



FIJI

UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF R2P IMPLEMENTATION 2022



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The following Updated Assessment Annex provides an overview of Fiji'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](#).

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Fiji remains a relatively strong supporter of R2P in 2022, and of multilateral measures to address peace and security issues more broadly, particularly when those issues are related to climate change. It continues to vote and speak in favour of R2P in UN settings, and supported and contributed to relevant regional initiatives such as RAMSI and the strengthening of the Pacific Islands Forum. Fiji is a significant contributor to UN peacekeeping and supports the spirit of the Kigali Principles on civilian protection. It has also strengthened training and capacity on civilian protection and committed to the voluntary compact for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.

Fiji has acceded to and implemented most of the relevant instruments of international law and is a party to the Rome Statute. However, it has not yet adopted R2P-specific policy initiatives such as appointing an R2P Focal Point.

Fiji's record on domestic implementation remains similarly strong overall. It has a relatively strong legislative protections for individual human rights and group rights. It has a fairly robust civil society, but there is the potential for this to decline in the future.

Although tensions between different ethnic groups exist, Fiji does a relatively good job of managing them constructively. The most significant problem confronting the country is its long history of military coups and the prevalence of the military in Fijian society. However, this circumstance has never resulted in atrocity crimes and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future.

Fiji's overall performance bodes well for effective R2P implementation into the future, both in the country itself and the wider Pacific region.

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Assessment	Indicator
Very Strong	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks
	Dealing with past atrocities
	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council
	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
	Support the Kigali Principles
Strong	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles
	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations
	Ensure equal access to justice
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity
	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
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes
Fair	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination
	Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas
	Participate in international, regional and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P
	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
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations

	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
Weak	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities
Very Weak	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
	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention

Fiji 2022 Score: 60

Fiji 2019 Score: 57

Difference: + 3 

A small Pacific Islands State, Fiji has a long and proud history of contributing to UN peacekeeping operations, which it continues to invest in. Considering its size, Fiji is a significant supporter of R2P and has contributed to the development of regional and global capacities, particularly in regard to climate change. Domestically, Fiji has a strong record of protecting its population from atrocity crimes, but has experienced periodic military coups and possesses a security sector known for its brutality. Overall, it was the only country in the region to achieve a net increase in its score in R2P implementation.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Very Strong Unchanged	The government of Fiji currently protects its population from atrocity crimes.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Very Strong Unchanged	The government's Public Order Act (POA) can enable the security forces to act with impunity throughout the country. Abuses in the security sector and corruption in the government, particularly in the judiciary, do result in human rights abuses. Widespread gender-based violence, especially during the pandemic, is still a problem in Fiji, although there is a concerted effort to address it.
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Very Strong Unchanged	Despite these risks, chances of widespread atrocities being committed in Fiji remain low. Fiji has not suffered previous atrocity crimes, despite a tumultuous history of military coups.
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak Unchanged	Fiji has yet to appoint a national R2P Focal Point. ¹
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	There remains no evidence of Fiji incorporating atrocity risks into development partnerships it has with other countries.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	There are no domestic accountability mechanisms in Fiji for the government to uphold its responsibility to protect.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji has ratified eleven of the twelve international human rights laws that are most relevant to R2P. It still has neither signed nor ratified the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT]. ²
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Strong Unchanged	Fiji maintains its status as a State Party to the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> . ³ Under Fijian law, a Fijian national can be tried for genocide and crimes against humanity, but some provisions for war crimes are missing. Fiji has accepted recommendations in the past to align its national legislation fully with the <i>Rome Statute</i> . ⁴
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Strong Increase	Fiji established the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (FHRADC) in 2009. Yet there were limits to its independence under the presidential decree through which it was commissioned. However, multilateral efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the capacity of the FHRADC and make it more compliant to the Paris Principles. ⁵ As of August 2021, the FHRADC holds a 'B' ranking

¹ 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/>.

² Arms Trade Treaty, 2020. *UN Member States that have not yet joined the ATT*, [https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20\(07%20August%202020\)/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20\(07%20August%202020\).pdf](https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20(07%20August%202020)/List%20of%20UN%20Member%20States%20that%20have%20not%20yet%20joined%20the%20ATT%20(07%20August%202020).pdf).

³ 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#F.

⁴ Parliamentarians for Global Action, n.d. *Fiji and the Rome Statute*, <https://www.pgaction.org/ilhr/rome-statute/fiji.html>.

⁵ Asia Pacific Forum, 2020. *Building capacity in Fiji's human rights commission*, <https://www.asiapacificforum.net/news/building-capacity-fijis-human-rights-commission/>.

		according to GANHRI. ⁶ There is still a belief in Fiji that the FHRADC remains a pro-government body, especially in politically sensitive cases of human rights abuse. ⁷
Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.	Fair Unchanged	Fiji retains relatively strong protections of human rights, although problems remain, especially following the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The POA is a source of much of its problems regarding human rights, as it allows the government and the security forces to use measures otherwise prohibited under the constitution to enforce and maintain public order. ⁸ These include the rights of freedom of expression, association, and movement. ⁹
Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Very Strong Unchanged	Laws that have a broad application and definition of terms, such as sedition, and instances of government corruption have a flow on effect within Fijian society. Impunity within the security forces, censorship within the media and academic functions, and the erosion of judicial independence are all factors that remain to limit Fiji's full assurance of human rights within the country. Fiji undertook its third UPR in November 2019. In its report to the UPR Working Group, it made note that it had ratified all nine of the core international human rights treaties as of August 2019, based on recommendations it has received previously. ¹⁰ The State also made note that it is committed to developing a monitoring and follow-up capability for implementing recommendations from treaty bodies, as well as recognising the need to protect human rights in the wake of natural disasters and climate change. ¹¹
Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Strong Unchanged	Its list of overdue reports has grown to six, five of which are overdue by less than five years. ¹² Fiji maintains its open invitation for UN mandate holders. While there are many visits of mandate holders that need to be finalised, ¹³ the State has made note of its willingness to welcome and facilitate these visits, based on previous visits of Special Rapporteurs. ¹⁴
Ensure equal access to justice.	Strong Unchanged	Arrest and detention procedures within Fiji remain mostly adequate, although prison overcrowding, overlong pretrial detention and abuse of detainees

⁶ Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), 2021. *Chart of the Status of National Institutions*, p.10, <https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/StatusAccreditationChartNHRIs.pdf>.

⁷ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, 'Section 5. Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights', <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/fiji/>.

⁸ Ibid., 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from: C. Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman, Or Degrading Treatment and Punishment'.

⁹ Amnesty International, 2021. *Fiji: 2020*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/fiji/report-fiji/>; Freedom House, 2021. *Freedom in the World 2021: Fiji*, <https://freedomhouse.org/country/fiji/freedom-world/2021>.

¹⁰ United Nations, Human Rights Council, National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21: Fiji, 7 October 2019, A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1, paras. 26-29.

¹¹ Ibid., paras. 5, 38, 148.

¹² United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

¹³ UNOHCHR, n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*, <https://spinternet.ohchr.org/ViewCountryvisits.aspx?visitType=all&lang=En>.

¹⁴ United Nations, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1, paras. 13-18.

		by security forces still occur. The judicial system is also open to political tampering. ¹⁵
		The trial run of the ‘First Hour Procedure’ concluded in 2017, and has since been extended to other parts of the country. The First Hour Procedure is an initiative to provide every suspect in police custody with face-to-face legal counsel within one hour of arrest. ¹⁶ This procedure, along with workshops and equipment for video recording of police interviews, has resulted in more evidence-based cases, rather than simply those based upon a confession. ¹⁷ This change in focus has decreased the number of complaints regarding detainee abuse by Fiji’s security forces.
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Strong Unchanged	Fiji maintains its criminalisation of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Unchanged	It has yet to provide for the crime of aggression. ¹⁸ Fiji continues to recognise the threat of terrorism and violent extremism, seeking in recent workshops to develop a “...robust, practical and tested strategy that can effectively respond to any terrorist attack.” ¹⁹
Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Fair Unchanged	Fiji has continued to improve its capacity to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing through its territory. ²⁰ Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a pervasive problem within Fiji and the wider Pacific. Laws within the country criminalise sexual harassment, rape, spousal rape and other forms of sexual assault and discrimination, including against LGBTIQ+ persons. Unfortunately, high frequencies of these crimes are reported. ²¹ To their credit, the Fijian government and NGOs within the country recognise the problem and are working to address it, the frequency of which has increased during the COVID-19 lockdowns in the country. ²²
		The country has begun consultations to build a <i>National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against</i>

¹⁵ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:’.

¹⁶ Danford, Iva, 2019. ‘First-hour procedure reduces allegations of ill-treatment and an attitude change in the Fiji Police Force’. *fijivillage*, 10 November. Available at: <https://www.fijivillage.com/news/First-hour-procedure-reduces-allegations-of-ill-treatment-and-an-attitude-change-in-the-Fiji-Police-Force---Ali-52s9rk>; United Nations, Human Rights Council, A/HRC/WG.6/34/FJI/1, paras. 19-25.

¹⁷ United Nations Information Centre Canberra, 2021. *Video-Recorded Interviews by Fiji Police Force to strengthen human rights protection at early stages of criminal process*, <https://un.org.au/2021/07/14/video-recorded-interviews-by-fiji-police-force-to-strengthen-human-rights-protection-at-early-stages-of-criminal-process/>.

¹⁸ Equipo Nizkor, n.d. *Republic of Fiji*, <http://www.derechos.org/intlaw/fji.html>.

¹⁹ Fijian Government, 2019. *WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE THREAT OF TERRORISM*, <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/WE-CANNOT-OVEREMPHASIZE-THE-THREAT-OF-TERRORISM>.

²⁰ APG, 2020. *4th Follow-Up Report: Mutual Evaluation Report of Fiji*, <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/fur/APG-4th-Follow-Up-Report-Fiji.pdf>;

Bak, Mathias, 2019. *Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing risks in Fiji*, <https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/Money-Laundering-and-Terrorist-Financing-risks-in-Fiji-2019.pdf>.

²¹ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, ‘Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons’.

²² Neimila, Nanise, 2020. *Gender-Based Violence ‘A Global Pandemic’*, <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/Feature-Stories/Gender-Based-Violence-%E2%80%98A-Global-Pandemic%E2%80%99>; Rodriguez, Leah, 2020. *This Small Nation Has One of the Highest Rates of Gender-Based Violence in the World*, <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/fiji-introduces-gender-based-violence-plan/>; Chanel, Sheldon, 2021. “‘Crisis within a crisis’: Violence against women surges in Fiji”. *Al Jazeera*, 24 February. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/24/crisis-within-a-crisis-violence-against-women-surges-in-fiji>.

	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.	Strong Unchanged	<p><i>Women and Girls 2021-2026</i>. This plan will make Fiji the only country in the Pacific²³ to possess a whole of government approach to preventing violence against women and girls.²⁴</p> <p>The number of refugees within Fiji remains small,²⁵ and the country is noted to cooperate well with the UNHCR when dealing with refugees.²⁶</p> <p>While not directly related to those fleeing atrocity crimes, Fiji has continued to make a point of the vulnerability of those fleeing natural disasters brought about by climate change. At COP23 in 2018, Fiji launched the Planned Relocation Guidelines for those affected by climate change events. The guidelines recognise the importance of collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and seek to "...ensure an inclusive and gender responsive consultative and participatory process to strengthen communities' riposte to climate change impacts...".²⁷</p>
Domestic Implementation	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found of a national assessment having been conducted.
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.	Strong Unchanged	<p>The Fijian government's relationship with civil society, particularly the media, remains tumultuous. The POA has limited movement and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association have been curtailed in recent years.²⁸ The previously enacted <i>Media Industry Development Act</i> and sedition laws that include criticism of the government have resulted in a pervasive culture of self-censorship in Fiji.²⁹</p> <p>While not a strictly repressive State, the continuation of restrictions on media freedoms and civil liberties during the COVID-19 pandemic has related in a slight fall in ratings measuring Fiji's protection of its civil society. The role of the country's security sector in these curtailments,³⁰ who act with wide impunity (see Indicator below), means the situation could worsen in the future.</p>
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Very Weak Unchanged	Fiji's security forces continue to operate with impunity against human rights defenders, political opposition members, and those criticising the government, aided by vaguely worded laws and widespread government corruption. ³¹

²³ Australia also has a National Action Plan.

²⁴ Fijian Government, 2020. *Fiji Starts National Consultations on Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls*, <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/FIJI-STARTS-NATIONAL-CONSULTATIONS-ON-ACTION-PLAN>.

²⁵ macrotrends, 2021. *Fiji Refugee Statistics 1995-2021*, <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/FJI/fiji/refugee-statistics>.

²⁶ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including: f. Protection of Refugees.

²⁷ Ministry of Economy, 2018. *Planned Relocation Guidelines: A framework to undertake climate change related relocation*, p. 3, <https://cop23.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CC-PRG-BOOKLET-22-1.pdf>.

²⁸ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:'.

²⁹ Reporters Without Borders, 2021. *Fiji*, <https://rsf.org/en/fiji>; Freedom House, 2021. *Freedom in the World 2021: Fiji*, 'Civil Liberties'.

³⁰ Examples of Fiji's security sector stifling dissent can be found here: CIVICUS, 2021. *Civic Space Developments: Fiji*, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/?country=91>. See also: UNOHCHR, Pacific Community, 2021. *Human Rights in the Pacific: A Situational Analysis 2020*, p. 58-74, <https://hrsd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2021-07/HRSD%20SIT%20ANALYSIS%20FINAL%20Revised%20version%2012%20july%202021%20web.pdf>.

³¹ CIVICUS, 2021. *Fiji Government Continues to Silence Dissent as Impunity for Torture Persists*, <https://monitor.civicus.org/updates/2021/09/15/fiji-government-continues-silence-dissent-impunity-torture-persists/>; U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Fiji*; Amnesty International, 2021. *Fiji 2020*, 'Torture and other ill-treatment'.

			While efforts of reform are being made, abuses by police remain frequent. Data has shown 400 accusations of serious crimes were levelled at members of Fiji’s military or police between May 2015 and April 2020. 16 were for rape, two for murder, nine for manslaughter, five for abduction and over 100 for assault. ³² Proposed new laws provide the potential for greater police powers and the erosion of human rights in police practices. ³³
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Strong Unchanged	Education levels in Fiji remain strong and are generally inclusive. There is some concern that due to the disruptions from COVID-19, students may be falling behind. ³⁴
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Unchanged	Fiji, due to its adherence to the <i>Rome Statute</i> , retains legislation that prosecutes nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Fair Decrease	Fiji was part of the UN General Assembly’s Plenary Debate on R2P in 2021 and was one of many co-sponsors of the subsequent resolution “The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”. ³⁵ Little other interactions, most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been found.
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Strong Increase	Fiji has not voted against any recent UN General Assembly Resolutions referencing R2P. UN General Assembly Resolutions: ³⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: did not vote.

³² McDonald, Joshua, 2020. ‘A Spotlight on Police Brutality in Fiji’. *The Diplomat*, 30 November. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/a-spotlight-on-police-brutality-in-fiji/>.

³³ Radio New Zealand, 2021. ‘Law society raises concerns over Fiji Police Bill’. *RNZ*, 16 March. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/438486/law-society-raises-concern-over-fiji-police-bill>.

³⁴ Shah, Mahsood, 2021. ‘Is Fiji keeping up – Education for this century’. *The Fiji Times*, 17 April. Available at: <https://www.fijitimes.com/is-fiji-keeping-up-education-for-this-century/>; Gounder, Neelesh, Jai Narayan, 2021. *Strategies for education recovery in Fiji*, <https://devpolicy.org/strategies-for-education-recovery-in-fiji-20210630/>.

³⁵ GCR2P, 2021. *Summary of the 2021 UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/publications/summary-of-the-2021-un-general-assembly-plenary-meeting-on-the-responsibility-to-protect/>.

³⁶ 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>.)

- 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.**

In 2019, Fiji ascended to membership of the Human Rights Council. In 2021, it became the President of the Council, under the auspices of career lawyer and diplomat Nazhat Shameem Khan. The ascension of Fiji to this position is seen a good step forward for the promotion of human rights internationally, despite the country's domestic issues.³⁷ Since then, it has voted in favour of resolutions referencing R2P.

UN Human Rights Council Resolutions:³⁸

2019

- The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/40/17: **yes.**
- Situation of human rights in South Sudan A/HRC/RES/40/19: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/HRC/RES/40/20: **adopted by consensus.**
- The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/41/23: **yes.**
- Human rights and transitional justice A/HRC/RES/42/17: **adopted by consensus.**
- The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/42/27: **yes.**
- Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic A/HRC/RES/42/36: **adopted by consensus.**

2020

- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/HRC/RES/43/25: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in South Sudan A/HRC/RES/43/27: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/43/28: **yes.**

³⁷ Cumming-Bruce, Nick, 2021. 'Fiji Will Lead U.N. Rights Body, Over Russian and Chinese Opposition'. *The New York Times*, 15 January. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/15/world/UN-rights-council-fiji.html>; AFP, 2021. 'UN Human Rights Council picks Fiji in first-ever presidential vote'. *Mint*, 15 January. Available at: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/un-human-rights-council-picks-fiji-in-first-ever-presidential-vote-11610713170048.html>; Chanel, Sheldon, 2021. 'Fiji warned on failings at home after winning UN human rights council role'. *The Guardian*, 20 January. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/20/fiji-warned-on-failings-at-home-after-winning-un-human-rights-council-role>.

³⁸ GCR2P, 2021. *UN Human Rights Council Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-human-rights-council-resolutions-referencing-r2p/>. Voting records for Fiji during its tenure in the HRC can be found by using the appropriate filters here: Universal Rights Group Geneva, 2021. *Country Voting History Portal: Fiji*, <https://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/country/?country=Fiji>.

- Prevention of genocide A/HRC/RES/43/29: **adopted by consensus.**
- Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the World Summit Outcome in 2005 A/HRC/RES/44/14: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/44/21: **yes.**
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/45/21: **yes.**
- Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic A/HRC/RES/45/35: **adopted by consensus.**

2021

- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/HRC/RES/46/17: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/46/22: **yes.**
- Situation of human rights in South Sudan A/HRC/RES/46/23: **yes.**
- Technical assistance and capacity building for South Sudan A/HRC/RES/46/29: **adopted by consensus.**
- Situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia A/HRC/RES/47/13: **yes.**
- Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/HRC/RES/47/18: **yes.**

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

Fair
Unchanged

Fiji deployed 50 peacekeepers in response to rioting and violence in the Solomon Islands in November 2021.³⁹ Fiji retains a strong relationship with other Pacific Island nations and takes a leadership role regarding climate change. Yet there is little evidence they actively engage with other countries over the issues of fulfilling R2P.

Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.

Fair
Increase

Fiji’s recent ascension to the presidency of the Human Rights Council has given the country an opportunity to speak on pressing international human rights issues and other issues seen through a human rights lens, such as the pandemic and climate change.

Climate change has long been seen through the lens of human rights and human security by Pacific Island nations,⁴⁰ and there have been calls in international fora for the establishment of a Special Rapporteur to report on such linkages.⁴¹ Due to Fiji’s sustained emphasis on climate change, the Council appointed a Special Rapporteur on the

³⁹ AFP, 2021. ‘Fiji sends troops to Solomon Islands as hunger fears grow’. *France 24*, 29 November. Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211129-fiji-sends-troops-to-solomon-islands-as-hunger-fears-grow>.

⁴⁰ Young, Miles, 2021. *Fiji’s Presidency of the Human Rights Council Brings Opportunity and Responsibility to the Pacific*, <https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/directors/2021/01/fijis-presidency-of-the-human-rights-council-brings-opportunity-and>.

⁴¹ The Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group, n.d. *Creation of a new UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change*, <https://climaterights.org/our-work/unfccc/creation-of-un-special-rapporteur-on-human-rights-and-climate-change/>.

promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change in October 2021.⁴²

While perhaps not directly related to atrocity prevention,⁴³ measures that strengthen human rights protections are likely to also contribute to structural atrocity prevention in the region.

Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Fair Unchanged	Fiji's emphasis on climate change in international fora ⁴⁴ is mirrored in its regional dealings. The issues of climate change, COVID-19 and sustainable economic growth have been central in Fiji's reengagement with the Pacific Islands Forum. ⁴⁵ There is, however, no direct mention of atrocity prevention in Fiji's dealings with these organisations.
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Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Weak Unchanged	Fiji civil society organisations, in conjunction with APR2P, hosted an inaugural workshop on atrocity prevention and R2P in 2021. ⁴⁶ This workshop developed recommendations for Fiji to enact, including appointing an R2P Focal Point and developing measures to reduce hate speech and incitement and gender-based violence.
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With continued efforts by all parties in this area, it can be expected that Fiji's score will increase in this Indicator in the future.

Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Fair Unchanged	The World Bank facilitated a Country Partnership Framework for Fiji in 2021, to better enable economic growth in the face of natural disasters, climate change and COVID-19. ⁴⁷ The World Bank has also implemented a new Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative in the Pacific, along with other partners. ⁴⁸ The Asian Development Bank also initiated a new development strategy with the country for 2019-2023. ⁴⁹ Fiji's largest bilateral donor, Australia, invested over A\$81million primarily in the areas of infrastructure, trade, and education as part of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership. ⁵⁰
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⁴² UNOHCHR, 2021. *Human Rights Council appoints a Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights in the context of climate change and a Special Rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Burundi*, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=27639&LangID=E>.

⁴³ Linkages between climate change, conflict and the commission of atrocity crimes is a nascent field of research, and beyond the scope of a technical annex. However, APR2P has begun conducting research into such linkages and other development priorities of Pacific Island nations. More information can be found at the [R2P Pacific Project](#).

⁴⁴ UN News, 2021. *Pacific nations appeal for solidarity to combat COVID-19 and climate change*, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1101282>.

⁴⁵ Lyons, Kate, 2021. 'Pacific Islands Forum: climate crisis and old rows surface as leaders meet screen-to-screen'. *The Guardian*, 7 August. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/07/pacific-islands-forum-climate-crisis-and-old-rows-surface-as-leaders-meet-screen-to-screen>.

⁴⁶ APR2P, Fiji Council of Social Services, 2021. *Nadi Civil Society Statement from the 2021 Inaugural Fiji Workshop on Atrocity Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect*, https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/7693/2021_Fiji_CSJ_Statement_on_R2P.PDF.

⁴⁷ The World Bank, 2021. *World Bank Group's new Country Partnership Framework for Fiji (2021-2024)*, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands/brief/world-bank-groups-new-country-partnership-framework-for-fiji-2021-2024>.

⁴⁸ World Meteorological Organization, 2021. *Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Pacific (CREWS Pacific SIDS 2.0)*, <https://public.wmo.int/en/projects/strengthening-hydro-meteorological-and-early-warning-services-pacific-crews-pacific-sids-20>.

⁴⁹ Asian Development Bank, 2019. *ADB, Fiji Mark Renewed Development Partnership with New Strategy*, <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-fiji-mark-renewed-development-partnership-new-strategy>.

⁵⁰ Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. *Fiji Development Cooperation Factsheet: May 2021*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/development-cooperation-fact-sheet-fiji.pdf>. See also: Australian Government

			<p>While the work of these partnerships is beneficial, there is no mention of atrocity prevention measures being carried out.</p> <p>The UNDP, in conjunction with the FHRADC, delivered human rights awareness workshops in 2020, focusing on grassroots and sporting initiatives.⁵¹</p>
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Fair Unchanged	No recent evidence could be found of Fiji's support (or otherwise) for the UN's Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Strong Unchanged	Fiji continues to support broad functions of the UN in areas that support atrocity prevention. Its tenure in the Human Rights Council has generally been seen as a step forward in the promotion of human rights, and the country continues to call for equitable action on climate change and recovery from the pandemic. ⁵²
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Strong Unchanged	No new evidence of Fiji supporting atrocity crime prevention was found. However, it is clear from other Indicators that Fiji continues its broad support for atrocity prevention and makes particular mention of climate change and gender-based violence as issues that need to be solved.
	Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Very Strong Unchanged	<p>While indirectly related to atrocity prevention, exposure and action on such issues is likely to contribute to upstream prevention of atrocity crimes.</p> <p>Fiji continues to be a regional leader in peacekeeping and maintains its devotion to deploying well-trained and professional peacekeeping forces.⁵³</p> <p>As of October 2021, Fiji currently has 342 personnel deployed over seven missions, primarily in Iraq and the Golan Heights. One of them, UNMISS, has a protection of civilians mandate.⁵⁴</p>
	Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Very Strong Increase	<p>Fiji, in partnership with Australia, will complete work on the Blackrock Camp in early 2022. This camp is intended to become a regional hub for peacekeeper training and improve Fiji's responses to humanitarian disasters.⁵⁵</p> <p>Fiji has also endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments, an initiative by the UN Secretary-General to strengthen peacekeeping methods and deployments.⁵⁶</p>

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, n.d. *Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fiji/fiji-australia-vuvale-partnership>.

⁵¹ UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, 2020. *Promoting human rights awareness helps communities build forward better*, <https://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/promoting-human-rights-awareness-helps-communities-build-forward-better.html>.

⁵² UN News, 2021. *Pacific nations appeal for solidarity to combat COVID-19 and climate change*.

⁵³ See: Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/fiji.pdf>.

⁵⁴ UN Peacekeeping, 2021. *Troop and Police Contributors*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (Fiji can be selected from the drop down menu).

⁵⁵ Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*; Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021. *Fiji's Blackrock Camp nearing completion*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/fiji/fijis-blackrock-camp-nearing-completion>.

⁵⁶ See: UN Peacekeeping, n.d. *Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)*, 'Declaration of Shared Commitments', <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/action-for-peacekeeping-a4p>.

	Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Strong Increase	In Fiji's statement at the 2021 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial in Seoul, Fiji's Defence Minister made mention that Fiji was a signatory of the Kigali Principles, as well as the Voluntary Compact to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, and the Vancouver Principles to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers. ⁵⁷
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Very Weak Unchanged	Fiji remains a non-signatory to both the ACT Code of Conduct ⁵⁸ and the French/Mexican initiative on the suspension of veto powers. ⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, 2021. *Honourable Minister's Statement (3min) UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Virtual Meeting*. See also: Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security, n.d. *The Vancouver Principles*, <https://dallaireinstitute.org/vancouver-principles/>.

⁵⁸ 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/>.

⁵⁹ GCR2P, 2020. *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/>.