

Global Alliance of National Human Rights
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Item 3**

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Report on Good practices in national criminalization, investigation, prosecution and sentencing for offences of torture. (A/HRC/52/30)

Mr. President, Madame Special Rapporteur,

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) welcomes the report of the newly appointed Special Rapporteur, Dr. Alice Jill Edwards.

We particularly note the mention of safe, accessible, and confidential complaints procedures of national human rights institutions, NHRIs. We take this opportunity to encourage member states that have not yet done so, to increase protection against torture through the establishment of independent and well-resourced NHRIs. We also call for member states to ensure that torture is criminalised as a serious criminal offence in national legislation.

As NHRIs, we are strategically positioned to apply our unique mandate and functions in the fight against torture and other forms of ill-treatment. For example, through investigating, monitoring, reporting, and advising states – and by conducting human rights education and awareness.

Many of us also serve as national preventive mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, OPCAT. We visit prisons and other places of detention, receive information about allegations of torture and ill-treatment. We also address situations of persons with special vulnerability, including children, women, older persons, migrants, and persons deprived of their liberty.

As the Global network of NHRIs, GANHRI is dedicated to supporting and strengthening these efforts. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that later this year, GANHRI will be holding its 14th International Conference in Copenhagen – co-hosted by the NHRIs of Ukraine and Denmark. The theme of the conference will be the fight against torture.

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We look forward to working closely with the Special Rapporteur and all members and observers of the Human Rights Council in our shared mission to promote and protect human rights for all.

I thank you Mr. President.