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

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

**Mary Lawlor, September 2022**

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

Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the positive change achieved by human rights defenders, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2023.

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: **20 October 2022**

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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 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS and HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

1. Have you, or other human rights defenders, played a role in achieving a small victory and/or positive systemic change in your region/country which has led to sustained improvements in the human rights of others? If so, please provide examples.
2. How did you or other human rights defenders achieve these improvements and what has been the impact on those whose rights were improved?
3. Were you or other human rights defenders subjected to risk while working to bring about this change? Please state what kind of risk.
4. Who (eg Government agencies, NHRIs, other NGOs, INGOs, international mechanisms, media) supported and protected you other human rights defenders in achieving this change? What did they do?
5. What actions do you suggest the Special Rapporteur can take to:
   1. Assist human rights defenders to achieve successes similar to the ones you achieved or have seen?
   2. Encourage States and businesses to provide an environment to enable other human rights defenders to achieve successes similar to the ones you achieved or have seen?