



THE PHILIPPINES

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 the Philippines' 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](#).

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The Philippines continues to sit among mid-range countries when it comes to implementing R2P. Its score has fallen, and likely remains on a weakening trajectory.

The Philippines performs strongest in areas least affected by the government's violent campaign against drugs. In particular, it has relatively strong human rights institutions – though the government continues to try and weaken it, along with the traditionally vibrant and strong civic space within the country. With the extrajudicial killing of tens of thousands of people during Duterte's proclaimed "war on drugs", human rights protection has continued to weaken.

The judiciary as well has been compromised, which has furthered the air of impunity around the actions of the country's security forces, which are routinely not held to account for the extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations they commit.

Internationally, The Philippines has actively participated in dialogues on R2P in the past, and it continues to engage with the UN in a broadly supportive way. However, its position on country specific issues remains mixed.

Regarding peacekeeping, the Philippines was once amongst the region's most substantive contributors to United Nation's peacekeeping missions – but their current contribution remains small, despite large amounts of rhetorical support.

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Assessment	Indicator
Very Strong	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention
Strong	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council
	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
Fair	Dealing with past atrocities
	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
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas
	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 regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system
	Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate)
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping	
Weak	Ensure equal access to justice
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector
	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes

Very Weak	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks
	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
	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination
	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience
	Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy
	Support the Kigali Principles

The Philippines 2022 Score: 39

The Philippines 2019 Score: 45

Difference: - 6 

The Philippines has fallen further under the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte and his war on drugs, seeing the commission of atrocity crimes and the erosion of support for both domestic and international human rights considerations. The country has withdrawn from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the government has interfered with the judiciary and constricted civic space. With the election of Ferdinand Marcos Jr., son of a previous dictator, as the new president in 2022, it remains to be seen whether the situation in the Philippines will improve or continue to worsen.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Very Weak Unchanged	The six-year term of President Rodrigo Duterte has seen the commission of crimes against humanity in the name of a ‘war on drugs’. This has seen Filipino security forces given a wide remit to commit violence against Filipino citizens without due process and proper oversight. In tandem, the legislature and media sector has become open to political interference, causing more corruption, and facilitating human rights abuses. With the new election of Ferdinand Marcos Jr., son of the former Filipino dictator, who has supported Duterte’s actions, this situation is likely to become worse in the following years.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Very Weak Unchanged	Atrocity crimes are ongoing in the Philippines, and the risk of their continued commission is quite high. ¹
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Fair Unchanged	It is unlikely that the new president will seek reconciliation for past atrocities, including those that occurred during his father’s reign of the country in the 1970s. ² Whether this stance will carry over to atrocities committed during World War II or more recently in Bangsamoro is unknown.
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak Unchanged	The Philippines has not appointed an R2P Focal Point. ³
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	No such incorporation exists in the Philippines.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence of domestic mechanisms being established could be found. It is possible that the new president could initiate reforms in this area, but that appears to be unlikely.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Strong Unchanged	The Philippines has ratified eleven of the twelve most relevant human rights treaties most relevant to R2P. The placed their instrument of ratification for the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT] on 24 March 2022. ⁴ Yet, they have become the second country in the world (after Burundi) to withdraw from the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> on 17 March 2019. ⁵
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Weak Unchanged	As of March 2019, the Philippines has withdrawn from the <i>Rome Statute</i> . It is important to note, that the Philippines’ withdrawal from the <i>Rome Statute</i> does not preclude it from prosecution for crimes

¹ Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), 2022. *Atrocity Crimes Risk Assessment Series: The Philippines*, https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/8295/Risk_Assessment_philippines_vol20_april2022.pdf.

² Lema, Karen, 2022. ‘Philippines’ presidential bet Marcos shuns talk of past atrocities’. *Reuters*, 25 January. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-presidential-bet-marcos-shuns-talk-past-atrocities-2022-01-25/>; Amnesty International, 2022. *Five things to know about Martial Law in the Philippines*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/five-things-to-know-about-martial-law-in-the-philippines/>.

³ 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/>.

⁴ United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), 2022. 8. *Arms Trade Treaty*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtmsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26.

⁵ Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2019. *Parliamentarians express profound regret over the withdrawal of the Philippines from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, <https://www.pgaction.org/news/philippines-withdrawal-rome-statute-icc.html>.

committed on its territory when it was a member (1 November 2011 to 16 March 2019).

Thus, the International Criminal Court does have grounds to open an investigation into crimes against humanity committed during this time.⁶ Whether the government will cooperate fully with the Court in this endeavour remains unknown.

Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Very Strong
Unchanged

The Philippines Commission on Human Rights maintains its 'A' rating according to GANHRI, displaying full adherence to the Paris Principles.⁷ However, the last review that awarded that rating occurred in March 2017. President Duterte's 'war on drugs' has continued since that time, and the president has called out human rights groups for using the issue of human rights to attack his government.⁸ The Commission has also had their budget cut, hampering efforts to ensure Duterte's government is accountable over human rights.⁹

Despite this, the Commission has continued its work, including establishing the first national inquiry into climate change and its effects on human rights in the Philippines.¹⁰

Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.

Very Weak
Decrease

Certain sections of Filipinos have continued to suffer human rights abuses due to the government's 'war on drugs', which has seen and continues to see large numbers of extrajudicial killings. Suspected drug users, journalists, human rights activists and indigenous people are frequently targeted by government security forces and murdered. The process of "red-tagging", associating anti-government opposition with the communist New People's Army, has seen violence against these groups increase.

New laws enacted by Duterte give broad powers to security forces to respond violently to civil opposition and unrest under the auspices of counter terrorism.¹¹ As mentioned in a previous Indicator, the violence delivered onto these groups by the Philippine authorities, without proper judicial oversight, is viewed by the International Criminal Court as a crime against humanity.

⁶ International Criminal Court, 2021. *Situation in the Philippines: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I authorises the opening of an investigation*, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/situation-philippines-icc-pre-trial-chamber-i-authorises-opening-investigation>.

⁷ Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), 2022. *Chart of the Status of National Institutions Accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions*, p. 3, https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/StatusAccreditationChartNHRIs_27April2022.pdf.

⁸ Bagaioisan, Anjo, 2020. 'Duterte blasts groups "weaponizing" human rights'. *ABS-CBN News*, 23 September. Available at: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/23/20/duterte-blasts-groups-weaponizing-human-rights>.

⁹ Diaz, Jess, 2017. 'House OKs budget; CHR gets P500 M'. *The Philippine Star*, 26 September. Available at: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/09/26/1743094/house-oks-budget-chr-gets-p500-m>.

¹⁰ Republic of the Philippines Commission on Human Rights, 2018. *National Inquiry on Climate Change*, <https://chr.gov.ph/nicc-2/>; Alcosaba Fernandez, Hannah, 2022. 'Philippines' Commission on Human Rights finds world's biggest fossil fuel companies accountable for climate damage'. *Eco-Business*, 7 May. Available at: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/philippines-commission-on-human-rights-finds-worlds-biggest-fossil-fuel-companies-accountable-for-climate-damage/>.

¹¹ European Parliament, 2022. *Human rights breaches in the Philippines, Iran and Burkina Faso*, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220210IPR23022/human-rights-breaches-in-the-philippines-iran-and-burkina-faso>; National Council of Churches in Australia, 2020. *Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Philippines*, <https://www.ncca.org.au/ncca-newsletter/september-2020-2/item/2284-protection-and-promotion-of-human-rights-in-the-philippines-2020092>; Human Rights Watch (HRW), 2022. *Philippines: Events of 2021*, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/philippines#c007ac>; Amnesty International, 2022. *Philippines 2021*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/philippines/report-philippines/>.

Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Strong Unchanged	The Philippines will undertake its fourth UPR in late 2022. ¹² The country has one overdue report for an international treaty obligation (CAT), which was due in 2020. ¹³
Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Fair Unchanged	There is no update on the Philippines' cooperation with UN mandate holders. While several more visits have been requested or had reminders provided for them, the last visit to be concluded with a report was in 2015. The government has not yet offered a standing invitation for Special Procedure visits. ¹⁴
Ensure equal access to justice.	Weak Decrease	Impunity for security forces that have carried out extrajudicial killings as part of the 'war on drugs' and counterinsurgency actions is widespread. Rights groups and monitors generally regard the judicial system of the Philippines as corrupt and inefficient, and highly open to interference by Duterte's government. ¹⁵ With the recent election, the incoming president may introduce reforms. However, given the Marcos' support for the policies of Duterte over the last six years, this remains unlikely. ¹⁶
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Fair Unchanged	The Philippines maintains <i>Republic Act 9851</i> that criminalises genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This <i>Act</i> has since been used to justify their withdrawal from the <i>Rome Statute</i> , seeing it as unnecessary to enable the Philippines to effectively prosecute people for atrocity crimes. ¹⁷ Given the widespread commission of crimes against humanity in the country and the unjust functioning of the judiciary, it is most likely such an excuse is politically motivated, and the Philippines' criminalisation of atrocity crimes is mostly theoretical.
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Decrease	The Philippines faces a wide range of domestic terrorism threats, including communist liberation movements and Islamic fundamentalists. These movements have committed abuses and employed indiscriminate violence in their conflicts with the government, ¹⁸ and the Philippines maintains a robust counterterrorism capability, which includes counter-radicalisation programs. ¹⁹

¹² UPR-Info, 2022. *Timeline for UPR engagement in the current cycle*, <https://www.upr-info.org/en/review/philippines>.

¹³ United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

¹⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (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=PHL&Lang=en>.

¹⁵ Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Philippines*, 'F. Rule of Law', <https://freedomhouse.org/country/philippines/freedom-world/2022>; US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person: e. Denial of Fair Public Trial', <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/philippines/>.

¹⁶ Strangio, Sebastian, 2022. 'Philippine Election Marred by Violence, Vote-Buying: Monitoring Mission'. *The Diplomat*, 20 May. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/05/philippine-election-marred-by-violence-vote-buying-monitoring-mission/>.

¹⁷ Domino, Jenny, 2021. *Toward a Treaty on Crimes Against Humanity: A View from the Philippines and a Region of 'Non-Interference'*, <https://www.justsecurity.org/78519/towards-a-treaty-on-crimes-against-humanity-a-view-from-the-philippines-and-a-region-of-non-interference/>.

¹⁸ US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person: g. Conflict-related Abuses'.

¹⁹ Counter Extremism Project, 2022. *The Philippines: Extremism and Terrorism*, 'Domestic Counter-Extremism', <https://www.counterextremism.com/countries/philippines>.

			Yet, recent measures by Duterte have increased the chances of counterterrorism efforts in the Philippines infringing on human rights and raising risks of atrocity crimes. The <i>Anti-Terrorism Act</i> of 2020 broadens the definition of terrorism and provides new powers to authorities to combat it. Critics have condemned the act as allowing the government to harass and detain peaceful opposition movements as well as impinge on humanitarian work. ²⁰
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Strong Unchanged	The Philippines maintains robust legislation criminalising violence, abuse and exploitation regarding sexual and gender-based violence. But, under Duterte's regime, women, children and other minority groups have been caught up in the widespread human rights violations of the security services and corruption of the legislature.
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.	Fair Unchanged	Divorce is not legalised, and neither is there a comprehensive anti-discrimination law regarding LGBTIQ+ persons at the national level. ²¹ Sexual harassment of women, LGBTIQ+ persons, and discrimination against those with a disability was present in the Philippines, despite men and women enjoying equal rights and the presence of a small gender gap in many social spheres. ²² The Philippines has made clear its intention to host refugees from Myanmar and Afghanistan following the coup and Taliban takeover in those respective countries in 2021. Official reporting links these policies with favourable references to the Philippines' long history of accepting refugees and migrants from Southeast Asia and elsewhere ²³ While this history is laudable, and the Philippines is one of the few Asia Pacific States to have ratified the <i>1951 Refugee Convention</i> and its <i>1967 Protocol</i> , there remains no comprehensive legislation to provide for refugee status or asylum. The government works in collaboration with the UNHCR to provide for refugees with a basic system that ensures due process. ²⁴ The relatively low numbers of refugees hosted by the Philippines, compared to Malaysia or Thailand, also helps the government to maintain this rhetoric. ²⁵
Domestic Implementation	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.	Very Weak Unchanged	No assessment has been carried out in the Philippines.
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.	Fair Decrease	Civil society in the Philippines, while still relatively open compared to other ASEAN members, has shrunk under Duterte's relentless attacks on human rights defenders, journalists and anyone who is

²⁰ Ibid.; HRW, 2022. *Philippines: Events of 2021*, 'Killing of Activists, Rights Defenders'.

²¹ There are, however, regional and local jurisdictions that have passed anti-discrimination legislation regarding the LGBTIQ+ community.

²² US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses'; Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Philippines*, 'F. Rule of Law'; Amnesty International, 2022. *Philippines 2021*, 'LGBTI people's rights'.

²³ Gita-Carlos, Ruth Abbey, 2021. 'Duterte says PH willing to aid Afghan, Rohingya refugees'. *Philippine News Agency*, 22 September. Available at: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1154298>; Ichimura, Anri, 2020. '10 Times the Philippines Became a Sanctuary for Refugees From Around the World'. *Esquire Magazine*, 4 July. Available at: <https://www.esquiremag.ph/long-reads/features/10-refugees-philippines-a00304-20200704-lfrm>.

²⁴ UNHCR, 2022. *Fact Sheet: Philippine Operations*, <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/philippine-operations>; US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties: f. Protection of Refugees'.

²⁵ Chen, Estey, 2021. 'Uneven Refugee Protections Across Southeast Asia Put Migrants at Risk'. *The Diplomat*, 30 December 2021. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/uneven-refugee-protections-across-southeast-asia-put-migrants-at-risk/>.

			deemed to be critical of the regime. ²⁶ Like other Indicators in this assessment, the incoming president may help to alleviate the situation and restore freedoms once enjoyed by Filipino civil society. ²⁷ Yet, this may prove to be unlikely, and this Indicator may decrease again in the future.
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Weak Decrease	Both the military and police forces of the Philippines, as well as numerous armed paramilitary groups indirectly endorsed by Duterte’s government, have been responsible for large numbers of extrajudicial killings and civilian casualties, as well as murders of those critical to the regime. ²⁸ Due to large levels of corruption, impunity over investigations into human rights abuses remains widespread.
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Strong Unchanged	Education in the Philippines covers 13 compulsory years from kindergarten to Grade 12, with schools catering lessons to local languages. ²⁹ The COVID-19 pandemic saw schools locked down for most of 2020-2021, but it is unknown at the time of writing if this was still the case. ³⁰ Students in remote and rural areas of the country have found it difficult to attend school, but alternate education, including virtual classes, have been available for most pupils. ³¹ Political interference in tertiary education, particularly indigenous and Muslim schools, has seen academic freedom fall during the ‘war on drugs’. ³²
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Unchanged	No update could be found on the Philippines’ ability to prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Fair Decrease	Little information could be found on the Philippines engaging with others over R2P. They delivered a statement in 2021 on a resolution to include R2P and atrocity crimes on the annual agenda of the General Assembly, which was subsequently passed. This statement was generally supportive of R2P, but perhaps ironic, saying “...that moving forward, the first duty of a State is to protect its people”. ³³
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Fair Unchanged	In its voting patterns at the UN General Assembly, the Philippines has been generally supportive of R2P.

²⁶ US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, ‘Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties: A. Freedom of Expression, Including for Members of the Press and Other Media’; Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Philippines*, ‘D. Freedom of Expression and Belief’; Reporters Without Borders, 2022. *Philippines*, <https://rsf.org/en/country/philippines>.

²⁷ Reporters Without Borders, 2022. *Philippines: RSF calls on future President to restore press freedom and end impunity for crimes against journalists*, <https://rsf.org/en/philippines-rsf-calls-future-president-restore-press-freedom-and-end-impunity-crimes-against>. See also: ABC News, 2022. *The Marcos Makeover*, <https://www.abc.net.au/foreign/the-marcos-makeover/13868824>.

²⁸ US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, ‘Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person A. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or Politically Motivated Killings’.

²⁹ Future Learn, 2021. *Explore: The education system in the Philippines*, <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/futurelearn-international/explore-philippines-education-system>.

³⁰ Education.org, 2021. *Live COVID-19 School Country Tracker*, <https://education.org/country-tracker>. (Philippines can be selected from the drop-down menu).

³¹ US Department of State, 2022. *2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Philippines*, ‘Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Children’.

³² Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2022: Philippines*, ‘D. Freedom of Expression and Belief’.

³³ United Nations, General Assembly, Speakers Differ over implementation of ‘Responsibility to Protect’ Principle, as General Assembly Considers Draft Resolution on Atrocity Crime Prevention, GA/12323, 17 May 2021.

UN General Assembly Resolutions:³⁴

- 2018: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/73/172: **yes**.
- 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: **yes**.
- 2020: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/75/193: **yes**.
- 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: **yes**.

The Philippines was elected to the UN Human Rights Council for another three-year term for 2019 – 2021. They are mostly against resolutions that reference R2P.

UN Human Rights Council Resolutions:³⁵

2019

- A/HRC/RES/40/17: **abstention**.
- A/HRC/RES/40/19: **adopted by consensus**.
- A/HRC/RES/40/20: **adopted by consensus**.
- A/HRC/RES/41/23: **against**.
- A/HRC/RES/42/17: **adopted by consensus**.
- A/HRC/RES/42/27: **against**.
- A/HRC/RES/42/36: **adopted by consensus**.

2020

- A/HRC/RES/43/25: **adopted by consensus**.
- A/HRC/RES/43/27: **adopted by consensus**.
- A/HRC/RES/43/28: **abstention**.

³⁴ 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>.)

³⁵ GCR2P, 2021. *UN Human Rights Council Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-human-rights-council-resolutions-referencing-r2p/>. Voting records for the Philippines during its sessions can be found by using the appropriate filters here: Universal Rights Group Geneva, 2021. *Country Voting History Portal: Philippines*, <https://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/country/?country=Philippines>.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/HRC/RES/43/29: adopted by consensus. • A/HRC/RES/44/14: adopted by consensus. • A/HRC/RES/44/21: abstention. • A/HRC/RES/45/21: abstention. • A/HRC/RES/45/35: adopted by consensus.
			<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/HRC/RES/46/17: adopted by consensus. • A/HRC/RES/46/22: in favour. • A/HRC/RES/46/23: against. • A/HRC/RES/46/29: adopted by consensus. • A/HRC/RES/47/13: against. • A/HRC/RES/47/18: abstention.
	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	Following the coup in Myanmar in early 2021, the Philippines released a statement supporting the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the establishment of a dialogue between the different parties. ³⁶ Yet they stopped short of condemning the Tatmadaw for the violence they unleashed on their citizens, likely in an effort to stop counteraccusations regarding the regime's own crimes. ³⁷
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Fair Unchanged	Filipino civil society organisations, through the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) have collaborated to develop webinars on atrocity crime related issues, such as the Women, Peace and Security agenda and transitional justice during COVID-19. ³⁸
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Fair Unchanged	No updated information about the Philippines and this Indicator could be found.
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Fair Unchanged	It has been clear that the Duterte regime has neglected human rights, and it is likely the new regime will follow a similar path. Yet, civil society in the Philippines continues to push for human rights protection in the face of ongoing violence.
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Fair Unchanged	No specific information could be found regarding this Indicator. Yet, the recent joint partnership with the UN on human rights cooperation could be a welcome sign of future support. ³⁹
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Weak Decrease	No specific evidence could be found of the Philippines recently supporting the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P. Given their record of voting on resolutions regarding atrocity crimes, ⁴⁰ and the Office's previous condemnation of

³⁶ dela Cruz, Enrico, Martin Petty, 2022. 'Philippines says "indispensable" Suu Kyi must be involved in Myanmar peace process'. *Reuters*, 1 January. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-says-indispensable-suu-kyi-must-be-involved-myanmar-peace-process-2022-01-16/>.

³⁷ Palatino, Mong, 2021. 'Myanmar's Coup: The View from Manila'. *The Diplomat*, 9 March. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/myanmars-coup-the-view-from-manila/>.

³⁸ For a list of the webinars, see: <https://r2pasiapacific.org/Webinars-and-training>.

³⁹ Debuque, Teresa, 2021. 'Philippines, UN launch first-ever national joint programme for human rights following Human Rights Council resolution 45/33'. *United Nations Philippines*, 22 July. Available at: <https://philippines.un.org/index.php/en/137080-philippines-un-launch-first-ever-national-joint-programme-human-rights-following-human>; Republic of the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, 2021. *UN Human Rights Council Welcomes Steady Progress in The Philippine's Human Rights Cooperation*, <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/news-from-our-foreign-service-postupdate/29590-un-human-rights-council-welcomes-steady-progress-in-the-philippine-s-human-rights-cooperation>.

⁴⁰ Philstar.com, 2018. 'How the Philippines voting at UN with Locsin'. *Philstar Global*, 12 October. Available at: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/10/12/1859485/how-philippines-voted-un-locsin>.

		Duterte's regime, ⁴¹ it is unlikely they strongly support the workings of the Office.
Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Fair Unchanged	The recent partnership with numerous UN agencies to take action on human rights, initiated at the same time as the Philippines' tenure on the UN HRC, is a welcome sign that furthers the strengthening of institutions and structural prevention within the Philippines.
Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Weak Decrease	The Philippines has a mixed record of supporting atrocity prevention. Their partnership with the UN over human rights and the continued work of their civil society in both human right and atrocity prevention shows at least a basic acquiescence to international norms. Yet, their reticence over stronger measures in Myanmar, their voting record at the UN, and the continuation of crimes against humanity and weakening of the public sphere within its borders means overall the Philippines is a weak performer at preventing atrocities.
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Fair Unchanged	The Philippines's contribution to peacekeeping has continued to fall, and as of March 2022 they had ten personnel deployed on UN missions, one of which, UNMISS, has a protection of civilians mandate. ⁴²
		Filipino government officials have recently given much support for peacekeeping operations. Respectively, they have committed to more deployments, ⁴³ have supported the work of peacekeepers during the pandemic, ⁴⁴ and have vowed to increase the number of women serving on operations. ⁴⁵ Thus, it would seem there is a disconnect between rhetoric and action over the Philippines' stance on peacekeeping.
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Fair Unchanged	As well as the above-mentioned statements that support further training and deployment of peacekeepers, the Philippines has developed joint peacekeeping teams of police and army personnel and former MILF ⁴⁶ fighters. These teams are then used to implement and uphold the peace agreement between the Filipino government and the MILF in Bangsamoro. ⁴⁷
Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Weak Unchanged	While the Philippines has not signed the Kigali Principles, it has stated it supports the Vancouver Principles. ⁴⁸

⁴¹ United Nations, 2016. 'UN adviser on preventing genocide alarmed over "disrespectful" comments by Philippines President'. *UN News*, 30 September. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/09/541602-un-adviser-preventing-genocide-alarmed-over-disrespectful-comments-philippines>.

⁴² United Nations Peacekeeping, 2022. *Troop and Police Contributors*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (Philippines can be selected from the drop-down menu.)

⁴³ Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, 2019. *Philippine Defense Secretary Lorenza announces Philippine Pledge at the 2019 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in New York City*, <https://www.un.int/philippines/activities/philippine-defense-secretary-lorenza-announces-philippine-pledge-2019-un-peacekeeping>.


⁴⁴ Republic of the Philippines Department of foreign Affairs, 2021. *Philippines Underscores Role of UN Peacekeeping Missions Amid COVID-19*, <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/news-from-our-foreign-service-postsupdate/28936-philippines-underscores-role-of-un-peacekeeping-missions-amid-covid-19>.

⁴⁵ Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, 2020. *Philippines reaffirms commitment to increase deployment of women peacekeepers*, <https://www.un.int/philippines/activities/philippines-reaffirms-commitment-increase-deployment-women-peacekeepers>.

⁴⁶ The Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

⁴⁷ Fernandez, Edwin, 2021. 'New BARMM peacekeepers cap 30-day training, brace for deployment'. *Philippines News Agency*, 9 December. Available at: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1162250>.

⁴⁸ Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, 2019. *Philippine Defense Secretary Lorenza announces Philippine Pledge at the 2019 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in New York City*.



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

Very Strong
Unchanged

The Philippines maintains its support for the French/Mexican initiative on veto restraint in the case of mass atrocities,⁴⁹ as well as the ACT Code of Conduct.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ GCR2P, 2022. *List of Supporters of the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-supporters-of-the-political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto/>.

⁵⁰ GCR2P, 2019. *List of Signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-signatories-to-the-act-code-of-conduct/>.