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

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| REFERENCE:  |  |

19 October 2023

Excellency,

 I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/16.

 I would like to invite you to respond to the questionnaire below. Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of child and young human rights defenders, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2024.

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

I sincerely hope that your Excellency’s Government will be able to take part in this consultation and submit the completed questionnaire, which will substantively inform the forthcoming report.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mary Lawlor

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**

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**Mary Lawlor, October 2023**

Deadline for submissions: **15 November 2023**

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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 MEMBER STATES:**

1. Have child and young human rights defenders played an active role in the civil society of your country?
2. Is there a specific protection accorded to child and youth huma rights defenders in your country, either as part of a law on the protection of human rights defenders, or through policies and action plans? Do child and youth human rights defenders have access to national and international protection mechanisms?
3. Are child and young human rights defenders facing any particular risks or challenges in your country? If so, provide examples.
4. Are child and young human rights defenders systematically involved in the decision-making processes in public and political affairs in your country? Do you have dedicated platforms available in this regard? Are child friendly versions of laws and policies, as well decision-making processes available?
5. Is there data collection in place to provide information on the rate of involvement of child and young human rights defenders in decision-making processes?
6. Is human rights education provided in schools, and is human rights activism encouraged and supported in educational and academic settings?
7. Are there any policies in place to limit the discretion of educational institutions to expel or otherwise sanction students for engaging in legitimate human rights activism?
8. Are reporting systems for human rights violations accessible for child and young human rights defenders?
9. Is there awareness-raising among youth and child human rights defenders of existing mechanisms, platforms and protection mechanisms in place?
10. Are there any additional issues you wish to raise with the Special Rapporteur in this context?