**Questionnaire for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders,**

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

**Mary Lawlor, October 2023**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor invites Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders to respond to the questionnaire below.

Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on 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](mailto:hrc-sr-defenders@un.org)

Deadline for submissions: **15 November 2023**

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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. Please answer any or all questions.

**Questions FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS and HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

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 human 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? Are there national, regional or international networks that you are part of?
3. Are child and young human rights defenders facing any particular risks or challenges? 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 human rights education provided in schools, and is human rights activism encouraged and supported in educational and academic settings?
6. 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?
7. Are reporting systems for human rights violations accessible for child and young human rights defenders?
8. Is there awareness-raising among youth and child human rights defenders of existing mechanisms, platforms and protection mechanisms in place?
9. Have you experienced negative media coverage of child and young human rights defenders?
10. Have you had any successes as a result of your human rights activism, and if yes, what were they?
11. How could the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders contribute to making your human rights work more visible, protected and highlighted?
12. Is there anything else that you think it’s important for the Special Rapporteur to be aware of?