WHAT IS A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE?

It is a **State mechanism** with a constitutional and/or legislative mandate to **protect and promote human rights**.

The Paris Principles set out **six main criteria** to which NHRIs must respond.

I. **COMPETENCE**  
II. **AUTONOMY**  
III. **INDEPENDENCE**  
IV. **PLURALISM**  
V. **RESOURCES**  
VI. **POWERS**

The status of NHRIs within the **Global Alliance** depends on their application of these principles.

**GLOBAL ALLIANCE (GANHRI)**

- **STATUS A**: Fully compliant with the Paris Principles  
  - Voting Member  
  - 74 NHRIs*

- **STATUS B**: Partially compliant  
  - Observer Member  
  - 33 NHRIs*

- **STATUS C**: Non-compliant  
  - Non-member  
  - 10 NHRIs*

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*Data correct as of 14 October 2016. For more information, see: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, National Human Rights Institutions, history, principles, functions and remit, 2010.

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THE ROLE OF NHRIS IN THE FIGHT FOR THE ABOLITION

**Make recommendations to the state on legislative reforms**
Reform of the constitution, reform of the criminal code with a view to abolishing the death penalty, formalizing a de facto moratorium or reducing the number of crimes punishable by death, reform of the criminal procedure code to ensure that the rights of death row prisoners are respected.

**Encourage the state’s international commitments**
Ratification of the OP2, support of the UNGA Resolution for a Moratorium on Executions, engagement with international and regional mechanisms for human rights protection, support for the production of alternative reports, oral statements during sessions.

**Monitor**
Monitoring of detention conditions of death row prisoners through regular visits to detention centres, publication of reports on the use of the death penalty (number of executions, number of death sentences, socio-economic status of people sentenced to death,...), follow-up on the cases of people at risk of capital punishment (investigations of torture allegations or other violations of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right).

**Organise consultations**
Development of relations with non-governmental organisations working on abolition of the death penalty.

**Raise public awareness**
Through information and education about capital punishment, including the publication of studies on criminality demonstrating the non-deterrent effect of the death penalty.