Questionnaire for children and young people who are human rights defenders

By the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor

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The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders is working on a report that she will present at the United Nations Human Rights Council on children and young people who are human rights defenders. In order to write the report, she needs to hear from them, and is asking for these human rights defenders to respond to this questionnaire.

You can choose to answer all of the questions or only some of them. If you don’t want, we won’t make your questionnaire public. Please send your answers to hrc-sr-defenders@un.org by 15 November 2023.

1. Are young people working for human rights in your country? Please give examples.
2. Does your country have any laws or programmes to help children and young people defend human rights or to protect them when they do so? Are young defenders helped in any other way?
3. In your experience, what problems do young defenders face? Please give examples.
4. Do young defenders have a chance to participate in decision making in your country? Are they listened to? Are laws made child-friendly?
5. Are human rights taught in schools? Is human rights activism encouraged in schools?
6. In your experience, do students who work for for human rights have problems with their schools or universities afterwards?
7. Do you know where you can go to report human rights violations in your country? If you do, do you find it easy to report them?
8. How are young human rights defenders treated by the media? Are there ever reports about them?
9. How could the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders help young human rights defenders?
10. Is there anything else that you think it’s important for the Special Rapporteur to be know?