



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATES, IOS, AND NHRIS

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders was established by the then Commission on Human Rights in April 2000 to support the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (the “Declaration on Human Rights Defenders”), adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998 (A/RES/53/144). The present Special Rapporteur was appointed by the Human Rights Council as the third mandate-holder of this mandate in March 2014, and the Human Rights Council renewed the mandate in March 2017 for a duration of three years.

With a view to marking the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, the next report of the Special Rapporteur to the UN General Assembly will provide a global survey of the situation of human rights defenders. It will be a timely update of the last global survey conducted in 2006 (E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5).

To this end, the Special Rapporteur is kindly requesting that all Member States and other stakeholders submit the information outlined in the attached questionnaire, which will be used to inform his report.

Responses to the questionnaire should be sent to: defenders@ohchr.org and registry@ohchr.org, no later than 4 June 2018. Responses received after this date may not be reflected in the global survey report.

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Questionnaire on the situation of human rights defenders

1. *Submission category*

Who is participating in this survey?

- a. State
- b. National human rights institution
- c. International or inter-governmental organisation
- d. Other, specifically: _____

2. *Situation of human rights defender in which location(s)*

This survey is conducted regarding the situation of human rights defenders in the following place(s):

- a. A single state: _____
- b. More than one state, specifically: _____

Note: If you are submitting information about more than one state, please be clear which state(s) you are describing in each of your responses.

3. *Context:*

What is the relevant social, economic and political context which affects the situation of human rights defenders?

4. *Human rights community:*

How many non-governmental organisations operate within the State? How many of these are active on human rights issues? In which way these organisations are connected with each other and the concerned State?

5. *Human rights defenders:*

How are human rights defenders recognised by the State? Are there any specific legal or policy frameworks that recognise human right defenders and/or their rights and responsibilities?

6. *Specific categories of human rights defenders:*

Are specific categories of human rights defenders recognised by the State? How has the State responded to the situation of women human rights defenders and other categories of human rights defenders facing particular risks and challenges?

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7. *Specific protection of rights:*

What measures does the State take to protect and promote the rights recognised in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders:

- a. The Right to freedom of peaceful assembly
- b. The Right to freedom of association
- c. The Right to access to information and participation
- d. The Right to freedom of opinion and expression
- e. The Right to develop and discuss new human rights ideas
- f. The Right to an effective remedy
- g. The Right to access funding

8. *Implementation of the Declaration:*

What steps has the state taken to implement the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders? Has the state made public commitments to the Declaration and/or the right to defend human rights? What good practices in relation to the implementation of the Declaration have been developed in the state (including by other actors) that should be disseminated to a wider audience?

9. *Challenges facing the state:*

What are the main challenges facing the state in protecting the rights of human rights defenders and in implementing the Declaration?

10. *Recommendations:*

Has the State received and/or implemented any recommendations on human rights defenders made by UN or regional bodies (eg. UPR, special procedures, treaty bodies, etc.)?

11. *Good practices and pledges:*

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, what future actions and/or commitments to the protection and recognition of the importance of human rights defenders are you able to make? Are there any good practices or key issues that you can identify that would be important to disseminate on the 20th anniversary?

12. *Other information:*

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Is there any additional information that the Special Rapporteur should consider about the situation of human rights defenders?

13. *Contact information:*

Please provide contact information for the individual participating in this survey: