Concept Note

**UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

**2018 Day of General Discussion**

***“Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders”***

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee) decided to devote its 2018 Day of General Discussion (DGD) to the theme “*Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders*”. The discussion will take place on **Friday, 28 September 2018**, during the 79th session of the Committee at **Palais des Nations, in Geneva.**

2. In accordance with rule 79 of its rules of procedures, the Committee has devoted one day of its regular sessions to a general discussion on a specific article of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) or related subject. Since 2012, the DGD has been held every two years.

3. The purpose of the DGD is to **foster a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of the CRC** as they relate to specific topics, **to improve its implementation**. The DGD is a public one-day meeting to which representatives of States, United Nations and regional human rights bodies and agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society and human rights defenders, the business sector, individual experts and not least children are invited to take part.

4. The Committee, with the support of Child Rights Connect and its members, is seeking to **actively engage with children across the world** to get their views about the issues to be discussed at the DGD and how best children might play a prominent role in the discussion. The Committee welcomes the participation of **all children**, including those who are already acting as human rights defenders. This concept note has been developed taking into account the views of children from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America who have been consulted by Child Rights Connect and other stakeholders.

5. More than just a conference in Geneva, the DGD is a long-term project to promote a **global movement for children human rights defenders**. Such movement will catalyse and strengthen existing initiatives to support children human rights defenders, by connecting them to broader initiatives. For example, the international coalition of human rights defenders that the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Special Rapporteur) has been creating around the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (more information below).

6. In this context, the Committee is calling for local, national and regional debates to take place in the lead up to the DGD through the form of “DGD Hubs”. All interested stakeholders can organise such discussions based on the Guidelines for DGD Hubs, which will be available on the Committee’s [2018 DGD Webpage](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2018.aspx).

7. All interested stakeholders can also send **written and other forms of submissions** to the Committee which will be posted on the [Webpage](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crawa%5CDownloads%5C2018%20DGD%20Webpage). As the participation of children is at the core of the DGD, a specific report summarising the inputs from the children engaging in Child Rights Connect’s consultations will be produced in addition to a summary of submissions. Both publications will be made available a few weeks before the DGD. Please see the Guidelines for Submissions on the [2018 DGD Webpage](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2018.aspx).

8. A detailed **programme** of the 2018 DGD will be published at the end of the Committee’s 78th session (14 May - 2 June 2018). The Committee will develop the programme together with a cross-regional [Children’s Advisory Team](http://www.childrightsconnect.org/connect-with-the-un-2/committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child/days-of-general-discussion/). Specific information on how to register to attend the 2018 DGD in Geneva will be included in the programme.

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE 2018 DGD**

9. The 2018 DGD is the first ever global discussion focusing on children human rights defenders. Its main goal is to bring together a **global movement for children human rights defenders** including children, States, National Human Rights Institutions, Children’s Ombudspersons, the UN, civil society and the private sector to increase general awareness and understanding about:

* the **definition** of children human rights defenders, their **role** and **activities**;
* the situation, experiences and the **views of children human rights defenders**;
* the **gaps in international, regional and national human rights law** with regard to the protection and empowerment of children human rights defenders;
* the **States’ obligations** related to the protection and empowerment of children who act as, or want to become, human rights defenders; and
* the **adults’ roles and responsibilities** related to the protection and empowerment of children who act as, or want to become, human rights defenders.

The Children’s Advisory Team, which will help the Committee to develop the DGD programme, will also suggest how the DGD can contribute to create of such a global movement.

10. The DGD is an open and inclusive platform where all participants will work together towards **the following objectives:**

(a) Collect **children’s views about their experiences** as human rights defenders regarding:

* the role that children play as human rights defenders in society;
* what enables children to act as human rights defenders;
* how children want to be empowered and what support they want from adults, including parents and authorities;
* what barriers children human rights defenders face at all levels (local, national, regional, international);
* what are the risks faced by children human rights defenders; and
* what safeguards are necessary to ensure the protection of children human rights defenders.

(b) **Assess legislation, jurisprudence, policies and relevant measures** aimed at protecting or empowering children human rights defenders, by providing examples of good practices and challenges, including from children’s perspectives;

(c) **Clarify the States’ obligations** applicable to children human rights defenders under the CRC and existing standards on human rights defenders;

(d) Identify **key elements for an effective implementation of a child rights approach** to the situation of children who are, or want to become, human rights defenders, including specific recommendations for duty bearers that can inform the Committee’s recommendations to States.

**III. CHILD RIGHTS APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

**Who are children human rights defenders?**

11. Article 1 of the CRC defines a **'child' as a person below the age of 18**. The Committee emphasizes that States parties should respect and ensure the rights embodied in the CRC to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, taking into account children’s development and their evolving capacities[[1]](#footnote-1). While youth is often highlighted in the UN human rights discourse, those under 18 need separate attention and protection because they are entitled to children’s rights.

12. Article 1 of 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” – the so-called “UN [Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Translation.aspx)” (Declaration) – states that “**everyone has the right**, individually and in association with others, **to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights** and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels”. Anyone **who acts at any moment for any human right** is a defender. **Defenders are identified above all by what they do and not by who they are.** Their actions are wide-ranging and include promoting the realisation of human rights, collecting and disseminating information on human rights violations, supporting victims, contributing to the implementation of human rights treaties, and supporting better governance and accountability. There is no minimum age or standard required to be a defender; however, human rights defenders must conduct peaceful actions, accept the universality of human rights and act in compliance with the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

13. Based on this framework, **children who take action to promote their human rights, the rights of their peers or the rights of others (including adults) are human rights defenders,** even if theydo not consider themselves or are not considered and called as such by others. Those children are human rights defenders **no matter whether they focus their actions** at local, national, regional or international level, **and no matter whether they act** in their own countries or in other countries, like in the case of migrant and refugee children, for example. Children human rights defenders do not defend human rights solely by reacting to violations of human rights but also by proactively promoting human rights, by raising awareness and knowledge of the CRC for example. They are human rights defenders if they do specific actions, such as events or campaigns, or if they undertake on-going advocacy. Children human rights defenders form and speak their own views.

**Examples of children human rights defenders**

14. There are numerous examples across the world of children acting as human rights defenders at local, national and international level. The Committee is directly witnessing these examples when children human rights defenders engage in its work, particularly in the CRC reporting process. Most of those children are engaged at local and national level in monitoring and advocacy initiatives with the support of civil society, UNICEF or State institutions, such as children’s Ombudspersons and National Human Rights Institutions. Governmental authorities also play a key role in encouraging and supporting such initiatives, including through the creation of safe and appropriate spaces for children’s civic and political engagement and their participation in public policy and accountability processes.

15. **Children are active in all countries,** by forming groups and associations, engaging in children’s Parliaments and youth clubs, undertaking campaigns such as collecting signatures of the public on the streets, holding consultations with politicians, exercising their rights to peaceful assembly, or taking action for human rights through the means of information and communication technology. Most of the children consulted so far for the DGD feel the need to be defenders within their families and schools, and when they do so it is usually when they see other children suffering. They think they are best placed to understand their challenges and stand up for the rights of the most disadvantaged children, such as children with disabilities, children in need of special care and support, children in alternative care, refugee children, street children, children who are bullied by their peers, children who are victims of corporal punishment, abuse or exploitation.

16. The 2016 DGD on Children’s Rights and the Environment was a major opportunity to engage with children who act as human rights defenders. Given the particular challenges, including violent attacks faced by the children who act to defend the environment, the Committee issued a specific recommendation that “States should provide a safe and enabling environment for activists defending environmental rights, and owe a heightened duty of care to activists below the age of 18”[[2]](#footnote-2).

17. Just as adult human rights defenders, children are exposed to risk of threats, attacks and other negative consequences linked to their activities as human rights defenders. The case of Malala Yousafzai is probably the most widely known example of such circumstances, but indeed not the only one. The Special Rapporteur has denounced specific cases where children have been subjected to extra-judicial killings[[3]](#footnote-3), excessive use of force, arbitrary arrest, detention, unwarranted charges and prosecution, torture and ill-treatment[[4]](#footnote-4). The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association has also decried that **children are often targeted because they actively lobby for the rights of those most at risk** of discrimination and retribution[[5]](#footnote-5), including indigenous children peacefully demonstrating against occupation of their lands[[6]](#footnote-6) as well as children participating in anti-Government protests[[7]](#footnote-7).

18. A study conducted by Save the Children and the Centre for Children’s Rights at Queen’s University with 1.600 children from 60 countries found that only 34% of children felt safe expressing their views in public and only 38% felt safe joining a public protest or demonstration[[8]](#footnote-8). Children consulted for the DGD told the Committee that they fear being harassed if they speak up and that if children are not allowed or supported to form their own associations, their role as human rights defenders cannot be fulfilled. Children face challenges in family and school settings as well, where they often cannot find the necessary information and support to act as defenders.

**Rights of children human rights defenders**

19. Children human rights defenders have the same rights **articulated in the Declaration** as adult defenders. In addition, all children human rights defenders, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, should be able to exercise **all the rights enshrined in the CRC** according to their evolving capacities (art. 5 of CRC) and best interests (art. 3 of CRC).While the **CRC** does not specifically mention children human rights defenders, it provides the **full spectrum of rights** needed for children to become and act as human rights defenders, and recognizes that children are entitled to **empowerment** measures, based on their right to be heard (art. 12 of CRC), participate in decision-making and exercising their civil and political rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, 13-17, 19 and 37 (a) of CRC). This should be the case for those children who are already acting as human rights defenders. More generally, the guarantee of these rights creates the necessary conditions for **all children** to be able to act as human rights defenders. The Committee has acknowledged the role of children as “promoters and defenders of children’s rights in their daily lives” in its first General Comment (2001) on the aims of education[[9]](#footnote-9).

20. As articulated in the CRC, **all children are entitled to** **special protection and empowerment** due to their special and dependent status. However, striking the balance between empowerment and protection when it comes to children human rights defenders can be particularly challenging and the best interest principle can be difficult to determine. Furthermore, every child is affected differently by the same human rights violation, because of his/her opinion, evolving capacities, age, nationality, background, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. This must be taken into account when affording protection and support to children who are or want to be human rights defenders. A **child rights approach that recognizes the evolving capacities** needs to be grounded within the domestic legal and policy framework of States, the work of the United Nations and other multilateral and regional organisations, the private sector and civil society as a whole, to ensure that children who act as human rights defenders, or want to become human rights defenders, can do so based on their human rights as defined by the CRC.

21. The child rights approach starts with the **recognition of children as holders of human rights and subjects of their own rights**, as opposed to objects of concern, good will or charity. The principles and rights outlined in the international human rights framework apply to children. In addition, the CRC sets global human rights standards for every person under the age of 18.

22. **Children must be recognised as human rights defenders, when they act as such**. As highlighted by the Special Rapporteur, “without being perceived by others or perceiving themselves as such, defenders may not be aware of their rights as defenders, not seek support from peers and support networks and may not receive protection from States, civil society and the international community”[[10]](#footnote-10). This is more relevant for children whose identity is often influenced by the way adults perceive them. While most of the children consulted so far for the DGD told the Committee that they see themselves as human rights defenders, they also said that many of the adults they are in contact with do not want them to be defenders, either because they want to protect them (“allowing them to be children”) or because they do not believe in their capacities and do not take them seriously. While some children highlighted their experiences of being supported by NGOs and their parents, others said they feel underestimated, judged and disrespected by adults as well as by their peers.

23. **Children must be empowered to act as defenders, if they wish to do so.** All children who wish to act as defenders have the right to be empowered by adults without discrimination (art. 2 of CRC) and according to their evolving capacities (art. 5 of CRC), abilities (art. 23 of CRC) and best interests (art. 3 of CRC). Children should be able to: a) enhance their knowledge of human rights and their self-esteem; b) build their strength through collaboration; c) actively engage in the realisation of their rights, in particular their right to be heard and to participate (art. 12 of CRC), their freedom of expression, thought, association and peaceful assembly (art. 13 of CRC), their right to access information (art. 17 of CRC) and education (arts. 28 and 29 of CRC), and their right to name, nationality and identity (arts. 7 and 8 of CRC). Most of the children consulted for the DGD confirmed the results of recent research establishing that children’s ability to engage in political and public affairs depends largely on the extent to which their civil and political rights are fulfilled[[11]](#footnote-11). They also highlighted the role of children human rights defenders in empowering other children as well as the critical importance of access to information and better education and training as the cornerstone for children to increase their understanding of human rights and the role of human rights defenders.

24. Children who are becoming or acting as human rights defenders need a **heightened duty of care** through specific safeguards**.** With the general principles of the CRC (non-discrimination (art. 2 of CRC), best interests (art. 3 of CRC), right to life, survival and development (art. 6 of CRC) and respect for the views of the child (art. 12 of CRC)) guiding the interpretation and implementation of all other rights, special protection measures should ensure a “**holistic security**” for children. This means ensuring that children are not subjected to any human rights violations – whether they relate to physical, psychological or digital environments – as a consequence of their actions as human rights defenders or their interest and initiatives towards becoming defenders. Children human rights defenders should be protected by adults and be taught how to protect themselves. While all types of empowerment activities should take place with a clear protection priority, protection should notbe an argument for keeping children unaware or unable to engage. Rather, **protection should focus on enabling children to be active in a safe and secure manner**. As highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur, “a good practice in protecting human rights defenders is a practice that contributes to the full respect of their rights and strengthen their security, including by mitigating the risks they face, addressing threats and building support for their work”[[12]](#footnote-12).

25. In accordance with Article 12 of the CRC, States parties should guarantee children the right to express views on all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, and ensure their views are given due weight. In its General Comment No. 20 (2016) on the rights of the child during adolescence[[13]](#footnote-13), the Committee has stated that children must be involved in the **development, implementation and monitoring of all relevant legislation**, policies, services and programmes affecting their lives, at school and at the community, local, national and international levels. The Committee has also emphasized the importance of participation as a means of **political and civil engagement** through which adolescents can negotiate and advocate for the realization of their rights, and hold States accountable.

26. The principle of **non-discrimination** (art. 2 of CRC) should underpin all empowerment and protection measures. Children should have **equal opportunities** to become and act as human rights defenders if they wish to do so, and should not be discriminated against either because of their race, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, abilities, religion, opinion, background, or because of their actions as defenders. Additional empowerment and protection measures should be provided for children in particularly vulnerable situations, such as children with disabilities, indigenous children or children belonging to minority, refugee and migrant children, victims of human rights violations, children deprived of liberty, children in alternative care, children in conflict with law and children in conflict situations.

27. Children should be able to participate in **accountability** mechanisms and have access to **effective remedies** for violations of their rights as human rights defenders,whether at national, regional and international levels. This implies providing all children with information about their rights and where to seek redress in a child friendly manner; ensuring their access to support services, legal and paralegal aid; and adapting judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, including National Human Rights Institutions, to children’s particular rights and needs. In this context, it is important that States ratify the [Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPICCRC.aspx), as children within the jurisdiction of a State party to the Protocol can claim their rights directly before the Committee.

28. A child rights approach to human rights defenders strengthens the ultimate idea that we should all have the opportunity to be human rights defenders if we so wish. In the same way that human rights education is intended as a lifelong and participatory process of developing knowledge, skills and attitudes which prompt behaviour to defend and promote human rights[[14]](#footnote-14), encouraging and empowering all persons, including children, to be human rights defenders, can be a way to **prevent human rights violations** and build societies that are rooted in all the human rights enshrined in the CRC. Children are calling for societies to acknowledge the positive role of human rights defenders, especially children.

**IV. CONTEXT OF THE 2018 DGD**

**The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**

29. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders is the result of a collective effort by States and civil society and is addressed to everyone. It tells us that **we all have a role to fulfil as human rights defenders** – given our duties towards our communities – and emphasizes that any person or group of persons working to promote human rights can be considered a defender. Defenders can be of **any age** and **gender,** from any part of the world and from all backgrounds. They can work through professional or non-professional activities and can act to address any human right on behalf of individuals or groups, be it civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights (art. 18)[[15]](#footnote-15).

30. The Declaration does not create new rights but instead articulates existing rights, including those enshrined in the CRC, in a way that makes it easier to apply them to the practical role and situation of human rights defenders. It reiterates, for example, the **right to seek, obtain, receive and hold information relating to human rights** (art. 6a) while providing for the **right to develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate for their acceptance** (art. 7).

31. It also outlines specific **duties of States**, including the teaching of human rights (art. 15) and the protection of everyone against any violence, threats, retaliation, adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his, her or their legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the Declaration (art. 12). It then highlights the obligation to adopt legislative, administrative and any other necessary steps to implement the Declaration (arts. 2.2 and 3).

**Implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**

32. In the past 20 years, States have made numerous **commitments to promote and protect the rights of human rights defenders**, which have been captured in General Assembly and Human Rights Council [resolutions](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Resolutions.aspx). One of these[[16]](#footnote-16) has established the **UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders[[17]](#footnote-17)** whose mandate is to monitor the situation of human rights defenders and recommend effective strategies to better protect defenders through [annual reports](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx), [country visits](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/CountryVisits.aspx) and [individual complaints](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Complaints.aspx).

33. In recent years, a number of States have enacted **specific laws and policies on human rights defenders**, to provide enhanced protection and public recognition of the vital work of human rights defenders[[18]](#footnote-18). The [**Model Law for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders**](http://www.ishr.ch/news/groundbreaking-model-law-recognise-and-protect-human-rights-defenders) was developed by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and endorsed by 28 leading experts from all regions, encouraging the domestication of the Declaration. Furthermore, several States and inter-governmental bodies have adopted specific Guidelines for their diplomatic missions on the protection of human rights defenders[[19]](#footnote-19).

34. As highlighted by the ISHR, “success (*of the law*) is highly contingent on close civil society engagement in the development of the law, adequately-resourced provisions which give full force and effect to the Declaration, and high-level political support for the effective implementation of the law”[[20]](#footnote-20). **Children human rights defenders should be involved** in the development of national legislations and policies on human rights defenders as the CRC explicitly provides the right of the child to be heard on all the matters of concern to them (art. 12 of CRC).

35. The current reality described by the Special Rapporteur in his last [Annual report](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/011/75/PDF/G1701175.pdf?OpenElement) is that the Declaration is not properly implemented on the ground. Defenders “face unprecedented attacks intended to undermine the legitimacy, credibility and sincerity of their commitment”, irrespective of the country or the area of human rights involved. Such attacks are increasingly due to “major institutional weaknesses” and a growing number of actors (State and non-State) who adopt “**ever more sophisticated strategies and tools to undermine human rights work**”.

**20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**

36. The year 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders as well as the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The DGD will build on this opportunity to accelerate the realisation of the rights of children human rights defenders. **States have reaffirmed the importance of promoting respect and support for the activities of human rights defenders** through a new UN General Assembly [resolution](http://undocs.org/A/C.3/72/L.50) adopted by consensus in 2017 (A/RES/72/247) and focusing on the implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The resolution requests the UN Secretary-General to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, including Treaty Bodies and the Special Rapporteur and human rights defenders, to compile, assess and report on **examples of how the Declaration is implemented at the national level and taken into account by the UN human rights system**.

37. The UN Secretary-General will present his report to the General Assembly at a **high level plenary meeting** which will take place at the end of 2018 in New York and therefore the consultations around the DGD, including inputs from children human rights defenders, will inform such report and related activities, to ensure that **children become part of the human rights defenders’ movement**. This is fundamental to ensure that changes on the ground will upholds the obligations and standards enshrined both in the CRC, its Optional Protocols and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

38. The DGD will also feed into the UN **2019 High-Level Political Forum** on sustainable development themed “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. One of the set goals to be reviewed in-depth is Goal 16, target 16.10 on fundamental freedoms and access to information. The role that human rights defenders play in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is widely recognized, and the DGD will directly contribute to the recognition and understanding of the role of children human rights defenders.

**V. RESULTS AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE DGD**

39. After the DGD, the Committee will issue a report of the DGD on the key points of the DGD discussions and specific recommendations targeting different stakeholders. It will provide **initial authoritative guidance** for:

* **Children** to exercise their rights as human rights defenders;
* **Adults** (including parents, guardians, teachers, and other relevant professionals) to respect and support children who are, or want to become, human rights defenders
* **States** to understand their obligationsand develop effective protection and empowerment mechanisms for children human rights defenders at local, national and international level;
* **Children’s Ombudspersons** and **NHRIs** toplay a prominent role in strengthening the legal statusof children human rights defenders and helping them claim their rights and access to remedies;
* **UNICEF** to promote the recognition of children human rights defenders;
* the **UN** toinclude the voices of children human rights defenders and strengthen the accountability of UN member States;
* **Civil society** to work with children human rights defenders and support their initiatives;
* The **media** to report on children human rights defenders with a child rights approach; and
* The **private sector** to prevent violations of and promote the rights of children human rights defenders.

**VI. APPROACH AND FORMAT OF THE 2018 DGD**

40. The DGD is a one-day discussion focusing on the current realities of children human rights defenders and children who wish to become human rights defenders, from all over the world and their different environments. Throughout the day children will actively participate in the discussions and share their views to inform participants of their perspective.

41. Children human rights defenders will first share their views on their role as defenders, as well as their rights, needs, challenges and opportunities. The discussion will then try to identify what needs to change or be promoted within the different environments in which children live and act as defenders, namely their immediate surroundings (family, school, community, etc.), their country (State), their region (regional) and the UN system (international). The programme of the DGD, which will be developed with a Children’s Advisory Team, will give more detailed information on the different sessions and will be published on the Committee’s Webpage in June 2018.

42. All stakeholders supporting children engaging in the DGD should follow the Committee’s nine

requirements for safe and meaningful participation provided by General Comment No. 12 (2011) on the right of the child to be heard, namely:

(a) Transparent and informative;

(b) Voluntary;

(c) Respectful;

(d) Relevant;

(e) Child-friendly;

(f) Inclusive;

(g) Supported by training;

(h) Safe and sensitive to risk; and

(i) Accountable.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2018.aspx>

1. [General comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGC%2f20&Lang=en) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Report of the 2016 DGD](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2016/DGDoutcomereport-May2017.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.protecting-defenders.org/en/news/un-experts-urge-philippines-stop-attacks-and-killings-anti-drugs-campaign> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [A/HRC/34/52/Add. 1](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/038/21/PDF/G1703821.pdf?OpenElement)  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [A/HRC/26/29](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/FAssociation/A-HRC-26-29_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [A/HRC/32/36/Add.1](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/237/79/PDF/G1623779.pdf?OpenElement) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [A/HRC/32/36/Add.3](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/124/22/PDF/G1612422.pdf?OpenElement) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [Centre for Children’s Rights and Save the Children (2016), Enabling the exercise of civil and political rights: The Views of Children, and Centre for Children’s Rights](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/enabling-exercise-civil-and-political-rights-views-children)  [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [General Comment No. 1 on the aims of education](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fGC%2f2001%2f1&Lang=en)  [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [A/HRC/31/55](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/015/56/PDF/G1601556.pdf?OpenElement) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [Centre for Children’s Rights and Save the Children (2016), Enabling the exercise of civil and political rights: The Views of Children, and Centre for Children’s Rights](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/enabling-exercise-civil-and-political-rights-views-children)  [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [A/HRC/31/55](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/015/56/PDF/G1601556.pdf?OpenElement) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [General Comment No. 20 on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGC%2f20&Lang=en) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. [OHCHR (2015). The Role of Prevention in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session30/Documents/A_HRC_30_20_ENG.docx)  [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. See also [OHCHR definition](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx) of human rights defenders. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. [Resolution 2000/61](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/CHR/resolutions/E-CN_4-RES-2000-61.doc). More information on [OHCHR webpage](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Mandate.aspx)  [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. For more information visits the Special Rapporteur’s website <https://www.protecting-defenders.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. As of February 2018, specific laws on the protection of human rights defenders have been adopted in Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Philippines. Draft laws exist in Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone <http://www.ishr.ch/news/legal-recognition-protection>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. As of February 2018, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, the European Union, OSCE, Norway, and Finland. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. #  Phil Lynch, [Six key insights to increase the chances of success in the protection of human rights defenders](http://www.ishr.ch/news/six-key-insights-increase-chances-success-protection-human-rights-defenders)Six key insights to increase the chances of success in the protection of human rights defenders

 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)