



# The how and why of Shadow Reporting for HIV activists



## Introduction

Shadow reports are a unique tool through which civil society organisations supplement and/or present alternative information to reports governments are required to submit to international, continental and sub-regional oversight bodies detailing the progress they have made on commitments made under treaties, resolutions or declarations.<sup>1</sup>

### What is a shadow report?

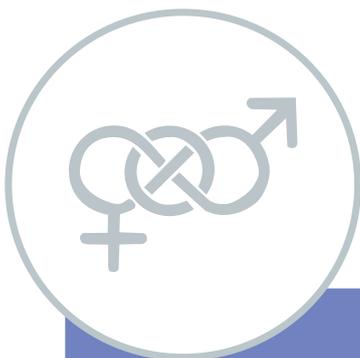
Shadow reports can be a really powerful tool in HIV activism. This issue brief will provide a simple introduction to what a shadow report is and explain why they are valuable. It will also give a step-by-step guide on how to go about developing a shadow report. It will also provide some examples of the many different reporting processes which HIV activists can link to, as well as some reflections from activists who have been involved in developing shadow reports on the value of the process, and the impact which they have seen.

## What is an oversight body?

An oversight body is a group of people whose purpose is to ensure that an activity is carried out properly and legally. In the case of agreements and treaties, the role of the oversight body is to monitor the extent to which a government has met its obligations and commitments under that agreement or treaty

When States make commitments at global or regional level, they usually are expected to submit periodic reports. These reports outline what measures they have taken to meet their obligations during the period covered in the report. Shadow reports (also known 'parallel reports', 'alternative reports', 'NGO reports' or 'civil society reports') often highlight issues not raised by governments in their formal reports. Shadow Reports can be developed by a range of civil society actors including non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, UN agencies, academic institutions and the media.

Once an oversight or treaty body has considered all the submissions made, including the State report and shadow reports, it makes Concluding Observations. In the Concluding Observations the treaty body summarises its assessment of progress and deficits in the implementation of the human rights treaty in the particular State and give recommendations for improvements.

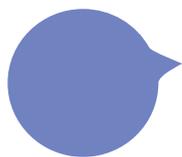


There are many agreements, treaties and covenants which the governments of East and Southern Africa have committed to, which are relevant to HIV, and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) broadly. Tracking governments' commitments, and developing shadow reports, is an important way in which civil society activists concerned with HIV, SRHR and human rights, can hold their governments to account.

# Why Shadow Reporting?



*Cooperation with civil society remains a strategic priority because it bolsters our shared objectives, reinforces partnerships, and supports the Office's human rights mission and initiatives.<sup>ii</sup>*  
**Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights**



*The process of bringing organisations together, breeding unity and consensus, and building a coalition, is valuable in and of itself.*  
**Berry Nigobora, AMSHER**

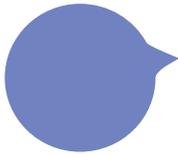
- Shadow reports are helpful to call attention to critical issues that governments might have downplayed or failed to highlight in the official State report. They highlight how human rights are being enjoyed in practice. They also illustrate how effective (or otherwise) the measures which the State has put in place are.<sup>iii</sup>
- Contribution by civil society is important to ensure that oversight bodies have complete and comprehensive information, on which to base its review. Oversight bodies often rely on shadow reports to get a fuller picture of a situation in a country.



*It was extremely helpful to receive first-hand information about fulfilment and non-fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights for different vulnerable groups.<sup>iv</sup>*  
**Committee Member: UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**



- Shadow reporting is an important tool for advocacy. The process provides civil society with an international forum where it can raise its concerns; it is an opportunity for advocacy in an international legal environment.
- The process of developing a shadow report is an excellent opportunity to work in coalition with other organisations working on other issues.
- The shadow report can be used in other advocacy work as well. Shadow reports can be utilised as tools for education in civil society, ways to provide the media with a tangible document on government obligations.<sup>v</sup>
- Creating a shadow report requires resources, skill and access to accurate and legitimate information.
- The process can be an opportunity for skills-building and empowerment for civil society activists. Skills include, understanding how treaty bodies work, learning about new opportunities for advocacy, conducting research and gathering evidence, and learning more about accountability mechanisms.
- There is also the potential for a backlash when States feel they have been embarrassed on an international platform. Therefore, organisations which are considering engaging in a shadow report should do an assessment of the risks they may face in doing so.



*Sometimes we get feedback from Countries is that you should have come and told us before you exposed us.*

**Berry Nigobora, AMSHeR**

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- However, the process can also lead to greater collaboration and dialogue between government and civil society. Also, there are typically many diverse, and sometimes conflicting viewpoints within governments: sometimes government representatives appreciate the evidence and support from civil society which helps them to advance a more progressive position within their own government structures. As an example, reflecting on the South Africa NGO delegation's submission to CEDAW in 2011, Lesley Ann Foster from NGO Masimanyane observes:

Some members of the [NGO] delegation travelled back to South Africa with the government delegation. During the trip some discussion took place and the delegation acknowledged that the presence of the NGO delegation was a good thing. The representatives said that the Concluding Observations gave the delegation bargaining tools for greater political commitment and resource allocation for addressing women's rights in the country.<sup>vi</sup>

- When it comes to human rights violations not perpetrated by the State (perpetrated by 'non-State actors'), oversight bodies typically lack any legal means to address these, so there is little value to including these violations in shadow reports.

## Types of Shadow Reports

Shadow reports can be developed as an alternative to any formal reporting process which a government engages in. However, the best-known types of shadow report are those which engage with the UN Treaty Bodies.

### A simple guide to UN Treaty Bodies<sup>vii</sup>

A 'treaty', 'convention' or 'covenant' is an international legal instrument. A State becomes party to a treaty by ratifying it, which means the State voluntarily decides to be bound by its provisions. The State then becomes obligated under international law to uphold and implement the provisions of the treaty. This implies that the domestic laws of the State must be in conformity with the provisions of the treaty and cannot contradict them in any way.

The main international human rights treaties are sometimes referred to as the 'core' treaties. The current nine core international human rights treaties are:<sup>1</sup>

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED)

Progress in implementing these international treaties is monitored by it's a committee, known as a treaty monitoring body (TMB). The TMB assesses the State based on reports from the State itself, as well as information from civil society. States typically have to submit reports to treaty bodies every 4 or 5 years.

The role of the treaty bodies is to:

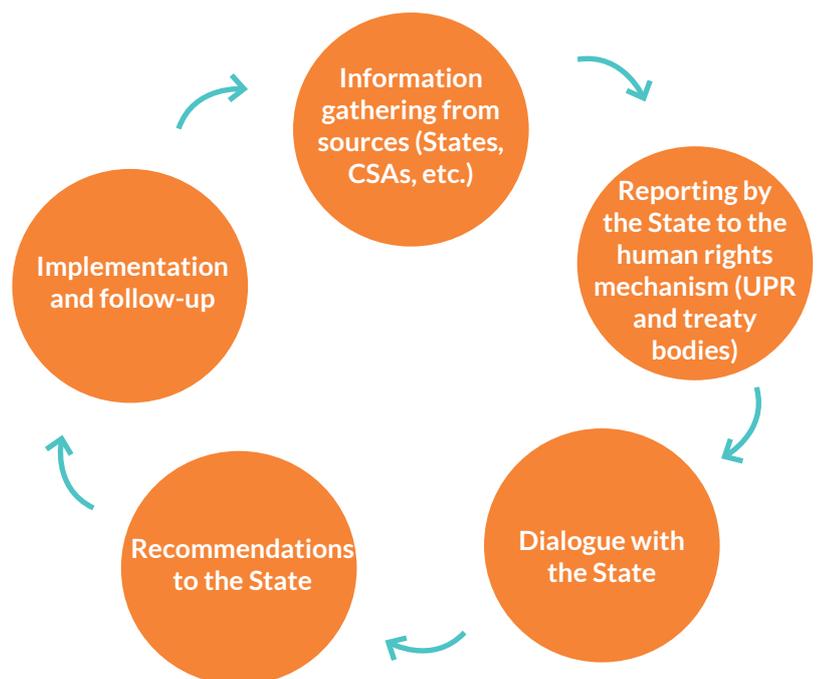
- Receive and consider reports submitted by State and other parties
- Issue Concluding Observations or recommendations to assist States in implementing their obligations.

The ratification status of these treaties on a country-by-country basis is available on the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) website: <http://indicators.ohchr.org>.

## The Treaty Monitoring Process

Monitoring State obligations through the reporting process usually follows several stages:

- Preparation of the State report at the national level
- Preparation sessions facilitated by the treaty bodies
- A public meeting (usually at UN Headquarters in Geneva) where the report is presented by the State, and the treaty body engages in a constructive dialogue with the State party
- Issuing of Concluding Observations and recommendations
- Follow-up on implementation of the Concluding Observations.



The exact procedures whereby civil society actors can submit information to treaty monitoring bodies vary from one human rights treaty body to another. Generally, civil society reports are submitted after the submission of the State report, and before the public meeting where the report is presented and discussed.<sup>viii</sup>



## CASE STUDY: Kenyan Sex Workers' shadow report to CEDAW

The Kenya Sex Worker Alliance (KESWA) and Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme, with support from the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA), submitted this shadow report to the 68th CEDAW Session, which took place in 2017.

Titled “*Aren't We Also Women?*,” the report is based on desk research and extensive interviews with KESWA member organisations. It documents high levels of police violence, extortion, and failure to investigate cases, abuse and discrimination from health care providers, and the withholding of anti-retroviral medication from sex workers in detention.

Due to their shadow report and advocacy in Geneva, the CEDAW committee's Concluding Observations included strong recommendations to remove administrative and criminal laws that affect sex workers, eliminate mandatory HIV and STI testing, and address police violence against sex workers.<sup>ix</sup>



Here Phellister Abdalla from KESWA speaks about the process of developing the shadow report, and its impact:

### On developing the report

“This was the first time we had done a shadow report. Since we did not have any experience, we requested a consultant. CREA agreed to give us a consultant. We formed a working group: KESWA, Bar Hostess, and community lawyers. One of the things we did, we didn't want [the consultant] to do everything for us, we wanted to do it ourselves. We had weekly meetings, then she asked us to read things, or go and find out about this. We looked at every recommendation [in the CEDAW treaty]. We looked at where it applies to us as sex workers. We brainstormed together. It was a very engaging process. The community took a lead on everything, the consultant was just facilitating. It's a very important way of doing consultancy because you are leaving expertise in the community. It's a thing we will be able to do again”.

### On consulting with the community

“We divided our nation into five regions, each region was represented by two sex workers. We had a national consultation. We asked, ‘What do you think of the process?’ So sex workers understood what was going to happen and why it was important. They went back to their constituencies. We asked, in case of any evidence, they should be open to share with us. We kept on sending the drafts, and getting feedback from them, until we were ready to submit.”

### On the CEDAW hearing

“CREA supported us when there was a Kenyan hearing. One of the things when we went there, we learned that there was only supposed to be one oral presentation for 5 minutes from civil society. So we decided to sit down and work on one draft. Some of the women's organisations were not comfortable about including the sex worker thing. But we insisted and said, if you don't include it, we will request a separate oral submission for sex workers. So in the end there were recommendations about sex work.”

### On the impact

“From my side, the impact that I have seen is that we saw the importance of partnering with the women's movement. For us to ask the women to include our recommendations [at the hearing] was very complicated: they did not understand. But now we have built a very strong relationship with the women's movement. They have invited us to occupy other spaces, such as African Union. Last year, the AU were talking about migration. When you are talking about migration, this is a very important issue for sex workers. People always think we have been trafficked. We have been able to make the women's movement understand that there is a difference between sex work and trafficking. We managed even to push for the African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA): there is a campaign by the regional women's movement about choice of work. We have helped them to recognise that sex work is work.”

# The UN Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review

The Human Rights Council is the main human rights body of the United Nations. It is an inter-governmental, political body, established in 2006.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a peer-to-peer process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States, every four-and-a-half years. During a UPR, each country is reviewed by a working group, consisting of all members of the Human Rights Council.

The UPR provides an opportunity for all UN Member States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR is designed to prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground.<sup>x</sup>

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is an important tool for holding States accountable for fulfilling their pledge to ending AIDS (as part of the 2016 Political Commitment on Ending AIDS), alongside respecting, promoting and fulfilling the human rights of PLHIV and KPs.<sup>xi</sup> Within the UPR process, civil society, National Human Rights Instruments and the UN system have played an important role in raising critical issues relating to the human rights of PLHIV and KPs. An analysis of how the UPR has been used to highlight rights related to HIV by PITCH and Briding the Gaps found that “the UPR process is contributing to change at the national level, and helping to hold States accountable for improving the human rights situation in relation to HIV, PLHIV and KPs affected by HIV”<sup>xii</sup>

## The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Maputo Protocol

In 2003, AU Member States adopted the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**, widely referred to as ‘the Maputo Protocol’. The Maputo Protocol strengthens the provisions on gender equality of the **African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)**, which lies at the foundation of the African human rights system and was adopted in 1981.<sup>xiv</sup>

The **Maputo Protocol** is a ground-breaking protocol on women and girls’ rights. It includes an explicit definition of discrimination against women, and pays

specific attention to vulnerable and marginalised women and girls. The Maputo Protocol has strong provisions regarding gender-based violence against women, female genital mutilation, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health rights, access to safe abortion, and HIV and AIDS.

**Civil society and women’s rights and feminist organisations** have played a key role in the formulation and adoption of the Maputo Protocol. Since its adoption, they have proven critical players in further ratification, domestication, implementation and popularisation of the Protocol.

Under the Maputo Protocol, States are required to submit Periodic Reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). These reports have two parts, the first on implementation of the African Charter and the second on the Maputo Protocol.

To inform constructive dialogue with the state as well as influence the Concluding Observations, NGOs with **observer status** can prepare and submit 'shadow reports'; these supplement, and where necessary, contradict the state reports. Shadow reports can alert the ACHPR to specific issues, raise questions or propose recommendations.

**Observer status** is an official recognition that allows civil society organisations to participate in African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) activities. This status is a prerequisite for some forms of participation in the ACHPR's activities. For example, observer status is required to make oral statements before the ACHPR during a session and to propose additions to the session agenda.

### Civil Society Shadow Report to the South Africa State Report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), and the Maputo Protocol

This shadow report was submitted as a joint report by a coalition of civil society organisations working in South Africa on various thematic areas pertaining to human rights and the African systems.

The shadow report comments in detail on the government's report on progress towards the articles in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), and on implementation of Maputo Protocol towards ensuring the



protection of the rights of women in the country. The submission covers the full spectrum of human rights enshrined in the Charter, including those related to peace, ending discrimination, housing, health, education, the environment, and more.

<https://www.ihrda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Joint-South-Africa-NGO-Shadow-Report-for-SA-2nd-Periodic-Report-on-the-African-Charter-and-Maputo-Protocol.pdf>

## What goes into a shadow report?

- New evidence from NGOs which is unlikely to be included in the official report and which the TMB might not already be aware of
- A critique of the State's assessment of the situation in relation to the specific treaty or agreement, to address inaccuracies in the State Report
- Additional context and information about the political, social and economic environment which influence the situation relating to the specific treaty or agreement.
- Evidence of human rights violations and failures to fulfil obligations: with concrete supporting documentation
- Supporting evidence or testimonies which offer a more nuanced perspective to the reporting process, and which add weight to any arguments made in the reporting process
- Recommendations for how the State can improve on meeting its obligations
- Sometimes it is possible to include questions which you would like a treaty body to ask the State.

# 13 steps for developing a shadow report:

Set the Stage

- 1 Identify your focus**
  - What issues do you work on?
  - What are the outcomes you advocate for?
- 2 Identify allies**
  - What other organisations or experts might be interested in collaborating on the report?
  - What are your expertise gaps that can be filled by bringing partners on board?
  - Are there partners which cannot participate in developing the report but are prepared to 'sign on' after the report is completed?
- 3 Set up a team**
  - What are the roles, responsibilities and expectations of each partner?
- 4 Identify the relevant rights**
  - What is the connection between the work you do and the rights or obligations in the treaty or agreement under review?
  - Which articles of the treaty or agreement are most relevant?
- 5 Review the process to date**
  - Read previous reports submitted under this treaty or agreement
  - Review the current state report, if available

Plan and gather information

- 6 Clarify your contribution**
  - How can you shed more light on these rights and related issues?
  - Do you have:
    - on-the-ground information from the work you do, including first-hand accounts from:
      - victims whose rights have been violated
      - advocates who work with victims
      - witnesses to rights violations
      - reports your organization has written
      - other specialized knowledge
- 7 Set goals**
  - What do you want to achieve with your shadow report?
  - What would a successful outcome look like?

Implement

- 8 Develop a workplan**
  - Give yourself enough time – about 6 months before submission date is recommended
- 9 Gather the evidence**
  - What methods are you going to use to gather evidence?
    - Interviews
    - Focus groups
    - Consultative meetings
    - Surveys
    - Media monitoring
    - Literature review
- 10 Write the shadow report**
- 11 Finalise and submit report**
  - If there are public hearings, try to send organisational representatives to attend, or to present the report in person to the relevant person who is part of the treaty body
- 12 Disseminate report**
  - Develop a communications and advocacy plan
  - If necessary, arrange for the report to be translated
  - Make sure the shadow report is available online and that it can be disseminated electronically
  - Use the report as an organising opportunity in the community after it is completed, such as planning a "local hearing"
- 13 Update**
  - Use the report as a baseline for the monitoring and implementation of commitments in your country in the future, as part of an ongoing and continuous process
  - If possible, repeat the process periodically.

# Shadow reports on HIV prevention



In October 2017, governments, civil society, UN agencies and donors came together to launch the Global HIV Prevention Coalition. At the inaugural meeting, the Coalition endorsed a new, Global HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map, designed to improve prevention programming and significantly drive-down new infections by 2020.

As a member of the Coalition, Frontline AIDS played a critical role in mobilising civil society to hold their governments to account on this new Road Map. In 2018, we supported activists from six countries to develop a series of shadow reports tracking progress. The reports provide an alternative assessment, to the official progress reports put forward by national governments and UNAIDS.

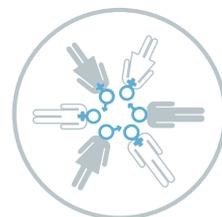
The shadow reports are based on intelligence gathered by civil society organisations. The organisations represent a diverse range of communities – including adolescents, sex workers, people who use drugs, LGBT people and people living with HIV.

Partners worked together in coalition to complete a standard questionnaire developed by Frontline AIDS, tracking progress against the 10-point action plan featured in the Road Map. Small grants were given to the country teams to support with data collection. Partners also held validation meetings with the wider community. Activists then promoted the reports in national, regional and global policy spaces.

The shadow reports exposed some of the gaps and challenges that continue to hold back national responses. The reports are a useful advocacy tool, helping civil society put pressure on governments to uphold their 2020 commitments. The reports have already delivered policy changes. For example:

- In Uganda, advocates used the report to push for new size estimation studies for key populations and lobbied for the inclusion of harm reduction services in the new National Strategic Plan.
- In Zimbabwe, advocates pushed for a new Inter-Ministerial Committee, who are now developing a new Drug Control Masterplan. They also successfully pushed for the inclusion of people who use drugs in the new Key Population HIV Implementation Plan.

The report development process was collaborative. Not only did it build advocates' knowledge and understanding of their national prevention response, it also sensitised advocates to the challenges facing other communities. The report writing process also enabled civil society to actively participate in national prevention processes and stock-taking reviews. This built their advocacy skills and strengthened connections with important decision makers.



*Shadow reports can be confrontational, but even though they are exposing countries, they can also be framed as an offer for collaboration and to show how you can be useful. You can frame messaging as “We appreciate that you are doing ....., but we also notice that this and this is missing”.* Zimbabwean activist, ARASA PITCH Action Planning Meeting, 2019

## More examples of shadow reports from southern and East Africa

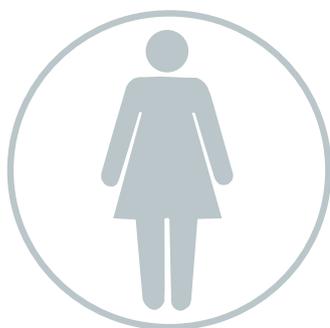
Here are some examples of shadow reports that have been developed to shadow a diverse range of global and regional reporting processes. They will give you a sense of the wide opportunities that exist for civil society HIV activists for advocacy using shadow reporting. They will also give you a sense of the type of language and content used in shadow reports.

### The Anglophone Africa Civil Society and Communities CCM Shadow Report and Scorecard Initiative

This initiative was led by AAI and EANNASO in collaboration with civil society watchdogs in nine countries. The Shadow reports investigated the extent to which Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMS) were effective, as well as how well they consulted with civil society and were representative in its membership.

<http://www.aidsaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/AAI-Partners-CCM-Scorecard-Report-Final.pdf>

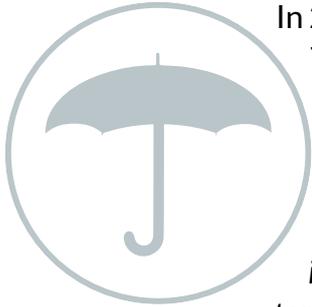
### Africa Civil Society Beijing +20 Shadow report



The 1995 United Nations (UN) Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women was a watershed moment for women's rights, during which States committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), which contains 12 critical areas of concern relating to women's rights and gender equality. Twenty years later, this shadow report summarises progress and shortcomings in those 12 areas of concern, across 49 countries throughout the African continent.

<https://eassi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Africa-Civil-Society-Beijing-20-Shadow-Report.pdf>

## Torture of Sex Workers in Namibia: Written information for the examination of the State party's report for the 59th Session of the Committee against Torture



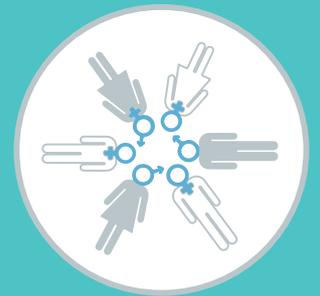
In 2016, Namibian community-based organisations Voices of Hope, Rights not Rescue Trust collaborated with Leitner Centre for International Law and Justice, Fordham University, New York to develop this report which stated that:

*Namibia has failed to meet multiple obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ("CAT") in regards to its treatment of sex workers. The criminalization of sex work in Namibia has resulted in the torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of sex workers, both female and male, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") sex workers.*

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/NAM/INT\\_CAT\\_CSS\\_NAM\\_25753\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/NAM/INT_CAT_CSS_NAM_25753_E.pdf)

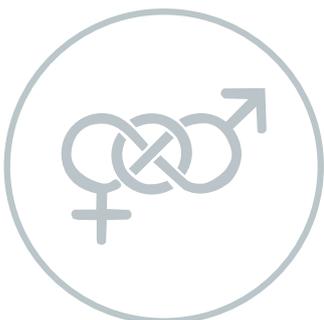
## Malawi Shadow Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

A coalition of civil society organisations, including ARASA partner CEDEP and International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IBLHRC) developed a shadow report to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2014. The report addressed many ICCPR Articles issues which have relevance to HIV and SRHR, including Articles on Non-Discrimination and Equality between men and women; Prohibition of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Right to Liberty and Security of the Person, Treatment of Persons Deprived of Liberty; and Prohibition of Arbitrary or Unlawful Interference with Privacy, Family, Home or Correspondence.



<https://outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/Malawi0714ForUpload.pdf>

## SADC Gender Protocol Barometer: SRHR Strategy Scorecard



The SADC Gender Protocol Barometer is developed annually by the #VoiceandChoice Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance, through a series of national civil society consultations and campaigns. The 2019 Barometer focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, specifically the commitments in the SADC SRHR Strategy, which was adopted by health ministers in November 2018. Measuring 100 indicators across seven themes, the Barometer is the first civil society shadow report on SADC's SRHR Strategy Score Card, ranking countries based on their performance, while offering detailed analysis and insights into what is changing and still needs to change.

<https://genderlinks.org.za/what-we-do/sadc-gender-protocol/sadc-protocol-barometer/>

# Points To Remember When Developing A Shadow Report

## Collaborations

Collaborating with larger NGOs can make a shadow report more powerful: it adds an international dimension and fosters legitimacy of the report. Collaborating with local NGOs has the potential to strengthen the on-the-ground work related to the issue.

It is very important to reach out to organisations that have prior experience with developing and submitting shadow reports, especially with the specific treaty or oversight body you are targeting. The process can be extensive and complicated, and highly politicised.

## Fundraising

Producing a CSO Shadow Report requires human and financial resources. It may be necessary, for example, to hire a consultant to work on more technical aspects of the report. It is important to secure the necessary finance and other resources early on. Sometimes larger international NGOs may be interested in collaborating with national NGOs, and may have the funds to support the process. Alternatively, NGOs can ask donors for financial support.

## Preparation

It is important to start the preparation of the shadow report in good time, to be ready for the submission deadline. The entire process of developing a shadow report can take up to 6 months.

## Background research

Look at previous reports submitted by the government in question to various treaty bodies, not just the one you are developing a shadow report for. Take note of previous recommendations made to government, as well as government's previous commitments, and the actions which it has taken to uphold its commitments.<sup>xvi</sup>

## Credibility

Ensure that claims are backed up with evidence. A crucial issue in maintaining credibility is the need for accuracy in the process of data collection. It is important to include proof, such as sworn affidavits, victims' testimonies, and court cases. If victims are hesitant to be named in sworn affidavits (e.g., fear of retaliation), the reasons for this should be explained in the report.

## Craft an argument

Shadow reports should do more than merely list human rights violations; they must provide the context for the oversight body to understand why a law, policy or practice violates a human right or goes counter to a commitment, and explain what the impact of that violation or failure is.<sup>xvii</sup>

## Be clear and brief

It is important for CSO shadow reports to be clear and brief, as members of oversight bodies are required to process a lot of information. Instead of including long explanations in the report, reference can be made and links provided to reports which provide more detail or evidence.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup>From <https://www.newtactics.org/using-shadow-reports-advocacy/using-shadow-reports-advocacy>

<sup>ii</sup><https://www.ohchr.org/en/aboutus/pages/civilsociety.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup>Amnesty International (2014). Holding government to account: A Guide to Shadow Reporting on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. Available at: <https://www.escri-net.org/resources/holding-government-account-guide-shadow-reporting-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>

<sup>iv</sup>Datta, R (2011 UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Challenges and Opportunities. Available at: [https://www.pwescr.org/PWESCRPaperPR-Revised\\_8-9-2012\[1\].pdf](https://www.pwescr.org/PWESCRPaperPR-Revised_8-9-2012[1].pdf)

<sup>v</sup>From <https://www.newtactics.org/using-shadow-reports-advocacy/using-shadow-reports-advocacy>

<sup>vi</sup>Bantekas, I. & Oette, L. (2016). International Human Rights Law and Practice. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>vii</sup>ISHR (2015). Simple Guide to UN Treaty Bodies. Available at <https://www.ishr.ch/news/updated-simple-guide-un-treaty-bodies-guide-simple-sur-les-organes-de-traites-des-nations-unies>

<sup>viii</sup>OHCHR (2008). Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Human Rights. NGO Handbook. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Pages/Handbook.aspx>

<sup>ix</sup>KESWA & BHESP (2017) Aren't we also women?: Kenya sex workers'

shadow report submission to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 68th Session, Geneva 2017. Available at: [https://www.nswp.org/sites/nswp.org/files/kenya\\_sex\\_workers\\_cedaw\\_shadow\\_report\\_bhesp\\_and\\_keswa\\_-\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nswp.org/sites/nswp.org/files/kenya_sex_workers_cedaw_shadow_report_bhesp_and_keswa_-_2017.pdf)

<sup>x</sup><https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts.aspx>

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<sup>xiv</sup>10 steps to writing a shadow report. Available at: [https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/app\\_m.pdf](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/app_m.pdf)

<sup>xv</sup>International Forum of National NGO Platforms (2018). Guidelines for CSO Shadow reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at National Level

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<sup>xvi</sup>IGLHRC (2016) Equal and Indivisible: Crafting Inclusive Shadow Reports for CEDAW. Available at: <https://ilga.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Equal-and-Indivisible-Crafting-Inclusive-Shadow-Reports-for-CEDAW.pdf>

<sup>xvii</sup>ibid

### About ARASA

The AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) was established in 2002 as a regional partnership of civil society organisations working in 18 countries in southern and East Africa. Between 2019 and 2021, the partnership will work to promote respect for and the protection of the rights to bodily autonomy and integrity for all in order to reduce inequality, especially gender inequality and promote health, dignity and wellbeing in southern and East Africa.

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The Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH) enables people most affected by HIV to gain full and equal access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.

The partnership works to uphold the sexual and reproductive health and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, sex workers, people who use drugs and adolescent girls and young women. It does this by strengthening the capacity of community-based organisations to engage in effective advocacy, generate robust evidence and develop meaningful policy solutions.

PITCH focuses on the HIV response in Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Partners in these countries also share evidence from communities to influence regional and global policies that affect vulnerable populations.

PITCH is a strategic partnership between Aidsfonds, FrontlineAIDS and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs