

Information sheet

International laws

The United Nations works with many countries to create international laws to improve the lives of the world's people. These laws are known as treaties and conventions. Australia has ratified (signed up to) many treaties and conventions, so is obligated to follow these laws.

The international community also makes declarations about what countries should do to improve particular aspects of people's lives.

These treaties, conventions and declarations shape the way some Australian laws are made, because international laws only come into effect in Australia if relevant Australian statute, or parliamentary, laws are also made.



World laws

The United Nations (UN) works with many countries to make laws to make people's lives better.

These laws are called treaties and conventions.

Australia has agreed to many of these laws, so must follow them.

The UN also makes statements (called declarations) about what countries should do to help people.

These laws and statements form how some Australian laws are made, because world laws only apply in Australia if Australian laws are also made.