



VIETNAM

UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF R2P  
IMPLEMENTATION 2022



Asia-Pacific Centre for the  
Responsibility to Protect

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The following Updated Assessment Annex provides an overview of Vietnam's efforts in implementing R2P as of 2022. 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](#). For more information on R2P implementation in the Asia Pacific in 2022, see the updated assessment [here](#).

# VIETNAM

Vietnam continues to confront several challenges when it comes to implementation of R2P. They perform strongest in relation to the UN's peer review process and protecting their population from atrocity crimes, thanks to the strict control enforced by the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country's only political party.

This control, however, sees an almost complete lack of civic space and respect for human rights. Vietnam does not possess an independent human rights institution, and repressive measures were added to those enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic in the leadup to the election of new Party leadership. Its judicial sector remains highly corrupt and fosters an environment of impunity, and discrimination against minorities and those in the LGBTIQ+ community remains pervasive. There has, however, been some effort by the authorities to address violence against women and increasing the inclusiveness of education.

Internationally, Vietnam maintains a modest contribution to debates and practices around atrocity prevention. It voted in favour of all resolutions referencing R2P during its 2020-2021 tenure on the UN Security Council, yet it mostly abstained from voting in the General Assembly.

Vietnam was the chair of ASEAN during the outbreak of COVID-19, and by all accounts it adapted to the changing environment quite well. However, the country has undertaken little effective measures in responding to the crisis in Myanmar.

Regarding peacekeeping, Vietnam has maintained its contributions on missions with protection of civilians mandates, and it seeks to upgrade its peacekeeping training centre to a regional hub, with a focus on operational support roles.

# VIETNAM

Assessment	Indicator
<b>Strong</b>	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council
<b>Fair</b>	Reduction of atrocity crime risks
	Dealing with past atrocities
	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law
	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity
	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 a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate)	
<b>Weak</b>	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination
	Ensure equal access to justice
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law
	Participate in international, regional and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping	
<b>Very Weak</b>	Appoint national R2P Focal Point
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships
	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

	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society
	Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships
	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 the Kigali Principles
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention

Vietnam 2022 Score: 25

Vietnam 2019 Score: 28.5 (29)

Difference: - 4 

Vietnam's implementation of R2P remains lacklustre, due to relatively weak policy action at the international level and a worsening domestic situation. The country continues to repress human rights and civic space, and discrimination remains pervasive. While Vietnam broadly supports human rights and atrocity prevention internationally, there is a lack of practical action to back up its rhetoric.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Strong Unchanged	Most citizens within Vietnam remain adequately protected from atrocity crimes. Yet, pervasive violence perpetrated by the State, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) against those it deems as enemies, sees high levels of human rights violations within the country.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Fair Unchanged	Repression of certain sectors of Vietnamese society by the CPV, along with abuse of women, children and those in the LGBTIQ+ community, heightens the chances of atrocity crimes occurring, particularly crimes against humanity.
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Fair Unchanged	Vietnam's record of dealing with past atrocities, particularly those committed by multiple sides in the Vietnam War, remains relatively poor, putting aside reconciliation in favour of Vietnam's posture of diverse foreign relations and economic freedom with past aggressors. The recent lawsuit put forth by a Vietnamese citizen against South Korea, the first to ever do so, may pave the way for further justice and reconciliation measures in the future. <sup>1</sup>
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam does not possess a national R2P Focal Point. <sup>2</sup>
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	No atrocity crimes risk dynamics are incorporated into Vietnam's conflict analysis or development partnerships.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found of Vietnam having established domestic mechanisms to uphold R2P.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Fair Unchanged	Vietnam has signed and ratified nine of the key pieces of international human rights law most relevant to R2P. The three they have not signed are the <i>1951 Refugee Convention</i> and its <i>1967 Protocol</i> , the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> , and the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT]. <sup>3</sup> The country still retains reservations regarding the <i>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</i> . <sup>4</sup>
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam has neither signed nor ratified the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> , despite some receptiveness in adopting it in the past. <sup>5</sup>
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in	Very Weak Unchanged	No national human rights institute exists in Vietnam. It was recommended to Vietnam in its latest UPR in 2021 to establish a national human

<sup>1</sup> Do, Hoang, 2020. 'The Forgotten History of South Korean Massacres in Vietnam'. *The Diplomat*, 15 May. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/the-forgotten-history-of-south-korean-massacres-in-vietnam/>.

<sup>2</sup> Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2020. *Members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/members-of-the-global-network-of-r2p-focal-points/>.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), 2022. 2. *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=V-2&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-2&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en); International Criminal Court, n.d. *The States Parties to the Rome Statute*, <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/states-parties#V>; UNTC, 2022. 8. *Arms Trade Treaty*, [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26&clang=en).

<sup>4</sup> Vietnam rejects articles IX and XII and considers article XI to be discriminatory. A description can be found here: UNTC, 2022. 1. *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=IV-1&chapter=4&clang=en#EndDec](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-1&chapter=4&clang=en#EndDec).

<sup>5</sup> Abraham, Yasmin, Angus Fraser, 2021. *The Rome Statute in the Asia Pacific*, p. 18 – 19, [https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/7362/2021 THE ROME STATUTE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC.pdf](https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/7362/2021%20THE%20ROME%20STATUTE%20IN%20THE%20ASIA%20PACIFIC.pdf).

	accordance with the Paris Principles.		rights institution. While there seems to be support for the establishment of such a body within the country, the independence of any such agency would be relative to the overall socialist laws of Vietnam. <sup>6</sup>
	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.	Weak Unchanged	<p>Vietnam's human rights record remains weak under the rule of the CPV. In January 2021, more stringent restrictions were put in place in the leadup to the 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress, which saw the election of a new Politburo and Party Central Committee to lead the country for another five-year term. The electoral candidates were not independent, and the election was not considered fair. Further restrictions on freedoms of expression and the media, freedoms of assembly and association, and freedom of movement remain stringent and widespread. Measures against COVID-19, while initially effective in 2020 and early 2021, have not stopped widespread deaths and many of the measures remain needlessly restrictive.</p> <p>Discrimination remains widespread, including the abuse of children, women, and those in the LGBTIQ+ community.<sup>7</sup></p>
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Strong Unchanged	<p>While Vietnam's domestic human rights record remains lacklustre, they continue to engage with the international community on human rights.</p> <p>Vietnam participated in its 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR in January 2019, where it accepted 220 of the 291 recommendations it received. Most of these related to legal implementation, civil and political rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>At the conclusion of its UPR, the Vietnamese delegation thanked participants in the dialogue, and looked "...forward to continued international cooperation and dialogue in the protection and promotion of human rights".<sup>9</sup> They have also subsequently released a voluntary midterm report following their 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR, updating the recommendations they have received. The launch of this report was coupled with Vietnam's announcement to apply to the UN Human Rights Council in the 2023-2025 term.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>Vietnam has two overdue reports for treaties with reporting mechanisms (down from three in 2019):</p>

<sup>6</sup> Chi, Dan Dzong, Le Thi Thu Mai, 2021. *Theoretical and practical issues in building a national human rights agency in Vietnam*, <http://lyluanchinhtri.vn/home/en/index.php/theory-research/item/762-theoretical-and-practical-issues-in-building-a-national-human-rights-agency-in-vietnam.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Vietnam*, <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vietnam/freedom-world/2022>; U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/vietnam/>; Amnesty International, 2022. *Viet Nam 2021*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/viet-nam/report-viet-nam/>; Human Rights Watch (HRW), 2022. *Vietnam: Events of 2021*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/vietnam>.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), 2019. *Viet Nam: The Universal Periodic Review*, [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session32/VN/Infographic\\_VietNam.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/lib-docs/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session32/VN/Infographic_VietNam.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, Human Rights Council, Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Viet Nam, 6 February 2019, A/HRC/WG.6/32/L.4, p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> VNA, 2022. 'Vietnam launches voluntary midterm report on implementation of UPR third cycle recommendations'. *Vietnam Plus*, 31 March. Available at: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-launches-voluntary-midterm-report-on-implementation-of-upr-third-cycle-recommendations/224387.vnp>.

		for CEDAW and ICESCR, both overdue by less than five years. <sup>11</sup>
Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Fair Unchanged	Vietnam has concluded eight visits by UN mandate holders, with many more being either inactive or considered to be reminders for future implementation. There remains no standing invitation offered by the country to the Human Rights Council. <sup>12</sup>
Ensure equal access to justice.	Weak Decrease	There remain differences between the constitutional freedoms regarding law and justice in Vietnam and how the judicial system works in practice. Torture and abuse of prisoners, arbitrary arrest and lengthy pretrial detention time are all considered widespread in the country. Harassment by government authorities is commonplace for dissidents, human rights defenders and other activists. <sup>13</sup> Vietnam retains the death penalty, although the number of offences for which the death penalty has been assigned has decreased in the past several years. <sup>14</sup>
		Judicial independence, while existing in theory, is in practice non-existent, with the judiciary under the control of the CPV. This bias was particularly evident in cases where charges related to high-profile cases of corruption and challenges to the CPV and/or State. <sup>15</sup>
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Fair Unchanged	Vietnam holds criminal provisions for the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as the crime of aggression. These appear in the <i>Vietnamese Criminal Code</i> Chapter 24, Articles 341, 342, and 343. <sup>16</sup>
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Unchanged	Vietnam has one of the fastest growth rates of Internet usage in the world, with 50 million Internet users and 58 million Facebook accounts. <sup>17</sup> As such, the country has highlighted the threats of online extremism and disinformation and their relationship with counterterrorism and counter-extremism efforts. <sup>18</sup> They have also hosted events to improve international cooperation on counterterrorism and improve the Vietnamese legal framework regarding counterterrorism measures. <sup>19</sup>

<sup>11</sup> UNOHCHR, n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*,

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx).

<sup>12</sup> UNOHCHR, n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*,

<https://spinternet.ohchr.org/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?visitType=all&country=VNM&Lang=en>.

<sup>13</sup> HRW, 2022. *Vietnam: Events of 2021*, 'Freedom of Association, Assembly, and Movement'; U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person'.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Viet Nam, 28 March 2019, A/HRC/41/7, para. 22.

<sup>15</sup> U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person: E. Denial of Fair Public Trial'; Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Vietnam*, 'F. Rule of Law'.

<sup>16</sup> International Criminal Court Project, 2022. *Vietnam Overview: Domestic Atrocity Crime Legislation*, <https://www.aba-icc.org/country/vietnam/>.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/41/7, para. 10.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, 2020. *Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Interactive Closing Session of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week: Member States' Counter-Terrorism Priorities in the Post COVID-19 Environment – Synergies and Complementarities between the COVID-19 and the Counter-Terrorism Agenda*, [https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/200710\\_vctwk\\_closing\\_remarks\\_by\\_amb\\_dang\\_dinh\\_quy.pdf](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/200710_vctwk_closing_remarks_by_amb_dang_dinh_quy.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2022. *Vietnam wants to expand international cooperation in counter-terrorism: Deputy Minister Luong Tam Quang*, <http://en.bocongan.gov.vn/tintuc/Pages/international-relations-cooperation.aspx?ItemID=8717>.



	<p>Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>Fair Unchanged</p>	<p>Violence and harassment against women remain common within Vietnam, with the pandemic increasing rates of reported violence and impacting the effects of services to survivors.<sup>20</sup> While capacity remains limited for the authorities to effectively deal with instances of sexual and gender-based violence, there has been continued investment by the government, with help from some NGOs, to provide training and resources to police, lawyers and the community in dealing with violence against women.<sup>21</sup></p> <p>Discrimination against those in the LGBTIQA+ community is pervasive, exacerbated during COVID-19, and there remains a widespread belief that non-heterosexual orientations are treatable mental disorders.<sup>22</sup> There is however, evidence that this belief may be changing for the better.<sup>23</sup></p> <p>There are also cases of widespread physical and emotional abuse of children, with the relevant authorities poorly resourced and trained to deal with cases of child abuse.<sup>24</sup></p> <p>While men and women have similar access and treatment under the country's legal system, ethnic minorities within Vietnam are routinely discriminated against in employment and education, which has resulted in lower economic prospects. Despite potential government development efforts, ethnic minorities within Vietnam remain chronically disadvantaged within the country.<sup>25</sup></p>
	<p>Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.</p>	<p>Weak Unchanged</p>	<p>There remains no provision within Vietnam to aid refugees and those fleeing atrocities, with the country to be generally uncooperative with the UNHCR in dealing with refugee and asylum seeker cases.<sup>26</sup> Statelessness within ethnic minorities remains a problem and naturalisation remains a difficult process,<sup>27</sup> despite efforts by the government in the past to naturalise Cambodian refugees who had been living in the country for decades.</p>
<p>Domestic Implementation</p>	<p>Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.</p> <p>Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.</p>	<p>Very Weak Unchanged</p> <p>Very Weak Unchanged</p>	<p>No assessment has been carried out.</p> <p>Vietnam remains a repressive State, despite constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression, assembly, association and religion. Under the rule of the CPV, the instruments of civil society are closely controlled and monitored. There is widespread surveillance and harassment of</p>

<sup>20</sup> HRW, 2022. *Vietnam: Events of 2021*, 'Rights of Women and Children'.

<sup>21</sup> U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Women'.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Acts of Violence, Criminalisation, and Other Abuse Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity'; Amnesty International, 2022. *Viet Nam 2021*, 'Discrimination'.

<sup>23</sup> Strangio, Sebastian, 2022. 'Vietnam Takes Major Step Forward in Recognizing LGBTQ Rights'. *The Diplomat*, 12 August. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/vietnam-takes-major-step-forward-in-recognizing-lgbtq-rights/>.

<sup>24</sup> U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Children'; HRW, 2022. *Vietnam: Events of 2021*, 'Rights of Women and Children'.

<sup>25</sup> Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Vietnam*, 'F. Rule of Law'; Hutt, David, 2019. 'Vietnam's Big Ethnic Challenge'. *The Diplomat*, 22 November. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2019/11/vietnams-big-ethnic-challenge/>.

<sup>26</sup> U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties: f. Protection of Refugees'.

<sup>27</sup> Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2022. *DFAT Country Information Report Vietnam*, p. 12, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/country-information-report-vietnam.pdf>.

			journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders who utilise social media to communicate, as it is the only independent media platforms in the country. <sup>28</sup> Both Google and Facebook have been praised by the government for responding to its calls to remove and censor content published by dissidents on its platforms. <sup>29</sup>
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Fair Decrease	There are reports of members of the security forces within Vietnam carrying out torture and killings of prisoners. Furthermore, while the CPV effectively controlled the security sector, there was widespread impunity for abuses committed by security forces, with authorities failing to investigate allegations of abuse and misconduct. <sup>30</sup>
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Fair Unchanged	Primary education is compulsory and free from six to eleven years of age, which follows an optional three years of pre-schooling. School fees for uniforms and textbooks, as well as access for those in remote communities (mostly ethnic minorities), remain as barriers for more inclusive education in the country. <sup>31</sup> During COVID-19 lockdowns, many of those living in mountainous and remote areas had limited access to the Internet, and as such, could not attend remote learning. <sup>32</sup>
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Unchanged	No update could be found for this Indicator. Vietnam's continued reticence in signing the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> limits the ability of the country to prosecute nationals overseas, despite provisions in the Criminal Code for atrocity crimes.
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Weak Decrease	Vietnam has not participated in a UN interactive dialogue since 2012, and there was no evidence of Vietnam having conducted discussions with regional partners in the years since.
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Weak Unchanged	Vietnam became a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the 2020-2021 term. <sup>33</sup> During that time, it voted in favour of all resolutions that referenced R2P:  <b>UN Security Council Resolutions:</b> <sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> This harassment has led to Vietnam being the world's third largest jailer of journalists, and it is currently ranked at 174 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index. Reporters Without Borders, 2022. *Vietnam*, <https://rsf.org/en/country/vietnam>.

<sup>29</sup> HRW, 2022. Vietnam: Events of 2021, 'Freedom of Media, Access to Information'; Amnesty International, 2022. *Viet Nam 2021*, 'Freedom of expression and repression of dissent'.

<sup>30</sup> U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person'.

<sup>31</sup> Vietnameducation.info, 2022. *Education System in Vietnam*, <https://www.vietnameducation.info/education-system>; Education Destination Asia, 2022. *School Education System in Vietnam*, <https://educationdestinationasia.com/essential-guide/vietnam/education-system-in-vietnam>; scholaro, 2022. *Education System in Vietnam*, <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Vietnam/Education-System>; U.S Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vietnam*, 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Children'.

<sup>32</sup> Flowers, Rana, 2020. 'Ethnic minority education in Viet Nam: challenges and opportunities during COVID-19 outbreak'. *unicef*, 11 May. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/stories/ethnic-minority-education-viet-nam-challenges-and-opportunities-during-covid-19-outbreak>. An article by Vietnamese academics in 2020 found income levels and the quality of local infrastructure were also pertinent in providing effective education to those in remote communities. Do, Ha Thi Hai et al., 2020. 'Ensuring basic education for ethnic minority group in Vietnam'. *Management Science Letters*, vol. 10 (2020), [http://www.growingscience.com/msl/Vol10/msl\\_2020\\_125.pdf](http://www.growingscience.com/msl/Vol10/msl_2020_125.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> NhanDan, 2022. 'Vietnam joins the United Nations Security Council in an effective and substantive manner'. *NhanDan Online*, 1 January. Available at: <https://en.nhandan.vn/politics/item/11004302-vietnam-joins-the-united-nations-security-council-in-an-effective-and-substantive-manner.html>.

<sup>34</sup> Details of these resolutions can be found here: GCR2P, 2021. *UN Security Council Resolutions and Presidential Statements Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-security-council-resolutions-and-presidential-statements-referencing-r2p/>. (Voting records for each resolution were accessed using the UN's Digital Library: United Nations Digital Library, n.d. *Voting Data*,

- 2020: S/RES/2514: **yes.**
- 2020: S/RES/2552: **yes.**
- 2020: S/RES/2556: **yes.**
- 2021: S/RES/2567: **yes.**
- 2021: S/RES/2573: **yes.**
- 2021: S/RES/2577: **yes.**

While encouraging, Vietnam has continued its tradition of abstaining from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions that reference R2P.

#### UN General Assembly Resolutions:<sup>35</sup>

- 2018: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/73/172: **abstained.**
- 2018: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/73/180: **adopted without vote.**
- 2018: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/73/182: **abstained.**
- 2019: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/74/166: **adopted without vote.**
- 2019: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/74/169: **abstained.**
- 2020: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/75/190: **adopted without vote.**
- 2020: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/75/189: **abstained.**
- 2020: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/75/193: **abstained.**
- 2021: Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites A/RES/75/258: **adopted without vote.**
- 2021: The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity A/RES/75/277: **abstained.**

Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.

Very Weak  
**Unchanged**

Vietnam’s response to the coup and ensuing violence in Myanmar has been lacklustre in stopping the conflict, bordering on non-existent. While it was part of a UN General Assembly resolution in favour of stopping the flow of arms to the country,<sup>36</sup> little other concrete evidence in favour of atrocity prevention could be found. The Vietnamese military has maintained close ties with

[https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&cc=Voting%20Data&p=&f=&rm=&ln=en&sf=&so=d&rg=50&c=Voting%20Data&c=&of=hb&fti=0&fti=0&fct\\_2=Security%20Council.](https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&cc=Voting%20Data&p=&f=&rm=&ln=en&sf=&so=d&rg=50&c=Voting%20Data&c=&of=hb&fti=0&fti=0&fct_2=Security%20Council.)

<sup>35</sup> GCR2P, 2021. *UN General Assembly Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-general-assembly-resolutions-referencing-r2p-2/>. (Voting records for each resolution were accessed using the UN’s Digital Library: General Assembly of the United Nations, n.d. *Voting Records*, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/documents/voting.asp>.)

<sup>36</sup> Vietnam joined the other ASEAN nations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Myanmar (through its civilian government representative) in voting in favour of the resolution, whereas Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand abstained. Nichols, Michelle, 2021. ‘United Nations calls for halt of weapons to Myanmar’. *Reuters*, 19 June. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-chief-urges-general-assembly-act-myanmar-2021-06-18/>; United Nations Digital Library, 2022. *The situation in Myanmar: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly*, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3929594?ln=en>.

			the Tatmadaw, <sup>37</sup> and while the government has noted the need to end the violence against civilians, it has “...stressed the need to have a ‘comprehensive, gradual approach without haste’ on Myanmar issues”. <sup>38</sup>
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam’s record of atrocity crime prevention is limited, and no evidence could be found of the country undertaking efforts to support R2P through regional networks.
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Weak Unchanged	Vietnam held the chair of ASEAN during 2020, overseeing the bloc’s response to the pandemic, which replaced its initial aim of a ‘Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN’. Given the unprecedented circumstances the country faced as chair, Vietnam was able to adapt its negotiations to the new circumstances and provide a generally well-received chairmanship, despite not progressing on resolving the violence in Myanmar. <sup>39</sup>
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam does engage in some regional human rights measures. <sup>40</sup> However, the control the CPV wields over the country domestically lessens its capacity and willingness to engage with these issues outside of its borders.
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam receives aid from a range of regional and development partners. Most of these partnerships focus on health and sustainable economic growth. While there is some focus on human rights issues, <sup>41</sup> atrocity prevention is not mentioned.
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Very Weak Decrease	No updated information could be found for this Indicator.
	Support the strengthening of the UN’s capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Very Weak Decrease	Vietnam is an eager supporter of human rights through UN bodies, at least rhetorically. Its aspiration to be a part of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2023-2025 term is evidence of this. <sup>42</sup> Yet its continued and growing repression of domestic human rights, along with its ambivalence on UN resolutions referencing R2P and its stagnation over Myanmar, suggest Vietnam’s support may not be tangible enough to effect change.
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Weak Unchanged	There is no update on this Indicator. While there remains some support for structural prevention efforts, especially through their development

<sup>37</sup> Takahashi, Toru, 2021. ‘Vietnam’s ‘mediation diplomacy’ faces key test in Myanmar crisis’. *Nikkei Asia*, 14 April. Available at: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Comment/Vietnam-s-mediation-diplomacy-faces-key-test-in-Myanmar-crisis>.

<sup>38</sup> Vu, Minh, 2022. ‘No haste on Myanmar issues, Vietnam says’. *Hanoi Times*, 15 January. Available at: <https://hanoitimes.vn/no-haste-on-myanmar-issues-vietnam-says-319772.html>.

<sup>39</sup> Jha, Pankaj, 2020. ‘Assessment of Vietnam’s Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2020’. *moderndiplomacy*, 10 November. Available at: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/11/10/assessment-of-vietnams-chairmanship-of-asean-in-2020/>; Linh, Nguyen Phuong, Nguyen Khac Giang, 2020. ‘Vietnam’s Virtual Charm Offensive’. *The Diplomat*, 1 November. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/vietnams-virtual-charm-offensive/>; Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 2020. *Chairman’s Statement of the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit*, <https://asean.org/chairmans-statement-of-the-37th-asean-summit/>.

<sup>40</sup> Vietnam has continued to engage in human rights dialogues with the EU and Australia. HRW, 2022. *EU: Press Vietnam to Improve Rights Record*, [https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/04/eu-press-vietnam-improve-rights-record#:~:text=\(Brussels\)%20E2%80%93%20The%20European%20Union,Brussels%20on%20April%206%2C%202022.](https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/04/eu-press-vietnam-improve-rights-record#:~:text=(Brussels)%20E2%80%93%20The%20European%20Union,Brussels%20on%20April%206%2C%202022.;); Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2022. *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Australia-Viet Nam Human Rights Dialogue*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/17th-annual-australia-viet-nam-human-rights-dialogue>.

<sup>41</sup> As an example, Australia has provided training to Vietnamese law enforcement to better respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2022. *Australia’s development program to Vietnam*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/vietnam/development-assistance/development-assistance-in-vietnam>.

<sup>42</sup> UNDP, 2021. *Q&A on Viet Nam’s implementation of Human Rights*, <https://www.undp.org/vietnam/news/qa-viet-nams-implementation-human-rights>.

Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Fair Unchanged	partnerships, specific support for atrocity prevention measures is not discernible. Vietnam maintains a modest peacekeeping presence, with 110 personnel deployed in South Sudan (UNMISS), Sudan (UNISFA) and the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), these missions all possess a protection of civilians mandate. <sup>43</sup> The major contribution of Vietnam has been the establishment of a Level-2 Field Hospital to UNMISS, <sup>44</sup> which has recently provided support for other hospitals treating monkeypox in South Sudan. <sup>45</sup>
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Weak Unchanged	Vietnam continues to develop its peacekeeping capacities, including increasing female participation in operations, although maintaining its deployments to consulting, humanitarian and logistical tasks. Specifically, it seeks to update its peacekeeping training centre to a regional facility, focusing on engineering, medical, foreign language and legal training. <sup>46</sup>
Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam does not support the Kigali Principles.
Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vietnam remains a non-signatory to both the French/Mexican initiative on veto restraint in case of mass atrocities, <sup>47</sup> and the ACT Code of Conduct regarding UN Security Council action against mass atrocities. <sup>48</sup>

<sup>43</sup> UN Peacekeeping, 2022. *Troop and Police Contributors*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (Vietnam can be selected from the drop-down menu.)

<sup>44</sup> United Nations, 2022. 'Photo Story: Viet Nam began UN peacekeeping journey in South Sudan'. *UN News*, February 2022. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/gallery/741652>.

<sup>45</sup> VNA, 2022. 'Vietnamese doctors in South Sudan help level-1 field hospitals respond to monkeypox'. *Vietnam+*, 20 June. Available at: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-doctors-in-south-sudan-help-level1-field-hospitals-respond-to-monkeypox/231383.vnp>.

<sup>46</sup> Dung, Phan Xuan, Nguyen Cao Viet Hung, 2022. *Vietnam's Peacekeeping Contributions: Drivers and Prospects*, [https://www.iseas.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ISEAS\\_Perspective\\_2022\\_46.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ISEAS_Perspective_2022_46.pdf); Kiet, Anh, 2020. 'Vietnam expected to set up regional peacekeeping center'. *Hanoi Times*, 13 September. Available at: <https://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-expected-to-set-up-regional-peacekeeping-center-314196.html>.

<sup>47</sup> GCR2P, 2022. *List of Supporters of the Political Declaration on the Suspension of Veto*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-supporters-of-the-political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto/>.

<sup>48</sup> GCR2P, 2022. *List of Signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-signatories-to-the-act-code-of-conduct/>.