## Call for Inputs - Ethiopia

## UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Mr. David Kaye

## **2 – 9 December 2019**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression will carry out an official visit to Ethiopia from Monday 2 December to Monday 9 December 2019. The visit will include discussions with Government officials, local authorities, human rights defenders, civil society representatives, journalists, social media activists, representatives of the international community and other stakeholders about good practices and challenges faced for freedom of opinion and expression in the country, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. The Special Rapporteur will present a public report on his country visit to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2020.

Please feel free to provide inputs to any of the questions below. Please feel also free to share the questions with anyone who might be interested in contributing.

**Responses will be kept confidential unless otherwise noted.**

Civil society, journalists, and other interested parties are encouraged to submit general inputs and specific proposals with regard to:

* **General context**
  + What are the main domestic laws and policies in place affecting the work of journalists, human rights defenders and other stakeholders?
  + How are these laws and policies implemented in practice?
  + What interferences or barriers do individuals, news agencies, or others experience when exercising freedom of expression rights? What are the causes of challenges faced? How can these be addressed?
  + Are there any good examples/challenges in this regard?
* **Issues of concern**
  + What are the main/most urgent issues affecting the work of journalists, advocates, or others? These issues can be related to the guarantee of public freedom rights (e.g., media freedom, freedom of expression and hate speech, freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, participation in public affairs and other laws impacting freedom of expression), and/or linked to the rights of certain groups/individuals most at risk (e.g., women, children, rural communities, etc.).
  + How can these be addressed?
  + How would you evaluate practices of **business companies, especially those from the Information and Communications Technology sector,** with regard to their responsibilities to respect freedom of opinion and expression?
* Potential **areas to visit, including outside Addis Ababa.**
* Relevant **authorities,** **organisations, and individuals to meet** in the context of the Special Rapporteur's visit to Ethiopia.
* Please let us know if there are any **other issues, specific questions, or recommendations** that you would like the Special Rapporteur to look into/raise with a particular authority.

**Please send your inputs to freedex@ohchr.org, if possible by 15 November 2019.** You need not answer all of the above questions – you can focus on the ones that are relevant to you. If you reply after 9 December, your submission will not be considered during the visit, but it will be taken into account for the Special Rapporteur’s report to the Human Rights Council.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at freedex@ohchr.org.