](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#[%22itemid%22:[%22001-97979%22]])
✗ <https://tinyurl.com/49rtk3z4>
- Remove any **superfluous slash** at the end of a web address.
✓ <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>
✗ <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>
- Ensure the web address appears as such rather than as a **hyperlinked title** of a web page.⁶
✓ <https://www.parliament.gov.pg>
✗ [Home → National Parliament of Papua New Guinea](#)

⁵ (Tip) Copy and paste a web address with special characters into a Clarity request field and then into Word. This prevents the special characters being converted to strings of percent-encoded characters when pasted into Word.

⁶ (Tip) When copying and pasting from Microsoft Edge, you may need to use Ctrl + Shift + V or change settings. See <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-edge/improved-copy-and-paste-of-urls-in-microsoft-edge-d3bd3956-603a-0033-1fbc-9588a30645b4>

- **Hyperlink** the web address for ease of access and use a hyperlink style for ease of recognition. However, be careful that the hyperlink style does not spill over onto adjacent punctuation or words.
- ✓ <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 3 February 2018)
- ✗ <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 3 February 2018)
- Use web addresses of the **publishing or broadcasting institution**, wherever possible. So, for Amnesty International documents, use an Amnesty International (preferably <https://www.amnesty.org>) web address.
- When the web address is **NOT the official source**, but rather an online resource where it can be accessed, use “available at” (or its equivalent in another language).
- Use web addresses which do NOT require **payment** to access, wherever possible.
- For **static web sources**, such as published reports, do NOT include the date of access. The date of publication suffices.
- ✓ G20, “G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 2016, available at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-action-plan-on-2030-agenda.pdf>
- For **dynamic web sources**, such as text or databases that are regularly updated, include, in round brackets after the web address, the words “accessed on” (or its equivalent in another language) followed by the date on which the information was retrieved.
- ✓ World Bank, “Overview”, Health Nutrition and Population Statistics Database, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 7 May 2019).
- Recognize that web addresses typically have a **short life span**, so it is important to be meticulous about providing the other information in the reference. Test web addresses before publication to ensure they are correct and still function. In addition, consider saving the web page in the Internet Archive (<https://web.archive.org>), using its “Save Page Now” function, and providing the new web address generated. This is particularly useful for dynamic web sources and for web addresses that are likely to change.
- ✓ World Bank, “Overview”, Health Nutrition and Population Statistics Database, <https://web.archive.org/web/20190507182228/https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 7 May 2019).

UN DOCUMENT NUMBER

- If the source is a UN publication with a UN document number, use this as the location, instead of the web address.

BOOKS, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS

- Do NOT include a location for published books or international legal instruments and standards. These are easily located.

‘ON FILE WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL’

- If the source is not public, include “On file with Amnesty International” (or its equivalent in another language) to indicate that Amnesty International possesses a copy.

LOCATION IN SOURCE

IN GENERAL

- Include the page or paragraph number in longer publications for ease of reference.
- ✓ p. 4
- ✓ para. 3
- ✓ paras 26, 28

- Use hyphens (or equivalent) between ranges of numbers. Do NOT abbreviate the second number of a range.

✓ pp. 123-125

✗ pp. 123-5

✓ paras 46-47

✗ paras 46-7

- Use commas between ranges of numbers. Do NOT abbreviate the second number of a range.

✓ pp. 123-125

✗ pp. 123-5

- Do NOT use the Latin-derived symbols “§” or “§§”.

✓ paras 13-14

✗ §§ 13-14

- When referring to a particular moment or passage of time in an audiovisual source, indicate the time or time period.

✓ minute 3:43

✓ minute 2:45-2:55

IN ENGLISH

- Use initial capital letters for major subdivisions of sources, including legal documents.

✓ Annex 2

✓ Appendix VI

✓ Article 3

✓ Chapter 5

✓ Principle 2

✓ Rule 23

- Do NOT use abbreviations for these.

✗ Art. 13

✗ Chap. 2

- Use initial lower-case letters for minor subdivisions of sources, including legal documents.

✓ category B

✓ clause (a)

✓ figure 7

✓ fn. 2

✓ item (i)

✓ line 45

✓ minute 3:11

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Maintain non-Latin scripts in web addresses. Do NOT convert web addresses containing non-Latin scripts into a shortened format or allow the non-Latin script to become encoded.⁷
- ✓ <https://www.baladi-news.com/ar/articles/56536/استشهاد-مدير-مشفى-الشامي-في-أريحا-بقصف-روسي>
- ✗ <https://tinyurl.com/6d44jwbk>
- ✗ <https://www.baladi-news.com/ar/articles/56536/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A>
- Add an acknowledgement that the source is in another language (for example, “in Russian”) in round brackets (or equivalent) at the end of the reference.
- ✓ Baladi News, استشهاد مدير مشفى الشامي في أريحا بقصف روسي [“Director of Al-Shami hospital in Ariha martyred in Russian bombing”], 1 February 2020, <https://www.baladi-news.com/ar/articles/56536/استشهاد-مدير-مشفى-الشامي-في-أريحا-بقصف-روسي> (in Arabic).
- ✓ State of Israel, Knesset, הכרזה על מצב חירום [Declaring a State of Emergency], לקסיקון [Lexicon of the Knesset], <https://m.knesset.gov.il/about/lexicon/pages/emergency-announcement.aspx> (in Hebrew, accessed on 29 August 2021).

TRANSLATION OF SOURCE

- If an official translation of the source is available, you may cite that instead of the original.
- If an unofficial translation is available, you may mention that in round brackets (or equivalent) after the reference.
- If the text referenced is a translation of a quotation from the source, clarify this in round brackets (or equivalent) after the reference.
- ✓ State of Israel, High Court of Justice (HCJ), *Alice Miller v. Minister of Defense*, Case HCJ 4541/94, judgment, 8 November 1995, p. 94 (in Hebrew; an unofficial English translation is available at <https://versa.cardozo.yu.edu/opinions/miller-v-minister-defence>).
- ✓ COGAT, Facebook post: حالة الجو في الأيام القريبة [“Weather conditions in the coming days”], 23 October 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=660389199535111&set=pb.100066921098856.-2207520000> (translation from the original Arabic into English by Amnesty International).

3.1.4 INTRODUCTION OF REFERENCES

DIRECTLY SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Provide a reference without an introductory word or phrase if the reference directly supports a statement or quotation in the text by identifying its source. These references tend to be essential.

- ✓ According to the Idlib Education Directorate, the de facto education authority in Idlib governorate, nine internally displaced people, including two children, were killed in the air strike on the school.¹
- ¹ Idlib Education Directorate, Facebook post: استمرار القصف والغارات على مدن وبلدات إدلب من قبل الاحتلال الروسي والمجرم الأسدي [“Continued bombing and raids on the cities and towns of Idlib by Russian occupation forces and the criminal Assad regime”], 25 February 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/idlebedu/posts/1015436072176059> (in Arabic).

⁷ (Tip) Copy and paste the web address into a Clarity request field and then into Word. This prevents the non-Latin script being converted to long strings of percent-encoded characters when pasted into Word. (Change) In a change from the 2023 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not convert web addresses containing non-Latin scripts into a shortened format. This is no longer necessary when pasting the web address in the way described in the tip.

Explanation

The reference provides details of the Facebook post containing the statement made in the text, namely that “nine internally displaced people, including two children, were killed in the air strike on the school”. It, therefore, directly identifies the source of the statement. It was essential to include this reference.

✓ “I dropped my son off at the school at 8am. At around 9am we heard explosions in the city.”¹

→ ¹ Medical worker, Nkhoma Mission Hospital, interview by voice call, 24 January 2020.

Explanation

The footnote provides details of the source of the quoted speech. It, therefore, directly supports the quotation in the text by identifying its source. It was essential to include this reference.

INDIRECTLY SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Introduce a reference with “See” (or its equivalent in another language) if it indirectly supports a statement in the text. Use “See, for example,” (or its equivalent in another language) to emphasize that the reference is just an example – or a few examples – of the source available to support the statement indirectly. These could be examples of background reading material. These references tend to be non-essential.

✓ North-east Syria is split administratively between different authorities. The area is predominantly run by the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led alliance of armed groups, in coordination with the Syrian government. An incursion by Turkey in October 2019 put it in effective control of key cities.¹

→ ¹ See, for example, Guardian, “What is the situation in north-eastern Syria”, 14 October 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/09/what-is-situation-north-eastern-syria-turkey-kurds>

Explanation

The reference does not provide details of an authoritative statement setting out the administration of north-east Syria. It does not, therefore, directly support the statement in the text. Rather, it gives the details of a newspaper article which provides further details on the nature of the administrative division of north-east Syria. This is useful background reading material. It was not essential to include this reference.

3.1.5 REPEATED REFERENCES

- For repeated references, always provide the full reference in the first citation.
- You may repeat the full reference at each citation to avoid confusion.
- For long references that are frequently repeated, you may also use an abbreviated version in all subsequent citations. For the abbreviated version, use the author (abbreviating as required) and title (abbreviating as required) without the date (unless it is essential to distinguish the reference from another similar one) or the web address. Add “previously cited” (or its equivalent in another language) in round brackets (or equivalent) after the abbreviated version and before any page or paragraph number(s). This alerts the reader to look for a longer version in an earlier footnote.
- For international legal instruments, place the abbreviated version in round brackets (or equivalent) at the first citation. However, there is no need to add “previously cited” (or its equivalent in another language) after the abbreviated version at subsequent citations.

✓ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), “Pakistan: COVID-19 – Situation report as of 1 May 2020”, 1 May 2020, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/pakistan_situation_report_20200501.pdf

→ OCHA, “Pakistan: COVID-19 – Situation report as of 1 May 2020” (previously cited).

- ✓ Charles Parkinson, *Bills of Rights and Decolonization: The Emergence of Domestic Human Rights Instruments in Britain's Overseas Territories*, 2007, pp. 150-155.

→ Parkinson, *Bills of Rights and Decolonization* (previously cited), p. 162.

- Do NOT use Latin terms to indicate repeated references:

✗ Ibid.

✗ Id.

✗ Loc. Cit.

✗ Op. cit.

✗ Supra

3.1.6 INTERNAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- Use “See” (or its equivalent in another language) followed by the subdivision of the source, the number of the subdivision and then the title of the subdivision in double quotation marks (or equivalent).

✓ See Chapter 4 “Enforced disappearances”

✓ See section 2.3 “Arbitrary detention by police” for more details

3.1.7 EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT FOR REFERENCES

- Ensure that all references are accurate, complete and correctly presented.
- During the drafting process, store and tag all sources that will be referenced in an output:
 - If you reference an interview, ensure that a written note and/or transcript and/or recording of the interview has been stored.
 - If you reference an online publication or social media post, ensure that you have downloaded a copy (for example, as a PDF file) or captured an image (for example, as a screenshot). This is important given the propensity of sources to disappear from the internet or become very difficult to find.⁸
 - If an article or other item is only available behind a paywall, ensure you have downloaded and saved a copy of it.
 - If you reference a document that is not available on the internet, but rather “on file with Amnesty International”, ensure that you have stored this.
 - If you reference audiovisual evidence other than TV or radio programmes, ensure that you have downloaded and stored this.

3.2 GUIDANCE FOR DIFFERENT SOURCES

3.2.1 INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Organization where the legal instrument or standard was adopted or generated (not required for well-known treaties)

⁸ (Tip) Consider, in addition, saving the web page in the Internet Archive (<https://web.archive.org>), using its “Save Page Now” function.

- **title of source:** Title
- **date of source:** date of adoption or entry into force (as relevant)
- **location in source:** paragraph, section or article number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- Include the organization where the legal instrument or standard was adopted or generated (for example, in English, “UN”) immediately before the title if needed for clarity.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Use the full name, not the abbreviation, in the first citation.
- Avoid use of the abbreviation “No.” (number) (or its equivalent in another language).
- Do NOT include reference or depositary index numbers (for example, “OAS Treaty Series No. 36; 1144 UNTS 123; 9 ILM 99 (1969)”). They are not needed to identify the document.
- If a legal instrument or standard has an alternative shorter name, include this in brackets (or equivalent) in the first citation and use the shorter version in subsequent citations.
- ✓ Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention).
- ✓ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I).
- ✓ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).
- ✓ UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules).
- Otherwise, include an abbreviation in brackets (or equivalent) in the first citation and use the abbreviation in subsequent citations.
- ✓ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- In English, use title case for the title.

See “[5. International legal instruments](#)” for the list of names of international legal instruments and standards.

DATE OF SOURCE

- If relevant to the content of the output, optionally include the date of adoption of a legal instrument or standard in the first citation.
- If relevant to the content of the output, optionally include the date of entry into force of a legal instrument in the first citation. Standards do not have a date of entry into force.
- ✓ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), adopted on 8 June 1977, entered into force on 7 December 1978, Article 3(a).
- ✓ UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (Basic Principles), adopted on 7 September 1990, Principle 5(a).

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Do NOT include a web address. International instruments and standards are easy to find with a simple internet search.
- Do NOT add character spaces between article numbers and their subdivisions.
- ✓ Article 3(a)(i)
- ✗ Article 3 (a) (i)

EXAMPLES FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

First citation.

→ Subsequent citation.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 19.

→ ICCPR, Article 23.

UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention Against Torture), Article 3.

→ Convention Against Torture, Article 5.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention), Article 2(2)(b).

→ Migrant Workers Convention, Article 5.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW TREATIES

Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), Article 14

→ Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 3(1)(a).

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), Article 3(a).

→ Protocol I, Article 5.

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), Article 13(1).

→ Protocol II, Article 6.

CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW RULES

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Customary International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Rules 1, 15, 20, 28, 71.

→ ICRC, Customary IHL, Rule 2.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW TREATIES

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 7.

→ Rome Statute, Article 2.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW TREATIES

UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (UN Refugee Convention), Article 1(F)(a).

→ UN Refugee Convention, Article 3.

UN Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967 Protocol), Article VI(b).

→ 1967 Protocol, Article VII(2).

REGIONAL TREATIES

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), Article 13(1).

→ ACHPR, Article 14.

American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), Article 6.

→ ACHR, Article 4.

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), Article 8.

→ ECHR, Article 9.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (Basic Principles), Principle 5(a).

➤ UN Basic Principles, Principle 5(a).

UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (Principles on Extra-Legal Executions), Principles 2-4.

→ Principles on Extra-Legal Executions, Principle 9.

UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 5(2).

→ Nelson Mandela Rules, Rule 9.

3.2.2 NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING NATIONAL LEGISLATION

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas:
 - **author of source:** Jurisdiction
 - **title of source:** Title, Reference number (if available)
 - **date of source:** year of adoption
 - **location of source:** web address (if available)
 - **location in source:** article or section or paragraph number(s) (if required), amended on date (if required)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- Mention the jurisdiction, such as the name of the country, unless it is obvious from the context.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- If the legislation is not in the language of the document, use the original language version of the title. Or translate the title into the language of the document and indicate that it is a translation.
- Avoid use of the abbreviation “No.” (number) (or its equivalent in another language) in front of the reference number of the law.
- In English, use title case (without italics) for the title. Do NOT include “the” at the start of a title regardless of whether it appears in the source.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Indicate in a separate sentence if an unofficial translation is available.

EXAMPLES FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATION

SECTIONS OF LAWS

Canada, Extradition Act, 1999, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/e-23.01/index.html>, Chapter 18, section 1.

ARTICLES OF LAWS (AMENDED VERSIONS)

Dominican Republic, Ley 126-02, sobre Comercio Electrónico, Documentos y Firmas Digitales [Law 126-02 on Electronic Commerce, Digital Documents and Signatures], 2002, https://www.aduanas.gob.do/media/2209/126-02_sobre_comercio_electronico_y_firmas_digitales.pdf (in Spanish), Article 2(1)(2) (as amended on 4 September 2013).

ARTICLES OF LAWS (WITH OFFICIAL TRANSLATION AVAILABLE)

Saudi Arabia, Law of the Judiciary, 1975, <https://www.saudiembassy.net/law-judiciary>

ARTICLES OF LAWS (WITH UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION AVAILABLE)

Egypt, Law of Associations and Other Foundations Working in the Field of Civil Work, Law 70 of 2017, Article 23 (an unofficial English translation is available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a4cbae14.html>).

3.2.3 COURT DOCUMENTS IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING COURT DOCUMENTS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Court
 - **title of source:** *Title of Court Case* (if applicable), Case or Application Reference, description or title of document
 - **date of source:** date of document
 - **location of source:** web address (if required)
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s) (if required)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- Include an abbreviation in brackets in the first citation and use the abbreviation in subsequent citations.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Use “and others” (or its equivalent in another language) if there is more than one defendant or plaintiff.
- Avoid use of the abbreviation “No.” (number) (or its equivalent in another language) in front of the case or application reference.
- The description or title of the document should indicate:
 - the court body or official issuing the document (for example, “Trial Chamber”, “Appeals Chamber”, “President” in English)
 - the nature of the document (for example, “advisory opinion”, “decision”, “indictment”, “judgment”, “opinion”, “order” in English)
- In English, use “judgment” rather than “judgement” as per meaning 3 of “Judgement” in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>).
- In English, use title case in italics for the title. Include a full stop following the “v.” between the two sides in a court case.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- In general, do NOT include a web address for court documents of international and regional tribunals, which tend to have searchable online databases.⁹
- In general, include a web address for court documents of national tribunals.

⁹ (Change) In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, in general, no longer include a web address for court documents of international and regional tribunals.

EXAMPLES FOR COURT DOCUMENTS

First citation

- Subsequent citation

JUDGMENTS

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), *Prosecutor v. Zdravko Mucić and Others*, Case IT-96-21, Trial Chamber judgment, 16 November 1998, para. 36.

- ICTY, *Prosecutor v. Zdravko Mucić and Others*, Trial Chamber judgment (previously cited), para. 54.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), *Prosecutor v. Kayishema and Ruzindana*, Case ICTR-95-1-A, Appeals Chamber judgment, 1 June 2001, para. 151.

- ICTR, *Prosecutor v. Kayishema and Ruzindana*, Appeals Chamber judgment (previously cited), para. 159.

International Court of Justice (ICJ), Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro*), judgment, 26 February 2007, paras 169-179.

- ICJ, *Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro*, judgment (previously cited), para. 179.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), *Medvedyev and Others v. France*, Application 3394/03, Grand Chamber judgment, 29 March 2010, paras 79-80.

- ECtHR, *Medvedyev and Others v. France*, Grand Chamber judgment (previously cited), para. 108.

ORDERS

International Court of Justice (ICJ), Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (*South Africa v. Israel*), Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures, order, 26 January 2024.

- ICJ, *South Africa v. Israel*, order, 26 January 2024 (previously cited).

ADVISORY OPINIONS

International Court of Justice (ICJ), Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, advisory opinion, 9 July 2004.

- ICJ, Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, advisory opinion (previously cited).

3.2.4 UN DOCUMENTS WITH UN DOCUMENT NUMBERS IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING UN DOCUMENTS WITH UN DOCUMENT NUMBERS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of UN body authoring the document
 - **title of source:** Type of Document and Reference or *Title of Report* (as applicable)
 - **date of source:** date of publication or date of adoption and date of entry into force
 - **location of source:** UN document number

- o **location in source:** paragraph number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- Use the name of the UN body that has authored the document. Be careful not to use the name of the body to which the document is submitted (such as the “UN Security Council”, “UN General Assembly” or “UN Human Rights Council” in English), even though the document may carry one or more of their names in its header:
 - ✓ UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, *Stigma and the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*.
 - ✗ UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque: *Stigma and the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation*.
- For long names, include an abbreviation in brackets (or equivalent) in the first citation and use the abbreviation in subsequent citations.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- For generic types of UN publications with UN document numbers, use the type of the document followed by a reference. The reference may be a number, but do not add the abbreviation “No.” (number) (or its equivalent in another language). The reference may be a word, such as the name of a state, following a colon. In English, use title case (without italics).¹⁰
 - ✓ Concluding Observations: Sudan
 - ✓ General Comment 3
 - ✗ General Comment no. 3
 - ✓ General Recommendation
 - ✓ Report
 - ✓ Resolution 74/143
 - ✗ Resolution 74/143: *Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*
 - ✓ Resolution 68/167
 - ✓ Statement
 - ✓ Views: Communication 560/1993
- For UN reports with UN document numbers that have specific titles, simply use the title. Use title case in italics.¹¹
 - ✓ *Stigma and the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*
 - ✗ Report: *Stigma and the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*

DATE OF SOURCE

- In general, use the date of publication of the document.
- For resolutions and views, use the date of adoption and clarify this by using “adopted on”; in these instances, do NOT use the publication date of the document, which generally appears in the top right-hand corner of the document (in English), and may be different.

¹⁰ **(Change)** In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not include the thematic title of a resolution. It is an unnecessary addition to word count. The reference number is sufficient.

¹¹ **(Change)** In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not include the type of publication (report) when a specific title is provided. It is an unnecessary addition to word count.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- For UN publications with a UN document number, include “UN Doc.” (or its equivalent in another language) followed by the reference number. The document can then be found on the UN Official Document System: <https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>

LOCATION IN SOURCE

- Use “para.” (or its equivalent in another language) for a paragraph in a report.
- Use “preambular para.” and “operative para.” (or their equivalents in another language) for preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs in a resolution.
- Use “recommendation” (or its equivalent in another language) for Universal Periodic Review reports.

EXAMPLES FOR UN DOCUMENTS WITH UN DOCUMENT NUMBERS

First citation

→ Subsequent citations

UN TREATY BODIES: CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

UN Human Rights Committee (HRC), Concluding Observations: USA, 23 April 2014, UN Doc. CCPR/C/USA/CO/4, paras 5-6.

→ HRC, Concluding Observations: USA, 2014 (previously cited), para. 9.

UN TREATY BODIES: GENERAL COMMENTS

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), General Comment 14: The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (Article 12), 11 August 2000, UN Doc. E/C.12/2000/4, para. 2.

→ CESCR, General Comment 14 (previously cited), para. 5.

UN TREATY BODIES: GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendation 36: The Right of Girls and Women to Education, 27 November 2017, UN Doc. CEDAW/C/GC/36, para. 7.

→ CEDAW, General Recommendation 36 (previously cited), para. 9.

UN TREATY BODIES: VIEWS

UN Human Rights Committee, Views: Communication 560/1993, adopted on 3 April 1997, UN Doc. CCPR/C/59/D/560/1993, para. 9.5.

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES: THEMATIC REPORTS

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, *Stigma and the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation*, 2 July 2012, UN Doc. A/HRC/21/42, para. 40.

→ UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, *Stigma and the Realization of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation* (previously cited), para. 52.

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES: COUNTRY VISIT REPORTS

UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), *Visit to Bhutan*, 31 July 2019, UN Doc. A/HRC/42/39/Add.1, para. 14.

→ WGAD, *Visit to Bhutan* (previously cited), para. 17.

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES: PERIODIC REPORTS

UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights While Countering Terrorism (UN Special Rapporteur on counterterrorism), Report, 28 December 2009, UN Doc. A/HRC/13/37, para. 7.

- UN Special Rapporteur on counterterrorism, Report, 28 December 2009 (previously cited), para. 10.

UN Independent Expert on the Issue of Human Rights Obligations Related to Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (UN Independent Expert on water and sanitation), Report, 1 July 2009, UN Doc. A/HRC/12/24, paras 64-66 and 70-80.

- UN Independent Expert on water and sanitation, Report, 1 July 2009 (previously cited), para. 19.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP: REPORTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (WG UPR), Report: Sudan, 19 May 2016, UN Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, recommendations 139.6-139.10 (Brazil, Italy, Honduras, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Congo, France, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lebanon, Togo, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Denmark, Poland, El Salvador, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Indonesia) and 139.96-139.101 (Togo, Norway, France, Cyprus, Czech Republic and Germany).

- WG UPR, Report: Sudan (previously cited).

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: THEMATIC REPORTS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Realization of the Right to Work*, 20 December 2018, UN Doc. A/HRC/40/31, para. 14.

- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Realization of the Right to Work* (previously cited), para. 19.

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: COUNTRY REPORTS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya in Rakhine State, Myanmar*, 11 March 2019, UN Doc. A/HRC/40/37, para. 12.

- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya in Rakhine State, Myanmar* (previously cited), para. 15.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL: REPORTS

UN Secretary-General (UNSG), *Future Planning for the Protection of Civilians Sites in South Sudan*, 12 September 2019, UN Doc. S/2019/741.

- UNSG, *Future Planning for the Protection of Civilians Sites in South Sudan* (previously cited).

UN SECURITY COUNCIL: RESOLUTIONS

UN Security Council (UNSC), Resolution 2459 (2019), adopted on 15 March 2019, UN Doc. S/RES/2459.

- UNSC, Resolution 2459 (2019) (previously cited).

UN SECURITY COUNCIL: STATEMENTS

President of the UN Security Council, Statement, 8 October 2019, UN Doc. S/PRST/2019/11.

UN Security Council, Press statement on South Sudan, 22 November 2019, UN Doc. SC/14033.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RESOLUTIONS

UN General Assembly (UNGA), Resolution 74/143, adopted on 18 December 2019, UN Doc. A/RES/74/143.

- UNGA, Resolution 74/143 (previously cited).

UN General Assembly, Resolution 95(I), adopted on 11 December 1946, UN Doc. A/RES/95.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: RESOLUTIONS

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Resolution 42/25, adopted on 27 September 2019, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/42/25, operative para. 5.

→ UNHRC, Resolution 42/25 (previously cited), operative para. 7.

UN Human Rights Council, Resolution 26/16, adopted on 26 June 2014, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/26/16, preambular, para. 6.

3.2.5 BOOKS IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING BOOKS****FORMAT OF SOURCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent), to refer to a book as a whole
 - **author of source:** First name and surname of author of book
 - **title of source:** *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*, Volume number (if required), edition (if required)
 - **date of source:** year of publication
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)
- Use the following format, separated by commas, to refer to a chapter in a book which has one author or set of authors:
 - **author of source:** First name and surname of author of chapter
 - **title of source:** "Title of chapter", *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*, Volume number (if required), edition (if required)
 - **date of source:** year of publication
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)
- Use the following format, separated by commas, to refer to a chapter in a book in which the author(s) of the chapter is different from the editor(s) of the book as a whole:
 - **author of source:** First name and surname of author of chapter
 - **title of source:** "Title of chapter"
 - **author of source:** in Name of editor(s) (editors)
 - **title of source:** *Title of Book: Subtitle of Book*, Volume number (if required), edition (if required)
 - **date of source:** year of publication
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Add the volume number of the publication afterwards if required. There is NO need to add the title of the volume as well.
- Add the edition number if there is more than one.
- In English, use title case in italics for the title. Use title case (without italics) for the volume number.

DATE OF SOURCE

- Generally, include only a year, rather than a date, of publication.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Do NOT include a web address unless the source is difficult to find through an internet search.
- Do NOT include the name of the publishing house or the place of publication. They are generally easily identifiable online.

EXAMPLES FOR BOOKS**BOOKS AS A WHOLE: ONE AUTHOR**

Javaid Rehman, *International Human Rights Law*, 2nd edition, 2009, p. 123.

BOOKS AS A WHOLE: TWO AUTHORS

Kapote Mwakasungura and Douglas Miller, *Malawi's Lost Years*, 2016, pp. 27-29.

BOOKS AS A WHOLE: THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

David Luban and others, *International and Transnational Criminal Law*, 3rd edition, 2018, p. 89.

BOOKS AS A WHOLE: ONE EDITOR

Lauri Mälksoo (editor), *Russia and the European Court of Human Rights: The Strasbourg Effect*, 2018, pp. 23-34.

BOOKS AS A WHOLE: TWO EDITORS

Corinne Lennox and Damien Short (editors), *Handbook of Indigenous Peoples' Rights*, 2018, pp. 118-9.

BOOKS AS A WHOLE: THREE OR MORE EDITORS

Suzannah Linton and others (editors), *Asia-Pacific Perspectives on International Humanitarian Law*, 2019, p. 250.

CHAPTERS OF A BOOK: AUTHOR(S)

Nigel Rodley and Matt Pollard, "Conditions of imprisonment or detention", *The Treatment of Prisoners Under International Law*, 3rd edition, 2009.

CHAPTERS OF A BOOK: CHAPTER AUTHOR(S) DIFFERENT FROM BOOK EDITOR(S)

César Calderón and Luis Servén, "Latin America's infrastructure in the era of macroeconomic crises", in William Easterly and Luis Servén (editors), *The Limits of Stabilization: Infrastructure, Public Deficits and Growth in Latin America*, 2003, p. 3.

3.2.6 OTHER MAJOR PUBLICATIONS (REPORTS, BRIEFINGS) IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of publishing institution
 - **title of source:** *Title of Publication: Subtitle of Publication*
 - **date of source:** date of publication
 - **location of source:** web address
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- The institution may be an intergovernmental organization (such as the UN, African Union, European Union, G20), a government body, an NGO (such as Amnesty International), a research or policy institute and so on.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- The publication may be a report, briefing, policy paper and so on.
- For Amnesty International outputs that have an index number, include this in round brackets (or equivalent) after the name.
- In English, use title case in italics for the title.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- For the G20, note that, as it does not have a secretariat, there is no central depository for outcome documents. For web addresses, use links at the University of Toronto's G20 website preceded by "available at" (or its equivalent in another language).

EXAMPLES FOR MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

UN MAJOR PUBLICATIONS WITHOUT UN DOCUMENT NUMBERS

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019*, 18 June 2020, <https://www.unhcr.org/5ee200e37.pdf>, p. 6.

→ UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019* (previously cited), figure 1.

AFRICAN UNION MAJOR PUBLICATION

African Union (AU) Commission, *2019 African Regional Integration Report: Towards an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa*, 2019, <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38176-doc-african-integration-report-eng-final.pdf>, Chapter 9.

→ AU Commission, *2019 African Regional Integration Report* (previously cited), Chapter 10.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

Amnesty International, *Still Waiting for Justice: One Year On from the Violence in Southern Kyrgyzstan* (Index: EUR 58/001/2011), 8 June 2011, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR58/001/2011/en>, pp. 5-6.

→ Amnesty International, *Still Waiting for Justice* (previously cited), pp. 10-11.

Amnesty International Hungary and others, *Assessment of Hungary's Compliance with Conditions to Access European Union Funds*, 27 November 2024, https://www.amnesty.hu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/HU_EU_funds_assessment_Q3_2024.pdf, p. 13.

→ Amnesty International Hungary and others, *Assessment of Hungary's Compliance with Conditions to Access European Union Funds* (previously cited), pp. 15-16.

OTHER NGO REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS

Human Rights Watch, *“Are We Not Human?”: Denial of Education for Rohingya Refugee Children in Bangladesh*, 3 December 2019, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/12/03/are-we-not-human/denial-education-rohingya-refugee-children-bangladesh>, p. 55.

→ Human Rights Watch, *“Are We Not Human?”* (previously cited), p. 36.

RESEARCH OR POLICY INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

Carnegie Endowment for Global Peace, *A Spoiler in the Balkans? Russia and the Final Resolution of the Kosovo Conflict*, 26 November 2019, <https://carnegie.ru/2019/11/26/spoiler-in-balkans-russia-and-final-resolution-of-kosovo-conflict-pub-80429>

→ Carnegie Endowment for Global Peace, *A Spoiler in the Balkans?* (previously cited).

3.2.7 SHORTER PUBLICATIONS (PRESS RELEASES, STATEMENTS) IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING SHORTER PUBLICATIONS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of publishing institution
 - **title of source:** “Title of publication: Subtitle of publication”
 - **date of source:** date of publication
 - **location of source:** web address

- o **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- The institution may be an intergovernmental organization (such as the UN, African Union, European Union, G20), a government body, an NGO (such as Amnesty International), a research or policy institute and so on.
- For government bodies, provide the short-form name of the country first and then the name of the body (such as a ministry), separated by a comma (or equivalent).

TITLE OF SOURCE

- The publication may be a press release, public statement, Urgent Action and so on.
- For Amnesty International outputs that have an index number, include this in round brackets (or equivalent) after the name.
- For Amnesty International Urgent Actions, do NOT include “Urgent Action” or “Further information” (or its equivalent in another language) in the title.
- In English, use double quotation marks and sentence case (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the title.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- For the G20, note that, as it does not have a secretariat, there is no central depository for outcome documents. For web addresses, use links at the University of Toronto’s G20 website preceded by “available at” (or its equivalent in another language).

EXAMPLES FOR SHORTER PUBLICATIONS

UN SHORT PUBLICATIONS WITHOUT UN DOCUMENT NUMBERS

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “Global forced displacement hits record high”, 20 June 2016, <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>, p. 3.

→ UNHCR, “Global forced displacement hits record high” (previously cited), p. 6.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), “Bachelet and Ugandan Government sign new agreement on UN Human Rights country office”, 10 February 2020, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25540&LangID=E>

→ OHCHR, “Bachelet and Ugandan Government sign new agreement on UN Human Rights country office” (previously cited).

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Press briefing on Libya”, 20 December 2019, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=25445&LangID=E>

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Oral update of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Libya pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 40/27”, 25 September 2019, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25048>

G20 SHORT PUBLICATIONS

G20, “G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 2016, available at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-action-plan-on-2030-agenda.pdf>

G20, “Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers”, 20 October 2019, available at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

EUROPEAN UNION SHORT PUBLICATIONS

Council of the European Union, “Council conclusions on Mozambique”, 22 April 2020, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7467-2020-INIT/en/pdf>, para. 6.

GOVERNMENT SHORT PUBLICATIONS

South Africa, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, “Department of Justice and Constitutional Development dismisses 27 officials for misconduct”, 27 August 2024, https://www.justice.gov.za/m_statements/2024/20240827-Dismissals.html

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASES

Amnesty International, “Cuba: Prisoner releases must lead to new human rights environment”, 8 January 2015, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/01/cuba-prisoner-releases>

Amnesty International USA, “A move in the right direction, the U.S. has transferred three detainees out of Guantanamo detention center”, 17 December 2024, <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/a-move-in-the-right-direction-the-u-s-has-transferred-one-detainee-out-of-guantanamo-detention-center>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Amnesty International and others, “China: Judicial guidelines to curtail activism for Taiwan a further blow for human rights protections” (Index: ACT 50/8276/2024), 11 July 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/8276/2024/en>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGENT ACTIONS

Amnesty International, “Israel/OPT: Palestinian lawmaker released – Khalida Jarrar” (Index: MDE 15/9953/2019), 7 March 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/9953/2019/en>

OTHER NGO PRESS RELEASES

Human Rights Watch, “Qatar/Saudi Arabia: Allow man trapped at border to enter”, 1 July 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/07/01/qatar/saudi-arabia-allow-man-trapped-border-enter>

3.2.8 ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, OTHER NEWS PROVIDERS IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING ARTICLES**FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of publishing institution
 - **title of source:** “Title of article: Subtitle of article”
 - **date of source:** date of publication
 - **location of source:** web address
 - **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- The publishing institution may be a newspaper (such as the New York Times), a magazine (such as Foreign Affairs, Time), a news agency (such as AFP, AP, Reuters, UN News), a broadcaster (such as Al Jazeera, the BBC, CNN) or an exclusively online news provider.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- In English, use double quotation marks and sentence case (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the title.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- The web address may not take a general reader directly to the article, as newspapers, magazines and agencies often use a paywall, and you may need a subscription to read them. Therefore, it is important to include the other details to enable other kinds of search.

EXAMPLES FOR ARTICLES

NEWSPAPERS (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE)

New York Times, “Venezuela’s Maduro claims control of National Assembly, tightening grip on power”, 5 January 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/05/world/americas/venezuela-noticias-maduro-guaido.html>

Guardian, “Israeli security forces and Palestinian worshippers clash outside al-Aqsa mosque”, 27 July 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/27/israel-removes-further-security-measures-from-al-aqsa-compound>

NEWSPAPERS (OTHER LANGUAGE)

Clarín, “Por el proyecto del aborto, los obispos no saludarán al Presidente por la Navidad” [“Because of abortion Bill, bishops will not greet President for Christmas”], 15 December 2020, https://www.clarin.com/politica/proyecto-aborto-obispos-saludaran-presidente-navidad_0_e5Z_CFqcE.html (in Spanish).

Asharq Al-Awsat, «العراق يسجل 14 وفاة و1533 إصابة جديدة بـ«كورونا»» [“Iraq records 14 deaths, 1,533 new coronavirus cases”], 17 December 2020, <https://bit.ly/3asbvVQ> (in Arabic).

MAGAZINES

Foreign Affairs, “The next stage of the Korean peace process: Why Seoul remains optimistic after Hanoi”, 14 March 2019, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north-korea/2019-03-14/next-stage-korean-peace-process>

Time, “‘No safety net.’ How climate change and unprecedented flooding is destroying communities in the Central African Republic”, 24 December 2019, <https://time.com/5753900/flooding-central-african-republic>

NEWS AGENCIES

Associated Press, “AP sources: White House aware of Russian bounties in 2019”, 30 June 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-ap-top-news-john-bolton-politics-russia-425e43fa0ffdd6e126c5171653ec47d1>

UN News, “‘Uphold human dignity’, dismantle ‘specious notion of racial superiority’ urges UN chief”, 25 March 2019, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035391>

BROADCASTERS

CNN, “Christmas in Hong Kong marked by demonstrations and tear gas”, 26 December 2019, <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/12/25/asia/hong-kong-christmas-protests-intl-hnk/index.html>

ONLINE NEWS PROVIDERS (OTHER LANGUAGE)

HuffPost Algérie, “En Algérie, boycott massif du référendum constitutionnel”, 2 November 2020, https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/algerie-boycott-massif-du-referendum-constitutionnel_fr_5f9facb1c5b6bef9f18f357b?utm_hp_ref=fr-algerie

3.2.9 JOURNAL ARTICLES IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING JOURNAL ARTICLES

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** First name and surname of author
 - **title of source:** “Title of article”
 - **date of source:** date of publication
 - **location of source:** Journal name, Volume number (if applicable), Issue number (if applicable), web address

- o **location in source:** page or paragraph number(s)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- Journals and institutes tend to clarify that they have no institutional position, so use the individual author's name rather than the journal or institutes as the author.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- In English, use double quotation marks and sentence case (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the title.

DATE OF SOURCE

- Provide only the month and year if the date of publication is not available.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Provide the name of the journal followed by the Volume number (if applicable), the Issue number (if applicable) and then the web address.
- Be aware that articles may not be available to a general reader if they are behind a paywall.

EXAMPLES FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rama Mani, "From 'dystopia' to 'Ourtopia': Charting a future for global governance", November 2015, International Affairs, Volume 91, Issue 6, <https://www.istor.org/stable/24539051>

Leonie Huijbers and Claire Loven, "Pushing for political and legal change: Protecting the cultural identity of travellers in the Netherlands", November 2019, Journal of Human Rights Practice, Volume 11, Issue 3, <https://academic.oup.com/jhrp/article/11/3/508/5662384>

3.2.10 BLOGS AND OP-EDS IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING BLOGS AND OP-EDS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas:
 - o **author of source:** First name and surname of author
 - o **title of source:** "Title of blog or op-ed"
 - o **date of source:** date of publication
 - o **location of source:** platform, web address

TITLE OF SOURCE

- In English, use double quotation marks and sentence case (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the title.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Provide the name of the platform on which the blog or op-ed was published followed by the web address.

EXAMPLES FOR BLOGS AND OP-EDS

BLOGS

Salil Shetty, "Donald Trump's war on Muslim refugees shows the gloves are off. So are ours.", 31 January 2017, Huffington Post, https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/donald-trumps-war-on-muslim-refugees_uk_5c7e962be4b078abc6c10f08

OP-EDS

Samuel Moyn, “How the human rights movement failed”, 23 April 2018, New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/23/opinion/human-rights-movement-failed.html>

3.2.11 DYNAMIC WEB SOURCES IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING DYNAMIC WEB SOURCES****FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of author
 - **title of source:** Title of publication
 - **date of source:** date of publication (if applicable)
 - **location of source:** web address (accessed on date)
 - **location in source:** “Label of tab, row, column”

TITLE OF SOURCE

- The publication may be a database or similar.
- In English, use title case (without italics) for the title.

DATE OF SOURCE

- Dynamic web sources are often undated, in which case do NOT include a date.
- If there is a date of publication, mention it.
- If there is also a date of updating, mention that in round brackets.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Include a web address and add date accessed in round brackets (or equivalent) after.

LOCATION IN SOURCE

- Include the location in the source as required in quotation marks (or equivalent). This may be the label of a tab, row or column.

EXAMPLES FOR DYNAMIC WEB SOURCES**DATABASES**

World Bank, Health Nutrition and Population Statistics Database, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/health-nutrition-and-population-statistics> (accessed on 3 February 2018), “Overview”.

B’Tselem, Settlements, 16 January 2019, <http://www.btselem.org/settlements> (accessed on 27 August 2021).

B’Tselem, Water Crisis, 11 November 2017 (updated on 3 June 2021), <http://www.btselem.org/water> (accessed on 29 August 2021).

3.2.12 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS****FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Author
 - **title of source:** Description of post (for example, “Facebook post” or “X post”): first sentence (or equivalent) of post

- **date of source:** date of post
- **location of source:** web address
- **location in source:** comments on post (if applicable)

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Use a description of the post and the first sentence of the post in lieu of a title. Social media posts often have no title.

LOCATION IN SOURCE

- If the reference is comments on the post rather than the post itself, note this.

EXAMPLES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

FACEBOOK POSTS (OTHER LANGUAGE)

Syria Breaking, Facebook post: (فيديو) [“Moving scenes of Syrian meeting his mother after 8 years in Bashar al-Assad’s prisons (video)”], 25 March 2019, <https://www.facebook.com/syria.breaking/posts/2072594436200180> (in Arabic), comments.

TELEGRAM POSTS

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, Telegram post: “Lassa fever: Situation report as of: 13th Oct. 2024”, 13 October 2024, <https://web.telegram.org/a/#-1001423598443>

TIKTOK POSTS

Zleaf, Tiktok post: “Eliran Mizrahi, an Israeli reserve soldier”, 9 June 2024, <https://www.tiktok.com/@zleafzleaf/video/7378557901809470762>

X POSTS

National Unity Government of Myanmar, Spokesperson for the Office of the President, X post: “Excerpt from Acting President @DuwaLashiLa Speech at cabinet meeting 1/2025”, 17 January 2025, <https://x.com/NUGPressSPOX/status/1876711324299731224>

3.2.13 AUDIOVISUAL SOURCES IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING AUDIOVISUAL SOURCES

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of broadcaster
 - **title of source:** “Title of broadcast” (if shorter or part of a series), *Title of broadcast or series* (if longer)
 - **date of source:** date of original broadcast
 - **location of source:** web address
 - **location in source:** time within recording (if required)

TITLE OF SOURCE

- In English, use title case in italics for the titles of major broadcasts such as television and radio series and programmes, podcast series and films. Use double quotation marks and sentence case (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle) for the titles of shorter broadcasts or productions such as videos and songs.

EXAMPLES FOR AUDIOVISUAL SOURCES

TV PROGRAMMES

CNN, *Troubled Waters*, 28 February 2019, <https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2019/02/28/cfp-troubled-waters-ghana-documentary.cnn>

EPISODES OF TV SERIES

BBC, “Trump’s first 100 days”, *Panorama*, 24 April 2017, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08ntbpm>

VIDEOS

Amnesty International, “30 years of campaigning for freedom in Myanmar”, 10 June 2011, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OpWPDkn110>

hhbdkhan, “Free Syrian Army – True mujahideen 2.0”, 24 October 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSINNEAtPmc>, minute 3:43.

PODCASTS

UN News, “Podcast: Inside the world’s worst humanitarian ‘nightmare’”, 2 November 2017, <https://news.un.org/en/audio/2017/11/635442>

3.2.14 SATELLITE IMAGERY IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING SATELLITE IMAGERY****FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** Name of satellite imagery provider
 - **title of source:** Image catalogue ID number
 - **date of source:** date of capture of imagery

EXAMPLES FOR SATELLITE IMAGERY

Maxar Technologies, Image catalogue ID 10300100EF545B00, 26 October 2023.

Planet Labs PBC, Image catalogue ID 20231031_115501_ssc9_u0001, 31 October 2023.

3.2.15 CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING CORRESPONDENCE****FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** sender, description of sender (if required)
 - **title of source:** description of communication (for example, email or letter) to recipient
 - **date of source:** date of communication
 - **location of source:** “on file with Amnesty International” (if applicable)

EXAMPLES FOR CORRESPONDENCE**EMAILS**

Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, Hong Kong, email to Amnesty International, 25 February 2017, on file with Amnesty International.

LETTER

Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, Hong Kong, letter to Hong Kong’s Department of Health, 25 February 2017, on file with Amnesty International.

LETTER OR MEMORANDUM FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International, Letter to Head of Judiciary, Iran, 19 October 2019, on file with Amnesty International.

Amnesty International, Memorandum to Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Mali, 30 April 2020, on file with Amnesty International.

3.2.16 INTERVIEWS IN REFERENCES**ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING INTERVIEWS****FORMAT OF REFERENCE**

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** name of entity conducting interview (if required)
 - **title of source:** nature of interview, name and description of interviewee (if appropriate)
 - **date of source:** date of interview
 - **location of source:** place of interview (if appropriate)

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- If the entity conducting the interviews referenced is consistently Amnesty International and this has been established in the methodology, omit mention of Amnesty International.
- Include the interviewer if the entity conducting the interview is not Amnesty International or is otherwise not clear. This may be the case if the output is the product of joint research with another organization and both Amnesty International and the partner organization have conducted interviews.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Use “interview” (or its equivalent in another language) for information-gathering exercises. These include interviews with victims and survivors, witnesses, advocates and representatives of NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and governments.
- Begin the title with the word “interview” (or its equivalent in another language).
- Use “interview in person” (or its equivalent in another language) for in-person interviews.
- Use “interview by video call” (or its equivalent in another language) for interviews using video on electronic devices such as mobile telephones, tablets and computers using telecommunications applications such as WhatsApp, Wire and Zoom. Do NOT use the brand names themselves.
- Use “interview by voice call” (or its equivalent in another language) for interviews without video on landline or mobile telephones and other electronic devices such as tablets and computers using telecommunications applications such as Signal, WhatsApp and Wire. Do NOT use the brand names themselves.
- If the interview was partly by video call, but the video link had to be turned off because of bandwidth or other considerations, use “interview by video call” (or its equivalent in another language) but indicate in the methodology the limitations on the use of video.
- If all the interviews referenced are of the same nature (that is, they were all “in person” or “by video call” or “by voice call”), you may omit these phrases in the references and clarify this in the methodology.
- Ensure that interviewees and interviews are distinguishable from one another. If the interviewee cannot be named in full, use one of the following options and clarify the approach taken in the methodology:
 - the first name only with, on first mention, clarification in round brackets (or equivalent) that the surname has been withheld
 - a pseudonym in italics (or equivalent) with, on first mention, clarification in round brackets (or equivalent) that the name has been changed
 - initials in italics (or equivalent), for example, where the output repeatedly refers to a number of individuals who are anonymized but need to be clearly distinguished from one another

- a descriptive phrase (for example, in English, “a medical worker”, “a witness”, “a family member of someone detained”, “a member of a local human rights organization”)
- If the statement in the text is the result of interviews with several different interviewees, you may refer to multiple interviewees in one reference.

DATE OF SOURCE

- If the date of interview is withheld for security reasons, clarify this in the first citation.

LOCATION OF SOURCE

- Include the place of interview for in-person interviews.
- If the place of interview is withheld for security reasons, clarify this in the first citation. If the place of interview is consistently withheld throughout the output, clarify this in the methodology.

EXAMPLES FOR INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEWS IN PERSON WITH NAMED INDIVIDUALS

Interview in person with Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, 25 February 2017, Hong Kong.

Interview in person with Gonzalo Herrera, UNICEF representative, 16 September 2020, Buenos Aires.

INTERVIEWS BY VIDEO CALL WITH NAMED INDIVIDUALS

Interview by video call with Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, 25 February 2017.

Interview by video call with Sezen Yıldırım, Turkish Ministry of Justice spokesperson, 30 March 2019.

INTERVIEWS BY VOICE CALL WITH NAMED INDIVIDUALS

Interview by voice call with Adeline Nolin, doctor at St Mary’s Children’s Hospital, 25 February 2017.

INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO CANNOT BE NAMED IN FULL

Interview in person with Tsega (surname withheld for security reasons), Ethiopian migrant domestic worker, 12 December 2019, Beirut.

Interview in person with “Fredrick” (name changed for security reasons), former detainee, 6 August 2016, Nairobi.

Interview in person with “AA”, 3 September 2020, Lima.

Interview in person with a member of the Sundown Centre Women’s Group (name withheld for security reasons), 3 February 2018, Nairobi.

Interview by video call with a witness, 20 March 2020.

Interview by voice call with a family member of a detainee, 20 March 2020.

INTERVIEWS WITH MULTIPLE INDIVIDUALS WHO CANNOT BE NAMED

Interviews conducted separately by video call with five family members of the individual killed, 20-25 July 2000.

INTERVIEW BY PARTNER ORGANIZATION IN JOINT OUTPUT

Human Rights Watch, interview with Joseph Li, doctor at Alice Ho Mui Ling Nethersole Hospital, 28 February 2017, Hong Kong.

3.2.17 MEETINGS IN REFERENCES

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REFERENCING MEETINGS

FORMAT OF REFERENCE

- Use the following format, separated by commas (or equivalent):
 - **author of source:** name of entity reporting on meeting (if required)
 - **title of source:** description of meeting
 - **date of source:** date of meeting
 - **location of source:** place of meeting

AUTHOR OF SOURCE

- If the entity reporting on the meetings is consistently Amnesty International and this has been established in the methodology, omit mention of Amnesty International.
- If Amnesty International conducted the meeting with other organizations, mention both Amnesty International and the other organizations. Name the other organizations unless the list is too long.

TITLE OF SOURCE

- Use “meeting” (or its equivalent in another language) as opposed to “interview” for institutional interactions, such as those between Amnesty International and government bodies or intergovernmental organizations. An interaction involving multiple organizations is likely to be a “meeting” rather than an “interview”.
- Begin the title with the word “meeting” (or its equivalent in another language).

EXAMPLES FOR MEETINGS

MEETING BETWEEN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND A GOVERNMENT BODY

Meeting with Ghanaian Minister of Justice, 30 November 2020, Accra.

MEETING BETWEEN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH A GOVERNMENT BODY

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, meeting with Ghanaian Minister of Justice, 30 November 2020, Accra.

Amnesty International and 10 other NGOs, meeting with Ghanaian Minister of Justice, 30 November 2020, Accra.

4. NAMES

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This chapter provides guidance on conventions to use for the names of places, people and entities (such as organizations). All examples of names are provided in English, but their equivalents in other languages can often be found at the websites mentioned. Note that when reference is made to the use of punctuation such as brackets, commas and quotation marks, these may need to be substituted by their equivalents in languages other than English.

4.1 PLACE NAMES

4.1.1 COUNTRY NAMES AND NATIONALITIES

In general, use the short name of a country. In English, use the short name in the following table. For UN member states, this generally corresponds to the short-form name on the list of UN member states (<http://www.un.org/en/member-states>). For other countries, this corresponds to the name provided in the UN's terminology database (<https://unterm.un.org>). For other languages, refer to these two websites.

In official correspondence and submissions to UN and other intergovernmental mechanisms, use the full title of a country. In English, use the full title in the following table. This corresponds to the full title in the UN's terminology database (<https://unterm.un.org>). For other languages, refer to this website.

In English, use the terms in the “nationality” and “national” columns to refer to the nationality associated with a country and the name for “nationals” of that country. Use the terms in the “nationality” column adjectivally, for example “Albanian citizen”, “Antigua and Barbuda government”, “Cook Islands authorities”. Use the term in the “national” column as a noun for one or more of nationals of the country, for example “one Albanian”, “five Albanians”. In a few cases, there is a different term for the collective noun, for example, “the Spanish” as opposed to “five Spaniards”; this is indicated. Terms in other languages will obviously differ and are not provided here.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Afghanistan	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the	Afghan	Afghan [Afghans]
Albania	Republic of Albania, the	Albanian	Albanian [Albanians]
Algeria	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the	Algerian	Algerian [Algerians]
Andorra	Principality of Andorra, the	Andorran	Andorran [Andorrans]
Angola	Republic of Angola	Angolan	Angolan [Angolans]
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda ¹²	Antigua and Barbuda national[s]
Aotearoa New Zealand ¹³	Aotearoa New Zealand	New Zealand	New Zealander [New Zealanders]
Argentina	Argentine Republic, the	Argentinian	Argentinian / Argentine [Argentinians / Argentines]
Armenia	Republic of Armenia, the	Armenian	Armenian [Armenians]
Australia	Commonwealth of Australia, the	Australian	Australian [Australians]
Austria	Republic of Austria, the	Austrian	Austrian [Austrians]
Azerbaijan	Republic of Azerbaijan, the	Azerbaijani	Azerbaijani [Azerbaijanis]
Bahamas, the	Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the	Bahamian	Bahamian [Bahamians]
Bahrain	Kingdom of Bahrain, the	Bahraini	Bahraini [Bahrainis]

¹² In relation to Antigua and Barbuda, do not use “Antiguan” or “Barbudan”, which refer to the component parts of “Antigua” and “Barbuda” respectively.

¹³ **(Change)** In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not use “New Zealand” alone for the country name.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Bangladesh	People's Republic of Bangladesh, the	Bangladeshi	Bangladeshi [Bangladeshis]
Barbados	Barbados	Barbadian	Barbadian [Barbadians]
Belarus	Republic of Belarus, the	Belarusian	Belarusian [Belarusians]
Belgium	Kingdom of Belgium, the	Belgian	Belgian [Belgians]
Belize	Belize	Belizean	Belizean [Belizeans]
Benin	Republic of Benin, the	Beninese	Beninese [Beninese]
Bhutan	Kingdom of Bhutan, the	Bhutanese	Bhutanese [Bhutanese]
Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia, the	Bolivian	Bolivian [Bolivians]
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina national[s]
Botswana	Republic of Botswana, the	Motswana (singular) / Batswana (plural)	Motswana [Batswana]
Brazil	Federative Republic of Brazil, the	Brazilian	Brazilian [Brazilians]
Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam	Bruneian	Bruneian [Bruneians]
Bulgaria	Republic of Bulgaria, the	Bulgarian	Bulgarian [Bulgarians]
Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	Burkinabe	Burkinabe [Burkinabes]
Burundi	Republic of Burundi, the	Burundian	Burundian [Burundians]
Cabo Verde	Republic of Cabo Verde, the	Cabo Verdean	Cabo Verdean [Cabo Verdeans]
Cambodia	Kingdom of Cambodia, the	Cambodian	Cambodian [Cambodians]
Cameroon	Republic of Cameroon, the	Cameroonian	Cameroonian [Cameroonians]
Canada	Canada	Canadian	Canadian [Canadians]
Central African Republic, the	Central African Republic, the	Central African	Central African [Central Africans]
Chad	Republic of Chad, the	Chadian	Chadian [Chadians]
Chile	Republic of Chile, the	Chilean	Chilean [Chileans]
China	People's Republic of China, the	Chinese	Chinese [Chinese]
Colombia	Republic of Colombia, the	Colombian	Colombian [Colombians]
Comoros, the	Union of the Comoros, the	Comorian	Comorian [Comorians]
Congo, the	Republic of the Congo, the	Congolese	Congolese [Congolese]
Cook Islands, the	Cook Islands, the	Cook Islands	Cook Islander [Cook Islanders]
Costa Rica	Republic of Costa Rica, the	Costa Rican	Costa Rican [Costa Ricans]
Côte d'Ivoire	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the	Ivorian	Ivorian [Ivorians]
Croatia	Republic of Croatia, the	Croatian	Croatian [Croatsians]
Cuba	Republic of Cuba, the	Cuban	Cuban [Cubans]
Cyprus	Republic of Cyprus, the	Cypriot	Cypriot [Cypriots]
Czech Republic, the	Czech Republic, the	Czech	Czech [Czechs]
Democratic Republic of the Congo, the	Democratic Republic of the Congo, the	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Congolese [Congolese]
Denmark	Kingdom of Denmark, the	Danish	Dane [Danes]
Djibouti	Republic of Djibouti, the	Djiboutian	Djiboutian [Djiboutians]
Dominica	Commonwealth of Dominica, the	Dominica	Dominica national[s]
Dominican Republic, the	Dominican Republic, the	Dominican	Dominican [Dominicans]
Ecuador	Republic of Ecuador, the	Ecuadorian	Ecuadorian [Ecuadorians]

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Egypt	Arab Republic of Egypt, the	Egyptian	Egyptian [Egyptians]
El Salvador	Republic of El Salvador, the	Salvadoran	Salvadoran [Salvadorans]
Equatorial Guinea	Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the	Equatorial Guinean	Equatorial Guinean [Equatorial Guineans]
Eritrea	State of Eritrea, the	Eritrean	Eritrean [Eritreans]
Estonia	Republic of Estonia, the	Estonian	Estonian [Estonians]
Eswatini	Kingdom of Eswatini, the	LiSwati (singular) / EmaSwati (plural)	LiSwati [EmaSwati]
Ethiopia	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the	Ethiopian	Ethiopian [Ethiopians]
Fiji	Republic of Fiji, the	Fijian	Fijian [Fijians]
Finland	Republic of Finland, the	Finnish	Finn [Finns]
France	French Republic, the	French	French national[s] Collective: the French
Gabon	Gabonese Republic, the	Gabonese	Gabonese [Gabonese]
Gambia	Republic of the Gambia, the	Gambian	Gambian [Gambians]
Georgia	Georgia	Georgian	Georgian [Georgians]
Germany	Federal Republic of Germany, the	German	German [Germans]
Ghana	Republic of Ghana, the	Ghanaian	Ghanaian [Ghanaians]
Greece	Hellenic Republic	Greek	Greek [Greeks]
Grenada	Grenada	Grenadian	Grenadian [Grenadians]
Guatemala	Republic of Guatemala, the	Guatemalan	Guatemalan [Guatemalans]
Guinea	Republic of Guinea, the	Guinean	Guinean [Guineans]
Guinea-Bissau	Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the	Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau national[s]
Guyana	Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the	Guyanese	Guyanese [Guyanese]
Haiti	Republic of Haiti, the	Haitian	Haitian [Haitians]
Honduras	Republic of Honduras, the	Honduran	Honduran [Hondurans]
Hungary	Hungary	Hungarian	Hungarian [Hungarians]
Iceland	Republic of Iceland, the	Icelandic	Icelander [Icelanders]
India	Republic of India, the	Indian	Indian [Indians]
Indonesia	Republic of Indonesia, the	Indonesian	Indonesian [Indonesians]
Iran	Islamic Republic of Iran, the	Iranian	Iranian [Iranians]
Iraq	Republic of Iraq, the	Iraqi	Iraqi [Iraqis]
Ireland	Ireland	Irish	Irish national[s] Collective: the Irish
Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory ¹⁴	State of Israel, the	Israeli	Israeli [Israelis]
Italy	Republic of Italy, the	Italian	Italian [Italians]
Jamaica	Jamaica	Jamaican	Jamaican [Jamaicans]
Japan	Japan	Japanese	Japanese [Japanese]
Jordan	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the	Jordanian	Jordanian [Jordanians]
Kazakhstan	Republic of Kazakhstan, the	Kazakhstani ¹⁵	Kazakhstani [Kazakhstanis]
Kenya	Republic of Kenya, the	Kenyan	Kenyan [Kenyans]

¹⁴ **(Change)** In a change from the 2023 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not use “Occupied Palestinian Territories”. In 2024, Amnesty International aligned its usage to that of the UN.

¹⁵ In relation to Kazakhstan, do not use “Kazakh”, which refers to the ethnic group.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Kiribati	Republic of Kiribati, the	Kiribati	Kiribati [Kiribatis]
Kosovo	Kosovo	Kosovan	Kosovan [Kosovans]
Kuwait	State of Kuwait, the	Kuwaiti	Kuwaiti [Kuwaitis]
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Republic, the	Kyrgyzstani ¹⁶	Kyrgyzstani [Kyrgyzstanis]
Laos	Lao People's Democratic Republic, the	Lao	Laotian [Laotians]
Latvia	Republic of Latvia, the	Latvian	Latvian [Latvians]
Lebanon	Lebanese Republic, the	Lebanese	Lebanese [Lebanese]
Lesotho	Kingdom of Lesotho, the	Mosotho (singular) / Basotho (plural)	Mosotho [Basotho]
Liberia	Republic of Liberia, the	Liberian	Liberian [Liberians]
Libya	State of Libya, the	Libyan	Libyan [Libyans]
Liechtenstein	Principality of Liechtenstein, the	Liechtenstein	Liechtensteiner [Liechtensteiners]
Lithuania	Republic of Lithuania, the	Lithuanian	Lithuanian [Lithuanians]
Luxembourg	Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the	Luxembourg	Luxembourger [Luxembourgers]
Madagascar	Republic of Madagascar, the	Malagasy	Malagasy [Malagasies]
Malawi	Republic of Malawi, the	Malawian	Malawian [Malawians]
Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysian	Malaysian [Malaysians]
Maldives, the	Republic of Maldives, the	Maldivian	Maldivian [Maldivians]
Mali	Republic of Mali, the	Malian	Malian [Malians]
Malta	Republic of Malta, the	Maltese	Maltese [Maltese]
Marshall Islands, the	Republic of the Marshall Islands, the	Marshallese	Marshallese
Mauritania	Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the	Mauritanian	Mauritanian [Mauritanians]
Mauritius	Republic of Mauritius, the	Mauritian	Mauritian [Mauritians]
Mexico	United Mexican States, the	Mexican	Mexican [Mexicans]
Micronesia	Federated States of Micronesia, the	Micronesian	Micronesian [Micronesians]
Moldova	Republic of Moldova, the	Moldovan	Moldovan [Moldovans]
Monaco	Principality of Monaco, the	Monégasque	Monégasque [Monégasques]
Mongolia	Mongolia	Mongolian	Mongolian [Mongolians]
Montenegro	Montenegro	Montenegrin	Montenegrin [Montenegrins]
Morocco / Western Sahara	Kingdom of Morocco, the	Moroccan / Sahrawi	Moroccan [Moroccans] / Sahrawi [Sahrawis]
Mozambique	Republic of Mozambique, the	Mozambican	Mozambican
Myanmar	Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the	Myanmar	Myanmar national[s]
Namibia	Republic of Namibia, the	Namibian	Namibian [Namibians]
Nauru	Republic of Nauru, the	Nauruan	Nauruan [Nauruans]
Nepal	Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the	Nepalese	Nepalese [Nepalese]
Netherlands, the	Kingdom of the Netherlands, the	Dutch	Dutch national[s] Collective: the Dutch
Nicaragua	Republic of Nicaragua, the	Nicaraguan	Nicaraguan [Nicaraguans]
Niger	Republic of Niger, the	Niger ¹⁷	Niger national[s]

¹⁶ In relation to Kyrgyzstan, do not use "Kyrgyz", which refers to the ethnic group.

¹⁷ In relation to Niger, do not use "Nigerien", which is used in French, but not in English.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Nigeria	Federal Republic of Nigeria, the	Nigerian	Nigerian [Nigerians]
Niue	Niue	Niuean	Niuean [Niueans]
North Korea	Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the	North Korean	North Korean [North Koreans]
North Macedonia	Republic of North Macedonia, the	North Macedonian	North Macedonian [North Macedonians]
Norway	Kingdom of Norway, the	Norwegian	Norwegian [Norwegians]
Oman	Sultanate of Oman, the	Omani	Omani [Omanis]
Pakistan	Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the	Pakistani	Pakistani [Pakistanis]
Palau	Republic of Palau, the	Palauan	Palauan [Palauans]
Palestine (State of)	State of Palestine, the	Palestinian	Palestinian [Palestinians]
Panama	Republic of Panama, the	Panamanian	Panamanian [Panamanians]
Papua New Guinea	Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the	Papua New Guinean	Papua New Guinean [Papua New Guineans]
Paraguay	Republic of Paraguay, the	Paraguayan	Paraguayan [Paraguayans]
Peru	Republic of Peru, the	Peruvian	Peruvian [Peruvians]
Philippines, the	Republic of the Philippines, the	Philippine	Filipino/Filipina [Filipinos]
Poland	Republic of Poland, the	Polish	Pole [Poles]
Portugal	Portuguese Republic, the	Portuguese	Portuguese [Portuguese]
Puerto Rico	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the	Puerto Rican	Puerto Rican [Puerto Ricans]
Qatar	State of Qatar, the	Qatari	Qatari [Qataris]
Romania	Romania	Romanian	Romanian [Romanians]
Russia	Russian Federation, the	Russian	Russian [Russians]
Rwanda	Republic of Rwanda, the	Rwandan	Rwandan [Rwandans]
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis national[s]
Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia	Saint Lucian	Saint Lucian [Saint Lucians]
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines national[s]
Samoa	Independent State of Samoa, the	Samoan	Samoan [Samoans]
San Marino	Republic of San Marino, the	San Marinese	San Marinese [San Marinese]
Sao Tome and Principe	Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the	Sao Tome and Principe ¹⁸	Sao Tome and Principe national[s]
Saudi Arabia	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the	Saudi Arabian / Saudi	Saudi Arabian / Saudi [Saudi Arabians / Saudis]
Senegal	Republic of Senegal, the	Senegalese	Senegalese [Senegalese]
Serbia	Republic of Serbia, the	Serbian	Serbian [Serbians]
Seychelles, the	Republic of Seychelles, the	Seychelles	Seychellois [Seychellois]
Sierra Leone	Republic of Sierra Leone, the	Sierra Leonean	Sierra Leonean [Sierra Leoneans]
Singapore	Republic of Singapore, the	Singaporean	Singaporean [Singaporeans]
Slovakia	Slovak Republic, the	Slovak	Slovak [Slovaks]
Slovenia	Republic of Slovenia, the	Slovenian	Slovenian [Slovenians]

¹⁸ In relation to Sao Tome and Principe, do not use "Sao Tomean", which refers to "Sao Tome" only.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands	Solomon Islander [Solomon Islanders]
Somalia	Federal Republic of Somalia, the	Somali	Somali [Somalis]
South Africa	Republic of South Africa, the	South African	South African [South Africans]
South Korea	Republic of Korea, the	South Korean	South Korean [South Koreans]
South Sudan	Republic of South Sudan, the	South Sudanese	South Sudanese [South Sudanese]
Spain	Kingdom of Spain, the	Spanish	Spaniard [Spaniards] Collective: the Spanish
Sri Lanka	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the	Sri Lankan	Sri Lankan [Sri Lankans]
Sudan	Republic of the Sudan, the	Sudanese	Sudanese [Sudanese]
Suriname	Republic of Suriname, the	Surinamese	Surinamese [Surinamese]
Sweden	Kingdom of Sweden, the	Swedish	Swede [Swedes]
Switzerland	Swiss Confederation, the	Swiss	Swiss [Swiss]
Syria	Syrian Arab Republic, the	Syrian	Syrian [Syrians]
Taiwan	Taiwan	Taiwanese	Taiwanese [Taiwanese]
Tajikistan	Republic of Tajikistan, the	Tajikistani ¹⁹	Tajikistani [Tajikistanis]
Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania, the	Tanzanian	Tanzanian [Tanzanians]
Thailand	Kingdom of Thailand, the	Thai	Thai [Thais]
Timor-Leste	Democratic Republic of Timor- Leste, the	Timorese	Timorese [Timorese]
Togo	Togolese Republic, the	Togolese	Togolese [Togolese]
Tonga	Kingdom of Tonga, the	Tongan	Tongan [Tongans]
Trinidad and Tobago	Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the	Trinidad and Tobago ²⁰	Trinidad and Tobago national[s]
Tunisia	Republic of Tunisia, the	Tunisian	Tunisian [Tunisians]
Türkiye	Republic of Türkiye, the	Turkish	Turk [Turks]
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan	Turkmenistani ²¹	Turkmenistani [Turkmenistanis]
Tuvalu	Tuvalu	Tuvaluan	Tuvaluan [Tuvaluans]
Uganda	Republic of Uganda	Ugandan	Ugandan [Ugandans]
Ukraine	Ukraine	Ukrainian	Ukrainian [Ukrainians]
United Arab Emirates, the	United Arab Emirates, the	Emirati / United Arab Emirates	Emirati [Emiratis]
United Kingdom, the	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the	British / United Kingdom	United Kingdom national[s]
United States of America, the	United States of America, the	US ²²	United States national[s]
Uruguay	Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the	Uruguayan	Uruguayan [Uruguayans]
Uzbekistan	Republic of Uzbekistan, the	Uzbekistani ²³	Uzbekistani [Uzbekistanis]
Vanuatu	Republic of Vanuatu, the	Vanuatuan	Vanuatuan [Vanuatuan]

¹⁹ In relation to Tajikistan, do not use “Tajik”, which refers to the ethnic group.

²⁰ In relation to Trinidad and Tobago, do not use “Trinidadian” or “Tobagan”, which refer to the component parts of “Trinidad” and “Tobago” respectively.

²¹ In relation to Turkmenistan, do not use “Turkmen”, which refers to the ethnic group.

²² In relation to the USA, do not use “American”, which refers to the continent.

²³ In relation to Uzbekistan, do not use “Uzbek”, which refers to the ethnic group.

SHORT NAME	FULL TITLE	NATIONALITY	NATIONAL [NATIONALS]
Vatican City ²⁴	Vatican City State	Vatican	Vatican national[s]
Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the	Venezuelan	Venezuelan [Venezuelans]
Viet Nam	Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the	Vietnamese	Vietnamese [Vietnamese]
Yemen	Republic of Yemen, the	Yemeni	Yemeni [Yemenis]
Zambia	Republic of Zambia, the	Zambian	Zambian [Zambians]
Zimbabwe	Republic of Zimbabwe, the	Zimbabwean	Zimbabwean [Zimbabweans]

BACKGROUND EXPLANATION

The short names in the table above generally correspond to the short-form names in the UN's list of member states (<http://www.un.org/en/member-states>). This approach has historically been an efficient means of ensuring consistency at a global level in accordance with the principles of independence and impartiality. It has therefore provided a robust tool to respond to challenges to our use of one name over another in highly politicized contexts.

However, there are some exceptions for the reasons provided below:

UN SHORT-FORM NAME	SHORT NAME USED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Bolivia
Czechia	Czech Republic, the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	North Korea
Gambia (Republic of The)	Gambia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Iran
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Laos
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Micronesia
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Netherlands, the
New Zealand	Aotearoa New Zealand
Republic of Korea	South Korea
Republic of Moldova	Moldova
Russian Federation	Russia
Syrian Arab Republic	Syria
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	United Kingdom, the
United Republic of Tanzania	Tanzania
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	Venezuela

ALTERNATIVE STATE NOMENCLATURE

Amnesty International has the following criteria and process for adopting alternative state names.²⁵

It may adopt alternative or additional naming when the following criteria are met:

- The alternative or additional name reflects the identity, language or self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially Article 13 (language and naming rights); and historical, cultural and territorial claims grounded in long-standing Indigenous Peoples' presence.
- There is a clearly expressed, rights-based preference by a group of people to use a specific name for their territory or state – particularly if continued use of the UN name would legitimize a regime

²⁴ Vatican City is the name of the state. The Holy See (often referred to as the Vatican) is the entity that has sovereignty over it and conducts diplomatic relations on its behalf with other states, including at the UN; it is also the governing body of the worldwide Catholic Church.

²⁵ The criteria and process were agreed by the International Board in December 2025. [Add AIDAN reference when available.]

violating the right to self-determination or human rights and the name is part of a broader denial of identity, culture or history.

- Risks to the perception that Amnesty International is not independent or impartial can be mitigated.

Any request for alternative state nomenclature must follow this process:

- Where possible, affected communities, human rights defenders or other stakeholders should be consulted.
- Assessment is conducted of the implications of the name change, including of how Amnesty International would be perceived by civil society and national institutions, as well as other stakeholders.
- The International Secretariat, at the request of sections and/or IS regions and programmes, will make an initial assessment of the criteria and present a recommendation to the International Board. The International Board will make the final decision.

Amnesty International has applied the criteria and process to “New Zealand” and therefore uses the name “Aotearoa New Zealand”.²⁶

CZECH REPUBLIC

Amnesty International continues to use “Czech Republic” as the short name of this country. Although the country’s name on the list of UN member states was updated from “Czech Republic” to “Czechia” in 2022 following a decision by the Czech authorities to change the name in 2016, the new short-form name has not been consistently adopted even by the Czech authorities. The full title remains the “Czech Republic”.

INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SHORTHAND VERSIONS

Amnesty International uses an internationally accepted shorthand for the names of some UN member states that choose to use their full title as their short-form name. UN bodies sometimes use them when not providing the name in full. International media invariably use them. They are “Bolivia”, “Gambia”, “Iran”, “Laos”, “Micronesia”, “Moldova”, “the Netherlands”, “North Korea”, “Russia”, “South Korea”, “Syria”, “Tanzania”, “United Kingdom” and “Venezuela”.

4.1.2 NAMES FOR PLACES OTHER THAN COUNTRIES

PLACE NAMES IN SAME SCRIPT

When in doubt regarding the spelling of place names in the same script as the language of the text, search for the name in the GeoNames database (<https://www.geonames.org>) and use the preferred spelling.²⁷ This is identifiable by clicking on “Alternate names”, locating the desired language and choosing the first spelling (if there is more than one).

France: Marseille

- ✓ Marseille
- ✗ Marseilles

Include diacritics (marks such as accents placed over, under or through a letter) when these appear in the preferred spelling. Do NOT include them when they do not appear in the preferred spelling.

China: Ürümqi

- ✓ Ürümqi
- ✗ Urumqi
- ✗ Ouroumtchi

²⁶ The International Board approved this change in December 2025. [Add AIDAN reference when available.]

²⁷ (Tip) If no results show initially, click “advanced search” and tick “fuzzy search”.

Switzerland: Zurich

- ✓ Zurich
- ✗ Zürich

PLACE NAMES IN TRANSLITERATION

If the place name is transliterated from another script, search for the name in the GeoNames database (<https://www.geonames.org>) and use the preferred spelling. This is identifiable by clicking on “Alternate names”, locating the desired language and choosing the first spelling (if there is more than one). Alternatively use consistently an authoritative source for the spelling of place names and provide this source for inclusion in a future version of this operational policy.

Armenia: Tsaghkadzor

- ✓ Tsaghkadzor
- ✗ Tsakhkadzor

Iran: Vakilabad

- ✓ Vakilabad
- ✗ Vakil Abad

Israel: Acre

- ✓ Acre
- ✗ Akka
- ✗ Akko

Russia: Saint Petersburg

- ✓ Saint Petersburg
- ✗ Sankt-Peterburg

Saudi Arabia: Mecca

- ✓ Mecca
- ✗ Makkah

United Arab Emirates: Abu Dhabi

- ✓ Abu Dhabi
- ✗ Abū Z̧abī

For Arabic place names that the GeoNames database spells with “Al” or variants, use “Al-” (with capital “A” and hyphen) invariably.

Yemen: Al-Hudaydah

- ✓ Al-Hudaydah
- ✗ Al Hudaydah
- ✗ Hodeida

4.1.3 INDICATIONS OF TYPE OF PLACE

On first reference to a place name, indicate the type of place referred to, using terms such as, in English, “capital”, “city”, “town” and “village” for localities and terms such as, in English, “municipality”, “district”, “county”, “state”, “province” and “governorate” for administrative divisions within the country and terms such as, in English, “neighbourhood” and “region” for looser descriptions of areas. The type of place referred to will not be obvious to many readers. In addition, some localities have the same name as the administrative divisions in which they sit and so a distinction needs to be drawn.

When preparing documents for translation, include comments on the type of place if these are not included in the text, as some languages use different prepositions for different types of places.

4.2 PEOPLE’S NAMES

4.2.1 PEOPLE’S NAMES IN GENERAL

Generally, give a person’s full name on first reference. After that, you may abbreviate the name in a culturally appropriate way. However, use the same abbreviation throughout the document. If in doubt, use first name and surname throughout.

When using pseudonyms, consistently place them in italics (or equivalent). Clarify at first mention that the name is a pseudonym.²⁸

✓ *Randa* (not her real name)

4.2.2 PEOPLE’S NAMES IN TRANSLITERATION

If the name is transliterated from another script, follow the guidance below. Above all, maintain consistency of spelling in the same document.

PERSONAL PREFERENCE

Follow the personal preference of the person for the spelling of their name wherever possible. Ideally check with them directly. If that is not possible, check their website or social media account or the website of an institution they represent.

Mohamed ElBaradei: <https://x.com/BaradeiOfficial>

✓ Mohamed ElBaradei

✗ Mohammad al-Barad’i

HISTORICAL FIGURES

In English, follow the spelling at Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com>). In other languages, use another authoritative source.

Muhammad (the prophet)

✓ Prophet Muhammad

✗ Prophet Mohammed

²⁸ (Change) In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, use italics (or equivalent) rather than double quotation marks (or equivalent). This is to facilitate formulations such as the use of the possessive in English (for example, *Randa’s*).

4.3 ENTITIES' NAMES

4.3.1 ENTITIES' NAMES IN GENERAL

Spell the names of entities, such as organizations, as they do themselves. Check their website if in doubt.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: <https://www.opcw.org>

- ✓ Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- ✗ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

4.3.2 ENTITIES' NAMES IN TRANSLATION

For entities whose original name is in another language, use the translation into the language of the document if this is commonly used. In general, there is no need to also provide the name in the original language. You may wish to do so in brackets (or equivalent) on first mention if the name in the original language is also commonly used in texts written in the language of the document (to help identify the entity in question), but then repeat the commonly used translation on subsequent mentions. Provide in brackets (or equivalent) the name of the entity in the original language on first mention if an abbreviation (such as an acronym or initialism) derived from the name in the original language is commonly used in texts written in the language of the document and will be used on subsequent mentions. In this case, place the abbreviation after a comma (or equivalent) within the same brackets (or equivalent).

For entities such as political groups that have alternative translations in common usage, use the preferred translation in the UN Terminology Database (<https://unterm.un.org>).

National Rally (France)

- ✓ France's National Rally (Rassemblement national) party
- ✗ France's Rassemblement national (National Rally) party

Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (China): <https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/view/7f5465e9-694e-4201-9f4f-d36b39be442f>

- ✓ Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement
- ✗ East Turkestan Islamic Movement

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (Colombia):

<https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/view/06a07261-d893-450e-8f83-fc03fb9d2166>

- ✓ Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo, FARC-EP)

Islamic State

Use “the Islamic State armed group” (or its equivalent in another language) on first mention and “Islamic State” (without “the”) (or its equivalent in another language) on subsequent mentions.

- ✓ The Islamic State armed group committed war crimes...
- ✓ Islamic State retreated
- ✗ Daesh

4.3.3 ENTITIES' NAMES IN ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

If the entity is known in the language of the document by the original-language version of its name rather than a translation, use that. Use the transliteration that the entity itself prefers, as expressed on its official website or social media account. Add a translation or other description in round brackets (or equivalent) after the name if required for the audience.

Al Jazeera: <https://network.aljazeera.net/en>

- ✓ Al Jazeera
- ✗ al-Jazeera

Asharq Al-Awsat: <https://english.aawsat.com>

- ✓ Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper
- ✗ al-Sharq al-Awsat newspaper

Hezbpllah: <https://english.almanar.com.lb>

- ✓ Hezbollah²⁹
- ✗ Hizbullah

Taliban: https://x.com/taliban_times

- ✓ Taliban
- ✗ Taleban

²⁹ (Change) In a change from the 2023 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not use “Hizbullah”. The spelling “Hezbollah” is the preferred translation of the group, as expressed on the website of its mouthpiece, Al Manar TV.

For entities such as political groups that have alternative transliterations in common usage, use the preferred spelling on the UN Terminology Database (<https://unterm.un.org>).

Al-Qaida: <https://unterm.un.org/unterm2/en/view/4b09e88f-f0fb-406d-b164-fe285da3b207>

- ✓ Al-Qaida
- ✗ Al-Qaeda
- ✗ al-Qaida
- ✗ al-Qa'ida
- ✗ Al-Qa'idah

5. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

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This chapter provides a list of international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law instruments, as well as selected regional human rights instruments. The list is not designed to be comprehensive, but to contain the key state-adopted treaties and standards that are cited frequently by Amnesty International. Standards adopted by groups of experts and civil society are not included. The instruments are clustered by theme. The first is human rights in general; the rest of the themes are in alphabetical order. Within each theme, global instruments are presented first, then regional ones, which are grouped by Amnesty International region. The list clarifies the formal title of each instrument and (where they exist) the abbreviated form of the title, the alternative name of the instrument and the body that monitors its implementation. All titles are provided in English, but titles in other languages can be found at the websites mentioned below.

5.1 EXPLANATORY NOTES ON LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

5.1.1 ORGANIZATIONS AND FORUMS GENERATING LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Preceding each entry is the abbreviation of the intergovernmental organization or forum where the instrument was adopted or generated. These organizations and forums are listed below, with the website containing its official documents provided in brackets after the name.

GLOBAL

UN	UN (https://digitallibrary.un.org)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross (https://ihl-databases.icrc.org)
ILO	International Labour Organization (https://www.ilo.org)
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance Initiative (https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/mla-initiative)
WA	Wassenaar Arrangement (https://www.wassenaar.org)

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

AU	African Union (https://au.int)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States (https://www.ecowas.int)
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (https://www.icglr.org)
LAS	League of Arab States (http://www.leagueofarabstates.net)
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community (https://www.sadc.int)
GLRHA	Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa Conference on the Proliferation of Small Arms

AMERICAS

OAS	Organization of American States (https://www.oas.org)
AC	Andean Community (http://www.comunidadandina.org)
SICA	Central American Integration System (https://www.sica.int)
CAR	First Central American Forum on the Proliferation of Light Weapons

ASIA-PACIFIC

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (https://www.apec.org)
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EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

CoE	Council of Europe (https://www.coe.int)
EU	European Union (https://eur-lex.europa.eu)
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (https://www.osce.org)

5.1.2 TITLES OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The titles of the legal instruments are drawn from the official document libraries of the organizations or forums concerned. The formulation of the title in these libraries determines whether the name of the organization (for example, “UN”) is included in the title below.

In English, Amnesty International capitalizes the titles of legal instruments, like other documents, in title case, regardless of the capitalization in the document libraries. In any case, capitalization varies significantly even in documents produced by the organizations or forums generating the instruments.

See “[8. Capital letters in English](#)” for full details and more examples.

The list clarifies the formal title of each instrument, the abbreviated form of the title (where one exists), the alternative name of the instrument (where one exists) and the body that monitors its implementation (where one exists). These are signposted as follows:

<i>Abbreviation</i>	The commonly used abbreviation of the name of an instrument
<i>Also known as</i>	The alternative name of an instrument
<i>Monitoring body</i>	The body monitoring the implementation of a treaty

The list includes both treaties and standards. Treaties (also called charters, conventions, covenants and protocols) are legally binding on states that have ratified them. Standards (such as codes, declarations, guidelines, norms, rules, principles and safeguards) are not legally binding, but maximum compliance is expected from states. Treaties come before standards in each section below. Treaties and standards are distinguished as follows:

- ◆ A treaty
- A standard

5.2 HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Charter of the UN
Abbreviation: UN Charter
- UN ◆ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
Monitoring body: Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- UN ◆ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
Monitoring body: Human Rights Committee (HRC)
- UN ◆ First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- UN ○ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- UN ○ UN Millennium Declaration
- UN³⁰ ○ Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
Abbreviation: African Charter
Monitoring body: African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)
- AU ◆ Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- AU ◆ Constitutive Act of the African Union
- LAS ◆ Arab Charter on Human Rights

³⁰ World Conference on Human Rights. 1993.

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR)
Also known as: Pact of San José, Costa Rica
Monitoring body: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
- OAS ◆ American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
- OAS ◆ Charter of the Organization of American States

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
Abbreviation: European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- CoE ◆ European Social Charter
- CoE ◆ Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints
- CoE ◆ Protocol Amending the European Social Charter
- EU ◆ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
Abbreviation: EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

5.3 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT**GLOBAL**

- UN ○ Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary
- UN ○ Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors
- UN ○ Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers
- UN ○ Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials
- UN ○ Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials
- UN ○ Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment
- UN ○ Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners
- UN ○ UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
Also known as: Nelson Mandela Rules
- UN ○ UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures
Also known as: Tokyo Rules
- UN ○ UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders
Also known as: Bangkok Rules
- UN ○ UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency
Also known as: Riyadh Guidelines
- UN ○ UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty
- UN ○ UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice
Also known as: Beijing Rules
- UN ○ Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ○ Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa
Also known as: Luanda Guidelines
- AU ○ Guidelines for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa
- AU ○ Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Fair Trial and Legal Assistance in Africa
- AU ○ Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa

5.4 BUSINESS, CORPORATIONS, INSTITUTIONS

GLOBAL

- UN ○ Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework
Abbreviation: Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- UN ○ Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions
Also known as: Paris Principles

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention Against Corruption
- OAS ○ Inter-American Democratic Charter

5.5 CHILDREN

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
Monitoring body: Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure
- UN ◆ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
- UN ◆ Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- ILO ◆ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (ILO Convention 182)
- UN ○ Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups
Also known as: Paris Principles
- UN ○ Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Monitoring body: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on International Traffic of Minors

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights

5.6 CONSULAR RELATIONS

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Vienna Convention on Consular Relations

5.7 CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Convention on the Non-applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity
- UN ◆ Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- UN ◆ International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
- UN ◆ International Criminal Court, Elements of Crimes
- UN ◆ International Criminal Court, Rules of Procedure and Evidence
- UN ◆ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- UN ◆ Ljubljana-The Hague Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes

Abbreviation: Ljubljana-The Hague Convention³¹

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- ICGLR ○ Protocol for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitation to Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes

5.8 DEATH PENALTY

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty
- UN ○ Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ Protocol 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty
- CoE ◆ Protocol 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty in All Circumstances

³¹ **(Change)** In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, do not use Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty as the official abbreviation.

5.9 DISABILITIES

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
Monitoring body: Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UN ○ Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
- UN ○ Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and the Improvement of Mental Health Care

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities

5.10 DISCRIMINATION, RACISM, MINORITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
Monitoring body: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- UN ◆ Convention Against Discrimination in Education
- UN ○ Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief
- UN ○ Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice
- UN³² ○ Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
Abbreviation: Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- UN ○ Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
- UN ○ Rabat Plan of Action on the Prohibition of Advocacy of National, Racial or Religious Hatred that Constitutes Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility or Violence
- UN ○ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- ILO ◆ Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO Convention 169)³³

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- CoE ◆ Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- CoE ◆ Protocol 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms³⁴

³² World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, South Africa, 31 August-7 September 2001.

³³ This convention replaces ILO Convention 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations, which the ILO now considers to be outdated due to its assimilationist approach. However, for those countries which are parties to ILO Convention 107 and not ILO Convention 169 (for example Bangladesh), the ILO continues to monitor it, interpreting it in the light of more recent developments in international human rights law.

³⁴ This protocol concerns the general prohibition of discrimination.

5.11 ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
Monitoring body: Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- UN ◆ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UN ◆ Paris Agreement (under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- UN ○ UN Declaration on the Right to Development
- UN ○ Declaration on Social Progress and Development

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ○ Principles and Guidelines on the Interpretation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Also known as: Protocol of San Salvador
- UN ◆ Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean
Also known as: Escazú Agreement

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Social Charter
Monitoring body: European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)
- CoE ◆ Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints

5.12 EMPLOYMENT, FORCED LABOUR

GLOBAL

- International Labour Organization conventions, including:
- ILO ◆ Forced Labour Convention (ILO Convention 29)
 - ILO ◆ Labour Inspection Convention (ILO Convention 81)
 - ILO ◆ Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention (ILO Convention 87)
 - ILO ◆ Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (ILO Convention 97)
 - ILO ◆ Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining (ILO Convention 98)
 - ILO ◆ Equal Remuneration Convention (ILO Convention 100)
 - ILO ◆ Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (ILO Convention 105)
 - ILO ◆ Indigenous and Tribal Populations (ILO Convention 107)
 - ILO ◆ Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (ILO Convention 111)
 - ILO ◆ Employment Policy Convention (ILO Convention 122)
 - ILO ◆ Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention (ILO Convention 129)
 - ILO ◆ Minimum Age Convention (ILO Convention 138)
 - ILO ◆ Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (ILO Convention 143)
 - ILO ◆ Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO Convention 169)
 - ILO ◆ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (ILO Convention 182)
 - ILO ◆ Domestic Workers Convention (ILO Convention 189)
 - ILO ◆ Violence and Harassment Convention (ILO Convention 190)
 - ILO ◆ ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

5.13 EXTRADITION

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Model Treaty on Extradition

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on Extradition

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention on Extradition

5.14 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

GLOBAL

- UN ○ Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
Abbreviation: Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

5.15 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

GLOBAL

- ICRC ◆ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
Also known as: First Geneva Convention
- ICRC ◆ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
Also known as: Second Geneva Convention
- ICRC ◆ Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
Also known as: Third Geneva Convention
- ICRC ◆ Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
Also known as: Fourth Geneva Convention
- ICRC ◆ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
Also known as: Protocol I
- ICRC ◆ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
Also known as: Protocol II
- ICRC ◆ Hague Convention (II) with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land and Its Annexed Regulations Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land
Abbreviation: Hague Convention II
- ICRC ◆ Hague Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and Its Annexed Regulations Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land
Abbreviation: Hague Convention IV

5.16 OLDER PERSONS

GLOBAL

- UN ○ UN Principles for Older Persons

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa
Abbreviation: African Protocol on Older Persons

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

5.17 REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, DISPLACEMENT, NATIONALITY, STATELESSNESS**GLOBAL**

- UN ◆ Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
Also known as: UN Refugee Convention
- UN ◆ Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
- UN ◆ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
Abbreviation: Migrant Workers Convention
Monitoring body: Committee on Migrant Workers
- UN ◆ Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime
- UN ◆ Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- UN ◆ Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- UN ○ Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who Are Not Nationals of the Country in Which They Live
- UN ○ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- ILO ◆ Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (ILO Convention 143)

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ OAU³⁵ Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- AU ◆ African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa
Also known as: Kampala Convention
- ICGLR ○ Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons
- ICGLR ○ Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers
- CoE ◆ European Convention on Nationality

5.18 REMEDY, REPARATION AND IMPUNITY**GLOBAL**

- UN ○ Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
- UN ○ Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

³⁵ The Organisation of African Unity, the AU's predecessor.

- UN ○ Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Through Action to Combat Impunity

5.19 TERRORISM

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ○ Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights While Countering Terrorism in Africa

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism
 CoE ◆ Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism
 CoE ○ Guidelines on Human Rights and the Fight Against Terrorism

5.20 TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Abbreviation: Convention Against Torture (CAT)
Monitoring body: Committee Against Torture (CAT)
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)
Abbreviation: Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
- UN ◆ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED)
Monitoring body: Committee on Enforced Disappearances
- UN ○ Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- UN ○ Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- UN ○ Principles of Medical Ethics Relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, Particularly Physicians, in the Protection of Prisoners and Detainees Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- UN ○ Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- UN ○ Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ○ Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa
Also known as: Robben Island Guidelines

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons
 OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

5.21 TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, SLAVERY**GLOBAL**

- UN ◆ UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
Also known as: Palermo Convention
- UN ◆ Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
Also known as: Smuggling Protocol
- UN ◆ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
Also known as: Trafficking Protocol
- UN ◆ Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- UN ◆ Slavery Convention
- UN ◆ Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
- UN³⁶ ○ Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings

5.22 WEAPONS, MILITARY**GLOBAL**

- UN ◆ Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
- UN ◆ Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
- UN ◆ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
- UN ◆ Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition
Also known as: Firearms Protocol
- UN ◆ Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
- UN ○ International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons
- UN ○ Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
- WA ○ Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- WA ○ Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies

³⁶ Specifically, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- ECOWAS ◆ ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials
- SADC ◆ Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Southern African Development Community Region
- AU ○ Declaration on an African Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- GLRHA ○ Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Weapons, Munitions, Explosives and Related Materials
- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions
- OAS ○ Model Regulations for the Control of Brokers of Firearms, Their Parts, Components and Ammunition
- AC ○ Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
- CAR ○ Antigua Declaration on the Proliferation of Light Weapons in the Central American Region

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- EU ○ European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports
- EU ○ Council Common Position on the Control of Arms Brokering
- OSCE ○ Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons
- OSCE ○ Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers
- OSCE ○ Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons

5.23 WOMEN

GLOBAL

- UN ◆ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
Monitoring body: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- UN ◆ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- UN ◆ Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- UN ◆ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
- UN³⁷ ○ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- UN³⁸ ○ Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
Also known as: Beijing +5 outcome document
- UN ○ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- UN ○ Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

AFRICA / MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- AU ◆ Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
Also known as: Maputo Protocol
- ICGLR ○ Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

³⁷ Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

³⁸ Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", 2000.

AMERICAS

- OAS ◆ Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women
Also known as: Convention of Belém do Pará

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- CoE ◆ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Also known as: Istanbul Convention

PART B

HOUSE STYLE FOR
ENGLISH ONLY



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This chapter provides the essentials of Amnesty International’s house style as applicable to the use of English only. It contains rules and guidance on spelling, including the use of capital letters and italics; punctuation, such as the use of apostrophes, brackets, bullet points, commas, dashes, ellipses, hyphens, quotation marks; and certain other aspects of grammar, such as the use of collective nouns, numerals, pronouns, relative pronouns, quotations and units of measurement. These rules and guidance naturally differ from one language to another and are therefore not universal. The chapter is designed to answer key questions and signpost further details found in subsequent chapters.

6.1 ACRONYMS AND INITIALS

For the purpose of this section, acronyms are abbreviations formed from the first letters of a name and pronounced as a single word (for example, “NATO”), while initialisms are abbreviations formed from the first letters of a name with each letter pronounced separately (for example, “BBC”).

6.1.1 INITIALS FOR PEOPLE’S NAMES

Use initials for people’s names only when they are commonly referred to in this way. Place a full stop and a character space after each initial.

✓ W. E. B. Du Bois

6.1.2 ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS FOR ENTITIES’ NAMES

For the following entities, it is possible, even on first mention, to use acronyms or initialisms without giving the name in full.³⁹

✓ UN

You may use acronyms or initialisms to replace the names of entities that are repeated *frequently* in the same document. However, on first mention, give the name in full, followed by the acronym or initialism in brackets.

- ✓ Associated Press (AP)
- ✓ Central African Republic (CAR)
- ✓ Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ✓ International Labour Organization (ILO)
- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ✓ Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)
- ✓ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- ✓ Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- ✓ United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- ✓ United Kingdom (UK)

³⁹ **(Change)** In a change from the 2025 and previous editions of the house style policy, give the full names of “BBC”, “NATO”, “UK”, “US” and “USA” on first mention, just as Amnesty International does for the abbreviations of other countries, regional intergovernmental organizations and broadcasters. This is to avoid implying that Amnesty International is UK- or US-centric.

- ✓ United States (US) [adjective, for example, United States (US) government]
- ✓ United States of America (USA)
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO)

If an entity's name appears only once, there is no need to give its acronym or initialism in brackets, unless the abbreviation is better known than the full name.

- ✓ Agence France-Press (AFP)
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- ✓ British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- ✓ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- ✓ Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- ✓ UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Note that the full name of some entities is no longer what is implied by the corresponding acronym or initialism. Use the full name that the entity uses for itself.

- ✓ UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- ✗ UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- ✓ UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- ✗ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Some entities only refer to themselves by an acronym or initialism, having dropped the original full name. Use the acronym or initialism even on first mention, but provide a brief description on first mention as necessary in the context.

- ✓ CNN, a US broadcaster,
- ✗ Cable News Network (CNN)

Use acronyms *without* the definite article ("the").

- ✓ the human rights situation in CAR...
- ✗ the human rights situation in the CAR...
- ✓ NATO announced...
- ✗ the NATO announced...
- ✓ UNICEF announced...
- ✗ the UNICEF announced...

Use initialisms *with* the definite article ("the") when the full name is used with a definite article, and *without* the definite article ("the") when the full name is used without a definite article.

- ✓ the BBC broadcast a programme [the British Broadcasting Corporation broadcast a programme]
- ✓ the CIA led an investigation [the Central Intelligence Agency led an investigation]
- ✓ the DRC is rich in natural resources [the Democratic Republic of the Congo is rich in natural resources]
- ✓ the OHCHR issued a report [the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report]
- ✓ the UNHCR made a statement [the UN Refugee Agency made a statement]
- ✓ the WHO is responsible for global public health [the World Health Organization is responsible for global public health]

BUT

- ✓ AFP is an international news agency [Agence France-Presse is an international news agency]
- ✓ CNN is a US broadcaster [CNN is a US broadcaster]

6.1.3 OTHER ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS

You may use acronyms or initialisms for other terms without giving the name in full, even on first mention, if they appear as entries marked “noun” NOT “abbreviation” in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>).

- ✓ AIDS
- ✓ Covid-19
- ✓ DNA
- ✓ HIV
- ✓ NGO
- ✓ PDF
- ✓ SARS

Other commonly used acronyms or initialisms appear in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), but are marked “abbreviation”, or do not appear there at all. You may still use these to replace the names of terms that are repeated *frequently* in the same document. However, on first mention, give the name in full, followed by the acronym or initialism in brackets.

- ✓ artificial intelligence (AI)
- ✓ Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

See also “[2.1 Abbreviations](#)”.

6.2 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

6.2.1 GENERAL USE OF ‘AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL’

In general, use “Amnesty International” in full.

In less formal contexts, use “Amnesty International” in full on first reference and “Amnesty” on subsequent mentions.

Do NOT use “AI” to refer to Amnesty International. It is used as the abbreviation of “artificial intelligence”.

- ✓ Amnesty International
- ✗ AI sections

6.2.2 NATIONAL ENTITIES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Use “Amnesty International [country name]” for the names of Amnesty International national entities (sections, structures and national offices).

- ✓ Amnesty International Tunisia
- ✗ the Tunisian Section
- ✓ Amnesty International Indonesia
- ✗ the Indonesian National Office

6.3 APOSTROPHES

6.3.1 PLURALS AND APOSTROPHES

Do NOT use an apostrophe before an “s” to indicate a plural.

- ✓ the 1930s
- ✗ the 1930’s
- ✓ NGOs
- ✗ NGO’s

6.3.2 POSSESSIVE AND APOSTROPHES

Use an apostrophe to indicate the possessive. Add an “s” after the apostrophe in singular words, including those ending in “s”, “x” or “z”.

- ✓ Congress’s response
- ✓ Cox’s car

6.3.3 TIME PERIODS WITH APOSTROPHES

Use an apostrophe in phrases in which a time period (for example, “12 years”) qualifies a noun (for example, “imprisonment”).

- ✓ 12 years’ imprisonment
- ✓ two days’ time
- ✓ six weeks’ holiday

Do NOT use an apostrophe in phrases in which a time period qualifies an adjective (for example, “old” or “pregnant”).

- ✓ nine months pregnant
- ✓ three weeks old

6.3.4 STYLE OF APOSTROPHES

Apostrophes should be typographic (curved) (’) not straight (').

6.4 BRACKETS

6.4.1 ROUND BRACKETS

Round brackets (or parentheses) are used to enclose supplementary information, variants, digressions and explanations. They are also used to give or expand abbreviations.

If the text within brackets is a complete sentence, begin it with a capital letter and end it in a full stop.

- ✓ Executions increased by 12% in 2020. (In 2019, they had increased by 7%.)

Where the text within brackets is not a full sentence, place any punctuation following it outside the closing bracket.

- ✓ Executions increased by 12% in 2020 (compared with 7% in 2019).

Also use pairs of round brackets around the subdivisions of articles (or similar divisions) of legal instruments. Do NOT insert a character space on either side of the brackets.

- ✓ Article 5(2)(ii)
- ✓ Rule 92(3)(b)

6.4.2 SQUARE BRACKETS

Use square brackets inside a quotation to indicate text that was not in the original quotation and has been added by Amnesty International, such as a comment, clarification or translation.

- ✓ “We [mainly] use square brackets to add text within a quote to clarify the meaning”

See also “[6.21.3 Square brackets in quotations](#)”.

In the rare event that you need to include parentheses within parentheses, use square brackets around the inner parenthetical comment.

- ✓ All five political parties that participated gained votes. (Podemos [We Can] boycotted the elections.)

6.5 BULLET POINTS

6.5.1 INTRODUCING LISTS OF BULLET POINTS

Introduce a list of bullet points with a colon.

6.5.2 CONSISTENCY IN PUNCTUATION FOR BULLET POINTS

Use consistent grammatical forms and punctuation in bullet points.

Consistently begin each bullet point with either a noun or a verb (using the same tense and form within the list). Consistently end each bullet point with either no punctuation, a semicolon (except for the last one) or a full stop.

- ✓ Amnesty International made the following calls on the UN Security Council:
- to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court;
 - to impose a comprehensive arms embargo and establish a mechanism to monitor and enforce it;
 - to impose targeted financial sanctions against senior officials responsible for serious violations and crimes.
- ✗ Amnesty International made the following calls on the UN Security Council:
- to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court.
 - imposition of a comprehensive arms embargo and establishment of a mechanism to monitor and enforce it
 - it should impose targeted financial sanctions against senior officials responsible for serious violations and crimes;

6.5.3 LIST OF TERMS IN BULLET POINTS

If the bullet points separate out a list of terms, begin each one with a lower-case letter and do NOT use punctuation at the end.

- ✓ The committee planned to discuss:
- political relations
 - military expenditure
 - economic forecasts

6.5.4 LIST OF PHRASES IN BULLET POINTS

If the bullet points separate out a list of phrases, begin each one with a lower-case letter and end them with a semicolon, except for the last one, which should end with a full stop.

- ✓ Amnesty International calls on the UN Security Council to:
- refer the situation to the International Criminal Court;
 - impose a comprehensive arms embargo and establish a mechanism to monitor and enforce it;
 - impose targeted financial sanctions against senior officials responsible for serious violations and crimes.

6.5.5 LIST OF COMPLETE SENTENCES IN BULLET POINTS

If the bullet points separate out a list of items that each contain one or more complete sentences, begin each one with a capital letter and end them with a full stop.

- ✓ Amnesty International calls on the armed groups to undertake the following actions:
- Immediately end all international humanitarian law violations and human rights abuses. Adhere strictly to the provisions of international humanitarian law.

- End abductions of civilians and immediately release all civilians being detained. Inform families of anyone, civilian or combatant, who continues to be detained by the armed group and allow detainees to correspond with their families.
- End threats of violence and acts of intimidation against civilians.

6.6 CAPITAL LETTERS

See “[8. Capital letters in English](#)” for full details and more examples.

6.6.1 GENERAL USE OF CAPITAL LETTERS

Use capital letters sparingly and keep capitalization consistent within a document.

Do NOT capitalize terms unnecessarily.

- ✓ international human rights law
- ✗ International Human Rights Law

Do NOT capitalize expressions just because their abbreviation is capitalized.

- ✓ artificial intelligence (AI)
- ✗ Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- ✓ human rights defenders (HRDs)
- ✗ Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)

Use sentence case (capitalizing only the first word), as well as quotation marks, for titles of subdivisions of publications, such as chapters of a book or a report, and around the titles of subdivisions of a broadcast or production, such as an episode of a TV, radio or podcast series regardless of the capitalization style in the source.

See “[6.20.4 Titles of publications in quotation marks](#)” for more details.

6.6.2 PEOPLE’S TITLES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

For people, use capital letters for common formal titles when written immediately before a name and without an intervening comma and for unique formal titles. Otherwise, use initial lower-case letters, particularly when the phrase is a generic description.

- ✓ President Vladimir Putin
- BUT**
- ✓ Vladimir Putin, the Russian president,
 - ✓ the Russian president, Vladimir Putin,

6.6.3 ENTITIES’ NAMES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

For entities (such as governments, parliaments, official agencies, courts, judicial bodies, detention centres, medical and educational institutions), use initial capital letters for their official titles. Use initial lower-case letters for abbreviations or paraphrased references to their titles.

- ✓ the National Diet of Japan

BUT

- ✓ Japan's parliament

6.6.4 DOCUMENTS' NAMES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

For documents (such as laws and treaties), use initial capital letters for the official full and abbreviated titles of major publications such as books, reports and briefings and major broadcasts or productions such as television and radio programmes, podcast series, films and plays, as well as court cases. Use lower-case letters for unofficial abbreviations or paraphrased references to their titles.

- ✓ Saudi Arabia's Penal Law for Crimes of Terrorism and Its Financing

BUT

- ✓ Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism law
- ✓ the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment
- ✓ the UN Convention Against Torture [the UN's official abbreviation]

BUT

- ✓ the UN torture convention

6.6.5 CAPITALIZATION STYLE

When capitalizing the names of people, places, entities and documents, use title case. Capitalize the first letter of significant words (nouns and pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions with five or more letters). In general, maintain in lower case certain connecting words with four or fewer letters, such as “the”, “a”, “and”, “or”, “as”, “in”, “on”, “of”, “for”, “to” and “from”.⁴⁰

- ✓ Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- ✗ Law Of The People's Republic Of China On Safeguarding National Security In The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

6.7 COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Follow guidance in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) to decide whether to use singular or plural verbs for collective nouns (such as “data”, “family”, “media”, “team”).

In some cases, the choice between singular and plural verb forms will depend on whether you are referring to the group as a single unit or the group as individuals.

- ✓ Her family **is** based in Nairobi [referring to the family as a unit]
- ✓ All her family **are** coming to visit [referring to the family as individuals]

⁴⁰ (Tip) Use a title capitalization tool, for example, Title Case Converter (<https://titlecaseconverter.com>) and select Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) for the title case.

6.8 COMMAS

6.8.1 FINAL COMMAS AT END OF LISTS

In general, do NOT use a final comma (also known as the serial or Oxford comma) before “and” in lists.

✓ red, white and blue

✗ red, white, and blue

Only use a final comma when it is required for the sake of clarity, for example, where “and” or “or” appears multiple times.

✓ the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Labour and Social Affairs

6.8.2 MARKING EQUIVALENTS USING COMMAS

Use commas around a word or phrase, such as the name or description of a person or entity, when it is the equivalent of something that immediately precedes it and consequently non-essential to the sentence. Do NOT place a word or phrase between commas when it defines or identifies a preceding word or phrase (and is therefore essential to the sentence).

✓ the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi,

Explanation: Only one person is currently in the role. “Narendra Modi” is therefore non-essential and could be removed without changing the meaning of the sentence.

BUT

✓ the former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh

Explanation: Many people have formerly been in the role. “Manmohan Singh” is essential for the meaning of the sentence.

✓ her mother, Rohima Begum, asked...

Explanation: She only has one mother. “Rohima Begum” is therefore non-essential and could be removed without changing the meaning of the sentence.

BUT

✓ her cousin Dipa Begum

Explanation: She has more than one cousin. “Dipa Begum” is essential for the meaning of the sentence.

See “[6.22 Relative pronouns](#)” for details on commas around relative clauses.

6.9 CURRENCY

6.9.1 USE OF NUMERALS IN CURRENCY

Use numerals for currency amounts.

See “6.17 Numbers and numerals” for more details on use of numerals.

6.9.2 FORMATS FOR CURRENCY

Use any of the following three formats for currencies but consider the option most familiar to the audience and be consistent throughout the document.

1. Name of currency (in lower case)

- ✓ 50 British pounds
- ✓ 60 Indian rupees
- ✓ 1 US dollar
- ✓ 100 euros
- ✓ 1,200 Nigerian naira
- ✓ 4,000 Russian roubles
- ✓ 300 Iraqi dinars

2. Currency code (with a character space before the number)

- ✓ GBP 50
- ✓ INR 60
- ✓ USD 1
- ✓ EUR 100
- ✓ NGN 1,200
- ✓ RUB 4,000
- ✓ IQD 300

3. Currency symbol (without a character space before the number)

- ✓ £50
- ✓ ₹60
- ✓ US\$1
- ✓ €100
- ✓ ₦1,200
- ✓ ¥4,000
- ✓ ₭300

6.9.3 EQUIVALENT AMOUNTS IN CURRENCY

Give an equivalent amount in another currency in brackets where helpful for the reader. In general, use US dollars (US\$) or euros (€), depending on the audience.

- ✓ NGN 1,200 (USD 4)
- ✓ RUB 4,000 (EUR 65)
- ✓ 1,200 Nigerian naira (4 US dollars)
- ✓ ₩4,000 (€65)

6.9.4 EXCHANGE RATES FOR CURRENCY

Where needed, such as in situations of high currency rate volatility, add a footnote with the exchange rate and date and source of conversion.

- ✓ [Footnote] Calculation based on an exchange rate of 1 US dollar to 1,1571 Congolese francs on 1 December 2018, XE currency converter.

6.10 DASHES

Use dashes (–), with a character space on either side, NOT hyphens, as a form of punctuation, such as to indicate a break in the natural syntax of a sentence in speech. Use an en-dash (–), not the longer em-dash (—).⁴¹

- ✓ “She walked without stopping – rain was falling all the time – to the shelter.”
- ✗ “She walked without stopping - rain was falling all the time - to the shelter.”
- ✗ “She walked without stopping—rain was falling all the time—to the shelter.”

See also “[6.13 Hyphens](#)”.

6.11 DATES

6.11.1 FORMAT FOR DATES

For dates, use the day-month-year format. For the day, use the numeral only. In general, do NOT include the day of the week.

- ✓ on 2 June 2011
- ✗ on the 2nd of June 2011
- ✗ on 02 June 2011
- ✗ on June 2, 2011

6.11.2 RANGES OF DATES

For date ranges, use a hyphen or “between... and” or “from... to”. Do NOT abbreviate the second year of a range.

- ✓ 1948-1958

⁴¹ (Tip) To insert an en-dash in Word, press Ctrl and minus (-) on the numeric keypad of the keyboard. Or insert it from the Insert>Symbol menu.

✓ between 1948 and 1958

✓ from 1948 to 1958

✗ between 1948-1958

✗ 1948-58

✗ 1952-3

✓ 20-24 July 2011

✓ between 20 and 24 July 2011

✓ from 20 to 24 July 2011

✓ between 20 – 24 July 2011

6.12 GENDER IN PRONOUNS AND VOCABULARY

6.12.1 PRONOUNS AND GENDER INCLUSIVITY

Avoid using pronouns in a gender-biased way when referring to a person or persons whose gender is not known or when referring to people in generic terms (that is when not referring to a specific person or persons). Use a mixture of alternative ways of presenting the information in a gender-inclusive way, depending on the possibilities each text or sentence offers.

Use the plural.

✓ Lawyers need **their** wits about them.

✗ A lawyer needs **his** wits about him.

✓ Each child received **their** own food parcel.

✗ Each child received **his** own food parcel.

✓ If anyone is there, ask **them** to help.

✗ If anyone is there, ask **him** to help.

✓ The villager had to flee **their** home because of the armed group's threats against **them**.

✗ The villager had to flee **his** home because of the armed group's threats against **him**.

Omit the pronoun.

✓ The prisoner serves the first six months but is then released on remand.

✗ The prisoner serves the first six months, but **he** is then released on remand.

Use an article in place of a pronoun.

✓ The accused is entitled to contact **a** lawyer.

X The accused is entitled to contact **his** lawyer.

Replace the pronoun with a noun.

✓ Write to the lawyer, expressing... **The** lawyer may respond saying...

X Write to the lawyer, expressing... **He** may respond saying...

Replace the pronoun with “one”.

✓ A police officer in this city earns more than **he** would do in that city.

X A police officer in this city earns more than **one** in that city.

Use a relative pronoun.

✓ A complainant **who** is not satisfied with the decision can appeal.

X If a complainant is not satisfied with the decision, **he** can appeal.

Take care when using “he or she”, “his or her” and so on, since they are pairings of cis-binary pronouns and therefore exclude individuals who identify as neither male nor female and may be described as non-binary.

6.12.2 SINGULAR ‘THEY’ AND NON-BINARY GENDER

Use “they”, “them”, “their” and “themselves” (rather than “themselves” in this case) as gender-neutral singular pronouns for individuals who identify as neither male nor female and may be described as non-binary.

✓ Jo Pérez placed **themselves** in danger to undertake **their** mission.

6.12.3 VOCABULARY AND GENDER

In general, use gender-inclusive vocabulary.

✓ spokesperson

X spokesman

X spokeswoman

✓ police officer

X policeman

X policewoman

✓ fire fighter

X fireman

✓ fisher

X fisherman

6.12.4 GENDER NEEDED FOR TRANSLATION

When preparing outputs for translation, remember to include as comments the gender of individuals and members of groups to help translators of certain languages who need this information for accurate translations.

6.13 HYPHENS

6.13.1 WORDS AND PHRASES WITH HYPHENS IN HOUSE STYLE DICTIONARY

Follow the usage of hyphens (-) in the *Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) for all words and phrases included there.

✓ North-South relations

Note that the use of a hyphen in compound adjectives may depend on whether they come before or after the noun they qualify

✓ up-to-date information

✓ the information is up to date

✓ a well-known treaty

✓ the treaty is well known

6.13.2 OTHER COMPOUND ADJECTIVES USING HYPHENS

For compound adjectives not included in the *Advanced Oxford Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), use hyphens only where necessary.

Do NOT use a hyphen if the meaning is clear and unambiguous without one.

✓ income tax authorities

✓ trade union activities

Do NOT use hyphens to join adjectives to adverbs ending in “ly”.

✓ a recognizably criminal offence

✗ a recognizably-criminal offence

Use a hyphen (-) or hyphens if not using them would render the meaning unclear or ambiguous.

✓ five-year terms

✗ five year terms [this could mean “five one-year terms”]

✓ the third-highest-ranking official

✗ the third highest-ranking official [this could mean “the third official to have the highest rank”]

6.13.3 SUSPENDED HYPHENS

Use a suspended hyphen when part of a compound expression has been omitted. Remember to follow the suspended hyphen with a character space.

- ✓ low- and middle-income countries [meaning low-income and middle-income countries]
- ✓ long- and short-term policies [meaning long-term and short-term policies]

6.13.4 NUMERICAL RANGES WITH HYPHENS

Also use a hyphen, NOT a dash, for numerical ranges. Do NOT add a character space on either side of the hyphen.

- ✓ pp. 23-24
- ✓ 1968-1972
- ✗ 1968 – 1972

See also “[6.10 Dashes](#)”.

6.14 ITALICS

6.14.1 WORDS FROM OTHER LANGUAGES IN ITALICS

Use italics for words from other languages that have not been absorbed into English and are either italicized or not included in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>). Explain these words on first mention and, in longer documents, include them in a glossary.

- ✓ *diyya* (sharia term for compensation paid to victim's family)

Do NOT use italics for words from other languages that have been absorbed into English, as indicated by their inclusion without italics in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>).

- ✓ ad hoc
- ✓ en masse
- ✓ en route
- ✓ fatwa
- ✓ hijab

6.14.2 TITLES OF PUBLICATIONS IN ITALICS

Use italics for the titles of major publications such as books, reports and briefings and major broadcasts or productions such as television and radio programmes, podcast series, films and plays, as well as court cases. Capitalize the titles in title case.

- ✓ *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*
- ✓ *A Spoiler in the Balkans? Russia and the Final Resolution of the Kosovo Conflict*, a report by the Carnegie Endowment for Global Peace

- ✓ CNN's documentary *Troubled Waters*
- ✓ the 1966 film *The Battle of Algiers*
- ✓ *Prosecutor v. Kanyarukiga*

See also "[6.6 Capital letters](#)" for more details on title case.

Do NOT use italics for the names of newspapers, journals, magazines or other periodicals; news agencies, news portals or other news providers; publishers or broadcasters; websites; television or radio stations; or the original language names of organizations. Use initial capital letters.

- ✓ An article in the New York Times
- ✓ AFP
- ✓ An Al Jazeera investigation
- ✓ Radio Guangzhou

Compare "[6.20.3 Titles of publications in quotation marks](#)".

See "[3. References](#)" for more details.

6.14.3 ITALICS WITHIN ITALICS

Avoid long passages in italics, as these do not work well on the web or in PDF documents.

When including a short passage of text in italics, place any words that would otherwise be in italics in roman (non-italic) type.

- ✓ *CNN's documentary* *Troubled Waters* *was first broadcast in 2019.*

6.15 LATIN EXPRESSIONS

In general, use English rather than Latin expressions.

- ✓ for example
- ✓ for instance
- ✓ such as
- ✗ e.g.

- ✓ that is
- ✓ namely
- ✗ i.e.

- ✓ and others
- ✗ et al.

✓ and so on

✗ etc.

✓ namely

✓ in other words

✗ viz.

✓ in his/her/their absence

✗ in absentia

✓ behind closed doors

✓ in secret

✗ in camera

✓ among other things

✗ inter alia

However, sometimes Latin needs to be used when there is no simple English equivalent, such as “habeas corpus”.

See *A-Z of Terms: Operational Policy on Terminology*

(<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources/SitePages/Introduction-to-A-Z-of-terms.aspx>) for details of how to use this term.

6.16 MEASUREMENTS

6.16.1 METRIC MEASUREMENTS

In general, use metric measurements such as “hectares” (rather than “acres”) and “km” (rather than “miles”).

6.16.2 COMMON UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Use digits and abbreviations for everyday units of weight, length, area, volume and temperature. Do NOT add a character space between the digit and the abbreviation.

✓ 14mm

✓ 12cm

✓ 5m

✓ 10km

✓ 12g

✓ 10kg

- ✓ 2m x 5m
- ✓ 12km²
- ✓ 20m³
- ✓ -30°C

6.16.3 LESS COMMON UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Use words for less common units.

- ✓ 20 tonnes
- ✓ 15 million barrels per day

6.17 NUMBERS AND NUMERALS

6.17.1 USE OF NUMERALS FOR NUMBERS

Use numerals for numbers with decimals, times of day, dates, sums of money, percentages, measurements (for example, lengths, weights, temperatures) and millions (and billions and trillions).

- ✓ 2.5
- ✓ 2pm
- ✓ 1 July
- ✓ US\$6
- ✓ 3%
- ✓ 700m
- ✓ 60kg
- ✓ 200°C
- ✓ 5 million
- ✓ 1.2 billion

BUT

- ✓ half a million

Also use numerals for references to subdivisions of documents and to editions of publications.

- ✓ Article 2
- ✓ paras 3-4
- ✓ 2nd edition

In general, use numerals for numbers “10” and over. Do NOT apply superscript to suffixes of ordinal numbers.⁴²

- ✓ 12 houses
- ✗ twelve houses

- ✓ the 21st century
- ✗ the 21st century
- ✗ the twenty-first century

In general, do NOT use Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv and so on).

6.17.2 USE OF WORDS FOR NUMBERS

Use words for the numbers “one” to “nine” in all other circumstances, including fractions and ages.

- ✓ two and a half years
- ✓ their two children were 12 and six years old respectively
- ✓ a majority of two thirds
- ✓ eighth place

Also, exceptionally use words for numbers “10” (ten) and over at the start of a sentence, unless they denote a year.

- ✓ Forty-six girls and two boys...
- ✓ 2007 saw an increase in certain...

If spelling out the number would be cumbersome, redraft the sentence.

- ✗ 5,239 people were displaced.
- ✗ Five thousand, two hundred and thirty-nine people were displaced.
- ✓ A total of 5,239 people were displaced.

6.17.3 THOUSANDS IN NUMBERS

For “1,000” and over, add a comma before each cluster of three numerals (to separate thousands), except for data in figures.

- ✓ 1,400 boys

6.17.4 PERCENTAGES AND NUMERALS

Use “%” NOT “per cent” or “percent”. Do NOT include a character space between the numeral and the symbol.

⁴² (Tip) In “Language Preferences” / “Proofing” / “AutoCorrect Options” / “AutoFormat”, turn off “Replace Ordinals (1st) with superscript”.

- ✓ 20%
- ✗ 20 per cent
- ✗ 20 percent

6.17.5 DECIMAL FRACTIONS IN NUMERALS

As mentioned above, use numerals for numbers with decimals.

In decimal fractions expressing a number that is less than one, include a zero, if necessary, before the decimal point.

- ✓ 0.6%

Add a trailing zero after the last digit of numbers with decimals where needed to indicate the level of accuracy. Ensure all numbers in a table or series contain the same number of decimal places.

- ✓ 61.4% of men and 58.0% of women

6.18 OMITTED WORDS

Use three dots (...), known as an ellipsis, to indicate an omitted word or words. Do NOT add other punctuation such as brackets. Do NOT add a character space before the three dots.

- ✓ The minister's letter stated: "The prisoner was released... two days ago."
- ✗ The minister's letter stated: "The prisoner was released [...] two days ago."
- ✗ The minister's letter stated: "The prisoner was released ... two days ago."

6.19 PRONOUNS

See "[6.12 Gender in pronouns and vocabulary](#)".

6.20 QUOTATION MARKS

6.20.1 QUOTATIONS IN QUOTATION MARKS

Use quotation marks around a word, sentence or longer piece of text to indicate that they are exactly what somebody said or wrote.

See "[6.21 Quotations](#)" for more details.

6.20.2 TERMS IN QUOTATION MARKS

INFORMAL TERMS, NEOLOGISMS, JARGON IN QUOTATION MARKS

Use quotation marks to indicate an informal term, neologism or jargon that may be unfamiliar to the audience, but use such terms sparingly to avoid confusion or misunderstanding. There is generally no need

to use quotation marks if the meaning is recorded in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>).

- ✓ She let out a “microcough”.

ARGUABLY INACCURATE USE OF TERMS IN QUOTATION MARKS

You may also use quotation marks to indicate an arguably inaccurate use of a term (in the sense of “so-called”). However, it should be clear in the text what the quotation marks signify. You may need to clarify somewhere.

- ✓ The authorities organized “voluntary” transfers of population.
- ✓ The police extracted the “confession” under torture.
- ✓ “honour killings”

6.20.3 TITLES OF PUBLICATIONS IN QUOTATION MARKS

Use quotation marks for the titles of shorter publications such as articles in newspapers, press releases, public statements and Urgent Actions and the titles of shorter broadcasts or productions such as videos and songs.

- ✓ Amnesty International’s press release “Cuba: Prisoner releases must lead to new human rights environment”
- ✓ An article in the New York Times entitled “Venezuela’s Maduro claims control of National Assembly, tightening grip on power”

Also use quotation marks around the titles of subdivisions of publications, such as chapters of a book or a report, and around the titles of subdivisions of a broadcast or production, such as an episode of a TV, radio or podcast series.

Use sentence case (capitalizing only the first word) for these sources regardless of the capitalization style in the source.

Compare “[6.14.2 Titles of publications in italics](#)”.

See “[3. References](#)” for more details.

6.20.4 PUNCTUATION AFTER TERMS AND TITLES IN QUOTATION MARKS

If a clause or sentence finishes with a term or a title in quotation marks, place any punctuation marking the end of the clause or sentence, such as a comma or full stop, after the closing quotation marks.

- ✓ He was convicted on the basis of a “confession”.
- ✗ He was convicted on the basis of a “confession.”
- ✓ He was convicted on the basis of a “confession”, which the judge read out in court.
- ✗ He was convicted on the basis of a “confession,” which the judge read out in court.

6.20.5 DOUBLE OR SINGLE QUOTATION MARKS

In general, use double quotation marks (“...”).

Use single quotation marks (‘...’) for quotations within quotations.

- ✓ She described the abuse she received at her employer's home: "His daughter shouted at me: 'You're an idiot!'"

Use double quotation marks ("...") for quotations within quotations within quotations.

- ✓ The UN Human Rights Committee reported a migrant worker's allegation of abuse. It wrote: "She described the abuse she received at her employer's home: 'His daughter shouted at me: "You're an idiot!"'"

Use single quotation marks ('...') within the titles of documents such as reports and press releases and within chapter and section headings.

6.20.6 STYLE FOR QUOTATION MARKS

Quotation marks should be typographic (curved or smart) ("...") not straight ("").⁴³

6.21 QUOTATIONS

6.21.1 INTRODUCING QUOTATIONS

INTRODUCING QUOTATIONS OF TEXT

In general, introduce quotations of text that begin a new sentence with a colon.

- ✓ The minister's letter stated: "The prisoner was released on 5 March."

If the quotation of text is incorporated into the structure of the sentence, you may introduce the quotation without a colon or comma.

- ✓ According to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states are required "to promote the establishment, operation and maintenance of an adequate and effective search and rescue service regarding safety on and over the sea".

INTRODUCING QUOTATIONS OF DIRECT SPEECH

In general, introduce quotations of direct speech with a colon or comma and begin them with a capital letter. Longer quotations of direct speech, including quotations placed in separate paragraphs should be introduced with a colon.

- ✓ She recounted the evening's events: "First, I heard a knock at the door..."
- ✓ She said: "My sister was released on Tuesday."
- ✓ She said, "My sister was released on Tuesday."

For stylistic reasons, it may sometimes be appropriate to place the reporting clause after the quotation.

- ✓ "My sister was released on Tuesday," she said.

For very short quotations of direct speech, particularly when they are incorporated into the structure of the sentence, you may introduce the quotation without a colon or comma.

⁴³ (Tip) In "Language Preferences" / "Proofing" / "AutoCorrect Options" / "AutoFormat", turn on "Replace Straight quotes with smart quotes".

- ✓ Did they just say “the election was fair”?

6.21.2 PUNCTUATION IN QUOTATIONS

PUNCTUATION FOR QUOTATIONS OF TEXT

When quoting written text, only include punctuation within quotation marks if it appears within the text being quoted. Place any punctuation associated with the sentence in which the quotation sits outside the quotation marks.

- ✓ Article 24 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child requires “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health”.
- ✗ Article 24 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child requires “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.”

Explanation: In the original text there is no full stop after “health”. The sentence continues as follows: “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.”

PUNCTUATION FOR QUOTATIONS OF DIRECT SPEECH

If a quotation of direct speech finishes at the end of a natural sentence, place a full stop or other appropriate punctuation before the closing quotation marks.

- ✓ He told Amnesty International: “I was handcuffed and dragged into a car.”
- ✓ She asked, “Am I under arrest?”
- ✓ “My sister was released on Tuesday,” she said.

6.21.3 SQUARE BRACKETS IN QUOTATIONS

Use square brackets around text that was not in the original quotation and has been added by Amnesty International, such as a comment, clarification or translation.

- ✓ “She returned to [the town of] Badou.”
- ✓ “They made me keep the blindfold [over my eyes] the whole time.”
- ✓ “He [the police officer] accused me of theft.”
- ✓ “The court imposed the punishment of *qesas* [retribution in kind].”

Also use square brackets to indicate the substitution of an initial capital letter for a lower-case letter, or the other way round, to maintain the flow of text.

- ✓ The Convention Against Torture stipulates that “[n]o State Party shall expel, return...”

Explanation: The original text is “No State Party shall expel, return...”

6.21.4 QUOTATIONS PLACED IN SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS

In longer-form documents, such as reports, place quotations of three lines or more in a separate paragraph and use a distinct quote style. Introduce these quotations with a colon.

- ✓ A former employee of the company told Amnesty International:

“While working at the company in 2022, I saw how company directors supported various security forces involved in the forced evictions. They gave them food to eat. They supplied them with fuel for their vehicles. They even facilitated property purchases for some of them.”

6.22 RELATIVE PRONOUNS

6.22.1 ‘THAT’ AND ‘WHICH’

In general, use “that” without a comma in relative clauses that define or identify a preceding word (and are therefore essential to the sentence). Use “which”, preceded by a comma, to add non-essential information. Do NOT use either with people.

- ✓ The convoy that was attacked on 2 June was carrying two officers.

Explanation: “that was attacked on 2 June” identifies the convoy.

- ✓ The presidential convoy, which left the palace at 2pm, was carrying two officers.

Explanation: “presidential” identifies the convoy. “which left the palace at 2pm” is additional information.

- ✗ The court sentenced the commander that gave the order.

6.22.2 ‘WHO’

Use “who” without a comma to define a preceding word when referring to people. Use “who”, preceded by a comma, to add non-essential information.

- ✓ The court acquitted the battalion commander who gave the order.

Explanation: “who gave the order” identifies the commander.

- ✓ The court acquitted the battalion commander, who was surrounded by his supporters.

Explanation: The battalion commander has already been identified earlier in the text. “who was surrounded by his supporters” is additional information.

6.22.3 ‘WHOM’

Use “whom” instead of “who” when it is the object of a verb or preposition (when it substitutes “her”, “him” or “them” not “he”, “she” or “they”).

- ✓ The two writers whom the minister denounced went into hiding.

Explanation: The minister denounced “them”.

BUT

- ✓ The two writers who the minister said were a threat to national security went into hiding

Explanation: The minister said “they” were a threat.

6.23 SPELLING

Spell words as per the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>). If an entry provides more than one spelling, use the first one, and avoid spellings that are marked as only or chiefly North American (or US) usage. There are two exceptions: use “antisemitic” and “antisemitism” (the second spelling) rather than “anti-Semitic” and “anti-Semitism” (the first spelling).

To facilitate conformity with this spelling, download the AmnestySpell spellcheck app, set the “proofing language” to English (United Kingdom) and conduct a spellcheck. However, do NOT rely exclusively on a spellcheck. It will not detect misspellings of proper names or improper use of homophones (such as “their” and “there”). It will let you write as two words compound words you should have written as one word (for example, “health care”).

Above all, maintain consistency of spelling in the same document.

See “[7. Spelling in English](#)” for more details.

6.24 TIME

Use either the 12-hour clock or the 24-hour clock to express time, but be consistent within the same document.

12-hour clock

Do NOT add a character space before “am” or “pm”. Use a full stop between the hour and minutes.

- ✓ 11am
- ✗ 11.00 am
- ✗ 11 a.m.

- ✓ 3.15pm

24-hour clock

Use a colon between the hour and minutes. Do NOT add “am” or “pm”.

- ✓ 11:00
- ✓ 15:15

6.25 VOCABULARY

6.25.1 HOUSE STYLE DICTIONARY

Use words only if they appear in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), unless they are essential technical terms, in which case provide a suitable explanation.

6.25.2 INTERNATIONAL CHOICES

Where possible, use terms that are marked neither as “British English” nor as “North American English” in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>). For example, consider using “refuse” as opposed to “rubbish” (marked as “especially British English”) or “garbage” (marked as “especially North American English”).

6.25.3 CONSISTENCY

Above all, ensure consistency of vocabulary variety in the same document. Check the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) for usage. For example, if the document generally uses British English vocabulary, avoid using terms marked as “North American English”.

6.26 ‘WHICH’, ‘THAT’, ‘WHO’ OR ‘WHOM’

See “[6.22 Relative pronouns](#)”.

7. SPELLING IN ENGLISH

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This chapter provides rules and guidance on Amnesty International’s preferred spelling of words in English.

7.1 HOUSE STYLE SPELLING

To determine the house style spelling of any English word, firstly check if the word appears in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>).⁴⁴ Ensure that “English”, NOT “American English”, is checked in the drop-down menu next to the search field.

To facilitate conformity with this spelling, download the Amnesty Spell spellcheck app, set the “proofing language” to English (United Kingdom) and conduct a spellcheck. However, do NOT rely exclusively on a spellcheck. It will not detect misspellings of proper names or improper use of homophones (such as “their” and “there”). It will let you write as two words compound words you should have written as one word (for example, “health care”).

Therefore, bookmark a link to the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) on your browser and check the spellings of words even if you are familiar with them, particularly if they may or may not include hyphens or could be spelt as one or two words.

7.1.1 WORDS IN *OXFORD ADVANCED LEARNER’S DICTIONARY*

If the word appears in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), follow the instructions below. In all cases, follow use (or absence) of hyphens, capital letters and italics and whether the entry is written as one word or two.

ONE ENTRY, ONE SPELLING

If there is one entry only and it provides only one spelling, use that one.

EXAMPLES

air strike

✓ air strike

✗ airstrike

asylum seeker

✓ asylum seeker

✗ asylum-seeker

audiovisual

✓ audiovisual

✗ audio-visual

cooperate

✓ cooperate

✗ co-operate

⁴⁴ Use spellings in the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* even when they conflict with previous Amnesty International usage; for example, use “Covid-19”, not “COVID-19”.

counterterrorism

- ✓ counterterrorism
- ✗ counter-terrorism

cross-check

- ✓ cross-check
- ✗ crosscheck

extraterritorial

- ✓ extraterritorial
- ✗ extra-territorial

follow-up *adjective*

- ✓ follow-up call
- ✗ follow up call

the front line *noun*

- ✓ the front line
- ✗ the frontline

landmine

- ✓ landmine
- ✗ land mine

non-refoulement

- ✓ non-refoulement
- ✗ *non-refoulement*

north-western

- ✓ north-western
- ✗ northwestern

protester

- ✓ protester
- ✗ protestor

well-being

- ✓ well-being
- ✗ wellbeing

ONE ENTRY, MULTIPLE SPELLINGS

If there is one entry only and it provides multiple spellings, use the first one. Do NOT use the alternative spelling given after signposts like *“also”* or *“British English also”* or *“US English also”*.

There are two exceptions: use “antisemitic” and “antisemitism” (the second spelling) rather than “anti-Semitic” and “anti-Semitism” (the first spelling). Note also that “judgement” is spelt “judgement” when it means “the ability to make sensible decisions after carefully considering the best thing to do” or “an opinion that you form about something after thinking about it carefully; the act of making this opinion known to others”. However, it is spelt “judgment” when it means “the decision of a court or a judge”.

See the A-Z of Terms: Operational Policy on Terminology (<https://oneamnesty.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingResources/SitePages/Introduction-to-A-Z-of-terms.aspx>) for explanation.

EXAMPLES

adviser

(also advisor)

✓ adviser

✗ advisor

analyse

(British English)

(North American English analyze)

✓ analyse

✗ analyze

any more

(British English)

(also anymore North American English, British English)

✓ any more

✗ anymore

burka

(also burkha, burqa)

✓ burka

✗ burka

✗ burkha

✗ burqa

Covid-19

✓ Covid-19

✗ COVID-19

dialogue
(US English also dialog)

- ✓ dialogue
- ✗ dialog

email
(also e-mail)

- ✓ email
- ✗ e-mail

emphasize
(British English also emphasise)

- ✓ emphasize
- ✗ emphasise

encyclopedia
(British English also -paedia)

- ✓ encyclopedia
- ✗ encyclopaedia

healthcare
(also health care)

- ✓ healthcare
- ✗ health care

homogeneous
(also homogenous)

- ✓ homogeneous
- ✗ homogenous

inflection
(also inflexion especially in British English)

- ✓ inflection
- ✗ inflexion

install
(also British English, less frequent instal)

- ✓ install
- ✗ instal

jail
(also British English, old-fashioned gaol)

- ✓ jail
- ✗ gaol

non-governmental
(also nongovernmental especially in North American English)

- ✓ non-governmental
- ✗ nongovernmental

organizational
(British English also organisational)

- ✓ organizational
- ✗ organisational

Qur'an
(also Koran)

- ✓ Qur'an
- ✗ Koran

sharia
(also shariah)

- ✓ sharia
- ✗ shariah
- ✗ Shari'a
- ✗ Sharia

Shia
(also Shi'a)

- ✓ Shia
- ✗ Shi'a
- ✗ Shiah

TWO ENTRIES, ONE BRITISH SPELLING

If there is more than one entry for the same word (the two entries will be cross-referenced) and only one indicates British English usage, use that one.

EXAMPLES

1. aeon
(British English)
(North American English or specialist eon)
2. eon
(North American English or specialist)
(British English usually aeon)

- ✓ aeon
- ✗ eon

1. center
(*US English*)
2. centre
(*British English centre*)

✓ centre
✗ center

1. defence
(*US English defense*)
2. defense
(*US English*)
(*British English defence*)

✓ defence
✗ defense

1. likable
(*especially North American English*)
(*also likeable especially in British English*)
2. likeable
(*especially British English*)
(*also likable especially in North American English*)

✓ likeable
✗ likable

1. program
In (*British English*) the spelling programme is used, except in sense 1
2. programme
(*British English*)
(*North American English program*)

✓ programme
✗ program

TWO ENTRIES, TWO BRITISH SPELLINGS

If there is more than one entry for the same word (the two entries will be cross-referenced), both indicate British English usage, but only one indicates both British and North American usage, use that one.

EXAMPLES

1. fetus
(*British English also foetus*)
2. foetus
(*British English*)
(*also fetus British and North American English*)

✓ fetus
✗ foetus

1. homeopath
(*British English also homoeo-*)
2. homoeopath
(*British English*)
(*also homeopath British and North American English*)

✓ homeopath

✗ homoeopath

PLURALS

For plurals, add -s or -es unless otherwise indicated. If the entry provides more than one plural, use the first one.

EXAMPLES

curriculum
(plural *curricula, curriculums*)

✓ *curricula*

✗ *curriculums*

forum

✓ *forums*

✗ *fora*

memorandum
(plural *memoranda*)

✓ *memoranda*

✗ *memorandums*

phenomenon
(plural *phenomena*)

✓ *phenomena*

✗ *phenomenons*

VERB FORMS

If the entry provides more than one version of a verb form, use the first one.

EXAMPLES

combat (verb)

✓ *combated*

✗ *combatted*

spell (noun)

✓ *spelt*

✗ *spelled*

7.1.2 WORDS NOT IN *OXFORD ADVANCED LEARNER'S DICTIONARY*

If the word does NOT appear in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), follow the instructions below. In all cases, follow use (or absence) of hyphens, capital letters and italics.

COMPOUND WORDS

If it is a compound word composed of two words and both appear in separate entries in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), write it as two separate words without a hyphen, spelling each of the component words as per their spelling in the dictionary.

EXAMPLES

1. case
2. file

✓ case file

✗ casefile

1. grave
2. site

✓ grave site

✗ gravesite

1. skill
2. share

✓ skill share

✗ skillshare

1. work
2. plan

✓ work plan

✗ workplan

WORDS WITH PREFIXES

If the word is composed of a prefix (for example, "post-") and a word, and both appear in separate entries in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), write it as one word with a hyphen between the prefix and the main word.

EXAMPLES

1. inter-
2. ministerial

✓ inter-ministerial

✗ interministerial

1. pre-
2. arraignment

✓ pre-arraignment

✗ prearraignment

1. psycho-
2. social

✓ psycho-social
 ✗ psychosocial

1. re-
2. arrest

✓ re-arrest
 ✗ rearrest

1. sub-
2. region

✓ sub-region
 ✗ subregion

1. under-
2. report

✓ under-report
 ✗ underreport

OTHER ENGLISH WORDS

If the word is an English word but NOT in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) at all, with or without a prefix, it is likely to be a technical word. Spell these words using an authoritative source, explain them on first mention and, in longer documents, include them in a glossary.

EXAMPLES

✓ habilitation
 ✓ intra-partum
 ✓ non-derogable

NON-ENGLISH WORDS

If the word is a non-English word that is NOT in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>), use italics. Spell these words using an authoritative source, explain them on first mention and, in longer documents, include them in a glossary.

EXAMPLE

✓ *diyya* (sharia term for compensation paid to victim's family)

7.2 RATIONALE FOR SPELLING SYSTEM

7.2.1 CONSISTENCY

Many English words have multiple possible spellings, so any institution that wishes to issue written outputs in a professional way from an editorial perspective needs to adopt a house style and consistently follow one spelling standard. Consistent spelling indicates that the institution takes care over its written work and is more likely to be meticulous in other areas, such as its research. Consistency also contributes to reinforcing the perception of Amnesty International as a single organization speaking with one voice.

7.2.2 SPELLING STANDARD

IN BRIEF

Amnesty International uses as its house style a spelling standard known as Oxford spelling. It is arguably the most international spelling standard in English. The UN and its agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and some other international organizations such as Oxfam International also use it. It is also commonly used in academic, formal and technical writing for an international readership.

FURTHER EXPLANATION

There are two main variations of English spelling. One is British spelling, used in the United Kingdom as well as many other countries where English is an official or a dominant language, such as Australia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Ghana, Guyana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, New Zealand, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and many of the English-speaking Caribbean and Pacific island nations. Publications in these countries, including media, generally use British spelling with the suffix *-ise* in words like *realise* and *organisation*. Some international organizations, such as the International Crisis Group and the International Olympic Committee, do the same.

The other main variation is North American spelling, although there are differences between US and Canadian spelling. Publications, including media, in the USA, Liberia, Philippines and a few of the English-speaking Caribbean and Pacific island nations use US spelling and consequently use *-ize* over *-ise* spellings. Some international organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, do the same. Publications in Canada use the Canadian variant, which lies somewhere between the US and British spelling variations.

Oxford spelling is a spelling standard that prescribes the use of British spelling in combination with the suffix *-ize* in words like *realize* and *organization*, in contrast to the use of *-ise* endings. (Note that contrary to popular misconception, *-ize* is not only a North American spelling but one of two options in British English spelling.)

One of the reasons this standard is arguably the most international is that it uses as many spellings as possible that are acceptable in both British and North American spelling.

7.2.3 HOUSE STYLE DICTIONARY

There is more than one English dictionary that employs the Oxford spelling standard. They are different to each other in minor ways. Amnesty International uses the free-to-access website of the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) for its house style spellings.

The UN also uses Oxford dictionaries as its authority for spelling (<https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/editorial-manual/spelling>).

The rationale for choosing the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com>) is that it has more words than other dictionaries and is updated frequently. The additions are more contemporary and will be used in both British and North American

spelling. There are some changes from previous spelling conventions used by Amnesty International. The most common examples are:

ABSENCE OF HYPHENATION AFTER PREFIXES IN SOME WORDS

cooperate (not co-operate)
coordinate (not co-ordinate)
undersecretary (not under-secretary)

HYPHENATION IN SOME WORDS THAT WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY HYPHENATED

cross-check (not crosscheck)
well-being (not wellbeing)

SPELLING OF SOME COMPOUND WORDS AS ONE WORD INSTEAD OF TWO WORDS OR A HYPHENATED WORD

healthcare (not health care)
hotline (not hot line)
pickup truck (not pick-up truck)

SPELLING OF SOME COMPOUND WORDS AS TWO WORDS INSTEAD OF A HYPHENATED WORD

asylum seeker (not asylum-seeker)
machine gun (not machine-gun)

SPELLING OF SOME WORDS WITHOUT ITALICS

non-refoulement (not *non-refoulement*)
refoulement (not *refoulement*)

8. CAPITAL LETTERS IN ENGLISH

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This chapter provides rules and guidance on when to use initial capital letters in English for the names of places, people, entities (such as organizations) and documents. It begins by explaining the style of capitalization to use.

8.1 CAPITALIZATION STYLE

When capitalizing the names of people, places, entities and documents in English, use title case (also known as headline style). There are several variations of title case. Use the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) version:⁴⁵

- Capitalize the first and last words in the title and in any subtitle, even if they are words that would otherwise be written in lower case (according to the rule “Maintain in lower case” below).
- Also capitalize:
 - nouns
 - pronouns
 - verbs
 - adjectives
 - adverbs
 - conjunctions (except “and”, “but”, “for”, “or”, “nor”)
 - prepositions with five or more letters
- Maintain in lower case:
 - the definite and indefinite articles (“the”, “a”, “an”)
 - prepositions with four or fewer letters unless they are used adverbially or adjectivally
 - “to” as part of an infinitive as in “to run”
 - “as” in all instances
 - the parts of proper names that would normally be in lower case (for example, “van” in Vincent van Gogh)
 - the second part of a species name (for example, “Homo sapiens”)
- For hyphenated compounds:
 - Always capitalize the first word.
 - Capitalize subsequent words unless they are articles, prepositions or coordinating conjunctions, or a musical symbol (like “sharp” in F-sharp).
 - If the first word is a prefix that could not stand on its own, then capitalize the following word (for example, “Anti-Theft”).
 - Capitalize all words in hyphenated numbers or fractions.

✓ Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

✗ Law Of The People’s Republic Of China On Safeguarding National Security In The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

For English-language names and titles, use title case regardless of the capitalization style used by entities for themselves, their positions or their documents. Note that most entities are not consistent in their capitalization style in any case.

⁴⁵ **(Change)** The guidance on capitalization style has been adjusted to reflect changes made in 2024 to the Chicago Manual of Style, which Amnesty International uses as a reference for title case style. The changes included several that affect title case capitalization. It no longer uses an initial lower-case letter for all prepositions in title case, but only those with four or fewer letters. It no longer has a special rule for hyphenated compound words where the first element is a prefix that cannot stand alone (for example, anti, co, non, pre, or re). In such compound words, an initial lower-case letter was used for the second element. It is now capitalized.

8.2 PLACES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

8.2.1 COUNTRIES, CITIES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the names of countries, cities and other localities.

EXAMPLES

China
The Hague
North Korea
South Africa

8.2.2 AREAS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for recognized political or geographical areas.

Use initial lower-case letters for descriptive geographical references.

EXAMPLES

Central America
East Asia
the Middle East and North Africa
the Mid-West
South-East Asia
the West

BUT

the north-west of Malawi
south-eastern Lagos
southern France

8.2.3 GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for geographical terms (words for human creations like “city”, “state”, “province”, “airport”, “bridge” and words for physical features like “sea”, “river”, “desert”) when strictly part of the name.

Use initial lower-case letters when the geographical terms are not strictly part of the name.

EXAMPLES

Salt Lake City [you could not write “she went to Salt Lake”]
Mexico City [“Mexico” is the country name]
Kuwait City [“Kuwait” is the country name]

BUT

Moscow city centre

Sydney Harbour Bridge
Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta

BUT

Jakarta airport
Cabanas province
Mediterranean sea
Mississippi river
New York state
state of Minas Gerais

8.3 PEOPLE AND CAPITAL LETTERS

8.3.1 COMMON TITLES AND POSITIONS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for formal titles when written immediately before a name and without an intervening comma.

Otherwise, use initial lower-case letters, particularly when the phrase is a generic description.

EXAMPLES

UN Secretary-General António Guterres⁴⁶

BUT

António Guterres, the UN secretary general,

King Charles III

BUT

Charles III, king of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth countries, the UK's monarch, Charles III,

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman

BUT

Haitham bin Tariq, the sultan of Oman, the sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq,

President Vladimir Putin

BUT

Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, Vladimir Putin, the Russian head of state,

Prime Minister Netanyahu

BUT

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, Israel's current prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu,

Secretary of State Antony Blinken

BUT

Antony Blinken, US secretary of state,

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab

BUT

Dominic Raab, UK foreign secretary, the UK's foreign minister, Dominic Raab,

Ambassador Neelam Deo

BUT

Neelam Deo, India's ambassador to Denmark,

Mary Barra, chief executive officer of General Motors,

⁴⁶ Note the use of the hyphen, in contrast to its absence in "Amnesty International's Secretary General".

8.3.2 FORMER TITLES AND POSITIONS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial lower-case letters for former titles and positions.

EXAMPLES

former US president Jimmy Carter...

BUT

in 1978 President Jimmy Carter met... [as he was still president at the time]

8.3.3 UNIQUE TITLES AND POSITIONS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the formal titles of offices or positions that might look peculiar in lower case because they are unique to a particular political, institutional or spiritual system.

Use title case regardless of the capitalization style used by the institution in which the office or position sits.

EXAMPLES

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

AND

Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader,

Chancellor Angela Merkel

AND

Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor,

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet

AND

Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,

UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

BUT

UN Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation

the Dalai Lama

the Aga Khan

8.3.4 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the formal titles of specific Amnesty International positions.

Use initial lower-case letters for generic descriptions, abbreviations or paraphrased versions.

EXAMPLES

Amnesty International's Secretary General

Senior Director for Research, Advocacy, Policy and Campaigns

West and Central Africa Regional Office Director

Americas Deputy Director for Research

BUT

regional directors

deputy Europe director

thematic researchers

8.4 ENTITIES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

8.4.1 OFFICIAL ENTITIES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the official titles of entities, such as governments, parliaments, official agencies, courts, judicial bodies, detention centres, and medical and educational institutions. Note that some entities have more than one version of their official title (for example, “US Department of State” and “US State Department”).

Use initial lower-case letters for abbreviated or paraphrased references to the titles of entities.

Consult the website of the entity in question if in doubt.

EXAMPLES

the US Department of State

AND

the US State Department

the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

BUT

the UK government

European governments

the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BUT

the Iranian foreign ministry

the UK Home Office

BUT

the UK’s interior ministry

France’s National Assembly

BUT

the French parliament

the National Diet of Japan

BUT

Japan’s parliament

the Tunisian parliament’s Rights and Freedoms Committee

BUT

the Tunisian parliament’s rights committee

Peru’s Supreme Court of Justice

BUT

Peru’s supreme court

Bathurst Correctional Centre, New South Wales, Australia

BUT

Bathurst prison, New South Wales, Australia

Jordan’s Public Prosecution Office

BUT

Jordan’s public prosecution

Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, University of Johannesburg

BUT

the University of Johannesburg's art department

8.4.2 POLITICAL PARTIES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use an initial capital letter for the word "Party" if it is an integral part of the name.

Use an initial lower-case letter for "party" if it is not an integral part of the name.

Consult the website of the party in question if in doubt.

EXAMPLES

the US Republican Party

BUT

India's Congress party

Indonesia's Golkar party

8.4.3 MEDIA OUTLETS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use an initial capital letter for the word "the" if it is an integral part of the name.

Use an initial lower-case letter for "the" if it is not an integral part of the name.

Consult the website of the media outlet in question if in doubt.

EXAMPLES

The Times of India [India]

The Standard [Kenya]

The Guardian [UK]

The New York Times [USA]

The Washington Post [USA]

BUT

the Chicago Tribune [USA]

8.4.4 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the title of specific entities within Amnesty International.

Use initial lower-case letters for generic descriptions of those entities.

EXAMPLES

the West and Central Africa Regional Office

the Public Engagement and Growth Directorate

the Law and Policy Programme

the Business, Security and Human Rights Team

Amnesty International Tunisia

BUT

Amnesty International's regional offices

Amnesty International's global programmes

Amnesty International's thematic teams

Amnesty International's national entities (national offices, sections and structures)

8.5 DOCUMENTS AND CAPITAL LETTERS

Use initial capital letters for the official full and abbreviated titles of documents, such as laws and treaties.

Use initial lower-case letters for unofficial abbreviations or paraphrased references to the titles of documents.

EXAMPLES

Saudi Arabia's Penal Law for Crimes of Terrorism and Its Financing

BUT

Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism law

the Constitution of the Argentine Nation

BUT

the Argentinian constitution

the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

the UN Convention Against Torture [official abbreviation]

BUT

the UN torture convention

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
WHEN INJUSTICE HAPPENS
TO ONE PERSON, IT
MATTERS TO US ALL.**

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HOUSE STYLE

OPERATIONAL POLICY ON HOUSE STYLE AS APPLICABLE TO ALL LANGUAGES AND HOUSE STYLE IN ENGLISH

This operational policy sets out the house style of Amnesty International's International Secretariat. It sets out house style as applicable across all languages. This includes universal rules and guidance regarding abbreviations in languages where this is applicable, captions, footnotes, figures, maps, the naming of places (such as countries), people and entities (such as organizations) and international legal instruments and references (or citations), as well as mentions of disability and illness.

It then sets out house style as applicable to the use of English only. This contains rules and guidance on spelling: punctuation; and certain other aspects of grammar.

The operational policy is intended to save the time of everyone who writes for Amnesty International or who works with the writing of others, such as reviewers, editors, proofreaders and translators. It helps empower originators to be their own first reviewers and frees up the time of reviewers to focus more on the substance than the form. Everyone is expected to follow the self-servicing principle and take responsibility for ensuring their own writing conforms with house style. All reviewers are also expected to ensure that texts they approve conform with house style.

National entities of Amnesty International may have their own house style in English to reflect national preferences for spelling and punctuation conventions. However, the house style that is applicable across all languages should be beneficial for them, too.