The Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1998.

**Who are the Defenders?**

Ordinary men and women who act for the respect of human rights, for instance freedom of expression, the rights of women, of indigenous peoples or gay, lesbian, transgender and intersex people. They can act alone or in organisations.

**How can you support Human Rights Defenders?**

- Circulate information on the Declaration on human rights defenders
- Contribute to the recognition of the work of human rights defenders
- Support the organisations who help and protect human rights defenders
- Act for defenders at risk
- Be a human rights defender! Everyone has the right, and the responsibility, to promote and defend human rights

**Rights and Protections Accorded to Human Rights Defenders**

- To promote human rights in their countries and globally
- To defend human rights alone or with others
- To form associations and non-governmental organizations
- To meet or assemble peacefully
- To seek, obtain and hold information relating to human rights
- To develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance
- To benefit from an effective remedy

**What is the Status of the Declaration?**

The Declaration is based on, consolidates and reflects binding international law relevant to the promotion, protection and defence of human rights.

**The Duties of States**

- To protect, promote and implement all human rights
- To ensure that all persons under its jurisdiction are able to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms
- To adopt such legislative, administrative and other steps to ensure effective implementation of rights and freedoms
- To provide an effective remedy for persons who claim to have been victims of a human rights violation
- To promote public understanding of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- To ensure and support the creation and development of independent national human rights institutions
- To promote and facilitate the teaching of human rights at all levels of formal education and professional training

**The Responsibilities of Everyone**

- To promote human rights, to safeguard democracy and its institutions and not to violate the human rights of others
- Persons exercising professions that can affect the human rights of others, in particular police officers, lawyers, judges, etc have a responsibility in protecting these rights

**Articles**

- 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13
- 2, 9, 12, 14 and 15
- 10, 11 and 18

For more information: [www.protecting-defenders.org](http://www.protecting-defenders.org)