**The Situation of Human Rights Defenders Working on People on the Move**

A Survey by the UN Special Rapporteur

on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst

November 2017

You are invited by the UN Special Rapporteur, Michel Forst, to share the experiences of human rights defenders working on the situation of ‘people on the move’.

'People on the move' is a term used to describe the situation of the more than 600 million people globally who are living away from their place of home, whether permanently or temporarily. This includes individuals living outside their country of nationality as well as those who have moved to a new location within their country. 'People on the move' includes people who would fall within various legal definitions, including refugees, migrant workers, victims of trafficking, internally displaced person, stateless persons, and so on; it also includes people both with legal status in a country and without legal status. People on the move may have voluntarily chosen to leave their country of nationality or have been forced to flee.

The report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders will focus on the experience of human rights defenders working on the issues facing people on the move (rather than the issues facing people on the move directly, though there may be an overlap). This includes defenders who are themselves people on the move, but also their allies and supporters.

Human rights defenders are those individuals who “promote and… strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels” (Article 1, Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms). As a result of their work, human rights defenders sometimes face risks and suffer violations of their rights.

The data collected through this survey will inform the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders which will be presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2018.

This report will be made publicly available, including on the website of the Special Rapporteur (<https://www.protecting-defenders.org/>). This survey will take around 20 minutes or more to complete, depending on the level of detail you wish to provide. There are three main questions in this survey.

Your responses will be held confidentially and will not be attributed to you unless you give us permission to do so. You may be contacted about any of your responses unless you do not provide your contact details for that purpose.

This survey is prepared by the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur with technical support from the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York. Accordingly, questionnaire responses may be analysed by external experts.

This survey is also available in Spanish and French.

Please submit the completed survey by completing the online form. For those unable to submit online, a soft-copy of the survey may be received from and submitted to defenders@ohchr.org.

The deadline for individual and Civil Society Organisation submissions is **November 17th**. The deadline for submissions from Member States, National Human Rights Institutions and International Organisations is **November 24th**.

**Contact Details (optional)**

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey.

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Organisation |  |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Address |  |

In what country or countries are you primarily active?

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**Questions**

1. What recent trends or issues related to ‘people on the move’ should the Special Rapporteur focus on in his report?

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1. How have these trends or issues affected human rights defenders specifically? Can you make reference to specific examples?

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1. What opportunities for advocacy on ‘people on the move’ and human rights are presented by the Special Rapporteur's report?

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Thank you for participating in this survey!

Please send us any relevant resources (e.g. reports, case studies, urgent alerts) that might be helpful for this report. You can send these by email to defenders@ohchr.org.

If you have any questions or feedback about this survey please email defenders@ohchr.org.