



The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

# Guidelines on security

— for grantees in the field —

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**Change** Accountability  
**Human rights** Mobilisation  
**defenders**  
 Protection  
**Empowerment** Dignity  
 Demands

*All photos by the NHRF or grantee organisations,  
 unless otherwise accredited.  
 This document is also available electronically.*

## Foreword

The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998. During the fifteen years since the adoption and with systematic efforts at the international level to acknowledge, protect and support the work undertaken by independent civil society actors, there has been an increased focus by multiple stakeholders on human rights defenders and their role in human rights work.

Several countries have followed up the international work with national action plans, and some have established specialised response mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders. With input and support from civil society actors, some national governments and regional institutions have also adopted guidelines for their own efforts to protect and support human rights defenders around the world. Such guidelines are meant to benefit those defenders on the ground who are targeted due to the nature of their work.

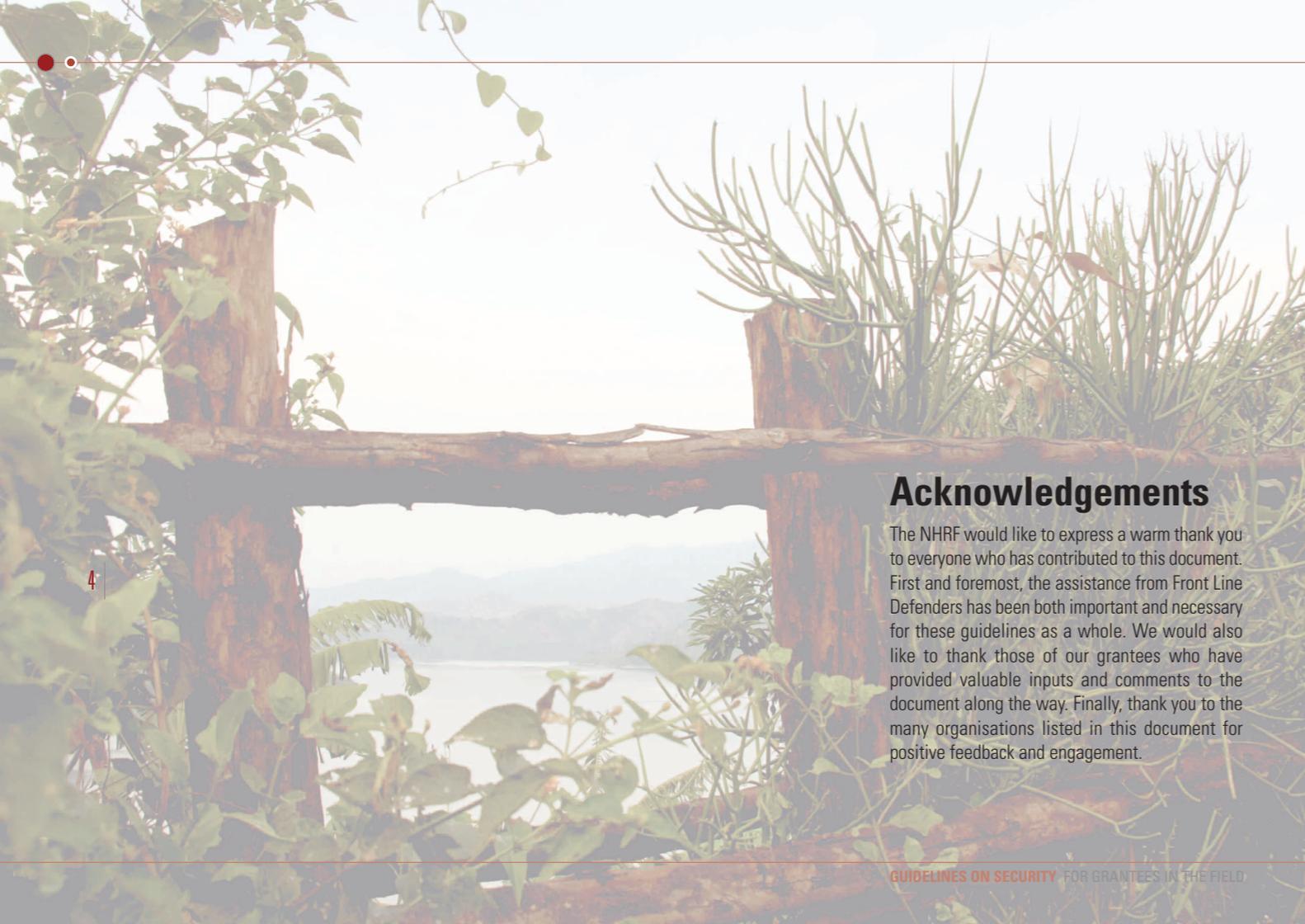
However, the grim reality which many human rights defenders and organisations around the world face today, as they are targeted, criminalised and hindered in their work by both State and non-state actors, demonstrates the implementation gap which still exists between words and actions in this field. Human rights defenders working peacefully for human rights are thus in great need of concrete support and targeted response. Continuous efforts are necessary to ensure that words and high-level diplomacy are transformed into concrete actions that yield real results on the ground.

The NHRF envisions a world where human rights work is seen as a legitimate activity and human rights defenders can undertake their work without fear, threats or danger. We hope that this document can be of both inspiration and practical use for our grantees and their extended human rights networks, by helping them to strengthen the link between different levels of engagement and make use of the various mechanisms and actors which are there to support them.



*Sandra Petersen*

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 Executive Director



## Acknowledgements

The NHRF would like to express a warm thank you to everyone who has contributed to this document. First and foremost, the assistance from Front Line Defenders has been both important and necessary for these guidelines as a whole. We would also like to thank those of our grantees who have provided valuable inputs and comments to the document along the way. Finally, thank you to the many organisations listed in this document for positive feedback and engagement.

## Introduction

The mandate of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) is to promote human rights internationally. For more than 25 years we have provided direct support to grassroots organisations working in the frontline of defence for the protection and promotion of the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups - within a wide range of human rights issues.

Though the main task and stated ambition of the NHRF is to enable local organisations to carry out human rights work through financial support, an external evaluation of the NHRF in 2009 pointed to the need for increased focus on the security of persons involved in the NHRF funded projects. In addition, the evaluation suggested that we should consider expanding our focus to also becoming better equipped to act when our grantee organisations are at risk.

Thus, as part of the NHRF Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (2011–2015) we have increasingly focused on the security of human rights defenders in the

projects we support in our priority countries and in countries that are eligible for support, as well as through our open funding available for the protection of human rights defenders globally. The development of these current guidelines is part of our concrete efforts to address issues of security concerning our grantees and help mitigate risks in this field.

There are many well-established international organisations and actors that have wide experience working with protection for human rights defenders, and our guidelines are not meant to substitute existing work in this field. Instead, these guidelines explain the normative framework for the NHRF's overall work on the protection for and support to you as human rights defenders, and provide an overview of some of the available support mechanisms for defenders at risk. With the permission and kind assistance from Front Line Defenders we actively refer to Front Line Defenders' work on security for human rights

defenders in the chapter on personal and organisational security, and we encourage you to actively make use of their workbook in your work. Finally, we describe the roles and responsibilities of you as grantees, our local consultants and the NHRF's secretariat, with regards to addressing and communicating issues of security.

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## Aims and objectives

With the NHRF's increased focus on security, we aim to be a positive contributor to the support for organisations and individuals who are at risk due to the nature of the human rights work they conduct. In particular, our support is directed towards you as our grantees and your immediate network. We want to help increase your capacity to carry out meaningful and effective human rights work, especially in situations where security is a concern. With the objectives listed below, our work in this field aims to be both preventive and responsive. We aim to:

- Ensure that our grantees have the resources to develop security plans and proper strategies to deal with security risks

*The NHRF has for more than 25 years supported organisations working in the first line of defence for human rights. Photo: A community-based human rights group in Bong County, Liberia.*

- Help our grantees to establish contact with relevant national and international actors working on the protection of human rights defenders
- Ensure that the NHRF's secretariat and local consultants have the capacity and necessary network to respond to requests from our grantees regarding security issues.

These guidelines have been developed as part of our increased focus on security for grantees and their objective is to:

- Increase our grantees' awareness about security and how to mitigate security risks
- Increase our grantees' knowledge of the normative framework and available support mechanisms for defenders at risk
- Provide an outline of the roles of our grantees, local consultants and the NHRF's secretariat regarding security issues.

## Normative framework

There is no universal definition of a human rights defender, but the term is used to describe people who, individually or with others, act to promote or protect human rights. Human rights defenders can address any human rights concerns - ranging from issues of arbitrary arrest and detention, to issues of employment, land and access to health care. Human rights defenders are active in every part of the world. We in the NHRF refer to all of our grantees as human rights defenders due to the nature of your human rights work and the means you use in your struggle for justice.

The normative framework for the NHRF's work on protection for and support to you as human rights defenders is the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1998) – often referred to as the **UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**. It is the first UN instrument that recognises the importance and legitimacy of the work of human rights defenders, as well as

their need for better protection. Although the Declaration is not legally binding, it draws together provisions from those legally binding instruments that are most relevant to human rights defenders, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR). Moreover, the Declaration was adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly and thereby constitutes a clear commitment on the part of all UN member states to respect the rights of human rights defenders at the national and international levels.

The Declaration does not create new rights. However, it articulates existing rights in a way that makes it easier to apply them to the practical role and situation of human rights defenders. The Declaration provides for specific protections to human rights defenders. Examples include the right to seek the protection and realisation of human rights at the national and international levels; to conduct human rights work individually and in association with others;

to form associations and non-governmental organisations; and to solicit, receive and utilise resources for the purpose of protecting human rights (including the receipt of funds from abroad).

Furthermore, the Declaration outlines specific duties of States with regard to defending human rights. It states that the State has the prime responsibility to take all necessary steps to ensure the protection of those who defend human rights. Examples of the State's duties include the protection, promotion and implementation of all human rights; the adoption of such legislative, administrative and other steps as may be necessary to ensure effective implementation of rights and freedoms; conducting prompt and impartial investigations of alleged violations of human rights; and providing an effective remedy for persons who claim to have been victims of a human rights violation. The Declaration also emphasises that everyone has duties towards and within the community and encourages us all to be human rights defenders. Finally, it explains its

relationship with national and international law with the aim of assuring the application of the highest possible legal standards of human rights.

According to the Declaration, human rights defenders' work must be conducted through peaceful activities. The Declaration clearly states that defending human rights is in itself a right and that everybody has the right to promote, develop and protect human rights by lawful and peaceful means. This includes the right to freedom of expression, association and movement, and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. In particular, freedom of expression and association are important rights in order to be able to conduct meaningful human rights work.

In 2000 the Commission on Human Rights established a mandate on the situation of human rights defenders (as a Special Procedure) to support the implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Over the years a range of resolutions have also been passed on the subject of human rights defenders, including a crucial one

on 27 March 2014 by the UN Human Rights Council. This document (resolution 25/18) calls on States to protect human rights defenders from attacks and reprisals and ensure that national laws and policies support and enable their work. The resolution also renews the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders for a consecutive period of three years (for more information on UN mechanisms, see chapter 6).

For more information about the Declaration and its full text in different languages:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHR/Defenders/Pages/Declaration.aspx>

## Personal and organisational security

### Thinking about security

While it is the State's prime responsibility to protect and promote human rights, you as human rights defenders have an important role to play in monitoring and working to enhance the State's human rights policies and the implementation of these. Human rights organisations and defenders often challenge the status quo by demanding accountability and an end to impunity, fighting for the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups, and challenging well-established norms and societal structures. The nature of your work as human rights defenders thus often leaves you vulnerable.

Furthermore, certain groups of human rights defenders can often be at particular risk. These

includes defenders working for the rights of indigenous peoples and marginalised communities; defenders engaged in issues involving large economic interests (such as environmental activist); defenders working for the rights of religious and/or ethnic communities; defenders in rural areas (because they are less visible); defenders working for the rights of sexual minorities; and women human rights defenders. Women human rights defenders have in particular received increased attention in recent years, with the first ever resolution on the subject adopted by the UN General Assembly's Third Committee on 18 December 2013. The resolution recognises that women human rights defenders in all regions of the world face significant abuses and violations because of who they are and the nature of their work.

*Some human rights defenders are particularly at risk. Photo: Woman human rights defender and NHRF grantee from rural Sindh in Pakistan working on the protection of minorities.*

As human rights defenders you have the responsibility to think about security as an integrated part of your work. It is important to stress that addressing issues of security is not a sign of weakness and does not mean that you are not suited for the job. On the contrary, thinking

about security will enable you and your human rights organisation to develop strategies on how to manage security risks in the best possible manner. This will in turn make both you and your organisation stronger and more effective, and ensure the continuation of your work on behalf of the individuals and communities whose rights you are promoting and protecting.

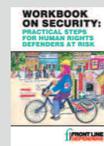
Starting the process of actually addressing security risks may be uncomfortable and even create fear, as you start talking and writing about some of the possible dangers you face due to your work. The process can make you feel vulnerable, and you might be forced to address issues which you would rather not think about in such a concrete manner. However, creating a systematic approach to security and how to mitigate risks will in the end provide you and your colleagues with a renewed sense of control. This will in turn strengthen both your organisation and the work you are conducting. To use an analogy: if you are packing for a mountain hike, you will pack light clothes for good weather along with the food and

equipment you need for the planned trip. However, you will also bring warm and waterproof clothes, extra food rations and emergency equipment in case of a potential snowstorm or an accident. In other words, you will be planning for the worst case scenario just as a precaution. This will in turn give you a greater sense of calm and control as you depart for your hike.

It is the responsibility of all NHRF grantees to conduct appropriate risk assessments in your own context and develop strategies of how to handle these risks in the best way possible. The organisation Front Line Defenders has developed a useful manual called Workbook on Security: Practical Steps for Human Rights Defenders at Risk (Front Line Defenders, 2011). This is a comprehensive workbook which includes advice and suggestions on how to make informed decisions about security and protection.

The workbook will help you:

- Analyse your particular context
- Assess risks
- Analyse threats



Front Line Defenders' Workbook on Security: Practical Steps for Human Rights Defenders at Risk (2011) is available online in

several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Urdu and Arabic.

<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/security-training>

- Maintain your wellbeing and handle stress
- Produce and review appropriate security plans

Front Line Defenders' work book is not a theoretical piece of work. Instead it is meant to raise your awareness about security issues and help you consider how to mitigate risks. The NHRF encourages all grantee organisations to make active use of this security workbook in your daily human rights work.

In these guidelines we have thus explicitly chosen to focus on Front Line Defenders' workbook on security. However, there are also other sources and

manuals from other organisations available. We encourage you to explore the topic and also consult other sources in order to increase your knowledge and widen your outlook on the issue of security (for more information about other organisations, see chapter 6).

### Risk assessments and threat analysis

The security risks that human rights defenders and human rights organisations face will vary from country to country and from context to context. These risks might be related to your life (in terms of physical and/or non-physical reprisals), your human rights work, or both. Your working situation will also vary depending on the context. While some defenders work in armed conflicts, or in countries where the freedoms of expression and association are restricted, others work in areas and fields where there are large economic and political interests at stake. Front Line Defenders lists a wide range of risks faced by human rights defenders around the world today. These include stigmatisation, interference with travel, writing or association with others, blackmail, being targeted with administrative measures, physical and sexual assaults, attacks on livelihood and property,

detention, arrest or imprisonment, ill-treatment, torture, abduction, kidnapping and murder.

### Risk

Risk is defined by Front Line Defenders as *the possibility of events that result in harm*. However, there is no universally accepted definition of risk. Risk may involve everything from losing data and years of your work or not being able to renew your organisation's registration, to psychological and/or physical harm to yourself or your colleagues. According to Front Line Defenders, risk is context specific, dynamic and changes over time. It must therefore be assessed on a regular basis. The challenge is to be able to assess the degree of risk. If the risk is high and likely to materialise, you can then identify the best actions to take in order to minimise this risk. The assessment will be based on your unique context as a human rights defender. Your understanding of this context is the prerequisite for being able to take effective security measures.

### Threat

Threat is defined as *the declaration, indication or possibility that someone will harm, punish or inflict damage on someone else or their work*. A threat

usually means that your work is having an impact and that someone wants to prevent exactly this. It may be a *direct threat* against you, your organisation or your family in the form of written or oral statements («You will not live through the summer», «Your organisation will not be legally registered next year» etc.) or symbolic threats such as dead animals on your doorstep. A threat could also be a *possible threat*, such as threats against other human rights defenders working on the same issues as you. Finally, *security incidents* could also indicate or lead to a threat. Security incidents include anonymous phone calls, break-ins into your home or office, or that someone might be watching you or your office etc.

It is important to keep in mind that situations can change quickly. Therefore, all threats must be taken seriously and steps must be taken to avoid the risk. The challenge is to be able to manage the threat as far as possible whilst continuing your work as effectively as possible. A set of questions has thus been developed by Front Line Defenders in order to help you analyse the threats you face. You will find the questions and additional information in the workbook.

### Questions about threats which you can use in your analysis

- What exactly are the facts surrounding the threat?
- Has there been a pattern of threats over time?
- What seems to be the objective of the threat?
- Do you know who is making the threat?
- Do you think the threat will be put into action?

### Vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities refer to *any factors which make it possible that a defender or a group will suffer harm or greater damage*. It could be anything from an individual's medical condition to an organisation's focus on particularly sensitive issues or conducting activities in remote areas.

### Capacities

Capacities are *those factors which make a defender or a group stronger and thus improve their security*. Thus, the level of risk which a

defender or a group faces increases in accordance with the threats that have been received and the individual's or group's vulnerability and capacity to these threats. Even when you cannot reduce the threat, you can reduce the risk by reducing your vulnerabilities or increasing your capacities. As mentioned above, risks are context specific and must be assessed as such.

#### Assessment and analysis

Front Line Defenders uses the risk formula as a tool for risk assessment. It is first and foremost meant as a tool to help you identify the components in the risks you face. It will not lead to a mathematically calculated solution, as it is based on human knowledge and subjective assessment. One of the advantages of the risk formula is that it is versatile and flexible and can be used in almost any part of the world and in almost any situation. Keep in mind that the risk assessment will be most challenging the first time it is done, while regular updates will prove easier with time. Front Line Defenders also uses the risk matrix, which is particularly useful for human rights defenders who have lived in a risky environment for a long time or find themselves in a situation which is deteriorating. The matrix can

be used to assess the probability and impact of risks and can form the next step in developing your security plan. You will both find the risk formula and the risk matrix in the workbook.

Front Line Defenders' workbook will help you put together your context analysis, the risk formula, the risk matrix, questions for threat analysis and plans for dealing with stress so that you can start developing your own personal and organisational security plan. It is important to note that in a given stressful situation you will only be able to do what you are trained to do. Thus, practicing your security plan developed on the basis of the security risks that you have identified, should be an important part of your work. In the next section we address in particular the issue of stress.

#### Psychological aspects of security

In this section, we have chosen to highlight certain psychological aspects of security. These relate to the chapter on wellbeing and stress in Front Line Defenders' workbook. The reason why we have chosen to emphasise the psychological aspects of security in particular, is that these are not always easily addressed but still highly important aspects

of a human rights defender's life and work.

Human rights defenders can often experience high levels of stress of over longer periods of time due to a heavy workload, the risks involved and often limited resources. While a certain amount of stress can be positive in terms of motivation and effectiveness, intense and long-term stress can have a negative impact on your body and brain.

Stress is person, time and context specific. This means that what stresses one person might not stress another person in a similar situation. Also, a person might be more or less stressed by the same thing at different points in time. Furthermore, similar experiences in different contexts can change the experience of stress. For instance,

*A Colombian human rights defender reading a letter with death threats against community members.*



### Symbolic and practical exercises

Stress reduction exercises can be a helpful tool in reducing stress. For instance, you could set aside a 15-minute session each week for stress reduction exercises. Although weekly sessions will not be enough to de-stress everyone, it promotes the idea of taking seriously one's own well-being. Exercises could be relaxation and meditation practices, or other activities such as watching an hilarious online video, singing, dancing or making music. Organisations may also make an effort to spend relaxing time outside work, such as picnics where family members are invited, football matches and music events. The organisation Capacitar has developed a set of different exercises which might inspire you. Capacitar tries to focus on developing wellbeing in body, mind, spirit and emotions as an important aspect of stress management, and encourages people to build self-care habits as part of daily life:

[http://www.capacitar.org/emergency\\_kits.html](http://www.capacitar.org/emergency_kits.html)

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supportive relationships might contribute to lessening the feeling of stress in a given situation.

Front Line Defenders has consulted human rights defenders who have experienced periods of deep stress and who have identified stress management as one of the factors impacting their security. These defenders explained security-related aspects, including becoming careless of danger, finding it difficult to take decisions, feeling «burnt out» and exhausted, drinking more alcohol and alienating

supportive people in one's network due to angry or moody behaviour.

Tools for better handling of stress include paying daily attention to diet, exercise, relaxation and sleep. You and your colleagues should encourage each other to talk openly about risks and take breaks from your work when necessary. You should also encourage each other not to work excessive work hours, as this lowers the quality of your performance over time. Finally, your organisation

could encourage and strengthen the team spirit by organising practical and/or symbolic activities.

### Digital security

Digital security is a vast topic, which we will not attempt to cover in detail here. The Tactical Technology Initiative and Front Line Defenders have together developed tools and tactics for your digital security, called Security-in-a-box. It was created to meet the digital security and privacy needs of advocates and human rights defenders. Security in-a-box includes a How-to Booklet. The booklet addresses a number of important digital security issues, some of which are listed below:

- How to protect your computer from malware and hackers
- How to protect your information from physical threats
- How to create and maintain secure passwords
- How to protect the sensitive files on your computer
- How to recover from information loss
- How to destroy sensitive information
- How to keep your internet communication private

### Questions you should ask yourself regarding digital security

- Do I regularly update my software?
  - Do I protect the sensitive files on my computer?
  - Do I keep back-up of my work?
  - Do I think about my own and others' security when sharing information and pictures on social networking sites?
  - Do I know how to safeguard my information when using social networking sites?
  - Do I know how to safeguard my mobile phone as securely as possible?
- How to protect yourself and your data when using social networking sites
  - How to use mobile phones as securely as possible
  - How to use smartphones as securely as possible

Security-in-a-box will take you through these issues and give you advice on how to deal with them. Let us give you a few examples:

1) Before worrying about private communication and secure passwords, keeping your computer healthy is a critical first step towards security. Security-in-a-box explains more about the specific threats of malware, how you can use different tools to protect you from these, how you can keep your computer secure by updating your software frequently and why you should use freeware tools to avoid the dangers of expired licenses and pirated software.

2) If you work with sensitive information and topics and are interested in using social networking services, it is important to be aware of the privacy and security issues that they raise. Human rights defenders are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of social networking sites and need to be extremely careful about the information they reveal about themselves and the people they work with. It is thus important that you understand how different social networking sites make you vulnerable and that you are able to take steps to protect yourself and the people you are working with. Security-in-a-box explains how sensitive information easily can be revealed unintentionally and how you can safeguard your information when using social networking sites.



Security-in-a-box is available online in different languages:

<https://securityinabox.org/>

Security-in-a-box also provides a collection of Hands-on Guides, each of which includes a particular freeware or open source software tool, as well as instructions on how you can use that tool to secure your computer, protect your information or maintain the privacy of your Internet communication. The tools include anti-virus, file recovery, secure password storage, secure e-mail service etc.

The How-to Booklet also includes chapters on how to use mobile and smart phones as securely as possible. As a general rule, it is important to think about issues such as which contacts you save on your phone and whether you should keep two separate phones for work and private use. Your phone can also be used to enhance your security in emergency situations, by having pre-written texts which you can easily send to your contacts if

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Is Panic Button right for you? For more information and download, see:

<https://panicbutton.io/>

you find yourself in danger. Amnesty International has developed the Panic Button app for Android, which provides a safety net for human rights defenders. Panic Button is a modern day SOS signal. By downloading it you can turn your mobile into a secret alarm. Panic Button is activated by pressing the power button on your phone, and it enables you to send messages rapidly to your friends and network about your location.

Amnesty International has also partnered with Digitale Gesellschaft, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Privacy International to develop and make available to the public a new tool to fight surveillance against people exercising their freedom of expression and association. Detekt is a simple software that identifies if a computer running the Microsoft Windows operating system has been infected with



Is Detekt for you? For more information and download, see:

<https://resistsurveillance.org/>

spyware, alerting its users to take action. Detekt does not intend to replace existing anti-virus and security products, but rather to complement them.

#### A first few practical steps

Even before you have developed an entire security plan based on your organisation's risk assessment, you and your colleagues could immediately agree on a few initial practical steps which might help to increase both your personal and organisational security on a general basis before the security plan is in place. Advice given from one protection trainer explained that a very basic framework for fast track security training is to take precautions when travelling and communicating, and with regards to office security, home security and equipment security. In particular, we would like to highlight the importance of thinking about security when

departing for field work. For example, for those who document human rights violations in the field a few important points in this context could be:

- All staff should always make sure their mobile phone is charged and usable
- Always travel in pairs (at least) when documenting human rights violations in the field
- Before departing for field work, always inform your colleagues of where you are going and with whom
- Make sure you have an available network of persons to contact in cases of emergency – could Panic Button be a useful tool for you?

The list above is of course not exhaustive, and could for different organisations in various local contexts involve other points entirely. It is important to note that such an initial list cannot substitute a proper security plan based on a comprehensive risk assessment, but it could be a good place to start before an entire security plan has been developed. Such small practical steps might make an important difference for the people and organisation involved, if similar rules are not already in place. Security thinking should be an integrated part of your human rights work at all levels.

## Roles and responsibilities

### NHRF grantees

As mentioned above, it is the responsibility of all NHRF grantees to conduct appropriate risk assessments in your own context and develop strategies of how to handle these risks in the best way possible. Threats and security issues will not go away by ignoring them, and they can be a major hindrance for you and your organisation in carrying out your work. We have thus developed a set of questions regarding security which you and your colleagues should keep in mind and address on a regular basis:

- Has your organisation made and/or updated proper risk assessments and plans for risk mitigation?
- Are all relevant staff and aspects of your organisation included in these assessments and plans?
- Does your organisation have the capacity to deal with possible threats?
- Does your organisation create spaces to talk about security issues with all the staff?
- Does the organisation need capacity building or



resources to make a security plan? Or to take appropriate measures with regards to the current security situation?

- Is there anything in the relationship with the NHRF which makes your organisation more vulnerable? Do field visits by foreign NHRF staff

*NHRF grantee and land rights organisations in Andhra Pradesh, India, performing a role play on their struggle for land.*

make the organisation more exposed and vulnerable? Should the NHRF and your

organisation establish other ways of communication?

In the event of actual security situations occurring, please keep in mind the following:

- The NHRF would like to be informed about security incidents which have or can potentially have a negative effect on the work and working environment of your organisation
- When forwarding incidents, concerns and /or reports to the NHRF about security issues concerning particular staff and/or your organisation please give a clear indication of what kind of actions your organisation would like the NHRF to take (or not take). Please be as concrete as possible.

#### NHRF consultants

The NHRF has consultants in all priority countries. The role of the consultant is to be a resource person for the secretariat and grantees. From 2014 the NHRF has made issues regarding security of the organisation part of the conversation during visits.

The local consultants:

- Should be trained within security and have a network of organisations which grantees can connect with nationally
- Can help grantees make an overview of what makes them vulnerable in their work and possible steps to respond to these, if needed
- Can help establish contacts with resource people/specialised organisations to help develop a security protocol.

#### NHRF secretariat

The NHRF has a small secretariat in Oslo. Apart from grant making, the secretariat works in networks with other organisations and, to a certain degree, engages in advocacy efforts with other stakeholders on particular issues.

When it comes to the security and protection of you as grantees the secretariat has different measures available for the support. We can:

- Offer you linkages with organisations working on protection

- Make joint actions with other donors on behalf of our grantees
- Offer financial support for you to make security protocols, plans and training
- Forward urgent appeals to the attention of diplomatic missions, in particular the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian government, if requested by a grantee
- Forward appeals to the attention of UN Special Rapporteurs
- Distribute information in Norway about cases that concern NHRF grantees.

The NHRF's secretariat is aware that it is difficult for some organisations to fully elaborate on risks in their applications. In order to fill the gap, we will follow up with conversations either during field visits or through other forms of communication. This is to better understand the risks your organisation faces and how you plan to mitigate these risks. We hope to find good ways of communicating about security in cooperation with you.

## Support mechanisms

Based on the normative framework described in chapter 3, a rather wide range of support mechanisms for human rights defenders have come into existence over the years. Here, we have chosen to focus on relevant UN mechanisms, existing guidelines on support to human rights defenders, and available support from a selection of specialised organisations. It is important to note that there are also national and regional support mechanisms available, such as human rights commissions and institutions, and various organisations with relevant expertise. Furthermore, it is important that you identify and establish contact with domestic non-governmental organisations, networks and alliances working on support to human rights defenders, as well as support groups and individuals in your area who can be of help. We encourage all our grantees to obtain information and knowledge about the various support mechanisms in your region, country and local context and to actively use them, as they are there for you.

### Support mechanisms in your local and national context

- Does your Government have an action plan on human rights defenders?
- Is there a national human rights defender focal point in your country?
- Are there human rights defender networks and alliances in your country and are you linked to these?
- Are you aware of non-governmental organisations in your country working specifically on support to human rights defenders and have you established contact with these?
- Have you approached relevant inter-governmental organisations working specifically with your country?
- Have you identified and established contact with relevant local support groups and/or individuals in your area?

### Relevant UN mechanisms for human rights defenders

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has a strong focus on human rights defenders. In this section we have chosen to highlight three UN Special Procedures mandate holders which are particularly relevant to human rights defenders: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special

Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

As part of their work, these Special Rapporteurs produce annual reports to the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly and carry out country visits to investigate the situation of human



PHOTO: @IDSN

rights at the national level. After their visits, they submit a mission report to the Human Rights Council, including their findings and recommendations. They can also carry out informal visits to a country, engaging with civil society and other relevant actors on the ground. Below, we have in particular highlighted the mandate holders' possibility of taking up individual cases with the States concerned. Under each section you will find the Special Rapporteur's contact information and links to the homepage and individual complaints mechanisms.

In addition to the three Special Rapporteurs mentioned below, there are other thematic mandates which focus on human rights defenders and related issues. One example is the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), which also has a special urgent

mechanism. We encourage you to get an overview of all the existing Special Procedures mandate holders, as several of these might be of importance to you depending on the human rights issues with which you work.

It is important to note that over the past few years there has been increased attention by both the UN and other international actors on the widespread attacks and reprisals carried out against people who cooperate with the UN to promote human rights, and to expose and ensure accountability. Various reports are available on this issue.

- **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

The mandate on the situation of human rights defenders was established in 2000 by the Commission on Human Rights (as a Special Procedure) to support the implementation of the 1998 Declaration on human rights defenders. In 2014, with resolution 25/18, the Human Rights Council decided to continue the mandate on human rights defenders for a consecutive period of three years.

As of 1 October 2014 there are 39 thematic and 14 country mandates under the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. For a full overview, see the Special Procedures' home page:

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

The Special Rapporteur takes up with the States concerned, individual cases of human rights violations committed against defenders. Information on such cases is received through a variety of sources including individual defenders, non-governmental organisations and UN agencies. If the information falls within the mandate and its probable validity is confirmed, the Special Rapporteur makes contact with the Government of the State where the alleged violation is thought to have occurred. Contact is usually conducted through an *urgent appeal* or *allegation letter* (called 'communications') addressed to the State's diplomatic mission with the United Nations in Geneva for transmission to capitals. With both urgent appeals and allegation letters the Special

*Dalit human rights defenders at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.*

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders' official website:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/srhrdefenders/pages/srhrdefendersindex.aspx>

Individual complaints mechanism:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Complaints.aspx>

E-mail contact details:  
[urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org) (for allegations) or [defenders@ohchr.org](mailto:defenders@ohchr.org)  
 The text of the e-mail should refer to the human rights defenders mandate

Rapporteur asks the Government to take all appropriate action to investigate and address the alleged events and to communicate the results of its investigation and actions to the Special Rapporteur. In the Special Rapporteur's website you will find the necessary guidelines on the types of information which is required for the Special Rapporteur to take action on a case, and how the information can be submitted.

- **Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**

In October 2010, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 15/21 which established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The mandate holder serves for an initial period of three years, renewable once. Resolution 24/5 (October 2013) extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of three years.

Since the Special Rapporteur is mandated to promote and protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Human Rights Council has requested the Special Rapporteur to seek credible and reliable information from governments, non-governmental organisations and any other parties who have knowledge of pertinent situations and cases. Once such information is received, the Special Rapporteur sends *urgent appeals* or *allegation letters* to the concerned authorities for clarification on the allegations raised. In the Special Rapporteur's website you will find the necessary guidelines on the types of information which is

The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association's official website:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/AssemblyAssociation/Pages/SRFreedomAssemblyAssociationIndex.aspx>

Individual complaints mechanism:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/AssemblyAssociation/Pages/Complaints.aspx>

E-mail contact details:  
[urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org) or [freeassembly@ohchr.org](mailto:freeassembly@ohchr.org)  
 The text of the e-mail should refer to the mandate on freedom of peaceful assembly and association

required for the Special Rapporteur to take action on a case, and how the information can be submitted.

In recent years non-governmental organisations in a number of countries have experienced a new setback impeding the work of human rights defenders, namely access to funding. In particular, foreign funding is increasingly being hindered by governments with the intention of silencing human rights defenders. In 2013 the Special Rapporteur drew attention to the ability of associations to access financial resources as a vital part of the right to freedom of association. Several interesting remarks on this can be found in his thematic report of 24 April 2013.

- **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression**

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression was established in 1993. The Human Rights Council's resolution 16/4 in March 2011 extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years.

The Special Rapporteur is mandated to promote and protect the freedom of opinion and expression. The Human Rights Council has requested the

Special Rapporteur to seek credible and reliable information from governments, non-governmental organisations and any other parties who have knowledge of pertinent situations and cases. The Special Rapporteur then sends *urgent appeals* or *allegation letters* to the concerned authorities for clarification on the allegations raised. The activities of human rights defenders are among the issues about which the Special Rapporteur is particularly interested in receiving information. In the Special Rapporteur's website you will find the necessary guidelines on the types of information which is required for the Special Rapporteur to take action on a case, and how the information can be submitted.

- **OHCHR field presence**

Over the years, the OHCHR has increased its presence in the field with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights at the country level; helping to strengthen national institutions and civil society; and mainstreaming human rights - that is, integrating a human rights perspective into the work of the UN country teams (UNCT). The OHCHR's field presence includes 13 country/stand-alone offices; 12 regional offices and centres, and expert human

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression's official website:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ISSUES/FREEDOMOPINION/Pages/OpinionIndex.aspx>

Individual complaints mechanism:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/Complaints.aspx>

Email contact details:  
[urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org) (for allegations) or [freedex@ohchr.org](mailto:freedex@ohchr.org)

rights advisers deployed by the OHCHR to the field to support the UNCT. The OHCHR also has a rapid response unit which manages an internal roster of staff who can be rapidly deployed in human rights and humanitarian emergencies, and can provide surge capacity to OHCHR field offices.

More information about OHCHR's field presence can be found at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/Pages/WorkInField.aspx>

The UN has country teams (UNCT) in 136 countries, covering all of the 180 countries where there are UN programmes. For more information about UNCTs and structure: <http://www.undg.org/>

### Existing guidelines on support to human rights defenders

In this section we want to draw attention to existing sets of guidelines on support to human rights defenders provided by the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Norway and Switzerland. Knowledge of such guidelines and contact with the relevant representatives in your country and/or region is highly relevant for all human rights defenders and might be helpful in your everyday work and future strategies.

#### • EU's support to human rights defenders

The EU has support for human rights defenders (individuals and NGOs) as an established element of its human rights policy. The EU's support is built on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and is aimed at providing assistance and protection.

The EU has developed a set of guidelines on human rights defenders which provides an overview of the EU's role and aspirations, and which has been translated into local strategies for EU missions in third countries. The guidelines can have a concrete impact on human rights protection 'on the ground'. They also provide for intervention by the EU when human rights defenders are at risk, and propose practical means of supporting and assisting these individuals and NGOs.

The EU also supports human rights defenders through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The EIDHR instrument can grant aid where no established development cooperation exists, and can intervene without the agreement of the governments of third countries. It can support groups or individuals within civil

society defending democracy, as well as inter-governmental organisations that implement the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. The EIDHR works with, for and through civil society organisations and can provide small grants to human rights defenders.

The emergency fund for human rights defenders at risk managed under the EIDHR can provide ad-hoc grants of up to 10.000 euro per grant to individuals or organisations in need of urgent support either by headquarters or by EU delegations.

This urgent support may take any form that is considered necessary. Examples include covering medical expenses or fees for the legal representation of defenders, purchasing security material for offices or homes, paying for the evacuation of a human rights defender to another country, or supporting the operations of a human rights organisation which finds itself in a dire financial situation.

Requests to use the small grants mechanism or emergency facility for human rights defenders should be addressed to the EU delegation in your

country or to the EIDHR team, with information about the particular case to assist: name of the defender(s), background on the case(s), amount of grant requested, and for what purpose. The information received will be dealt with in confidentiality.

We encourage you to establish contact with the EU delegation in your country and with its human rights focal point and liaison officer for human rights defenders, so that you can actively use the guidelines in relation to your work. Please note that the focal point and liaison officers are likely based at the EU delegation, although it could be a staff member of one of the Member State embassies. On the websites of the EU delegations, human rights defenders should be able to find the name of the human rights focal point by clicking on 'Key EU policies' on the left hand side of the home page and then, on the right side, 'Delegation's Human Rights Focal Point'. Unfortunately there are still many cases where the name is not indicated. Human rights defenders should therefore call the EU delegation and ask.

For EU guidelines and support to human rights defenders:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/human\\_rights/defenders/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/defenders/index_en.htm)

[http://eeas.europa.eu/human\\_rights/guidelines/defenders/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/guidelines/defenders/index_en.htm)

#### • OSCE's guidelines on human rights defenders



The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has also recently adopted a set of guidelines on human rights defenders. These guidelines do not set new standards for human rights defenders but concentrate on the protection of the human rights of those who are at risk as a result of their human rights work. They call on OSCE Participating States to establish human rights defenders' protection mechanisms both on their territories and in third countries, through their diplomatic representations.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/119633>

#### • Norway's guide on support to human rights defenders



The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has developed a guide for its Foreign Service on support to human rights defenders. The main objective of this guide is to help the MFA and the Norwegian missions to systematise measures and intensify efforts to support human rights defenders and their work. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders forms the normative basis for Norway's support to human rights defenders. The guide describes the role of diplomatic missions and the MFA in this work. It advises the missions on the following:

- Ascertaining the conditions under which human rights defenders work
- Which measures to take, such as contact and

exchange of information with the human rights defenders, contact with the authorities; observation of court cases; use of the media, cooperation with national and international actors; economic support; and acute need for protection

- Risk assessment before deciding on any course of action
- Human rights defenders at particular risk
- Resources and competence-building
- Reporting routines

The guide also advises the MFA on publicity and grants, and on addressing human rights issues in meetings at the political level, during political visits and in multilateral forums. Norway's support to human rights defenders is available electronically in both Spanish and English.

[http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/human-rights/human-rights\\_guidelines.html?id=737663](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/human-rights/human-rights_guidelines.html?id=737663)

#### • Switzerland's guide on support to human rights defenders



The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Switzerland established its guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders in December 2013. Switzerland aims to offer human rights defenders more effective support and better protection against arbitrary treatment by state authorities.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/aussenpolitik/menschenrechte-menschliche-sicherheit/menschenrechte/engagement-schweiz/menschenrechtsverteiler.html>

#### Specialised organisations

There are several international organisations which in various ways can provide support to human rights defenders. Depending on their mandate, these organisations can provide assistance ranging from emergency grants to security training, protection and urgent interventions. There are also several organisations which are excellent sources of information and produce important documents and reports on the human rights situations in various parts of the world. Some of these are engaged in campaigns and advocacy efforts to hold governments responsible where the situation is critical, and some have a presence in selected countries. Below you will find a list of organisations and a brief description of their mandates. We encourage you to visit their homepage and keep yourself updated on the information they provide and the kind of support they can offer. Please note that the list is not exhaustive:

#### • Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme

Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme (AEDH) is an international solidarity organisation which is committed to defending human rights through partnerships with local associations from the South and East. AEDH supports field activities on the ground, strengthens the capacity of local actors and helps human rights defenders in danger. In addition to supporting organisations on the ground, AEDH can provide emergency funds for human rights defenders in danger and is engaged in advocacy and lobbying, including «urgent actions», legal actions and participation in solidarity networks.  
<http://www.aedh.org/agir/>

#### • Amnesty International

Amnesty International (AI) is an independent global movement which seeks to expose and stop human rights violations by governments, but also human rights abuses by non-governmental entities, companies and other non-state actors. AI's main focus is on campaigning to stop human rights violations and to protect individuals, but the organisation also engages in advocacy towards inter-governmental organisations and human rights organisations. AI also has some programmes offering protection for human rights defenders, but only on a limited scope.  
<http://www.amnesty.org/>

#### • Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development

Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) membership is open to independent, non-profit, non-partisan, non-violent and non-governmental civil society organisations working in the field of human rights and human development in Asia. FORUM-ASIA's Human Rights Defenders Programme aims to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders in Asia. The programme's objectives include the following: to provide a regional platform of exchange and ideas among defenders in Asia; to promote the role and the rights of defenders under the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders; to coordinate the engagement of defenders in the establishment or development of National Human Rights Institutions in their countries; and to provide urgent assistance and protection to defenders at risk. FORUM-ASIA also convenes the Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders' Forum (ARHRDF).  
<http://www.forum-asia.org/>

#### • Freedom House

Freedom House's Emergency Assistance Program supports threatened civil society organisations, individual human rights defenders, and survivors of religious persecution with short-term emergency grants for medical expenses, legal representation, prison visits, trial monitoring, humanitarian assistance, temporary relocation, security, equipment replacement, dependent

support, and other types of urgent expenses. To qualify for assistance, threats must have occurred within the past 3 months and be based on the applicant's human rights work (or persecution on the basis of religion/belief). To request an application or for more information: [info@hrdassist.org](mailto:info@hrdassist.org)

Freedom House also leads two international consortia that offer emergency assistance, security grants, and short-term programmatic support:

#### The Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund

The Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund provides emergency financial assistance to civil society organisations (CSOs) under threat or attack and advocacy support responding to broader threats to civil society. Lifeline supports a variety of CSOs that conduct advocacy, promote and protect human rights, and/or act in a watchdog capacity, including human rights organisations, journalist associations, student groups, labor unions, think tanks, and others. Lifeline is a consortium of seven international partners and receives contributions through an international donor pool of 17 governments and independent foundations that support democracy and human rights. To request an application for more information: [info@csolifeline.org](mailto:info@csolifeline.org)  
<http://freedomhouse.org/program/lifeline#.VFjMT2ctCUk>

#### Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program

The Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program provides emergency funds, advocacy support, and security assistance to human rights defenders and civil society organisations under threat or attack due to their work for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) human rights. Dignity for All also supports targeted, time-bound advocacy campaigns to respond to threats or attacks on LGBTI human rights and human rights work, as well as assistance for individual victims or communities connected to funded advocacy campaigns. Security training is available to proactively assist organisations to continue their work more safely. To request an application or for more information: [info@dignitylgbti.org](mailto:info@dignitylgbti.org)  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/program/dignity-all-lgbti-assistance-program#.VFjMcGctCUK>

#### • Front Line Defenders

Front Line Defenders is the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, with the specific aim of protecting human rights defenders at risk, people who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Front Line Defenders provides rapid and practical support to at-risk human rights defenders, including: grants, training, international advocacy, an emergency 24 hour phone line, and temporary relocation.  
<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

#### • Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an independent, international organisation that works as part of a movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all. HRW defends the rights of people worldwide by investigating abuses, exposing the facts widely, and pressuring power holders to respect rights and secure justice. HRW has researchers on the ground in various parts of the world and regularly publishes reports and news from different countries and regions.  
<http://www.hrw.org/>

#### • International Federation for Human Rights

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) is an independent international NGO with more than 170 member organisations defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. FIDH acts in the legal and political field for the creation and reinforcement of international instruments for the protection of human rights and for their implementation. FIDH's actions include urgent reactions (both public and confidential); international fact-finding, trial observation and defence missions; and, political dialogue, advocacy, litigation and public awareness campaigns.  
<http://www.fidh.org/en/>

#### • International Service for Human Rights

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) is an independent, non-governmental organisation dedicated

to promoting and protecting human rights. ISHR supports human rights defenders, strengthens human rights systems, and leads and participates in coalitions for human rights change. ISHR's support for human rights defenders includes intensive training, capacity building, advocacy advice and technical assistance.  
<http://www.ishr.ch/>

#### • Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

The Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights is a global women's fund that protects, strengthens and sustains women and transgender human rights defenders by intervening quickly when activists are poised to make great gains or face serious threats to their lives and work. The Urgent Action Fund uses online text and mobile funding applications to respond to requests from women's human rights defenders within 72 hours and have funds on the ground within 1-7 days. The Urgent Action Fund is also engaged in advocacy and alliance building, and support women's and girls' activism globally together with Urgent Action Fund-Africa and Urgent Action Fund-Latin America.

[www.urgentactionfund.org](http://www.urgentactionfund.org)

<http://urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke/>

<http://www.fondoaccionurgente.org.co/>

#### • Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH-OMCT):

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders is a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH, see above) and the

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT, see below). The collaboration is based on the complementarity of the two organisations' approach and their respective NGO networks. The Observatory provides emergency protection to human rights defenders in the field (urgent interventions, international missions, material assistance); cooperates with national, regional and international inter-governmental protection mechanisms; and mobilises the international community and the media as protection agents for defenders. Every year, the Observatory publishes a global report highlighting the most serious obstacles and threats faced by human rights defenders.  
<http://www.omct.org/human-rights-defenders/>  
<http://www.fidh.org/en/human-rights-defenders/>

#### • Peace Brigades International

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is an international NGO that promotes nonviolence and protects human rights. PBI's volunteers accompany human rights defenders in conflict areas. Protective accompaniment is a strategy pioneered by PBI for protecting human rights defenders and communities whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. It is the organisation at risk which itself must contact PBI with a request of accompaniment, which in turn will lead to a process where the possibility of PBI protection is assessed. It is only if and when PBI enters into contract with the organisation concerned, that PBI can provide personalised responses to requests.  
<http://peacebrigades.org/>

#### • Protection International

Protection International (PI) supports individuals, organisations, networks, and communities whose right to defend human rights is being violated through threats, judicial harassment, stigmatisation, or other forms of repression. PI joins human rights defenders in defining protection tactics and their operationalisation; sets up Protection Desks in countries or regions where defenders are at particular risk in order to accompany the processes to improve human rights defenders' capacity to manage their own security; researches good protection practice and challenges; and translates this into manuals and reports accessible to the human rights defenders' community. PI also advocates for Nation-States to fulfil their obligation to protecting human rights defenders through effective public policies, using the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and other international, regional or national standards.  
<http://protectioninternational.org>

#### • Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) is a network that supports and protects women human rights defenders worldwide in their defence of human rights. The Coalition has 28 members from all over the world, ranging from local, grassroots organisations to large, international organisations. WHRDIC has an Executive Committee, and works through three Working Groups: Documentation and Training; Advocacy; and Urgent Responses.  
<http://www.womenhumanrightsdefenders.org/>

#### • World Organisation Against Torture

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) is an independent coalition of international non-governmental organisations fighting against torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances and all other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. OMCT ensures the dissemination of urgent interventions received from members of the SOS-Torture Network and other partner organisations across the world, in order to prevent serious human rights violations, to protect individuals and to fight against impunity. It also submits individual communications and alternative reports to the United Nations mechanisms. OMCT provides urgent medical, legal and social assistance to victims of torture.  
<http://www.omct.org/>

**Owner organisations:**

- The Atlas Alliance
- Amnesty International Norway
- Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions
- Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations

**About the Norwegian Human Rights Fund:**

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) works to protect and promote human rights internationally through direct support to organisations working in the frontline of defence for human rights where the situation is critical.



[www.nhrf.no](http://www.nhrf.no)