|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Stake Holder** | **Observer State** |
| **Name of Stakeholder Organisation** | **Ireland** |
| **Name of Survey Responder** | **Ireland** |
| **Email** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Can we attribute responses to this questionnaire to your Government publicly?** | **Yes** |

1. **Does your Government accept the legitimate right to defend human rights and if a defender is killed in the course of their work, do you publicly condemn it?**

Ireland strongly supports the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) and the vital role they play in the protection and promotion of human rights including in holding states to account. The promotion and protection of HRDs is a priority issue for Ireland and a cornerstone of our foreign policy. We have demonstrated this commitment in our bilateral engagement and at multilateral level as well in direct support to HRDs and civil society.

The Irish government accepts the legitimate right to defend human rights.

Ireland believes that human rights defenders should be free from threats of violence or intimidation by state and non-state actors. We consistently call on states to end impunity and ensure perpetrators of these threats and acts of violence are brought to justice.

The Irish government, together with Frontline Defenders, is currently finalising the construction of a Memorial to celebrate the lives of all HRDs who have been killed since the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders came into effect in 1998.

1. **Have there been any cases of human rights defenders killed in your country since 1 January 2019 up to 30 June 2020?**

There have not been any cases of human rights defenders killed in Ireland between 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2020.

However, in the case of a killing of a human rights defender in Ireland, the government would publically condemn any such killing and work to ensure that all perpetrators were brought to justice.

1. **How many convictions of perpetrators of killings of human rights defenders were there in your country since 1 January 2019 up to 30 June 2020?**

Ireland did not convict any perpetrators of killings of human rights defenders in this time period as there were no reported killings of human rights defenders.

1. **Does your government have a procedure to respond to death threats to human rights defenders?**

The Irish government works closely with its embassies and consulates to protect human rights defenders. We recognise that there is no universal model of support for HRDs which fits all situations. Instead, we utilise the Embassy’s local knowledge and resources, and the views of the HRD in question, which are essential in ensuring their safety and security.

Ireland has also created a set of Guidelines that are intended to work in conjunction with the EU and OSCE Guidelines, to provide comprehensive guidance for Irish Diplomatic Embassies on how to intervene on behalf of HRDs at risk and to provide other means of practical support. Ireland also operates a temporary relocation visa scheme for human rights defenders at risk.

1. **Does your government have or would be willing to put in place legal guarantees and other protection measures to allow human rights defenders to do their work without persecution?**

The Irish Constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann protects the rights of human rights defenders. As a foundation, Bunreacht na hÉireann also ensures that all citizens are held equal to the law, in accordance with Article 40.1.

These protections further include;

*The Right to freedom of opinion or expression*

Article 40.6 (i) of the Constitution guarantees the right of citizens “to express freely their convictions and opinions” subject to the protection of “public order and morality”.

*The Right to freedom of peaceful assembly.*

Article 40.6.1 (ii) of the Constitution guarantees the right to peaceful assembly subject to the protection of “public order and morality”.

*The Right to freedom of association*

Article 40.6.1 (iii) of the Constitution guarantees the right to form associations and unions, subject to the possible enactment of laws for the regulation and control of associations and unions “in the public interest”. Article 40.6 specifies that such laws may not contain any political, religious or class discrimination.

*The right to a fair trial*

Article 38.1 protects any HRD from the threat of unlawful detainment as a result of their work.

1. **Could you please share good practices (evidence-based) that have proofed effective to respond to death threats? And to prevent them from escalating into the killing(s) of human rights defenders?**

N/A