



SOLOMON ISLANDS

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF R2P IMPLEMENTATION



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The following Baseline Assessment Annex provides an overview of the Solomon Islands' efforts in implementing R2P as of 2019. For a full description of the methodology used in this study, see Part II of 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect in the Asia Pacific: An Assessment of Progress and Challenges', available [here](#).

Photo Acknowledgement: Jeremy Weate, 2016, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/73542590@N00/25140661755/>.

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A post-conflict society, rebuilding after violent conflict and near state-collapse, the Solomon Islands has made decent efforts to implement R2P. It has done especially well to prevent atrocity crimes and reduce risk and also has in place some legislative protections. The Solomon Islands tends to cooperate well with the UN and relevant regional organizations.

Given its small size, it is not surprising that the Solomon Islands has not been especially proactive in implementing R2P. Officials have attended meetings, but the government has yet to appoint a Focal Point largely owing to capacity shortfalls. A lack of diplomatic capacity largely explains why the Solomon Islands has not expressed more support for atrocity prevention initiatives, though where it has offered statements these have been positive.

Domestically, the Solomon Islands performs decently well in areas such as human rights, access to justice, security sector governance, and education and is generally on a positive trajectory. There are, though, some notable issues in this regard. First, the Solomon Islands has no national human rights institution, and no stated objective of establishing one, creating a protection gap. Second, like most other states in the region, the Solomon Islands is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Assessment	Indicator
Strong	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks
	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations
	Ensure equal access to justice
	Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas
Fair	Dealing with past atrocities
	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law
	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector
	Participate in international, regional and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations
	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes
Weak	Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate)	

	Support the Kigali Principles
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention
Very Weak	Appoint national R2P Focal Point
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law
	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention

Solomon Islands Score: 39

Rebuilding, with international support, after an internal armed conflict, the Solomon Islands is an average performer when it comes to implementing R2P. It has done well to protect its populations from atrocity crimes, reduce risk, and improve human rights but has not been proactive in advancing atrocity prevention. There are also some significant domestic protection gaps.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Strong	<p>The Solomon Islands is a country still recovering from a violent past of ethnic conflict and erosion of state infrastructure. Thanks in large part to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and other foreign aid, the Solomon Islands has been able to establish itself as a fully sovereign state.¹</p> <p>Despite RAMSI's mission officially ending in 2017, the State still receives large amounts of foreign aid to assist the government in improving its health and education sectors, its economy and forms of good governance. Despite a lack of capacity, the government is currently doing a good job of protecting its population from atrocity crimes.</p>
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Strong	<p>Due to gaps and lack of capability in areas of state infrastructure, the Solomon Islands has lingering issues related to poverty and entrenched gender inequality (see relevant Indicator below). Political transitions have also been the cause of civil unrest and violence in the past.²</p> <p>Despite this, the willingness of the Solomon Islands government to be involved in the RAMSI mission and other good governance initiatives means the risk of atrocity crimes occurring is low.</p>
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Fair	<p>In 1998, ethnic tensions in the Solomon Islands erupted into violence. Residents of the island of Guadalcanal began fighting settlers from the neighbouring island of Malaita, who were resented due to occupying undeveloped land on Guadalcanal. The Isatabu Freedom Movement (also known as the Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army) began fighting the Malaitans, who formed the Malaita Eagle Force in response.</p> <p>Calls for aid from the Solomon Islands government were rejected as the violence continued and moved to other parts of the country. Finally, in 2003, members of the Pacific Islands Forum, with the permission of the Solomon Islands government, formed RAMSI and began to restore order and put an end to 'the Tensions'.</p> <p>While RAMSI's mission is widely deemed as a success, lingering pressures and trauma remain. A truth and reconciliation commission began hearings in 2010, yet the final report was not openly published by the government, citing concerns it could lead to further unrest. It eventually was, following an unofficial release by one of the report's editors, yet its recommendations have yet to be fully examined. Taboos around violence in Solomon Islands society, particularly sexual</p>

¹ For more information, see: RAMSI, 2017. *Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands – Helpem Fren*, <https://www.ramsi.org/>.

² Ride, Anouk, 2019. *Riots in Solomon Islands: The Day After*, <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/riots-solomon-islands-day-after/>.

			violence, means lasting feelings of trauma and injustice remain. ³
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak	The Solomon Islands does not currently possess a national R2P Focal Point. ⁴
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Weak	The Solomon Islands received US\$186.8million in official development assistance in 2017. ⁵ The majority of this aid and other development partnerships the Solomon Islands is a part of, goes towards increasing the capacity of social and economic infrastructure. While it may lessen the chances of atrocity crimes occurring, there is no specific mention of risk and/or dynamics in the aid received.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak	There are no domestic mechanisms in place that make the government of the Solomon Islands accountable for upholding the responsibility to protect.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Fair	<p>The Solomon Islands has ratified seven and has signed another of the twelve international human rights laws (IHL) most relevant to R2P. They ratified treaties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Geneva Conventions</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1981). • <i>Geneva Protocol I</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1988). • <i>1951 Refugee Convention</i> and its <i>1967 Protocol</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1995). • <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child [CRC]</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1995). • <i>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [ICESCR]</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1982). • <i>Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination [CERD]</i> (Ratification/Accession: 1982). • <i>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW]</i> (Ratification/Accession: 2002). <p>The State has neither ratified or signed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.</i> • <i>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [CAT].</i> • <i>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [ICCPR].</i> • <i>The Arms Trade Treaty [ATT].</i>⁶

³ Cain, Tess Newton, 2013. *Final Report of the Solomon Islands Truth & Reconciliation Commission unofficially released*, <http://www.devpolicy.org/final-report-of-the-solomon-islands-truth-reconciliation-commission-unofficially-released-20130501-2/>; Wilson, Catherine, 2013. 'Post-Conflict Trauma Haunts Solomon Islands'. *Inter Press Service*, 29 April. Available at: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/04/post-conflict-trauma-haunts-solomon-islands/>; RAMSI.org, 2017. *The Tensions*, <https://www.ramsi.org/the-tensions/>.

⁴ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2018. *Global Network of R2P Focal Points*, http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/regional-breakdown_global-network-of-r2p-focal-points-2.pdf.

⁵ OECD, 2017. *Aid at a glance charts*, 'Interactive summary charts by aid (ODA) recipients', <https://www.oecd.org/countries/solomonislands/aid-at-a-glance.htm>. (Follow the link and select 'Solomon Islands' from the drop-down menu). See also: Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform, n.d. *Solomon Islands*, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/partners/?id=238>.

⁶ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), n.d. *View the ratification status by treaty or by country*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx; United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC),

		While it has not ratified it, the Solomon Islands did sign the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> in 1998. ⁷
Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Weak	The Solomon Islands has not ratified the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> , although it has signed it. ⁸
Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Very Weak	There is no national institution in the Solomon Islands to deal with abuses of human rights.
Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.	Fair	<p>The constitution of the Solomon Islands guarantees the entitlement to individual rights and freedoms to any citizen, regardless of race, colour, creed or sex. Chapter II covers these freedoms in detail, which include freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association and protection from discrimination on grounds of race, among others.⁹ The definition of discrimination, according to the constitution, "... means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex..."¹⁰</p> <p>Despite constitutional guarantees, discrimination occurs in certain areas of society, particularly regarding sexual violence of women and girls (see relevant Indicator below). There is no law against discrimination of people based on physical or mental disabilities and access to employment and education were lacking. This seems mostly related to a lack of governmental capacity to provide adequate support.¹¹</p> <p>There is also evidence that discrimination occurs in the workplace in respect to women or around issues regarding "...disability, language, sexual orientation and gender identity, and HIV-positive status."¹²</p> <p>Consensual sexual acts between adults of the same sex is criminalised in the <i>Penal Code</i>. While there is little evidence to suggest the police enforce these laws, deep-rooted stigmas remain regarding issues of LGBTIQ relations and same-sex marriage, which could affect the reporting rates of any incidents.¹³</p>

2019. 8. *Arms Trade Treaty*, https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26&clang=en; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2015. *States Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol*, p. 4, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/protection/basic/3b73b0d63/states-parties-1951-convention-its-1967-protocol.html>; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), n.d. *Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols, and their Commentaries*, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/vwTreaties1949.xsp>; UNTC, 2019. 1. *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-1&chapter=4&clang=en

⁷ Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), 2017. *The Rome Statute in the Asia-Pacific*, p. 13, https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/734/rome_statute_in_AP_2017.pdf.

⁸ International Criminal Court (ICC), n.d. *The States Parties to the Rome Statute*, https://asp.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/asp/states%20parties/pages/the%20states%20parties%20to%20the%20rome%20statute.aspx#S.

⁹ Solomon Islands, Legislative Assembly, *The Constitution of the Solomon Islands, Chapter II*. United Kingdom, 1978.

¹⁰ Ibid., *Chapter II, Article 15(4)*.

¹¹ U.S Department of State, 2018. *Solomon Islands 2018 Human Rights Report*, p. 12, <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SOLOMON-ISLANDS-2018.pdf>.

¹² Ibid., p. 16-17.

¹³ Human Dignity Trust, 2019. *Solomon Islands*, <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/solomon-islands/>.

	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Fair	<p>The Solomon Islands has participated in the UPR twice, in 2011 and 2016.</p> <p>In its first UPR of 2011, the Solomon Islands delegation accepted 112 of the 115 recommendations given to it. The three that were rejected all concerned the decriminalisation of sexual activity between consenting adults.¹⁴</p> <p>During its second UPR, the Solomon Islands rejected none of the 139 recommendations given to it. It accepted 89 and took note of the remaining 50.¹⁵</p> <p>The Solomon Islands currently has three overdue reports related to treaty bodies (CEDAW, CERD and ICESCR).¹⁶</p>
	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Strong	The Solomon Islands extended a standing invitation to UN mandate holders in 2011. Two visits were reported on in 2011 and in 2012 respectively. Two visits requested in 2018 have yet to be finalised. ¹⁷
	Ensure equal access to justice.	Strong	<p>Any citizen of the Solomon Islands charged with a criminal offence is constitutionally guaranteed a fair hearing at an independent and impartial court.¹⁸ The courts are split based on levels of jurisdiction. The High Court is the highest court of appeal in the Solomon Islands, while the local courts contain community elders which help enforce customary and local by-laws.¹⁹ The government has generally respected the constitutional right of a fair trial and judicial independence.²⁰</p> <p>Australia has implemented the Solomon Islands Justice Program, which seeks to ensure the continued robustness of Solomon Islands judicial institutions and shore up the vulnerabilities still felt in the post-RAMSI era.²¹</p> <p>Also of note is the large delay for those convicted of serious crimes (such as murder) to attend trial. With the Tensions and the arrival of RAMSI, and the subsequent arrests of militants accused of serious crimes, almost half the prison population of the Solomon Islands at one point was comprised of those in pre-trial custody.²² A backlog of cases still remains which does not always result in a trial</p>

¹⁴ UPR Info, 2011. *Responses to Recommendations: Solomon Islands*, https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/solomon_islands/session_11_-_may_2011/recommendationstosolomonislands2011.pdf.

¹⁵ UPR Info, 2016. *2RP: Responses to Recommendations & Voluntary Pledges: Solomon Islands*, https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/solomon_islands/session_24_-_january_2016/recommendations_and_pledges_solomon_islands_2016.pdf.

¹⁶ UNOHCHR, n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

¹⁷ UNOHCHR, n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*, https://spinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en&country=SLB

¹⁸ Solomon Islands, Legislative Assembly, *Constitution of the Solomon Islands, Chapter II, Article 10(1)*.

¹⁹ Commonwealth Governance, 2019. *Judicial System of the Solomon Islands*, http://www.commonwealthgovernance.org/countries/pacific/solomon_islands/judicial-system/.

²⁰ U.S Department of State, 2018. *Solomon Islands 2018 Human Rights Report*, p. 4.

²¹ For more information, see: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), 2017. *Solomon Islands Justice Program Design Document*, <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/solomon-islands-justice-program-design-2017-2021.pdf>.

²² Avere, Ken, 2006. *Pre-Trial Incarceration In Solomon Islands and the Reasonableness of its Length – A Post Conflict Intervention Context*, p. 4, http://www.forbeschambers.com.au/uploads/8/3/1/7/8317252/averre_-_pre-trial_incarceration_in_solomon_islands_and_the_reasonableness_of_its_length_a_post_conflict_intervention_context.pdf.

		being brought before the courts in a timely manner. ²³
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Fair	The Solomon Islands constitution, the <i>Penal Code</i> and the application of the <i>Geneva Conventions</i> of which it is a part, means nationals and foreigners can be prosecuted for war crimes within the country and abroad. The same can be said of genocide, although this does not apply to those located outside the country. There are no provisions for crimes against humanity. ²⁴
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Strong	Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Solomon Islands took steps to counter international terrorism, despite not regarding itself as a target. This included the participation of national security officials in training workshops and seminars and cooperating with those in the region to exchange intelligence on terrorism and transnational crime. ²⁵ The <i>Counter-Terrorism Bill 2009</i> and the <i>Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002</i> allow acts of terrorism and terrorism financing to be criminalised under Solomon Islands law, and the country has been a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering since 2007. ²⁶ While the risk of terrorism and terrorism financing is very low, endemic corruption and the vulnerability of state and government institutions could prove to be a fertile ground for such activities to take place. ²⁷
Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Strong	The Solomon Islands has one of the world's highest rates of domestic and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). ²⁸ The Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study (SIFHSS), conducted in 2009 as a collaborative project between the United Nations Population Fund, DFAT, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the government, gave the most complete snapshot of SGBV in the country to date. What they found was an endemic level of violence throughout the country, stemming from a social and cultural context that accepted violence and reinforced gender inequality through practices such as bride price. Approximately 73% of both men and women believed violence was sometimes acceptable, ²⁹ usually in the context of disobedience where a woman's actions contravened her

²³ U.S Department of State, 2018. *Solomon Islands 2018 Human Rights Report*, p. 4.

²⁴ Library of Congress, 2016. *Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Jurisdiction*, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/genocide/chart.php#Solomon%20Islands>; Government of the Solomon Islands. 'Penal Code (Revised Edition 1996). (1996). *International Labour Organisation (ILO)*. <
https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=68888&p_country=SLB&p_count=73&p_classification=01.04&p_classcount=10>.

²⁵ United Nations, Security Council, Letter dated 23 August 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council, 26 August 2002, S/2002/962, p.3.

²⁶ For more information, see: Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), 2019. *Members & Observers: Solomon Islands*, <http://www.apgml.org/members-and-observers/members/details.aspx?m=eed1590a-5054-4596-9b39-60e2b845aca1>.

²⁷ APG, The World Bank, 2010. *Mutual Evaluation Report: Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism: Solomon Islands*, p. 8. (This document can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.apgml.org/members-and-observers/members/member-documents.aspx?m=eed1590a-5054-4596-9b39-60e2b845aca1>).

²⁸ Ming, Mikaela A., et al. 2016. 'Domestic violence in the Solomon Islands'. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*, vol. 5, no. 1, 16-19, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4943125/>.

²⁹ UN Women, n.d. *Solomon Islands*, <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/solomon-islands>.

		state structures, government corruption is widespread, although political parties are free to form and operate. Those wishing to demonstrate or protest first need a permit from the authorities, despite constitutional guarantees. There are reports of some government officials intimidating journalists on certain issues, and consequently self-censorship in the media is a problem. Although overall, press freedom was widely respected and both Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders recognised the Solomon Islands as a relatively free environment for civil society to operate. ⁴¹
Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Fair	One of RAMSI's roles during its tenure was the reconstruction of the country's police force to be more effective and accountable. This was largely successful and after the departure of RAMSI Australia and New Zealand have maintained contact with the Solomon Islands to ensure continued capacity building. The civilian authorities continue to maintain effective control of security forces in the country. ⁴²
Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Strong	Currently, education is not compulsory in the Solomon Islands. The education system is as inclusive as it can be, given shortcomings in government spending and expertise, with roughly equal rates of enrolment of both girls and boys. ⁴³ There is diversity in the curriculum, where the importance and need of human rights is taught, ⁴⁴ along with "... the use of native languages in schools and diversifying teaching materials on history, religion and culture." ⁴⁵ The main hurdle for the education system is access. Many school-age children living in rural or remote communities are unable or unwilling to travel the distance necessary to attend school and to pay for school buildings and equipment, despite government subsidies making primary education free. ⁴⁶ Concerns remain over access to education for both girls and children with disabilities. ⁴⁷
Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Strong	As previously mentioned, individuals can be prosecuted for genocide under the <i>Penal Code</i> , as well as war crimes outside of the country. As of May 2019, the Solomon Islands agreed to work towards full ratification of the <i>Rome Statute</i> , and the promotion of accountability for atrocities

⁴¹ Freedom House, 2018. *Freedom in the World 2018: Solomon Islands*, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2018/solomon-islands>; Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 2019. *Solomon Islands*, <https://rsf.org/en/solomon-islands>; CIVICUS Monitor, 2019. *Solomon Islands*, <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/solomon-islands/>.

⁴² U.S Department of State, 2018. *Solomon Islands 2018 Human Rights Report*, p. 2-3.

⁴³ United Nations, Human Rights Council (HRC), National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, 30 October 2015, A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/1, p. 16.

⁴⁴ United Nations, HRC, National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 15(a) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, 15 April 2011, A/HRC/WG.6/11/SLB/1, p. 11.

⁴⁵ Huang, Irina, 2017. *Education in the Solomon Islands*, <https://borgenproject.org/education-in-the-solomon-islands/>.

⁴⁶ United Nations, HRC, A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/1, p. 16.

⁴⁷ United Nations, HRC, Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15(b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, 20 November 2015, A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/2, p. 12; United Nations, HRC, A/HRC/WG.6/11/SLB/1, p. 12.

throughout the region via the Port Vila Plan of Action.⁴⁸

Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Fair	<p>Representatives from the Solomon Islands participated in the 2009, 2010 and 2017 UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogues on R2P.⁴⁹ In all three statements the Solomon Islands refers to the ethnic conflict it has suffered, and thus the country possesses a broad acceptance of R2P because of it. In its first two statements, the delegation calls for closer cooperation between UN representatives and officials of member states for early warning systems to be most effective in detecting impending conflict and atrocity crimes.</p> <p>In these statements, while Pillars One and Two receive broad support from the Solomon Islands (with only a minor caveat for Pillar Two), Pillar Three is more ambiguous and the country welcomes further debate on what can constitute appropriate action.</p> <p>Forward to its most recent statement in 2017, and the Solomon Islands reaffirms its "...commitment to R2P and the full implementation of all three pillars of the norm."⁵⁰</p>
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Weak	<p>The Solomon Islands has voted on the following General Assembly resolutions that have referenced R2P.</p> <p>UN General Assembly Resolutions:⁵¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013: The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/67/262: abstained. • 2014: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/69/188: abstained. • 2014: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/69/189: yes. • 2015: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/70/172: abstained. • 2015: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/70/234: yes. • 2016: The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/71/130: yes. • 2016: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/71/203: yes. • 2017: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/72/188: adopted without vote. • 2017: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/72/191: yes.

⁴⁸ Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2019. *Port Vila Plan of Action on the Universality and Effectiveness Rome Statute in the Fight against Impunity and toward Accountability*, p. 2, <https://www.pgaction.org/pdf/2019-05-31-Port-Vila-Plan-of-Action.pdf>.

⁴⁹ GCR2P, 2009. *Solomon Islands – Statement at the July 2009 GA Debate on RtoP (As Delivered)*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/solomon-islands-2009-r2p-debate.pdf>; GCR2P, 2010. *Statement by Mrs. Helen Beck, Counsellor*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/solomon-islands-2010-r2p-debate.pdf>; GCR2P, 2017. *Informal Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on the Secretary-General's Report on the Responsibility to Protect 6 September 2017: Statement by Solomon Islands*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/2017-iid-solomon-islands.pdf>.

⁵⁰ GCR2P, 2017. *Informal Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on the Secretary-General's Report on the Responsibility to Protect 6 September 2017: Statement by Solomon Islands*.

⁵¹ GCR2P, 2017. *UN General Assembly Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/resources/1133>. (Voting records for each resolution can be accessed here: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&cc=Voting+Data>).

Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.	N/A	Due to a lack of capacity, the Solomon Islands has been unable to offer any substantial assistance to States in times of crisis.
Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Very Weak	The Solomon Islands has been focusing on the reconstruction of state infrastructure following the Tensions and the departure of RAMSI. Therefore, little action has been taken regionally regarding this Indicator. Although, as mentioned above, the Solomon Islands acceptance of the Port Vila Plan of Action shows more improvements in this area is possible in the future.
Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Fair	<p>The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) has been the chief regional body through which the Solomon Islands has acted in the past. The Biketawa Declaration, established in 2000, provides a mandate and guidance for PIF member states in regional assistance,⁵² and it was this document that enabled RAMSI.</p> <p>In 2015 the Solomon Islands advocated for West Papua to be given the status of observer member of the PIF and to enable a human rights assessment by the UN.⁵³ Although more recently support for West Papua by the current government has softened.⁵⁴</p> <p>In 2018, the Solomon Islands along with other PIF members signed the Boe Declaration. This declaration primarily focuses on strengthening regional cooperation regarding contemporary security issues. It also references terms associated with R2P, including respecting “...the rights, health and prosperity of Pacific people,” and to “...further develop early warning mechanisms” regarding existing security architecture.⁵⁵</p>
Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Weak	In 2015 along with 10 other Pacific nations, the Solomon Islands affirmed their commitment to human rights with the signing of the 2015 Denarau Declaration on Human Rights and Good Governance. ⁵⁶ The declaration covered issues such as accession to UN human rights treaties, promoting the rights of women and recognising the threats of diseases and climate change as challenges to human rights in the Pacific.
Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Weak	While the Solomon Islands broadly supports atrocity prevention, little evidence could be found linking it directly to development partnerships. The country receives a large amount of foreign aid post-RAMSI, much of it delivered to building state capacity, economic development and lessening gender inequality. ⁵⁷ While incredibly important and

⁵² RAMSI.org, 2014. “Biketawa” Declaration, <https://www.ramsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Biketawa-Declaration.pdf>.

⁵³ Scoop Independent News, 2015. *Solomon Islands advocates for West Papua at PIF*, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1509/S00043/solomon-islands-advocates-for-west-papua-at-pif.htm>.

⁵⁴ Seke, Samuel, 2019. ‘Solomon Islands Prime Minister softens support for West Papua self-determination’. *ABC News*, 29 April. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/solomons-pm-softens-west-papua-self-determination-support/11053370>.

⁵⁵ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2018. *Forty-Ninth Pacific Islands Forum Nauru, 3rd – 6th September 2018*, <https://www.forumsec.org/forty-ninth-pacific-islands-forum-nauru-3rd-6th-september-2018/>.

⁵⁶ Pacific Community Regional Rights Resources Team, 2015. *First ever Pacific MPs declaration on human rights for good governance*, <https://rrt.spc.int/media/stories/2015/02/first-ever-pacific-mps-declaration-on-human-rights-for-good-governance>.

⁵⁷ For example: DFAT, n.d. *Development assistance in Solomon Islands*, <https://dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon-islands/development-assistance/Pages/development-assistance-in-solomon-islands.aspx>.

			helpful to the Solomon Islands, the aid did not specifically address atrocity prevention measures.
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Fair	The Solomon Islands has made note of its support for early warning mechanisms to be strengthened considering RAMSI's intervention and supporting greater UN representation in the country. However, it voted for the Venezuelan amendment to not fund three posts of the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) and to restrict the language of its resolution to include only genocide and not the other atrocity crimes. ⁵⁸
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Fair	The Solomon Islands has been a part of bilateral and multilateral meetings between itself, regional actors and UN organs over several years. These meetings touch on a range of human rights challenges, including SGBV, human trafficking and discrimination towards vulnerable societal groups. ⁵⁹
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Fair	There is support from the Solomon Islands regarding preventive actions due to its experience with RAMSI. The representative for Kiribati, speaking on behalf of the PIF at the 2018 General Assembly Debate on R2P, noted RAMSI as evidence of R2P in action. PIF member states recognised the "...importance of early warning and early action..." in preventing the potential rise and exacerbation of civil unrest in PIF member states. ⁶⁰
	Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Weak	The Solomon Islands currently (May 2019) has three police peacekeepers posted to UNAMID in Darfur, ⁶¹ which has a protection of civilians mandate. The Solomon Islands first participated in UNAMID in 2017, sending five peacekeepers. ⁶² In 2018 the country contributed 12 peacekeepers to UNMISS to South Sudan, a mission also with a protection of civilians mandate. ⁶³
	Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Fair	While small, the Solomon Islands' contribution shows an appreciation of the positive effects that peacekeeping missions can have on a country, learned from their own experience with RAMSI. The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has, thanks to aid and training delivered by RAMSI, developed into a capable police force. It now has the capacity to be able to train other nations' police

⁵⁸ GCR2P, 2011. *ACABQ and Fifth Committee Negotiations on the Joint Office*, p. 9, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/report-acabq-and-fifth-committee-negotiations.pdf>.

⁵⁹ For example: Lee, Benjamin, 2009. *Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Mechanisms in the Pacific: Aims and Outcomes*, <http://www5.austlii.edu.au/nz/journals/VUWLawRw/2009/23.pdf>; Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and UN Women, 2017. *Key Outcomes Reached at Regional Workshop on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies*, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Media%20Release_UN%20Women%20%20FWCC_GBV%20Workshop_Outcomes_20171027_Final.pdf; International Organisation for Migration, 2018. *Solomon Islands Government Hosts High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Trafficking in Persons*, <https://www.iom.int/news/solomon-islands-government-hosts-high-level-roundtable-discussion-trafficking-persons>.

⁶⁰ Reliefweb, 2018. *No justification for Atrocity Crimes, Prevention Less Costly than Crisis Response, Speaker Tell General Assembly at Opening Debate on Responsibility to Protect*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/no-justification-atrocity-crimes-prevention-less-costly-crisis-response-speakers-tell>.

⁶¹ UN Peacekeeping, 2019. *Summary of Contributions to Peacekeeping, by Mission, Country and Post*, p. 24, https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/5-mission_and_country_1.pdf.

⁶² Graue, Catherine, 2017. 'Officers in Solomon Islands first peacekeeping mission return home from Sudan'. ABC News, 5 October. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/officers-in-solomon-islands-first-peacekeeping/9018108>.

⁶³ United Nations, General Assembly, 13th plenary meeting, 28 September 2018, A/73/PV.13, p. 21.

forces and inspire confidence in the community it serves.⁶⁴

No information could be found on training techniques specific to peacekeeping. Yet, as police have already been deployed to UN missions, it can be assumed the RSIPF has the required capacity for civilian protection.

Support the Kigali Principles.

Weak

The Solomon Islands has not signed the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.⁶⁵

However, it should be noted there does seem to be broad acceptance for the Principles in the Solomon Islands despite a lack of official recognition. Remarks by the Solomon Islands delegation in the 2017 Informal Interactive Dialogue say their deployment to UNAMID is true to the spirit of the Principles, and advocates for atrocity prevention to be included for all peacekeepers on deployment.⁶⁶

Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.

Weak

The Solomon Islands has not signed the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against atrocity crimes,⁶⁷ nor is it a supporter of the French/Mexican initiative on veto restraint in the case of mass atrocities.⁶⁸

Yet, as with the Kigali Principles, there does seem to be a consensus in the Solomon Islands government towards UN Security Council conduct concerning atrocity crimes, despite no official endorsement. In their 2010 address at the Informal Interactive Dialogue, the Solomon Islands drew attention to the need for reform of veto powers in situations of mass atrocities, to avoid lack of action from the international community.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Australian Federal Police (AFP), 2017. *Solomon Islands Police Development Program 2017-2021 Design Document*, p. 10-12, <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/sipdp-design.pdf>; AFP, 2018. 'Solilies OBE', <https://www.afp.gov.au/node/1766>.

⁶⁵ APR2P, 2018. *The Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians*, https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/2942/2018_kigali_principles.pdf.

⁶⁶ GCR2P, 2017. *Informal Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on the Secretary-General's Report on the Responsibility to Protect 6 September 2017: Statement by Solomon Islands*.

⁶⁷ GCR2P, 2017. *List of Supporters of the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as elaborated by ACT*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/2017-01-25-coc-list-of-supporters.pdf>.

⁶⁸ GCR2P, 2016. *Support to the French Mexican initiative on veto restraint in case of mass atrocities*, <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/veto-list.pdf>.

⁶⁹ GCR2P, 2010. *Statement by Mrs. Helen Beck, Counsellor*, p. 3.