

COUNTRY CONDITIONS RESEARCH CHECKLIST FOR MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS

A. Conducting Country Conditions Research

Country conditions research can provide important context for understanding a non-citizen's experiences and the conditions in their country of origin that form the basis of their asylum, withholding of removal, or Convention Against Torture claim. The resources below provide a starting point for researching human rights, political, social, and other conditions in a particular country.

Background Reports

- ❑ **Amnesty International's Annual Report on the State of the World's Human Rights**: *This annual report highlights the human rights situation in over 150 countries documenting concerns and recommendations for governments and others.*
- ❑ **Freedom House's Annual Freedom in the World Report**: *This annual report provides a comparative assessment of global political rights and civil liberties.*
- ❑ **Human Rights Watch's World Report**: *This annual report provides a review of human rights around the globe with information on each country.*
- ❑ **U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**: *This site includes links to reports and concluding observations by U.N. bodies on human rights issues, sorted by country.*
- ❑ **U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices**: *The State Department is required to produce an annual report on human rights conditions in countries that receive U.S. assistance and are members of the United Nations.*
- ❑ **U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Trafficking in Persons**: *This annual report is the State Department's assessment of global trafficking conditions and efforts of foreign government's to prevent, combat, and punish trafficking.*

- ❑ **U.S. Department of State Country Reports on International Religious Freedom**: *The State Department submits an annual report to Congress describing country-specific information on the treatment of different religious groups.*

Compilations

- ❑ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC): **Responses to Information Requests** and **National Documentation Packages**. *These documents compile useful sources and can serve as an excellent starting point in country conditions research. It is also helpful to track down any useful underlying sources cited.*
- ❑ **European Country of Origin Information (ECOI) Network**: *ECOI compiles country conditions documentation relevant to asylum seekers in Europe, many of whom originate from the same countries as those seeking asylum in the United States.*
- ❑ **United Kingdom Home Office**: *The United Kingdom Home Office provides country of origin guidance to make decisions in asylum and human rights applications.*
- ❑ **U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Refworld**: *This database includes country information from international, governmental, and non-governmental sources as well as UNHCR country-specific guidance.*
- ❑ **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)**: *EUAA has country guidances for certain countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa.*

Other Resources

- ❑ **Organization of American States: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OAS/IACHR)**. The IACHR publishes **thematic reports** on particular issues pertaining to regional human rights, **country reports**, and **reports on cases** where the IACHR is involved.
- ❑ **Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)**. WOLA, a research and advocacy organization, publishes reports on human rights issues in Central and South America. WOLA publications can be found under the Analysis tab.
- ❑ **InSight Crime**. InSight Crime releases reports on organized crime and gang violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The webpage organizes

updates by country and particular organized crime group. InSight Crime also publishes reports following key events as well as a yearly round-up.

B. Additional Resources from CGRS

CGRS also maintains a curated [Expert Witness Resource Library](#) with additional country conditions resources, resources on serving as an expert witness, sample declarations and other materials that may be useful.

The Expert Witness Resource Library is free and accessible to all experts who have an account on CGRS's website. Please follow this [link to create a new CGRS expert witness account](#). Follow this [link to sign into an existing CGRS account](#). Once logged in, experts can access the library through the My Account page. If you have any questions please reach out to: Cgrs-expertdb@uclawsf.edu.