

Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018

www.hrdworldsummit.org

Coordination

Louise Levayer - llevayer@amnesty.org
Javier Roura - jroura@protectdefenders.eu

Call to Human Rights Defenders

Context

In 1998 the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, more commonly known as **the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**. The latter recognizes the crucial role that civil society actors play in defending freedoms and human rights across the world and stresses the responsibility of Member States to protect defenders and their work. Today, however, human rights defenders (HRDs) still, and increasingly, are subjected to attacks, harassment, intimidation, enforced disappearances and, even, killings. They are the targets of state and non-state actors that seek to discourage, discredit and disrupt the activities of HRDs to protect their own interests.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, a Consortium of international human rights NGOs, including Amnesty International, AWID, the International Service for Human Rights and the ProtectDefenders.eu members, is organising the **Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018 (29, 30, 31 October 2018 – Paris, France)**. This Summit will constitute an opportunity to review the progress made in the protection of human rights and the work of women and men that defend these rights in all their diversity. By creating a momentum for the voices of HRDs to be heard, the Summit aims at launching an appeal on the international community to reinforce its commitments to protect HRDs, celebrating their work, and raising awareness about their role and the threats they constantly face.

To achieve these objectives, **150 HRDs** from around the world will be brought together and will participate to public and private sessions, plenary sessions, group discussions, round tables, workshops and side-events. Part of this delegation of HRDs will be constituted by a group of individuals selected through a process of **public nominations open to all** audiences and stakeholders.

Find more detailed information on the open-call selection process in the following sections.

Why an open-call?

The open-call selection process allows all interested parties – human rights groups, communities, NGOs, self-candidacies, ... – to nominate a representative HRD. It aims at reaching also the most isolated and less connected defenders, traditionally underrepresented, less visible categories of HRDs and HRDs belonging to categories or profiles of special concern. It, thus, aims at ensuring and reinforcing representativeness, inclusiveness and diversity in the selection of the Summit's participants.



Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018

www.hrdworldsummit.org

Coordination

Louise Levayer - llevayer@amnesty.org
Javier Roura - jroura@protectdefenders.eu

How does the open-call selection work?

To take part to the open-call selection process, all interested parties must send the filled-out application form to assistant@protectdefenders.eu by 1 September 2018. Once the application period is closed and after careful consideration, a limited number of candidates will be short-listed and their candidacies assessed according to the following elements:

- Diversity, balance and representativeness
- Relevance of the profile with the strategic priorities of the summit;
- References and endorsements;
- Ability to engage actively and create impact;
- Communication, language and other skills;
- Potential for a strategic partnership between the applicants or between the applicants' organisations with other organisations.

Once the applications have been assessed, a selected Delegation of HRDs will be officially invited to take part to the **Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018**.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Funding and logistics

Selected defenders will receive funding and logistic support to attend the Summit. Possibilities of co-financing or sponsorship are also welcomed.

Deadline

Open-calls will last to 1 September 2018. Applications received after the closing date will not be taken into account.

Results

Selected defenders will be contacted by 10 September 2018. They will then receive more detailed information.

The Summit

The Summit will take place in Paris at Espace Niemeyer and Palais de Chaillot on 29, 30, 31 October 2018.

