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## Report

# Sharing experiences and building capacity in the Caribbean: The Fair Administration of Justice and the UN Convention against Torture

Monday 4 – Wednesday 6 June 2018 | WP1618

Held in St Lucia





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### Background

1. On 4-6 June 2018 in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, as part of the [Convention against Torture Initiative's](#) (CTI) activities to bolster ratification and implementation in the Caribbean region, CTI partnered with [Wilton Park](#) on a regional seminar for Caribbean States to exchange good practices and challenges regarding the fair administration of justice and the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).
2. The event brought together over 40 participants, including representation from 10 Caribbean countries, including five represented at Attorneys General/Ministers of Justice/Legal Affairs-level. Participating Caribbean States were Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Other participating countries sharing their experiences were Argentina, Fiji, Mexico, São Tomé and Príncipe, the Seychelles, the United Kingdom and the United States. The event was also attended by CTI core States of Chile, Denmark, Ghana and Morocco, along with representation from the UN Committee against Torture (CAT), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), The Redress Trust, as well as national human rights institutions/ombudsman and independent police complaints authorities.
3. In opening the event, on the record [welcome remarks](#) were given by CTI core group Ambassadors H.E. Mr Eduardo Bonilla, Ambassador of Chile to Jamaica and concurrent in Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis and H.E. Mr. Ramses Joseph Cleland, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the UN in Geneva. Keynote addresses by Caribbean States were delivered by Hon. Mr Ellsworth N Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs of the Bahamas; Hon. Ms Kindra Maturine-Stewart, Minister of Legal Affairs of Grenada; Hon. Ms Marlene Malahoo-Forte, Attorney General of Jamaica; Hon. Mr Jaundy Martin, Attorney General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Hon. Ms Maureen Hyman, Senator of Antigua and Barbuda. As a highlight, the Bahamas was congratulated for becoming the 164th State party to UNCAT, on 31 May 2018, and setting a positive example for others to follow.
4. The regional seminar provided a neutral space for candid discussion, with all subsequent remarks on a nonattributable basis under the [Wilton Park protocol](#).
5. The objectives of the seminar were to:
  - Explore experiences and good practices regarding ratification and implementation of UNCAT and its relationship with other important agendas;

- Exchange on the basic safeguards in respect of arrest and detention of suspects, including juveniles, and the latest techniques of criminal investigation such as questioning and interviewing suspects, witnesses and victims;
- Share good management approaches in relation to law enforcement, custody arrangements and prison reform, including workable checks and balances.

### **Sharing experiences: ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against Torture**

6. Throughout the three days of the meeting, States explored some of the challenges, as well as positive experiences in the Caribbean region in delivering justice, law and order, and building peaceful communities. A focus was given to how ratifying and implementing UNCAT has supported these goals. States shared the following positive reasons for ratifying the Convention and the benefits that had flowed from doing so:
  - Ratification signalled an important domestic cultural shift away from institutionalised violence to one of respect for human rights;
  - Ratification has led to greater professionalism in police services, more efficient and fairer justice systems and catalysed prison sector reforms;
  - It has enabled law enforcement and justice sector officials, as well as civil society, to become more sensitised about appropriate standards of conduct, which in turn has built greater trust in public institutions;
  - In some countries, ratification has led to the passing of anti torture laws or amendments, providing, inter alia, a legal basis to prosecute acts of torture and ill-treatment; and
  - It was also noted that ratification of UNCAT can serve as an important indicator towards the progressive realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG16, on promoting peace, access to justice and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.
7. While there was a general desire that all Caribbean States would become party to UNCAT, some of the main challenges that still need to be addressed, which currently dissuade Caribbean States from ratifying UNCAT were identified as:
  - A misunderstanding that States need to have in place an exhaustive anti-torture framework prior to ratifying the Convention. It was emphasised by many that ratification can be used as the start of a process towards reforms and action.
  - A need to sensitise relevant national policy makers on the 'added value' of ratifying UNCAT.
  - A need for technical assistance regarding reporting to the UN Committee against Torture and resource and capacity constraints, and how these may be redressed.
8. It was further noted that holding open and frank nationwide discussions on torture and ill-treatment prevention strategies can play an important role in bringing about change, and it was recommended that Parliamentarians, judges and other stakeholders be engaged in such processes.

## Professional standards in policing: learning lessons

9. A number of plenary sessions and breakout groups discussed how best to support national police services to develop professional standards that are aligned with the rule of law and human rights, and that reflect key safeguards against torture and ill-treatment. There was keen endorsement among the participants of the need for States to establish an **adequate and comprehensive police standards and accountability framework**, including the following recommendations:
- Ensuring that professional standards are adequately reflected in national laws and policies, which also set out accountabilities. Mention was made of the recently released [Caribbean Human Rights and Use of Force Model Policy](#), providing minimum standards for all Caribbean law enforcement agencies on the use of force and firearms, as well as of the 'Code of Practice for the Recording of Suspect Interviews' (British High Commission/US Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean)<sup>1</sup>.
  - Raising awareness among the general public about the specific framework under which policing operations are undertaken, emphasising the police's obligation to respect human rights of its citizens, that torture is prohibited in all its forms, and that force may only be used when strictly necessary and as a measure of last resort.
  - Establishing command responsibility of superior officers for the actions and omissions of their subordinates, in situations such as: unlawful use of force and firearms, failing to keep a record of detention, or using coercive interviewing methods.
  - Engaging civil society organisations in the drafting process of such frameworks was referred to as a good practice to consider.
  - Establishing independent, civilian-staffed oversight mechanisms to deal with complaints and investigations of police misconduct (see [Maintaining checks and balances](#)).
10. Regarding **recruitment and vetting processes and continuous training**, a distinction needed to be made between the requirements for aspiring candidates to join the police service and for police officers to continue and/or to be promoted within the police service. A few recommendations made by participants included:
- Putting in place highly competitive and selective recruitment processes. Police officers at the meeting discussed the pros and cons of a variety of recruitment examinations, including: psychological testing, criminal and financial background checks, polygraph testing and toxicology examinations.
  - Conducting training for police officers to have the required professional qualifications to join the police service, as well as to be eligible for promotion, on the following suggested topics: anticorruption issues, human rights and torture prevention, use of force code of conduct, investigative interviewing techniques, customer service and anger and stress management.
  - Vetting processes were seen as good practice to ensure that only the most qualified police officers were kept in the service, comprising passing periodic exams or performance checks, and annual appraisals.
  - It was proposed that training needs to be periodically conducted and revised, and that in order for the police service to benefit from the newly trained police officers, they remain in the assigned unit for a sufficient amount of time, enabling them to pass on their knowledge to other police officers.

<sup>1</sup> For States interested in obtaining a copy of this document, which is not yet available online, please contact the CTI Secretariat at [info@cti2024.org](mailto:info@cti2024.org).

11. Other practices were shared that have been shown to have particularly positive impacts in terms of **efficiency and fairness**, as well as assisting in the **reduction of complaints** against police including:

- Providing suspects with information about their rights translated into their own language (Chile, Dominican Republic had translated rights documents into Creole for Haitian migrants); while developing other ways to communicate with illiterate detainees (e.g. through picture format or video).
- Telephone systems in police stations allowing suspects and accused persons to establish contact with their lawyers from the first moment of arrest or detention (Barbados).
- Rules that prohibit police from starting the interview until the suspect or accused has been mandatorily assigned a lawyer, and setting up a roster of available lawyers via the Bar Association or equivalent body (Fiji). An interesting example being piloted in Fiji is that instead of the police officer, it is the lawyer's role to explain the suspect's rights, with the suspect free to decide whether to retain the lawyer or waive the right.
- A requirement that a 'justice of the peace' or lawyer be present during all police interviews with the detainee (Jamaica).
- Digital recording (audio or video) of interviews to protect against abuse and coercion, while providing an accurate record of the suspect's statement. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has passed into law the [Model Bill on 'Interviewing of Accused/Suspects for Serious Crimes'](#), creating a mandatory basis for the electronic recording of custodial interviews of suspects. Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis have also incorporated some of its provisions into the 'Criminal Law and Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2014' and 'Evidence (Amendment) Act 2011', respectively.
- Bailing suspects on the street, instead of bringing them into police custody even for a short period of time (United Kingdom).
- Placing the suspect at the rear of a purpose-built van, rather than having the suspect sit with police officers (United Kingdom).
- Equipping police officers with body cameras and/or using CCTV in police stations and vehicles to deter police officers from using excessive use of force and to protect suspects or accused persons against ill-treatment. While the evidence is clear that these measures reduce incidents of ill-treatment, some participating States pointed out that they do not prevent abuse from taking place elsewhere. Participants made the point that the use of digital technology needs to be supported by appropriate training, a code of ethics regulating police conduct and a police oversight mechanism (see [Maintaining checks and balances](#)).
- Greater emphasis on noncoercive interviewing techniques, and other measures to reduce the pressure on police officers to deliver quick outcomes, with a subsequent high reliance on coerced (and therefore less robust) confessions.
- Allocating resources differently within the police service by, for example, dedicating fewer hours to marching and physical exercise and more hours to training in human rights, torture prevention and the use of investigative interviewing techniques.

12. Participants identified that changing social culture and perceptions could also be key to **changing police culture**:

- As police culture may reflect the culture of society, it is important to address the root causes of high rates of entrenched institutional and societal violence, such as corruption, poverty and inequality, lack of independent and accountable

institutions and impunity.

- Achieving senior management buy-in and leadership to change police culture was also considered a fundamental driver of change.
- Police services ought to represent the ethnic and gender diversity of the population, in order, inter alia, to achieve greater buy-in towards change of police culture and better intercultural understanding.
- In countries with high crime rates, police officers may tend to succumb to public pressure by which abuse may seem a reasonable option to act tough on crime. To this end, it was suggested that civil society could encourage stricter adherence to policing standards and regulations, as well as raise awareness over miscarriages of justice.

## Sharing experiences on prison management and reform

13. A large number of good practices were shared by participants on ways to improve **the management of prisons** and the **humane experience of prisoners**. The Dominican Republic, for example, explained their 'New Dominican Penitentiary Model', which has transformed 19 traditional prisons into Centers of Correction and Rehabilitation with a radical improvement in living conditions. Barbados' strategic plan commits to provide a safe and healthy environment and respect prisoners' inherent right to human dignity, and establishes counselling programmes for HIV positive prisoners. Ghana shared that their prison reforms have attached greater importance to the reintegration and social reinsertion of prisoners, explaining that Ghana's 'open camp prison' provides vocational training for low risk prisoners and serves as an opportunity for reducing the likelihood of reoffending. Ghana explained further that such reforms had become possible owing in part to a documentary that exposed the poor prison conditions in the country, prompting political action. Ghana encouraged other countries to allow media access to their prisons.
14. In view of the fact that **prison overcrowding** poses a particular problem in the Caribbean region, participants and experts discussed the possibility of adopting some good practices, such as:
  - Allowing for a greater number of offences to be bailable to reduce the prison population in pre-trial detention; and using the range of noncustodial measures available, such as those contained in [the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures \(Tokyo Rules\)](#).
  - Reclassifying and transferring inmates from overcrowded prison facilities to underpopulated medium and low security centres (Jamaica).
  - Allow for electronic monitoring of persons on bail and those convicted of minor offences (Jamaica).
  - Using night courts and holding court hearings in prison facilities to alleviate the backlog of cases of prisoners on remand (Dominican Republic).
  - Using video link for bail applications (Fiji), allowing access for persons in remote locations, and also reducing time and security issues of transferring prisoners to court.
15. Participants saw value in allowing internal and external monitoring bodies (see [Maintaining checks and balances](#)), training and developing codes of conduct for prison officials, and safe complaints mechanisms for prisoners.
16. A specific issue was raised regarding the **mental health of prison officials**. In order to alleviate such pressures, encouraging officers to take sabbatical leave or rotation periods out of the prison service was considered a good practice, one which can in turn have a positive impact on the treatment of detainees.

## Juvenile justice: taking account of vulnerability

17. A particular focus of the Caribbean event was given to issues of juvenile justice, a growing challenge across the region. Experts observed similarities in the profile of juvenile offenders in the Caribbean region. Many come from impoverished backgrounds and dysfunctional families, offend at low age, or show limited interest or motivation in educational attainment. It was emphasised that the purpose of juvenile justice laws is to establish procedures and safeguards for children in conflict with the law that are mindful of the best interest of the child (Article 3 of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)). Reference was made to the standards contained in:
- [The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice \(the 'Beijing Rules'\)](#)
  - [The UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty \(the 'Havana Rules'\)](#)
  - [The UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency \(the 'Riyadh Guidelines'\)](#)
  - [The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 10 \(2007\) on children's rights in juvenile justice](#)
18. As children differ from adults with regard to their physical and psychological development and emotional and educational needs, special attention needs to be paid to the impact of justice sector policies and practices on the child's development, socialisation and reintegration into society. Positively, it was reported that the [OECS Child Justice Model Bill](#) has been passed into law in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis.
19. A set of good practices drawn from Caribbean experiences and recommendations that could be adopted to put in place an effective juvenile justice system were shared, including:
- Specialised juvenile courts and prosecutors, as well as specialised staff in juvenile care centres.
  - Devising effective and collaborative relationships between agencies playing different roles in the juvenile justice system. An example of this was Trinidad and Tobago's adoption, in July 2017, of a [Multi-Agency Protocol on addressing children in conflict with the law](#).
  - Conducting training to police officers, judges and prosecutors on forensic interviewing of children, in line with the above mentioned international standards.
  - Ensuring that police officers explain letters of rights in a manner and language that children are able to understand. A parent or a guardian should always be present during the questioning of children, along with a lawyer.
  - Ensuring the needs of children and juveniles are taken into account in arrest, custody and interviewing situations by guaranteeing:
    - Minimum use of force in arrest and detention.
    - Prohibition on using wear leg irons when appearing in court and handcuffs only in exceptional circumstances.
    - Specific custody and transportation rules, ensuring that juveniles are always kept separate from adults and male juveniles from female.
  - Ensuring that consideration of children's vulnerability goes beyond enforcing the prohibition against torture and ill-treatment and special vulnerable categories of children are specifically addressed. Some good practices shared

included:

- Allowing vulnerable witnesses to give evidence in court via video link, under Antigua and Barbuda's new Special Evidence Act 2016.
- Allowing the intervention of social workers and probation officers to assess the child's family situation before referring the matter to the court, under Antigua and Barbuda's Child Justice Act 2015.
- Establishing the child's age of criminal responsibility, as a minimum, above the age of 12 years old and prioritising noncustodial measures until they reach 18 years old.

## Maintaining checks and balances

20. The final session of the seminar was dedicated to the ways in which positive practices are reinforced and poor practices are identified, rooted out and changed, through discussion of a range of 'checks and balances'.
21. A number of Caribbean States shared their experience of allowing **visits to places** where persons are deprived of their liberty, such as police cells and prisons. Guyana's Prison Act sets out the appointment of Visiting Committees to monitor conditions of detention in each of the country's prisons. Chile shared that its National Human Rights Institute conducts visits to places of detention and that a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) is expected to be established very soon. Dominican Republic stated that both the Ombudsperson's Office and the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor's Office can conduct visits to places of detention. States participating in the meeting were encouraged to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT).
22. Setting up **bodies to handle complaints** in an independent manner was considered an important check on police conduct, such as Jamaica's Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM), Guyana's Police Complaints Authority, Denmark's Police Complaints Authority, and the United Kingdom's Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The experience of these States shows that it was highly recommended to grant such bodies the ability to conduct unannounced visits to police stations, launch investigations into serious instances of abuse, and have the power to receive and handle appeals from detained persons on complaints previously brought to the police.
23. The role of **National Human Rights Institutions** (NHRIs) was emphasised, given their role in promoting and respecting human rights, as well as acting as a bridge between government and civil society in monitoring compliance with international and national standards. In the Caribbean region, Ombudsperson offices have been created to investigate complaints in cases of maladministration. Guyana became the first Commonwealth Caribbean country to set one up in 1966 and is now joined by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia. It was noted that NHRIs can play a key role in the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in a number of ways by: monitoring places of detention; investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment; handling complaints brought to them; and providing training to law enforcement officials on the obligation to prevent and respond to such incidents. States were encouraged to create an NHRI that is compliant with the [Paris Principles](#) and the Commonwealth Secretariat offered assistance in this regard.
24. Given that more than 70% of recommendations accepted by States under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process need legislative amendment to be implemented, participating States and experts shared the importance of engaging closely with **Parliamentarians** to guarantee their full involvement in the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit (HRU) works closely with Parliamentarians in order to increase



their capacity under the UPR review and can also provide technical assistance to Caribbean Commonwealth States.

### **The role of lawyers**

25. Lawyers can often be the first contact for a detainee with the outside world. Given that the initial period of detention is when the risk of torture and ill-treatment is known to be higher, lawyers are in a unique position to ensure that suspects and accused persons are guaranteed their rights to basic safeguards. Participants shared some of the key roles that lawyers can play, including:

- Ensuring an immediate registration of the detention upon arrival into custody.
- Asking the detainee about the treatment received when brought into police custody.
- Requesting that suspects or accused persons are provided with medical assistance when needed and that an independent medical examination is conducted, especially if refused by authorities.
- Bringing habeas corpus claims on their behalf to challenge the lawfulness of the detention.

26. Both lawyers and human rights focused NGOs have a distinct role to play in responding to incidents of torture and ill-treatment. Participants discussed the need to view their relationship with government authorities as collaborative, instead of an adversarial one. Some of the ways in which lawyers and NGOs could contribute to positive domestic reforms include:

- Raising awareness of shortcomings and lobbying authorities to put in place reforms.
- Providing assistance through projects on anti-torture legislative drafting.
- Documenting cases of torture through the elaboration of witness statements and proper medico-legal reports, which can be used as evidence in court proceedings.

### **The role of prosecutors**

27. A discussion followed on the important role of prosecutors in preventing and responding to incidents of torture and ill-treatment, and in ensuring that such cases are brought against perpetrators. Participants shared the importance of:

- Strengthening the impartiality and functioning of Prosecutor's Offices, also given the high sensitivity in relation to such cases.
- Ensuring that information or a confession is given freely and to exclude the admission of torture-tainted evidence through their own due diligence. Due to the close relationship that Prosecutors may have with police services, and to avoid the appearance of bias or submitting to pressure, participants proposed that specialised Prosecutors' Offices could be created for matters concerning abuse by public officers.

## Judicial scrutiny

28. Some of the key roles judges play in torture prevention were identified as:

- Reviewing the lawfulness of detention and holding habeas corpus hearings.
- Identifying visible signs of torture or ill-treatment and inquiring about the treatment and medical check-up received by the detainee.
- Applying the exclusionary rule of torture-tainted evidence (see paragraph 31).
- Ensuring that authorities have complied with all legal safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, including the right to: prompt access to a lawyer; receive an independent medical examination; notify relatives or a third party promptly after arrest.

29. Some of the good practices regarding judicial oversight included:

- Chile's introduction of procedural guarantee judges, which supervise compliance and enforce detainees' rights in detention.
- A suggestion that, in view of the backlog of cases in the Caribbean region, magistrates and judges could be encouraged to deliver earlier recorded oral judgments in respect of habeas corpus and bail hearings.
- Establish clear legal procedures allowing for audio and video recording of interviews to be used as evidence in court proceedings.

30. Participants agreed that further training is needed for both prosecutors, magistrates and judges on international obligations, particularly on relevant UNCAT provisions, as well as on the importance of applying the [UN Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors](#), the [UN Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct](#), the [Nelson Mandela Rules](#) and the [Istanbul Protocol](#).

31. Regarding the obligation to exclude torture-tainted evidence from all proceedings (Article 15, UNCAT), it was noted that most Caribbean States have laws prohibiting the admission of such evidence. The challenge remains, as in other regions, about how best to ensure that this rule is properly applied in practice. A view was expressed that the application of Judges' Rules, common in Commonwealth Caribbean States, which provide nonmandatory administrative guidelines, were not adequate to guarantee that interviews have been conducted in compliance with current international standards, and it was recommended to replace them with a strict legislative basis. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shared how their new Interviewing of Accused/Suspects for Serious Crimes Act 2012, had allowed them to replace the application of the Judges' Rules, and which required mandatory recording of interviews, prompt access to a lawyer and notification of the suspect or accused's relatives of his/her arrest or detention. Introducing a statutory code of practice had allowed them to conduct 700 police interviews without recourse to any voir dire proceedings to contest the admissibility of evidence. The UK's Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), by which the Prosecution needs to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the confession was not obtained through coercive methods, was also highlighted as a robust replacement for the Judges' Rules, a standard that is followed by the Bahamas under its Evidence Act Cap. 65. Fiji shared that it is in the process of revising its Police Act to consider the introduction of a similar regime.

## Reporting to the UN Committee against Torture

32. Reporting to the international body reviewing implementation of UNCAT was noted as an important check and balance. Reporting obligations to the CAT, alone or in conjunction with obligations to report to other UN and regional bodies, can be particularly burdensome for small States, often due to a lack of financial and human resources, rather than to an unwillingness to report. Yet, it was also acknowledged that periodic reporting to the CAT brings benefits to States, such as treating reporting as an opportunity for the State to reflect on its systems, processes and practices and to identify needed reforms. An example of the domestic benefits of reporting to the Committee was Denmark's establishment, in 2012, of the Police Complaints Authority, which came about as the result of a recommendation by the CAT.
33. Participants discussed using the State's UPR national report as the basis upon which to draft the country's initial report to the Committee, given that the State is likely to have reported on issues such as the incidence of torture and ill-treatment and police and prison matters, as part of its UPR process. There was also encouragement to use the CAT's simplification of its own reporting procedures through the creation of the so called List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR), to reduce the reporting burden.
34. The Seychelles shared how the creation of the 'National Mechanism for Monitoring, Reporting and Follow up' (Seychelles' Human Rights Treaty Committee) had proven useful in streamlining the country's reporting obligations, by coordinating human rights treaty reporting, ensuring the promotion and dissemination of received Concluding Observations, and UPR recommendations, as well as to review and guide collection of data and statistics. The benefits of creating such a body included:
- Creating a space for an open and frank dialogue and coordination among a wide range of stakeholders, such as government representatives, NHRIs or Ombudsman Offices, civil society organisations and Parliamentarians.
  - Raising awareness of the obligations of the State for an improved implementation of recommendations.
  - Formalised and improved data collection processes, as an essential part of any human rights monitoring framework.
35. States discussed the use of consultants in the preparation of reports. An example was given of a former government official who had been contracted to coordinate and support the process, by which the government was able to boost its capacity and benefit from local knowledge.
36. The CTI Secretariat and the OHCHR treaty body capacity building programme both indicated their willingness to support States in their initial and periodic reporting. The CTI shared its [UNCAT Implementation Tool 3/2017 on Reporting to the UN Committee against Torture](#) and States were referred to [OHCHR's National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up: A Practical Guide to Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms](#).

### Laura Blanco

Secretariat of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) | September 2018

This report was prepared jointly by the CTI Secretariat and Wilton Park. Wilton Park – Convention against Torture Initiative reports are intended to be brief summaries of the main points and conclusions of a conference. Reports reflect rapporteurs' accounts of the proceedings and do not necessarily reflect the views of the rapporteur. Wilton Park - CTI reports and any recommendations contained therein do not necessarily represent the views of or institutional policy for Wilton Park, the FCO or the UK government, nor do they represent the views of the Core States of the CTI.

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