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

***Questionnaire for Member States and Observer States,***

***by the***

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

**Challenges faced by women human rights defenders (WHRDs) working in conflict, post-conflict or crisis-affected setting**

The next report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to the General Assembly will focus on the challenges faced by women human rights defenders (WHRDs) working in conflict, post-conflict or crisis-affected setting. The Special Rapporteur is seeking to identify the specific and intersectional risks faced by WHRDs in these contexts, barriers they face in working freely, protection strategies they use to mitigate risk and recommendations for how international actors, including the UN, can make their work safer.

By women human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur means all women and girls working on any human rights issue ("women defenders" and "girl defenders"), and any person who works to promote women’s rights and rights related to gender equality. This includes lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) activists, as issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity are part of achieving gender equality. It also includes civil society actors working on the above rights who may not self-identify as human rights defenders, which could include, for example, journalists, health workers, environmental activists, peacebuilders, private actors, development and humanitarian actors, etc.

The report will build on the report of her predecessor to the Human Rights Council in 2020 ([A/HRC/43/51](https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/43/51)) on the situation of human rights defenders in conflict, post-conflict and crisis-affected settings, and will also draw on the work done by the Secretary General in his annual reports on Women, Peace and Security (most recently [S/2022/740](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-2022-740.php)) presented to the Security Council.

The questionnaire is available on OHCHR website in English (original language) as well as in French and Spanish, 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.

There is a word limit of 2000 words per questionnaire. Please submit the completed questionnaire to hrc-sr-defenders@un.org

Deadline for submissions: **22 May 2023**

**Questionnaire**

In preparation for this report, the Special Rapporteur would be grateful to receive responses to the following questions:

1. From the perspective of your State, what are the most pressing challenges faced by women human rights defenders in conflict, post conflict and crisis-affected settings?
2. Does your State consider that these challenges are accentuated by gender? Please explain your answer.
3. Does your State have a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security? If so, does it include an emphasis on protecting, promoting and supporting the work of women human rights defenders? Please elaborate.
4. How has your State contributed, financially, politically, legislatively or practically, to the security (e.g physical, digital, economic, mental) of women human rights defenders in conflict, post-conflict and crisis-affected settings? Please give examples.

5. Has your State supported women human rights defenders to brief the UN Security Council and other UN actors or bodies, or supported them after such briefings? If so, please give examples.

6. What measures or recommendations does your State have in place to reduce the risk of intimidation or reprisals faced by women human rights defenders who plan to interact or cooperate with the United Nations, including Special Procedures, the Human Rights Council and the Security Council?

7. What recommendations (to the UN/other states/civil society/other stakeholders) does your State have for making the work of women human rights defenders in conflict, post-conflict and crisis-affected settings safer (these could relate, for example, to support, promotion, legitimacy, solidarity, visibility)?

8. How does your State try to ensure, or what recommendations does your State have to increase the meaningful and engaged participation of women human rights defenders in formal peace or political processes, from design to monitoring to implementation?

9. Do women human rights defenders in your country have access to effective remedies to human rights violations that take into account the gender-specific barriers women may face when reporting attacks and seeking justice? Are investigations of threats and attacks against WHRDs carried out promptly and exhaustively, and are they adequately prosecuted?

10. Are any WHRDs in your country denied registration/accreditation due to who they are, the collective or movement they may be part of- or not part of, and/or what they represent/work on. Are any WHRDs denied legal capacity due to gender or other factors (including, for example, age or disability)?