

# HUMAN RIGHTS ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

1988 - 2018

«30 years of direct support to human rights defenders»



## SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN CHANGING AND CHALLENGING TIMES

**DATE** NOVEMBER 13TH, 2018

**TIME** 12:00 - 17:30, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION

**PLACE** NOBEL PEACE CENTER, RÅDHUSPLASSEN, OSLO

This conference addresses the global human rights movement by looking at the past, present and future of human rights work.

Support to human rights in a context of shrinking space, rise of populist regimes and hostile environment lie as a backdrop in the year we celebrate both the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights. What are the consequences for the movement and what are the ground realities for human rights work and defenders working in the frontline in these changing realities? What strategies are used to support and respond to juridical harassment, restriction in freedom of association and expression,

threats, criminalization and killings of human rights defenders? What new tools can be used in our work and what kind of support and strategies are needed looking ahead?

This conference gathers international experts and human rights defenders from a variety of local, national and international contexts, to give us their advice and reflections on how to continue and improve support to human rights work in changing and challenging times. The conference seeks to highlight and celebrate the indispensable work that human rights defenders – individuals, groups and organizations – do every day to promote equality, dignity, justice, peace, sustainable development and freedom in their local communities as well as across the world.

PROGRAM



# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

November 13th, 2018



## 12:00-12:30 Registration

### 12:30 Human Rights Defense - past, present, future

*30 years of support in the frontline for human rights and human rights defenders*

Introduction by Executive Director of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund – Sandra Petersen

*Anniversary reflections and the way forward supporting human rights work*

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Norway) – Audun Halvorsen

*Global and international work for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders – past, present, future*

#### Key speakers:

- UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights – Andrew Gilmour
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders – Michel Forst

#### Questions and answers:

Moderator: Founder of Frontline Defenders and member of the NHRF advisory board – Mary Lawlor

### 14:10-15:15 Ground realities and strategies

– opportunities and challenges for local, national and international actors in the human rights movement

#### Panel:

- Executive director of Human Rights Defenders Fund, Israel – Alma Biblash
- NHRF's local consultant in Colombia – Mildrey Corrales Charry
- Co-founder of Iran Human Rights – Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam
- Founder of Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization, Afghanistan – Horia Mosadiq

#### Moderator:

Director of Amnesty International Norway – John Peder Egenæs

### 15:15-15:30 BREAK

### 15:30-16:25 Solidarity and human rights work across sectors

Across academia, workers movement, the church and the interest group of people with disabilities, the Norwegian Human Rights Fund is a unique example of long-lasting cooperation across sectors and layers of society. In this session, we invite the owner organizations of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund to a conversation of different actors' role in the human rights movement and the fruits of intersectional work.

#### Panel conversation:

- General Secretary of the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations – Berit Hagen Agøy
- Second Vice President of the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) – Roger Haga Heimli
- CEO of the Atlas Alliance – Morten Eriksen
- Head of Department of the Norwegian Center for Human Rights – Gentian Zyberi

#### Moderator:

Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council and co-founder of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund – Jan Egeland

### 16:30-17:30 New tools and strategies

Looking at new tools and new strategies for the human rights movement to support defenders on the ground

- Executive director of Equality Labs – Thenmozhi Soundararajan
- CEO of Memria and co-founder of I Defend Rights – Louis Bickford
- Project manager of the Malmö Rescue Archives – Emelie Wieslander

#### Moderator:

Director of the Nobel Peace Center – Liv Tørres

### Reception from 17:30

Open and informal reception to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund at the Nobel Peace Center, immediately after the program.