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**Att.: Questionnaire prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the Joint Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas**

Christian Aid has a vision: a world free from poverty. To do that we are committed to exposing the scandal of poverty, helping in practical ways to root it out from the world, and to challenging and changing the systems that favor the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised. As an international development NGO, Christian Aid has been actively campaigning internationally, regionally and nationally on the root causes of global poverty, including key issues of our time such as climate change, economic justice, displaced people, gender and inequality. We have also been conscious of the increased focus on the role of the private sector in development, particularly in relation to delivery of the SDGs, and the need for this to be coherent with human rights and the principles that underpin the Sustainable Development Goals (including the imperatives to 'leave no-one behind' and 'reach the furthest behind first'); and the responsibilities of developed nations for the means of implementation and related financing for sustainable development (FfD) processes and targets.

In light of the significant human rights violations suffered by Human Rights Defenders – in the Latin America and Caribbean region, this response<sup>1</sup> explores how the above-mentioned open call can contribute to a Joint Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas HRDs in LAC that fosters a comprehensive and holistic approach to International Human Rights law that is created by the global south and for the global south.

Specific Questions

- **Situation of human rights defenders:**

1.1 What do you consider to be the contextual factors - positive and/or negative - that have had the greatest impact on the situation of human rights defenders in your country and/or region since 2016?

We believe there are four structural issues affecting the human rights defender, directly or indirectly: (i) unjust economic practices fomented by an inherently unequal economic system; (ii) the climate crisis/emergency; (iii) conflict prone settings and actors profiting from conflict; and (iv) the poverty

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<sup>1</sup> This response can be attributed to the Latin American and Caribbean Division of Christian Aid. For any questions, please send an email to Dr Marianna Leite, Global Lead – Gender and Inequality at Christian Aid, [mleite@christian-aid.org](mailto:mleite@christian-aid.org).



trap coupled with the rise of the inequality gap affecting women and individuals that have been historically marginalised.

In our Central America programme, we see the increase structural gender imbalance and violence against women which has a concrete and specific impact on the women human rights defenders (WHRD). That is, WHRD suffer higher levels of structural violence against women and higher levels of violence against HRDs. For example, the excessive use of force by the state actors against human rights defenders (HRD) taking part in peaceful protests in April 2018 in Nicaragua, led to a series of human rights violations of human rights which had a particular troublesome gender component.<sup>2</sup> For us, this means that intersectionality should always be used as a way to map out the levels of vulnerability experienced by the different individuals and communities.

### 1.2 What are the main causes and/or risk situations that contribute to a situation of violence and vulnerability against human rights defenders?

The increasing impact of climate change, the unpredictable political situation and political polarisation in many countries and the power held by elites and multinational companies across the globe all make structural change to reduce inequality a challenge. This in turn affects HRD. For instance, it has been four years since Berta Cáceres was murdered in Honduras.<sup>3</sup> A feminist environmental activist, she was targeted for relentlessly fighting against negative corporate practices and their effects on indigenous rights, women's lives and environmental degradation. Unfortunately, her story is not unique. From Brazil to Bolivia, we witness similar trends. For instance, last January, an iron dam burst in the city of Brumadinho,<sup>4</sup> Brazil, killing almost 300 people and leaving thousands of families, mostly women-led,<sup>5</sup> vulnerable. Two months after the disaster, Dilma Ferreira Silva<sup>6</sup> was murdered after being vocal about the horrendous human rights violations perpetrated by multinationals operating dams in Brazil.

The stories of Ferreira and Cáceres highlight the reality that women and girls are the worst affected<sup>7</sup> by the negative effects of bad business practices. Deeply ingrained power imbalances between genders have resulted in a legacy of sexual harassment, less formal employment for women and girls than for men and boys, and shameful gender pay gaps. These injustices are upheld by the economic systems that surround them.

Megaprojects (mining, infrastructure) tend violate the right to self-determination of local communities and, in many cases, lead to a grave and irreversible damage to their natural environment and habitat. Land grabbing, deforestation and governmental policies favouring profits over people are equally

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<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NI/HumanRightsViolationsNicaraguaApr\\_Aug2018\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NI/HumanRightsViolationsNicaraguaApr_Aug2018_EN.pdf) and <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/nicaragua>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://vimeo.com/321765698>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/26/hundreds-feared-dead-brazil-dam-collapse-releases-mud-tide>.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.mabnacional.org.br/artigo/mulheres-atingidas>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2019/03/22/coordenadora-regional-do-mab-em-tucuru-i-pa-dilma-ferreira-silva-e-assassinada/>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/women-business-human-rights>.



threatening from a human rights point of view. They often lead to increased inequalities and violence; reducing space of civil society; criminalisation of social movements and progressive faith-based organisations (FBOs); polarisation of discourse from conservatism/fundamentalist forces; and increase of hate speech fomented by the election of far-right politicians.<sup>8</sup>

1.3 What are the main advances and strengths concerning the protection and promotion of the work of human rights defenders in your country or in the region? What are the main setbacks and obstacles/challenges?

We believe there are some opportunities. Inequality is on the development agenda, violence against women and gender inequality are being publicly discussed more than in recent decades, and climate change and the urgent need to find alternative low-carbon development models must remain at the forefront of the global political agenda regardless of the shift in geopolitics. Moreover, there has been an increase of relevant human rights legislation at national level and in the visibility of the role of the HRDs in the region.

1.4 What should be changed in your country or region to contribute to a safe and conducive environment for the defence of human rights?

We have witnessed the rise of neoliberal, patriarchal and post-colonial policies that systematically challenge, undermine and/or erode the protection created by the International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law System. This accentuates the levels of vulnerability, and intersecting inequalities, different individuals and groups are exposed to.

International Law creates a series of rules that enable social protection and hold State and non-State actors accountable in the case of violations. In fact, most human rights rules are focused on the role and responsibility of the State to provide basic services and access to basic resources. On the other hand, neoliberal and post-colonial policies continue to push for the reduction of the role of the State, and the increase participation of the private sector.<sup>9</sup> Through privatization and public-private partnerships, the promotion of individualistic values and the stratification of societies, State responsibility is diminished.

We believe we need stronger: (i) protection policies and institutions at all level (but especially at territorial level); (ii) legal frameworks preventing impunity, particularly aiming to expand access to justice and to remedies to most marginalized groups; (iii) demilitarization of the police/surveillance apparatus; and (iv) mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) that maps out violence, impunity,

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<sup>8</sup> Some refer to other factors such as growth of religious fundamentalism; de-acceleration of economic indicators; setbacks in social policies; judicialization of politics; and politicization of justice.

<sup>9</sup> There are a lot of criticisms around international law. Many scholar affirm that “[n]eoliberal theory sees the market as best in meeting human needs and to those ends we have seen the construction of markets in land, labour, health, wealth, education and much else”. Linarelli, J. et al (2018) *The Misery of International Law: Confrontations with injustice in the global economy*.



historical discrimination against indigenous people, afro descendants communities, LGBT+ individuals and women's rights groups.

- **Defenders most at risk:**

2.1 What are the groups or sectors of human rights defenders most at risk? Please explain the distinct nature of the risks and threats faced by women human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and other groups. Concerning groups or sectors of human rights defenders in a situation of greater risk, do you see any change since 2016?

The groups that are most marginalised in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are:

- (i) **Indigenous people** - Increase threats to indigenous right to self-determination and control of their land and natural resources;
- (ii) **Afro descendants' communities** - Increase threats to Afro-rural communities (such as the 'quilombolas' in Brazil) due the uncontrolled harassment to land and natural resources, mainly in the Amazon;
- (iii) **Peace keepers/makers** - Increase in the use of the judicial system (such as arbitrary detentions) as a way to harass HRDs and prevent them to continue their work (such as the case of violence perpetrated by governmental institutions and forces in Colombia).
- (iv) **LGBT+ individuals** - Increase violence and prejudice fomented by the rise of ultra-wing governments and religious fundamentalisms;<sup>10</sup> and
- (v) **Women's rights groups** – Increase of patriarchal practices and socially constructed gender stereotyped leading to sexual harassment, sexual violence and femicides (such as those seen in El Salvador).

2.2 What are the main protection concerns and challenges faced by human rights defenders when carrying out activities in both the public and private spheres, including through digital means?

All HRDs fighting for the rights of the groups identified in questions 2.1 face intimidation, harassment and threats through several outlets such as social media. They also suffer from the lack of concrete measures on social protection targeting civil society actors; lack of appropriate welfare systems; lack of financial resources to carry out their activities; and lack of political support from multilateral agencies and international non-governmental organisations due to the reduction of international cooperation in some countries in LAC.

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<sup>10</sup> See [http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/resumen\\_seriea\\_24\\_esp.pdf](http://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/resumen_seriea_24_esp.pdf).



- **Attacks or restrictions:**

3.1 What are the most recent statistics on attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Please indicate the source of the information and indicate the period covered. What are the main types of attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Do you see any change since 2016? If possible, identify if there is a geographic area that needs to be highlighted in particular.

There are a lot of agencies and think tanks compiling relevant data regarding HRD in LAC.<sup>11</sup> We are particularly worried about the creation of discourses that further marginalize those groups and individuals that do not identify with the hegemonic prescribed way of living. Increasingly, ultra-conservative strategies are built to undermine and de-legitimise rights-based discourses and civil society organisations. In many cases, this means going beyond the mere shrinking space for civil society and toward a real “witch hunt” of human rights defenders.

Political action to tackle this issue has been inconsistent and poorly managed. In fact, as we mentioned earlier in a report,<sup>12</sup> decisions related to the reduction of human rights budgets have been taking place since 2016. For example, in Brazil, there was a reduction of 56.3% in discretionary resources for the Brazilian Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality in 2016. Christian Aid’s partner INESC states that this reduction hampered the ability to coordinate affirmative policies to promote racial equality and local development actions for Quilombola groups and other traditional communities. A report by Conselho Indigenista Missionário in 2014 highlighted that more than 130 murders of indigenous people were reported, many of them linked to land conflict with the purpose of undermining resistance and frightening indigenous leaders. The same report also highlighted that 600 indigenous lands were claimed by families, but only two were officially recognised by the authorities as indigenous territories: Xeta Herarekã, in Paraná, and Xakriabá, in Minas Gerais. Neither of these, however, has been officially handed over to the families.

3.2 Could you identify one or more patterns in the type of aggressors/perpetrators? Are these state or non-state actors?

Land ownership is another key area responsible for the ingrained structural inequality in the region. The focus on export-oriented agribusiness and the extractive industries has driven a re-concentration of land ownership over the last 10 years – in a region where wealth and land ownership have been major areas of concern for decades. The elites (with strong connections to multinational corporations) benefit significantly from this situation; not only is land concentrated in the hands of a few (predominantly white, male) individuals and big businesses, but national tax systems demand they pay little tax on these assets. Furthermore, in some cases where attempts have been made to improve the situation, land reform that benefits the rural poor has been met with violent opposition.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://protectdefenders.eu/en/stats.php?yearFilter=2019&regionFilter=am&countryFilter=#mf>.

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/about-us/scandal-inequality-2-english>.



For instance, the heart of Colombia's internal armed conflict has revolved around economic interests and land. A report by Christian Aid partner ABColombia states that as of May 2016, almost 7 million people had been internally forcibly displaced. It is hoped that revised peace accord will be enough to guarantee peace in in Colombia, particularly in preventing serious violence that leads to people losing their homes and land. For example, ABColombia noted that in two months in the first half of 2016 more than 6,000 people fled their homes in Chocó (one of Colombia's 32 departments). They were escaping armed clashes, as groups fought for territorial control. Many landowners who had obtained their land as a result of the forced displacement of peasant farmers by right-wing paramilitary groups were among those who voted 'no' in the referendum on the Colombian peace deal. Furthermore, there is still a need for support to those who have managed to recover their land. Under Law 1448, which recognised land ownership and the rights of victims to have their land returned, communities can embark on the process for land restitution. However, ABColombia also noted that peasant farmers and ethnic groups that recover land under this law report a lack of state support over the long term.<sup>13</sup>

3.3 What are the consequences and impact of the attacks and restrictions at the individual and collective level (both in the scope of the organizational space and in broader social spaces)? What types of attacks do you consider to particularly affect women human rights defenders (in urban and rural areas, members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and other groups)?

Indigenous people and afro-descendent populations have not experienced the economic growth and reductions in poverty of the previous decade in the same way as other sectors of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean. Indigenous women and men and Afro-descendent people face exclusion and discrimination in access to land, education, basic services, political participation and decent work, as well as suffering from structural racism and increased levels of violence. When zooming into HRD, and WHRD in particular, we see that these structural injustices often lead to the: stigmatization of WHRD; weakening of the social fabric; weakening of democracy; reduced faith in law and justice; rise sexual violence; attacks to their WHRD reputation based on their gender identity and sexual orientation; and increase in the number of killing and threats to WHRDD.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.



- **Guarantees for the free exercise of the defence of human rights:**

4.1 Do you consider there is any aspect of the normative, institutional and public policy framework that promotes or hinders the free exercise of the defense of human rights? Have you identified as an existing problem in your country or in the region the misuse of criminal law to criminalize human rights defenders for their activity? If so, please indicate in which contexts it occur, which actors are involved, and what would be the main causes or the factors that generate it.

Recently, anti-terrorism legislation was passed in Brazil, Bolivia, Nicaragua. This increased the risks experienced by HRD in LAC as all activists could be potentially defined as terrorists and be arrested as such. This takes places in all thematic areas from economic justice to climate change. As highlighted by a recent report produced by Trocaire, “[t]hose who are trying to resist businesses are labelled as terrorists, criminals, and anti-development. Women human rights defenders are targeted through threats of sexual violence and smear campaigns.”<sup>14</sup> Moreover, CEPAL affirmed earlier this year that it is unlikely LAC countries will be able to stay true to Agenda 2030 as legal and financial frameworks have not been created or implemented in a way to respect international human rights law and development commitments.<sup>15</sup>

4.2 If relevant, under what crimes are human rights defenders wrongly accused? If possible, provide concrete examples.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a racially and ethnically diverse region. There are at least 44.8 million indigenous people and 150 million of African descent, together representing over 30% of the region’s population. Indigenous populations are largest in Mexico, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala, and there are approximately 420 indigenous languages spoken in the region.<sup>16</sup> In Latin American countries such as Brazil, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, more than half the population is black. Often little recognised, racial discrimination is rife in many countries, with both indigenous and Afro-descendent groups having direct experience of racism – facing abuse, threats and violence, and suffering heavily from discriminatory social, economic and environmental policies. Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are noted for their poor performance on income equality, but it is commonly recognised that poverty levels of ethnic groups are significantly worse than for the rest of the population. Indigenous and Afro-descendent people are poorer, more excluded from access to good quality social services and from the political system. Indigenous WHRD have particularly suffered

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<sup>14</sup> See

[https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/resources/policy/making\\_a\\_killing\\_holding\\_corporations\\_to\\_account\\_for\\_land\\_and\\_human\\_rights\\_violations\\_1.pdf](https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/resources/policy/making_a_killing_holding_corporations_to_account_for_land_and_human_rights_violations_1.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.efc.com/efe/america/economia/la-cepal-preve-el-incumplimiento-en-los-objetivos-de-agenda-2030-latinoamerica/20000011-3960105>.

<sup>16</sup> See The Scandal of Inequality report *supra*.



from laws prohibiting activist in LAC. Trocaire's Making a Killing<sup>17</sup> report affirmed that indigenous activists feel discriminated against and persecuted by the government as the government is often seen as "on the side of the business". Indigenous HRD suffer criminalisation, intimidation, attacks, a lack of consultation and the lack of transparent information from the public and private actors. This wrongful criminalisation is more prominent among indigenous and afro-descendants HRD. That is, the different levels of vulnerability intersect.

- **Access to justice and reparation:**

#### 5.1 Could you provide information on the state of investigations of crimes committed against human rights defenders?

Two prominent WHRD mentioned above, Berta Cáceres and Dilma Ferreira Silva are good examples of our broken system. Their murders and their contexts share striking similarities. The murder trial of Berta Cáceres was filled with cover-up allegations, indicating an atrocious level of impunity<sup>18</sup> for the company building the dam she was protesting against at the time of her death. Although the murder weapon was found in the case of Dilma Ferreira Silva and although a special task force was set up to investigate the case, no suspects had been arrested.<sup>19</sup> Two men that were with Dilma, her husband and a friend, were killed too. Berta Cáceres died to save a river; Dilma Ferreira Silva was murdered after denouncing the death of a river.

The stories of Ferreira and Cáceres highlight the reality that women and girls are the worst affected<sup>20</sup> by the negative effects of bad business practices. Deeply ingrained power imbalances between genders have resulted in a legacy of sexual harassment, less formal employment for women and girls than for men and boys, and shameful gender pay gaps. These injustices are upheld by the economic systems that surround them.

#### 5.2 What measures has the State taken to guarantee adequate reparation and guarantees of non-repetition? Please refer to concrete examples.

We believe participation of HRD, in special WHRD, is key in setting out adequate laws and procedures for reparation and non-repetition. Political participation of women and indigenous people remains a challenge in the region. In Bolivia, quota laws and gender parity rules may be successful in getting women into elected seats, but once in parliament, women are pressured to vote along party lines, preventing them from challenging the status quo and limiting their potential to promote 'women's interests' and advancing the gender equality agenda. There have been reports of harassment and incidents of public humiliation of female elected officials to force them to resign so that the alternative

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<sup>17</sup> Trocaire, 2019, above.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/nov/29/berta-caceres-trial-plagued-by-allegations-of-cover-ups-set-to-end>.

<sup>19</sup> See <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2019/03/27/whats-known-about-the-murder-of-a-social-leader-in-northern-brazil/>.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/women-business-human-rights>.



candidate, usually a male, can take the post. Certainly, there are significant areas of political progress for indigenous and Afro-descendent groups, and evidence is emerging of a national trend in relation to socio-economic improvements.<sup>21</sup>

On 11 October 2016, Bolivian National Women's Day, the government passed a law to: "Establish mechanisms to prevent, attend to and sanction against cases of political harassment and/or violence toward women, to guarantee their political rights." The introduction of these quota laws since 1997 resulted in a bigger presence of women in the ballots, with women occupying 47% of positions in municipal councils across Bolivia. However, there are many challenges in the implementation of the law. It does not include the protection of women who participate in civil society organisations and many public servants are not aware of this law or what it entails. In addition, the harasser sometimes becomes the judge, and women who want to report a situation of harassment or violence toward them need to resign first.

- **Preventive and reactive actions concerning attacks against human rights defenders:**

6.1 What measures, legislation, policies and mechanisms have had a positive or negative impact on generating safe contexts for human rights defenders? Do you know cases that could illustrate this?

Rural HRDs have suffered disproportionately from being attacked and killed. Somos Defensores reported that from 2012 until 2017, the HRDs most frequently killed were indigenous peoples. Documented evidence states that the main perpetrators of the attacks and killings against rural HRDs are right-wing demobilised paramilitary groups, which carried out 66% of attacks in 2015.<sup>22</sup> This trend persists. For example, the peace accord with FARC has not been able to prevent attacks against HRDs. Christian Aid advocacy partner ABColombia believes that a key element to creating a safer and more enabling environment for HRDs is tackling impunity. Although rural HRDs have been affected disproportionately, those in urban settings are not immune.<sup>23</sup>

6.2 If relevant, please include an assessment of national mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders. What has been their real scope and effectiveness? Please indicate the reasons for this assessment.

Latin America and the Caribbean's economic climates mask deeply entrenched inequalities which are driving staggering levels of physical and structural violence in the region. Intersecting inequalities, based on gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity and economic status compound the problem. Christian Aid and its partners are dedicated to implementing programmes that tackle the root causes of violence. Law enforcement alone is very inadequate to tackling violence. Government needs to consider that policies to generate employment, provide protection, access justice and tackle attitudinal change are equally as important. Government institutions at different levels need to work

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<sup>21</sup> See The Scandal of Inequality report *supra*.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.



together to guarantee the respect and exercising of human rights to live in a society with justice, peace and democracy, with women free of violence. Laws need to take into account the different impact of violence on men and women as well as other marginalised individuals.

### Recommendations

In addition to in-depth gender sensitive context analysis of human rights issues vis-à-vis the International Human Rights Law and related norms, we recommend the following:

1. The United Nations pledge to “Leave No One Behind”<sup>24</sup> determines that we must achieve substantive outcomes “in ways that are consistent with the general human rights principles of participation, transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment of beneficiaries, and respect for the rule of law. These human rights principles are indispensable for ensuring that those left behind are treated - not as passive beneficiaries of government programmes - but as rights-holders entitled to respect for their inherent human dignity.” Therefore, **we believe we need a human rights system that is built by the global south and for the global south – one that is inclusive, participatory, transparent and based on the belief that legal instruments are only useful if they are able to deliver change on the ground by fomenting agency and self-empowerment.**
2. In Christian Aid and the ‘Leave no One Behind’ agenda<sup>25</sup> we said that we have an ambition to see an end to poverty for all but glaring inequalities mean that we are not starting with the level playing field needed to bring about this change. Some groups and individuals have been marginalised or excluded for centuries and need greater attention than others. Without this focus on equality, we will see as a continuation of ‘a rising tide that lifts all boats’ approach that excludes millions of the poorest people and deepens the inequalities that drive conflict, poverty and discrimination. Christian Aid Global Strategy 2019-2026: Standing Together for Dignity, for Equality, for Justice<sup>26</sup> defines equality as ‘[o]ur conviction that all individuals and groups have the right to equality of voice, opportunity and outcomes.’ That is, **we believe that all practices aiming to implement human rights law and norms must be underpinned by the principle of equality, in particular in relation to equality of outcomes.**
3. The current economic system is broken. Creating a fairer global economy is a core part of the moral imperative to create a fairer global society. We are seeing real progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in some areas. But broadly, we are off track from meeting the SDGs by 2030, due to a failed economic model based on ‘private sector first’ approach to development.<sup>27</sup> UNGP 13(b), states that corporates impact on human rights links to both direct and indirect operations, and supply-chains, meaning that there is an

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<sup>24</sup> See [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CESCR/E\\_C\\_12\\_2019\\_1.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CESCR/E_C_12_2019_1.docx).

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-02/Leave%20no%20one%20behind%20report.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-03/global-strategy-web.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> See [https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-05/Engendering%20Business%20and%20Human%20Rights\\_1.pdf](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-05/Engendering%20Business%20and%20Human%20Rights_1.pdf).



extra territorial sense of human rights impacts. Also, this and other statements goes beyond legal compliance – meaning that just complying with laws and rules is not enough, practices and policies by corporates should seek to also respect all human rights (even if this means going beyond the current laws/rules). That is, we recommend measures are taken in order to guarantee corporates respect UNGP 13 (b) by always abiding by all International Human Rights Law, in particular, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), even when domestic laws provide a lower threshold. Moreover, **we recommend that measures are taken to guarantee all Business and Human Rights rules are applied extraterritorially and that all stakeholders promote and resource for the development, ratification and implementation of a binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights.**

4. Lastly, in many contexts, and given the rise of ultra-right-wing governments and fundamentalisms, we can see that we must enhance accountability standards by enhancing the links of our work with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. But not only, we must do that from the perspective of the global south. To challenge power, we must build power. For this reason, **we recommend that measures are taken to ensure that all actors perform mandatory human rights due diligence taken into account context-appropriate gender analysis that maps out the different levels of vulnerabilities experienced by marginalised groups and individuals.**