

The universal periodic review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council : transforming the human rights discourse

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Propositions for the dissertation of Tamara N. Lewis Arredondo

1. The Universal periodic Review mechanism is the leading UN process for bringing attention to the human rights records of UN Member States.
2. The national consultation phase of the Universal Periodic Review process should be promoted in side events in Geneva to spread best practices for governments when interfacing with their grassroots constituents to get a picture of how human rights are realized by citizens.
3. The interactive dialogue of the Universal Periodic Review should also include more pointed questioning regarding violations or failure to implement recommendations with the expectation that the state under review will have to give a satisfactory explanation.
4. Future research regarding the Universal Periodic Review should focus on whether states properly implemented recommendations from the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.
5. Human rights, basic rights owed to all human beings, must be promoted and protected through a variety of processes, but the Universal Periodic Review should be the flagship process of the UN human rights machinery because it involves all human rights and obligations.
6. Human rights organizations benefit from critical analyses of the United Nations Human Rights machinery and institutions, including dissertations that analyze the governance aspects.
7. While substantive research regarding human rights policies are needed, the procedural and institutional roots of human rights should not be ignored because poor processes impact the ability to make substantive changes.
8. More interdisciplinary approaches to research are needed in the field of human rights to broaden the way human rights violations are addressed, pure doctrinal analysis of human rights norms is of little value for correcting violations.
9. International education is the key to sharing research, teaching methods and the spread of new ideas within academia; therefore, universities should develop joint degree programs for the study of human rights.