

How to use the Bottom-up Method

Once a human rights issue has been identified, its “priority” has to be assessed by testing it, using some criteria.

The criteria for prioritisation of human rights issues could be:

- What is the intensity of the presumed violation or interference?
Evaluated on a scale of 1 -10 (1 being no intensity - 10 being very high intensity)
- What is the number of people affected?
Evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (1 being none - 10 being a large percentage of persons in a state)
- What is the impact on vulnerable groups?
Evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (1 being none - 10 being high)
- Does the NHRI have expert knowledge on the issue?
Evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (1 being no impact - 10 being high impact)
- Is the NHRI the best to focus on the issue: or, are there other stakeholders that are already addressing the issue and may have better insight? Evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (1 being not the best - 10 being the best)
- What impact is expected by the work of the NHRI?
Evaluated on a scale of 1-10 (1 being no impact - 10 being high impact)

Evaluating the criteria

Normally, an NHRI would carry out this type of process on 5-10 issues, count the points that each issue gets and then choose, for example, the three issues with the most points.

Deciding where on the scale an issue is, is an evaluation, and not exact science. However, the evaluation needs to be backed up by solid argumentation on, for example, the criterion of how many people may be affected, in order to be valid.

It is also recommended to have a reference group composed of peers or external stakeholders relevant to the issue or civil society organisations, to carry out the same process to test the result of the NHRI. The final number of prioritised issues can be discussed with the reference group or in another forums, such as the Board of the NHRI, commissioners etc.



BOTTOM UP