**Questionnaire for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), by the**

**UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

**Mary Lawlor, September 2022**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor invites National Human Rights Institutions to respond to the questionnaire below.

Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the positive change achieved by human rights defenders, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2023.

The questionnaire is available on OHCHR website in English (original language) as well as in French and Spanish, (and Russian and Arabic unofficial translations): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-human-rights-defenders>

All submissions received will be published in the aforementioned website, unless the submitter clearly indicated that they did not wish to have their input be made publicly available when submitting their response.

There is a word limit of 2500 words per questionnaire. Please submit the completed questionnaire to [hrc-sr-defenders@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-defenders@un.org)

Deadline for submissions: **20 October 2022**

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**Contact Details**

Contributors can remain anonymous. They can provide their contact details in case we need to contact them in connection with this survey. However, note that this is optional.

**Questions FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS**

1. Have human rights defenders played a significant role in achieving a small victory and/or positive systemic change in your country which has led to sustained improvements in the human rights of others? If so, please provide examples.

2. How did they achieve these improvements and what has been the impact on those whose rights were improved?

3. Were they subjected to risk while working to bring about this change? Please state what kind of risks.

4. How did you or others (e.g Government agencies, NGOs, INGOs, international mechanisms, media) support and protect them to achieve this change?

5. How did you celebrate and recognise HRDs for these achievements?

1. What actions do you suggest the Special Rapporteur can take to:
   1. Assist human rights defenders to achieve successes similar to the ones you have seen?
   2. Encourage States and businesses to provide an environment to enable human rights defenders to achieve successes similar to the ones you have seen?