



PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

On 9 December 1998, the UN General Assembly adopted the landmark 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” (A/RES/53/144).

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).

In preparation of this survey, the Special Rapporteur is seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders about the situation of human rights defenders with a view to identifying both important developments and key challenges facing human rights defenders.

To this end, the Special Rapporteur is kindly requesting that civil society organisations and human rights defenders 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 13 June 2018. Responses received after this date may not be reflected in the global survey report.

Questionnaire on the situation of human rights defenders

1. *Submission category*

Who is participating in this survey?

- a. Civil society organisation
- b. Human rights defender
- c. 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. *Background of submission:*

What is the nature of your human rights work? On what human rights issues and in which locations within the State do you work?

4. *Context:*

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

5. *Local human rights community:*

How many other civil society organisations and human rights defenders do you have contact with in your country as part of your work? How do you communicate with them? Are there any national or local networks of human rights defenders?

6. *Recognition of human rights defenders:*

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

7. *Challenges facing human rights defenders:*

What are the main risks and challenges facing human rights defenders?

- 8. *Specific categories of human rights defenders:***
Are specific categories of human rights defenders facing particular risks and challenges? What is the situation of women human rights defenders?
- 9. *Specific protection of rights:***
What are the particular challenges facing human rights defenders seeking to exercise the right to defend human rights guaranteed in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, including:
- 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
- 10. *Implementation of the Declaration:***
What steps has the state taken to implement the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders? What is the view of the Declaration by the state and/or the public? Are there any good practices in relation to the implementation of the Declaration that have been developed in the state, including by the national human rights institution(s), civil society organisations, and human rights defenders themselves?
- 11. *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.)?
- 12. *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?
- 13. *Other information:***
Is there any additional information that the Special Rapporteur should consider about the situation of human rights defenders?



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14. Contact information:

The information provided in your submission will be kept confidential and you will not be identified in the response; unless you provide authorisation to publish your responses on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

However, it would be useful to provide contact information for the individual / organisation participating in this survey: