Support by Diplomats and Foreign Missions

Some governments have issued guidelines for their diplomatic staff at embassies and foreign missions on how to support local human rights defenders. Some of these guidelines can be publicly accessed, while some cannot. Support by diplomats and foreign missions can include monitoring the local human rights situation, funding civil society, raising awareness, trial monitoring and prison visits, emergency assistance, temporary relocation, etc. Governments and institutions with public guidelines on supporting human rights defenders include EU, Norway, Canada and Ireland.

Denmark does not have publicly accessible guidelines. It is, however, a good idea to contact the local Danish embassy to get updated information on the security situation and recent context developments as well as advice on how to react in cases of shrinking civic space and human rights violations.

Governments and institutions with public guidelines on supporting human rights defenders include

- EU
- Norway
- Canada
- Ireland

UN Mechanisms for Reporting Human Rights Violations

United Nations (UN) Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. They manage complaints of human rights violations, conduct country visits, release statements, and engage in raising public awareness. The experts report annually to the Human Rights Council, and the majority of the mandates also report to the UN General Assembly. Read more about the Special Procedures here.

Any individual, group, civil-society organization, intergovernmental entity or national human rights bodies can submit information to the Special Procedures. Submission of information is done through the Special Procedure Submission online form.

Submit information: Special Procedure Submission online form

Read more about the Special Procedures here.

Learn More



Resources About Fragile Contexts

- Read more about fragile contexts on the CISU webpage
- Read more about the dimensions of fragile context on the OECD webpage under the Fragility Framework.

Resources About Shrinking Civic Space



- Read more about shrinking civic space on Global Focus' webpage
- Read more about shrinking civic space on CISU's webpage
- Read more about protecting human rights under pressure on the Danish Institute for Human Rights' webpage
- Read more about the latest political trends around the civic space in European Civic Forum's "Civic Space report 2025"
- Follow civic space scores and the monitoring of human rights violations with CIVICUS' monitoring tool

Tools to Explore



- The right to defend rights is a monitoring tool by the Danish Institute for Human Rights
- The Digital Rights Check by the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Courses such as "HEAT", "Crisis Management" and "Travel Safe" by Travel & Risk
- Emergency funds such as rapid response mechanisms from Global Focus' Claim Your Space.