**Call for Inputs – Official visit to Georgia by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor 30 October - 8 November 2023**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders will carry out an official visit to Georgia from Monday, 30 October to Wednesday 8 November 2023.

The visit will include meetings with government officials, human rights defenders, civil society representatives, representatives of the international community and other relevant stakeholders.

The aim of the visit will be to learn about good practices and challenges regarding the situation of human rights defenders in the country. The Special Rapporteur will present a report on this country visit to the 58th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2025.

In preparation for the visit, civil society organisations, human rights defenders and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit general inputs and specific proposals with regard to the questions below. Please feel free to provide inputs to any of the questions and to share this call for contributions with anyone who may be interested in these issues. You do not need to answer to all the questions.

**1. General context**

* What are the main national laws and policies in place that affect the work of human rights defenders and civil society, including those related to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the environment in which they carry out their activities?
* How are these laws and policies implemented in practice?
* Are there any good examples or practices of laws or policies supporting human rights defenders and their work?
* Aside from legislation, what are the main barriers, interferences, or restrictions that human rights defenders, civil society organisations and journalists covering human rights issues face in their work?

**2. Issues of concern**

* What are the main/most urgent issues affecting human rights defenders in the country?
* How could these issues be addressed?
* Are any human rights defenders working on specific rights or from specific groups facing particular challenges? If so, how?
* Are women human rights defenders facing differentiated challenges?
* Are child or young human rights defenders facing differentiated challenges?

**3. Stakeholder engagement**

* What authorities, organizations, groups and individuals would it be relevant for the Special Rapporteur to meet in the context of her visit?
* Which areas should she visit outside Tbilisi?

Please also let us know if there are any other issues, specific questions or recommendations that you would like the Special Rapporteur to look into or raise with a particular authority while in the country.