



**WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
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**75 YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR A WORLD OF PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE,
ON THE SIDE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED**

To the UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR)

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Alternative Report submitted by the WPC under article 40 of the Covenant for Viet Nam

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

Regarding the overview of Viet Nam's efforts and achievements in implementation of the ICCPR during the period 2019–2022, the World Peace Council, which is an International Organisation founded in 1949, acting in more than 90 countries for peace, solidarity and cooperation of the peoples, is stating the following information.

Viet Nam which recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the South and the reunification of the country has made and is continuously doing important steps to enhance the effective implementation of the ICCPR and the Committee's recommendations. This has resulted in many positive outcomes. The Constitution of Viet Nam (Article 14) affirms that human rights on civil and political matters should be recognized, respected, protected, and guaranteed by Constitution and the law. Human rights shall only be restricted by law in cases of necessity for national defense, national security, social order and safety, social morality, or public health. These constitutional principles are further specified in legislation and strictly enforced. The Vietnamese Government consistently reviews and improves the legal framework while enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the law enforcement, and streamlining the administrative procedures. These efforts have provided a solid foundation for the full realization of human rights, especially civil and political rights.

The Constitution (Article 12) affirms that Viet Nam complies with the United Nations Charter and international treaties to which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is a party. One of the principles, which is also a requirement for legislative drafting and promulgation, as stipulated in the Law on Promulgation of legal normative documents, is that the legislative promulgation shall not hinder the implementation of international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party. Legislative Proposals shall be based on commitments in relevant international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

The Constitution of Viet Nam (Art. 8) stipulates that state agencies, officials, civil servants, and public employees must resolutely combat corruption and wastefulness. Viet Nam has strengthened measures to prevent and combat corruption, focusing on the

legislative drafting and improvement. In 2023 and 2024, the National Assembly of Viet Nam passed Resolution No. 104/2023/QH15, which provides for, inter alia, salary reform for officials, civil servants, and public employees. The Government issued three decrees, the Prime Minister issued one decision, and various Ministries issued numerous circulars to provide detailed regulations and implementation guidance for related laws, such as the Law on Anti-Money Laundering and the Law on Inspection. These efforts include decentralization, delegation of authority, individual accountability of leaders tied to resource allocation, capacity building for implementation, enhanced inspection, supervision of power, and measures to combat corruption, negativity and wastefulness.

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Viet Nam adopted comprehensive and adaptable measures to effectively address the crisis. The country has been internationally recognized as a model for its effective pandemic response. Confronted with the pandemic's complex dynamics, widespread transmission, and severe impacts, Viet Nam, like many other nations, implemented necessary restrictions to mitigate risks. These measures were grounded in medical expertise and carefully balanced the protection of human rights with the imperative to safeguard public health and safety. They adhered to Viet Nam's Constitution, relevant laws and regulations, and the provisions of the ICCPR regarding permissible restrictions and derogations in public health emergencies.

The Constitution of Viet Nam (Article 26) stipulates that male and female citizen are equal in all respects, and the State adopts policies to ensure people's rights, gender equality and equal opportunities. Viet Nam has made significant efforts to promote gender equality and combat discrimination against women and vulnerable groups. Viet Nam has also developed and implemented programs and initiatives to promote gender equality and prevent and respond to gender-based violence, such as the Gender Equality Communication Program to 2030 and the Program on Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence 2021–2025. Communication methods have become increasingly diverse and tailored to different target groups, with leveraging information technology and digital tools to ensure faster and easier access to information. These efforts have spread the message of gender equality and gender-based violence prevention and response, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Viet Nam is currently implementing a comprehensive plan to enforce the Law on Domestic violence Prevention and Control, with a focus on strengthening communication, public awareness, and legal education about domestic violence prevention and control. These efforts aim to provide victims with full access to information about their rights and the mechanisms available to protect them. This also helps address and mitigate factors contributing to victims' hesitation in reporting abuse, including access to mediation measures as outlined in the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control.

Viet Nam consistently recognizes and protects the right to private life, personal secrets, and family secrets, as enshrined in the Constitution and current legal documents. There is no arbitrary surveillance of political activists, journalists, or human rights defenders.

The Constitution of Viet Nam guarantees everyone the right to confidentiality of correspondence, telephone conversations, telegrams, and other forms of private communication. Legal documents ensure the safety and confidentiality of correspondence, telephone communication, electronic data, and other private exchanges. The opening, inspection, or seizure of correspondence, telephone communication, telegrams, electronic

databases, or other private communication of individuals is permitted only under circumstances prescribed by law.

The Constitution and the Law on Belief and Religion guarantee everyone the right to freedom of belief and religion, including the right to follow or not follow any religion. During the reporting period, Viet Nam enhanced measures to ensure religious freedom.

The right of religious followers to practice their faith, organize religious activities, and participate in religious events is respected and guaranteed. Religious organizations have conducted various activities both within and outside places of worship with support from local authorities. Followers of religions are free to express their faith at home, in places of worship, or at registered group gathering points.

The Constitution of Viet Nam (Article 25) stipulates that citizens have the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and access to information. Viet Nam continues to improve its legal framework to ensure freedom of the press, expression, and information exchange in the digital and transitioning society; raise public and professional awareness to prevent violations and ensure a healthy internet environment.

Media in Viet Nam operates freely in accordance with law. Press and publishing agencies are not subject to pre-print, transmission, or broadcast censorship. The rights to freedom of expression, press, and information have improved significantly due to the rapid, diverse, and rich development of mass media.

After 27 years of its connection to the internet, Viet Nam has become a leader in telecommunications and internet development, with modern technology and high internet penetration. By 2024, Viet Nam had over 78.44 million internet users, accounting for 79.1% of the population, 101.12 million smartphone users, and 91.311 million mobile broadband subscribers.

In Viet Nam, the rights to peaceful assembly, gatherings, parades, and demonstrations are enshrined in the Constitution and various legal documents, and they are safeguarded in practice. The State implements measures to ensure that these activities can take place safely. The 2022 Law on Grassroots Democracy guarantees citizens' rights to participate in and propose initiatives to state agencies, monitor and inspect activities, make recommendations, lodge complaints, file lawsuits, and report violations of law.

Viet Nam conducts elections based on the principles of universal suffrage, equality, direct voting, and secret ballot, in accordance with the law. Voters shall cast their votes in person. Viet Nam ensures the electoral and candidacy rights of its citizens are increasingly protected, guided by democracy, transparency, and legality. There are no legal requirements for candidacy based on party affiliation.

The total number of registered voters in 2021 nationwide was 69,523,277, of which 69,243,939 participated, achieving a turnout rate of 99.60%.

The Constitution and legal documents of Viet Nam provide for and ensure the implementation of comprehensive development policies to facilitate ethnic minorities' thriving in all aspects.

During the reporting period, 188 policies were implemented in ethnic minority and mountainous regions, with 136 of these specifically addressing the socio-economic difficulties faced by ethnic minorities. These policies have significantly contributed to improving access to public services, such as healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation, and cultural preservation while ensuring greater realization of human rights, the right to work, and the freedom to choose an occupation.

Ethnic minorities are guaranteed the right to work, freedom to choose an occupation, and equal, fair, and reasonable wages. Ethnic minorities who wish to work abroad are supported by the State with vocational training, foreign language education, and specialized skills to meet the requirements of host countries.

Viet Nam enables ethnic minorities to learn their native languages and scripts to preserve and promote their cultural heritage. Policies have been issued to strengthen and develop education in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. All provinces in these regions have achieved universal preschool education for five-year-olds. 100% of ethnic minority and mountainous regions have primary and secondary schools, with most communes having preschools.

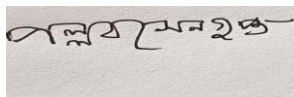
Viet Nam has established boarding schools, semi-boarding schools, and preparatory colleges for universities for ethnic minority children and those in mountainous areas or families residing in economically disadvantaged regions. These institutions aim to create a pool of trained personnel for these areas.

Last but not least we want to emphasize on the huge efforts Viet Nam is doing for the victims of the toxic “Agent Orange” which was used by the USA against the Vietnamese people during their war and which is resulting till today in health consequences for the new generations of newborns and children. The state of Viet Nam is dealing with the consequences of crimes against its people, by taking care of the human and social rights of the victims and their families, without giving up the legal struggle for compensation of the victims at US courts.

On behalf of the Secretariat of WPC

Pallab Sengupta

Thanassis Pafilis



President



General Secretary

