



How to Find General Comments on an ICCPR Article

You have found the text of an ICCPR article, for example Article 19 (freedom of expression) but you do not know **more details about the interpretation and scope of that article.**

In this case it is helpful to read the comment on this article which was given by the UN Human Rights Commission.

1. To find such a comment write the homepage address of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights into the address-box of the internet explorer:

<http://www.unhchr.ch>

and press the enter button



2. Then this homepage shows and you click on "Treaties"

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. At the top left is the United Nations logo. In the center, the text reads "Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights" with "français | español" below it. On the right is the logo of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Below this is a navigation menu with the following items: SECTION, PROGRAMME, FIELD PRESENCES, ISSUES, DOCUMENTS, and TREATIES. A grey box labeled "CLICK here!" has an arrow pointing to the "TREATIES" link. A second grey box highlights the "TREATIES" link.



3. Then this page is shown and you click on:
[International Covenant Civil and Political Rights](#)

International Human Rights Instruments Highlight: [Convention on Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers to enter into force on 1 July 2003 \(Press Release\)](#)

-  [New Instruments under development](#)
-  [Charter of the United Nations](#)
-  [International Bill of Human Rights \(Fact Sheet 2, Rev.1\)](#)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *](#)
- [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *](#)
- [Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*](#)

CLICK here!

4. Then move page up and down to find the ICCPR article which you want.
 When you have found the article click on:

▶▶▶ [General comment on its implementation](#)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966

entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49

Article 19 ▶▶▶ [General comment on its implementation](#)

1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.
2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression: this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds,

CLICK here!



5.

And then you will find the full text of the comment:

(Notice: This comment is **not a binding law text**. It shows just the opinion of the UN Commission on Human Rights about the interpretation of this article. So a comment is a **helpful tool for interpretation** of an ICCPR article)



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Freedom of expression (Art. 19) : . 29/06/83.
CCPR General comment 10. (General Comments)

Convention Abbreviation: CCPR

GENERAL COMMENT 10
Freedom of expression
(Article 19)
(Nineteenth session, 1983)

1. Paragraph 1 requires protection of the "right to hold opinions without interference". This is a right to which the Covenant permits no exception or restriction. The Committee would welcome information from States parties concerning paragraph 1. 2. Paragraph 2 requires protection of the right to freedom of expression, which includes not only freedom to "impart information and ideas of all kinds", but also freedom to "seek" and "receive" them "regardless of frontiers" and in whatever medium, "either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice". Not all States parties have provided information concerning all aspects of the freedom of expression. For instance, little attention has so far been given to the fact that, because of the development of modern mass media, effective measures are necessary to prevent such control of the media as would interfere with the right of everyone to freedom of expression in a way that is not provided for in paragraph 3.

3. Many State reports confine themselves to mentioning that freedom of expression is guaranteed under the Constitution or the law. However, in order to know the precise regime of freedom of expression in law and in practice, the Committee needs in addition pertinent information about the rules which either define the scope of freedom of expression or which set forth certain restrictions, as well as any other conditions which in practice affect the exercise of this right. It is the interplay between the principle of freedom of expression and such limitations and restrictions which determines the actual scope of the individual's right.

4. Paragraph 3 expressly stresses that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities and for this reason certain restrictions on the right are permitted which may relate either to the interests of other persons or to those of the community as a whole. However, when a State party imposes certain restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression, these may not put in ...