

Call for inputs from the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for his report to be presented at the 75th session of the General Assembly

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (FoAA). Its creation by the Human Rights Council in 2010 put the rights to FoAA at the center of international human rights discussions and helped raise awareness and counter the many threats people face while exercising these rights.

Women and girls have inspired and led mass mobilizations and collective action across the world. Whether they are speaking up against corruption and economic inequality, reclaiming democracy and political freedom, or demanding fair work and climate justice, women of all ages are at the forefront of today's most pressing global struggles. While this is not new - women have been central players in movements for democracy, peace and human rights, including women's rights and gender equality for generations – the power and visibility of their current activism is offering a renewed vision of hope in the context of democratic backsliding and repression of human rights.

Nevertheless, in many countries, women and girls who are publicly and politically active are at much risk of violation or discrimination in their exercise of these rights. They not only face well-documented patterns of state repression – that men, boys and those who identify with other identities also face -- but many additional obstacles, challenges and impacts that are gendered, intersectional, and based in deep-rooted discriminatory social norms.

It is in this context the Special Rapporteur will devote his next thematic report to the General Assembly at its 75th session to the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association by women and girls. He therefore wishes to receive inputs, by responding to the annexed questions that will help enriching this upcoming report.

Submissions can be made to freeassembly@ohchr.org by 12 June 2020 in English, French or Spanish. . Kindly indicate in the subject of your email “Submission to 75th GA session report”. All submissions will be published on the mandate webpage on the OHCHR website, unless otherwise indicated in your submission.

Call for inputs – Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

1. What have the Governments in those countries you work in done to ensure that women and girls have equal opportunities to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (FoAA), both in law and in practice?
2. a) Association: Is there an enabling environment in your country or region for a diversity of women and girls to form and join associations and/or networks? How is an equal and safe space for women and girls to participate meaningfully being ensured? Are there social norms and discriminatory laws, policies and practices that deny or deter women and girls from the exercise of the right to freely associate – directly or indirectly – or laws which affect everyone but have different impacts on women and girls? Are there specific issues women and girls are denied to form associations on and why? Do these extend online and in digital spaces? Are there attacks and violence against women and girls who form or join associations and how do they manifest themselves?

b) Peaceful Assembly: In what ways are women and girls in your country or region able to mobilize and participate meaningfully in peaceful assemblies – offline and online? What are some of the drivers behind these mobilizations? What are some of the barriers and obstacles they face specifically – including violations? Are there specific issues women and girls are denied to mobilize or participate on and why? Could you give examples of achievements, which resulted from such mobilization? Are there discriminatory laws, policies and practices that deter them from the exercise of this right – or affect everyone but have specific impacts on women and girls and if so, how?

c) In your opinion, which measures and policies would have to be taken to remove existing obstacles and risks to women and girls' enjoyment of these rights?
3. Some women and girls face particular obstacles to FoAA and are at even greater risk of violations of their rights, including violence and marginalization, due to intersecting forms of discrimination. Can you identify groups of women and girls in your country or region that are particularly at risk and require specific attention in the thematic report? In this regard, what are their specific situations, views and requirements to facilitate and protect their rights to FoAA?
4. The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development also calls for gender equality and women's empowerment, as crosscutting issues, especially in Goal 5 and 16. Has your organisation and other civil society organizations been involved in advancing gender equality across the 2030 Agenda where this concerns freedom of association and assembly, as well as specifically concerning implementation of SDG 5 & 16 - both on its own and in cooperation with States and UN agencies?
5. a) What has been your and your organisation's experience in supporting women and girls in exercising the rights to FoAA?

b) What have been the biggest challenges in your work to help guarantee the enjoyment of women and girls rights to FoAA while ensuring gender equality and addressing the specific needs of diverse women and girls?



6. a) Can you name measures and policies taken by a State or the UN that you think have been especially effective to ensure women and girls' equal enjoyments to their rights to FoAA? Do you have any examples of good practices or strategies put forward by civil society to overcome the restrictions that women and girls face in exercising these rights? What role can the UN play in this regard and how could its action be improved to better support women's activism?

- b) Can you share an inspiring story of how women and girls exercised their rights to FoAA to change their lives, that of their families, communities or countries for the better?

- c) How do you view the feminist movement and the challenges it faces – and how these can best be addressed? What are notable examples of women's activism or women-led organizations and movements from your country, region, or area of thematic expertise from 2010- present?