

DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

RIGHTS OF HRDs

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders emphasises that everyone **HAS THE RIGHT** to work on or engage in **PEACEFUL ACTIVITIES** aimed at the **PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**.
(Article 1, 11)

State and non-state actors have deterred Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from claiming their fundamental rights. However, it is important to know that as a HRD you have the **RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED** from human rights violations and **TO BENEFIT FROM EFFECTIVE REMEDIES**.
(Article 9.1)

RECLAIMING YOUR RIGHTS

COMMON PRACTICES USED TO DISCOURAGE HRDS IN ASIA FROM CLAIMING THEIR RIGHTS, AND THE ARTICLES IN THE DECLARATION HRDS CAN USE TO CHALLENGE THESE REPRESSIVE ACTIONS

TRENDS OF REPRESSIVE ACTION



Some states impose travel bans on HRDs to discourage them from meeting and engaging with human rights organisations

Some HRDs who seek or reveal information about human rights violations often face threats to their lives

A few states disregard complaints submitted by HRDs about the state's inadequate action on addressing human rights issues

There are states that do not accept complaints about human rights violations or provide the necessary support for victims to get justice

YOUR RIGHTS

Right to communicate with any international human rights mechanisms such as the United Nations (Article 5c, 9.4)

Right to seek, receive and share information on human rights issues (Article 6a & b, 9.3b)

Right to submit complaints about authorities' compliance with international human rights laws (Article 8.2, 9.3)

Right to file legal complaints, seek legal advice, and be fairly treated by the judicial system in addressing human rights violations (Article 2, 3a, 9.3c)

FORUM-ASIA recognises the need to address the on-going violations against and criminalisation of HRDs, who play a key role in ensuring that everyone's human rights are protected and fulfilled. To this end, on the 20th year anniversary of the Declaration on HRDs, FORUM-ASIA is producing visual materials that emphasise the importance of HRDs and their contributions, the rights they have, and the responsibilities of others towards HRDs, under the Declaration.