**Call for inputs in preparation for the country visit of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to Lithuania**

**Purpose:** country visit of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to Lithuania

**Background**: The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances is scheduled to conduct a country visit to Lithuania. The visit has been agreed by the Government and will take place from 20 to 26 November 2024.

**Objectives**: The country visit aims to obtain first-hand information on the situation related to enforced disappearances, including the institutional and legislative framework, and the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

**Key questions and type of contributions requested**: the Working Group would like to invite all interested individuals and organizations working on issues related to enforced disappearance in Lithuania, including representatives of civil society associations and relatives of disappeared persons, lawyers, experts, as well as academics, to send their written contributions on the following questions:

1. The compatibility of the national legislative framework (civil, administrative and criminal) on enforced disappearances with relevant international standards. The existing jurisprudence (including cases where the principle of universal criminal jurisdiction is applied) at the domestic level that may be relevant in cases of enforced disappearance. In particular, any information regarding obstacles encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance would be welcome.
2. The measures adopted to prevent enforced disappearances, including in the context of extraordinary renditions, migration (including instances of irregular entry into the country) and transnational transfers, and to comply with the principle of non-refoulement.
3. The measures undertaken to cooperate with other States, including in relation to enforced disappearances/disappearances occurring in the context of migration, extraordinary renditions and transnational transfers by rendering all possible judicial assistance in criminal proceedings relating to an offence of enforced disappearance, as well as all possible assistance in assisting victims and in searching for, locating and releasing disappeared persons and, in case of death, the exhumation, identification of disappeared persons and the return of their remains.
4. The measures undertaken to guarantee the right of victims, including families of forcibly disappeared persons, also when residing in other countries, to know the truth about the circumstances of enforced disappearances, the progress and results of the investigations and search activities undertaken and the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared person, and the right to freedom to seek, receive and impart information to that end.
5. The measures undertaken and existing mechanisms to fulfil the obligation to search for disappeared persons, guaranteeing the participation of families – including where residing abroad – in the process.
6. The measures undertaken to explore the relation between new technologies and enforced disappearance, including to effectively search for disappeared persons and secure evidence to promote accountability.
7. Measures taken to ensure victims’ right to justice, in particular in terms of investigations aimed at identifying the perpetrators, prosecuting them and, where appropriate, punishing them. Information concerning the accessibility of documents concerning the investigation of cases of enforced disappearance is also welcome.
8. Measures taken to ensure the right of victims to an effective remedy and to full reparation.
9. State efforts aimed at the preservation of memory and the adoption of measures to ensure non-repetition, including measures specifically aimed at preventing the recurrence of enforced disappearances.

**Confidentiality**: The identity of sources submitting contributions to the Working Group is considered strictly confidential, unless consent to public disclosure is expressly indicated.

**Receipt of inputs**: Contributions may be sent by e-mail. They should preferably be received by 31 October 2024. However, the Working Group will continue to receive inputs on the above key questions during the three months following the conclusion of the country visit.

**E-mail:** hrc-wg-eid@un.org

**Subject of e-mail:** Contribution in preparation of the Working Group's country visit to Lithuania

**File format:** Word, PDF

**Word limit:** 2000 words

**Accepted languages:** English

**Meetings during the country visit:**

As part of the country visit, the Working Group wishes to meet with relatives of disappeared persons, representatives of civil society organisations, and academics. To request a meeting with the Working Group during the country visit, please write to hrc-wg-eid@un.org, indicating your interest.