



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

November 10, 2025, marked the successful conclusion of the Republic's presentation of its 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to the on Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. The presentation facilitated an in-depth discussion on the Marshall Islands' progress taken with respect to its Human Rights commitments.

Key highlights from the Republic of the Marshall Islands presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Geographical & climate-vulnerability: as a small island developing state, its isolation, atoll-topography & climate change threats shape its human rights challenge.
- Nuclear-testing legacy & climate justice: the Government underscored its advocacy for the rights of its people impacted by historic nuclear testing, and the human-rights dimensions of climate change.
- National human rights institution (NHRI): intention to move forward with the establishment of NHRI and other institutional frameworks for rights protection.
- Legislative and policy efforts: the passage of Gender Equality Act, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, & the Child Rights Protection Act
- Human Trafficking



Answering legal questions posed by the Council, the Attorney-General highlighted that the country is a State Party to several core human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and





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Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT), along with their respective optional protocols. He underscored that these treaties form a foundation for the nation's continuing efforts to strengthen human rights protection for all Marshallese people.

The Attorney-General emphasized that while the RMI remains dedicated in fulfilling its obligations, its severe limitations in national administrative capacity, human resources, and the Country's unique geographic makeup create genuine barriers to effective implementation. These realities pose real challenges, calling on partners to recognize these constraints while supporting RMI's ongoing efforts.

To align domestic law with international standards, the Marshall Islands has adopted a series of targeted statutes, including:

- *Marshall Islands Equal Opportunity Act, 2017*
- *Child Rights Protection Act 2015*
- *Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2015*
- *Gender Equality Act, 2019*

The enactment of these pieces of legislation reflects the RMI's commitment to ensuring that its institutional and legal frameworks are robustly prepared to protect and advance human rights, including for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

He concluded by reaffirming the RMI Government's resolve to work collaboratively with international partners, development agencies, and UN mechanisms to bridge capacity caps and sustain meaningful progress.

The RMI Delegation was led by the Honorable Jess Gasper, Jr., and was joined by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Doreen deBrum, Chief Secretary Kino S. Kabua, Attorney-General Bernard J. Adiniwin, Deputy Permanent Representative Samuel K. Lanwi, Jr., Commissioner of Education Dr. Natalie Nimmer, Human Rights Director Davina Nathan Chong-Gum, Advisor Mrs. Philma Gasper, and Human Rights Advisor Juliette Chesnel.

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