



New Zealand welcomes the delegation of Viet Nam.

We welcome recent invitations to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues. We also commend Viet Nam's recent decision to sign the Convention Against Torture.

New Zealand welcomed Viet Nam's agreement at its first UPR to comply with Article 14 of the ICCPR and ensure access to fair trials for all citizens; however we remain concerned about on-going issues with prisoners' access to legal advice, harassment of human rights lawyers and allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention. New Zealand **recommends** Viet Nam implement the opinions of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on individual cases of arbitrary detention in Viet Nam and release the individuals concerned.

New Zealand welcomes Viet Nam's recent reform of the application of the death penalty and **recommends** that Viet Nam continue reform towards eventual abolition of the death penalty, including greater transparency around its use.

Finally, we **recommend** that freedom of expression is protected both offline and online by bringing legislation such as Decree 2 (2011) and Decree 72 (2013) into compliance with international human rights law.