

## Who can apply?

At present, applications for grants may be submitted for projects to be implemented in countries for which the report on a visit by the SPT has been made public.

Applications may be submitted by State parties and NPMs. National human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and NGOs may also submit applications if the projects proposed are implemented in cooperation with the State party or the NPM.

## When and how to apply?

A call for applications is launched in the summer of every year. Grants are awarded for projects of a maximum duration of 12 months, to be implemented during the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December of the year following the call, and may be renewed on an exceptional basis.

The guidelines and application form are available on the webpages of the Special Fund.

## How to contribute to the Fund?

Like all UN trust funds the OPCAT Special Fund depends entirely on earmarked contributions. The Fund accepts donations from States, non-governmental organizations, business companies and other private entities, including individuals.

Donors and potential donors are encouraged to increase their support to the Fund so that it can consolidate its role as an effective tool to prevent torture by supporting the implementation of SPT recommendations. Donors are invited to contribute to the Fund before the autumn of each year, for the planning of the next project cycle.

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).  
Search: OPCAT Special Fund**

## Contact us

Secretariat of the OPCAT Special Fund  
Office of the UN High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
CH1211 Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)  
E-mail: [opcatfund@ohchr.org](mailto:opcatfund@ohchr.org)

# OPCAT SPECIAL FUND FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

## What is the Special Fund?

The Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) started its activities in 2011. It awards grants for projects to be implemented at the national level to prevent torture.

The Optional Protocol, which entered into force in 2006, establishes a system of regular visits undertaken to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

To this end, the Optional Protocol established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), composed of independent experts, and requires States to set up independent national bodies for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment at the domestic level (national preventive mechanisms (NPMs)). The Special Fund, also provided for by the Optional Protocol, helps to finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the SPT following a visit to a State party. In particular, it provides country-specific support for States and NPMs.

## Country-specific support to assist States

The Fund supports projects aimed at implementing SPT recommendations, provided these are contained in a report made public upon the request of the State party.

The list of eligible countries can be found on the webpage of the Special Fund at the address indicated below.

Thematic priorities are identified on a yearly basis for each eligible country in order to allow for more focused projects aimed at implementing recommendations made by the SPT.

## Support for National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs)

Article 3 of the Optional Protocol provides that “each State party shall set up, designate or maintain at the domestic level one or several visiting bodies for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (national preventive mechanism)”.

The Fund provides support for the establishment and strengthening of national preventive mechanisms in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Optional Protocol.

## Which type of projects does the Fund support?

The Fund aims to support projects that are sustainable, have a multiplier effect, a potential for replication, or lay foundations for change. Besides assistance for the establishment and consolidation of NPMs, financial support is provided for trainings on torture prevention of the judiciary and for personnel of detention centres and other relevant institutions. It also provides assistance for the design of training materials and tools, such as registers, manuals and handbooks for use by custodial institutions and the judiciary.

The Fund is managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with the UN Financial Rules and Regulations.