



## COMPLAINTS WORKSHOP

**Geneva, Switzerland**  
10 – 12 July 2007



**Maison des Associations**  
15 Rue des Savoises  
Room: Mahatma Gandhi

The OMCT Complaints Training Workshop will take place 10-12 July 2007 at the OMCT Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. The aim of the workshop is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to prepare and successfully litigate cases involving violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment before the United Nations Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture. To this end, the workshop will gather NGO advocates from around the world in a small group setting for an interactive 3 day litigation training session. Taking full advantage of OMCT's location in Geneva, participants will benefit from the contributions of leading experts in the field of human rights including academics, practitioners, UN personnel and OMCT staff. Interactive group discussions, case studies and skills-development exercises will further hone participants litigation skills. The trainings will be based on [Volume 4 of the OMCT Handbook Series: Seeking Remedies for Torture Victims: a Handbook for Victims and their Advocates](#). The book is a practical guide covering most of the topics which will be addressed during the workshop.

## **Day 1      Tuesday, 10 June 2007**

08h30      **Registration & Coffee**

09h00      **Opening**

Introductions & Sharing of Expectations  
Background and Objectives of Workshop

10h00      **What is Torture?**

Sources, Nature, Definition  
State Obligations

11h00      **Break**

11h15      **Presentation of OMCT Programmes**

Assistance to Victims  
Urgent Appeals  
Observatory  
Social, Economic and Cultural Rights  
Children's Rights

12h30      **Lunch**

13h30      **Admissibility**

Overview of Rules  
Exhaustion of Remedies  
Complaints Follow-Up

15h45      **Break**

16h00      **“The Treaty Bodies: Bringing Human Rights Home” (Screening)**

17h00      **Discussion**

18h00      **Conclusion Day 1**

## **Day 2      Wednesday 11, June 2007**

08h30      **Coffee**

09h00      **Litigation Practice**

Establishment of Facts  
Pleadings

11h00      **Break**

11h15      **Skills Exercises (admissibility and pleadings practice)**

Hypothetical Scenario:      Working Group I - Applicant  
Working Group II – State Party

12h30      **Lunch**

13h30      **Group Discussion: Participants' National Perspectives on Individual Complaints**

Identification of main challenges and opportunities.

15h30      **[Best Practices & Complaints Follow-Up](#)**  
Catherine Phuong, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR

17h00      **The State Reporting Process**  
Patrick Mützenberg, Programme Manager, OMCT

18h00      **Conclusion Day 2**

## Day 3 Thursday, 12 June 2007

08h30 **Coffee**

### Panel of Regional Experts

09h00 [European System: Evidence in Torture Cases](#)  
Mr. Panayotis Voyatzis, European Court of Human Rights,  
Strasbourg

10h15 [African System](#)  
Ms. Judith Oder, INTERIGHTS, London, UK

11h30 **Break**

11h45 **Inter-American System**  
Prof. Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, Academy on Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Law, American University, Washington, DC, USA

13h00 **Lunch**

14h00 [Choice of Forum](#)  
Prof. Alexander Morawa, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

16h00 **Break**

16h15 **Evaluation**  
  
Discussion of follow-up  
Questionnaires

17h30 **Conclusion of Workshop**