Human rights defenders are people who individually or in association with others work peacefully to promote and protect universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

1) How do you ensure free, prior and informed consent with the affected community before you undertake extractive mining?

MRC actively and effectively engages with all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, across its various global operations and projects.

This engagement involves both our compliance with relevant regulatory regimes and, in connection with our goal of being a good corporate citizen, generating opportunities for our stakeholders through sustainable operations.

Our company takes a “whole of project life” approach to stakeholder engagement based on our responsibility to society and our commitment to being good global citizens. This ensures that we are in regular dialogue with local communities, interested and affected parties and all other relevant stakeholders.

For our South African operations we conduct ethnographic community consultative and collaborate processes to delineate community needs analysis, and will continue to be guided in approach by our Social Labor Plan (SLP) commitments in this regard.

Stakeholder engagement is an integral component of our company's business strategy. Based on feedback from relevant constituents, the company has developed and implemented comprehensive community-based programs across a range of local community needs.

Our community outreach officers works closely with key stakeholder groups and has been responsible for engineering tailored community programs supporting local STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. The benefits of this role is that the company is able to remain agile in our response to changing community needs. An example of how this feedback channel works was demonstrated when our community outreach officer was able to re-direct a portion of unallocated SLP budget to assist a local school near the company's Tormin mine, which had suffered significant damage to their roof and desperately required financial assistance to ensure repairs were carried out in a timely manner. Whilst expenditure on this project was not forecasted, the company was able to provide financial assistance to the school in question because of the effectiveness of our community outreach program.

2) What mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence measures do you implement to assess the impact your operations may have on the affected communities?

Please refer above.

3) Do you have a human rights policy which recognises the legitimacy of human rights defenders and has a proper right of access to remedy clearly articulated?

Please refer to our position on stakeholder engagement above. The Company’s policies clearly indicate a recognition of all peoples’ right to freedoms including a right to free speech, association and all other fundamental human rights.
4) If a human rights defender(s) or his/her organization is threatened in connection with your operations, what steps do you take to help protect them?

The Company does not condone violence, physical threats or any other form of abuse.

5) Do you accept the legitimate right to defend human rights if a human rights defender is killed for opposing your companies activities and/or its adverse impact, are you ready to publicly condemn it (please share examples)

Please refer above.

6) Could you please share good practices (evidence-based) that have proved effective to a) respond to death threats against defenders promoting and defending human rights from the adverse impact of your business operations

The company does not condone threats of any nature whatsoever against any individual or organisation.

And b) to prevent them from escalating into the killings of human rights defenders

Please refer above.