

March 2018

**Ryerson University Institute for the Study of Corporate Social Responsibility**  
**Selected Resources Concerning Support for Human Resources Defenders<sup>1</sup>**

In the spirit of constructive engagement, the following is a selected list of inter-governmental, governmental, private sector, and civil society instruments and documents, reports and initiatives concerning human rights defenders. The list is intended to assist those interested in better understanding the HRD/support issue and in assessing the current situation and prospects for optimally addressing the situation. The list is provided on the express understanding that the Ryerson University Institute for the Study of Corporate Social Responsibility is making no particular assertion about the probity or correctness of any claims made or positions taken in any listed document, nor is a listing indicative of approval of any of the entities who make HRD related claims or take HRD-related positions. Within each category (e.g., inter-governmental, governmental, private sector, civil society), items are not listed in any particular order. Suggestions for improvements and comments on the list are welcome. Email: Dr. Kernaghan Webb, [kernaghan.webb@ryerson.ca](mailto:kernaghan.webb@ryerson.ca)

**Inter-governmental**

United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/53/144](#) adopting the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1999)

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/N9977089.pdf>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (HRDs)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx>

Concept Note: Special Rapporteur on HRDs Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders Working in the Field of Business and Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Defenders/DefendersBusinessHR/ConceptNote.pdf>

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Report to United Nations General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur on HRDs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders (August 2017)

<http://undocs.org/a/72/170>

Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (FOI & E):

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/OpinionIndex.aspx>

UN Special Rapporteur on FOI & E Report on the role of digital access providers (June 2017):

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/077/46/PDF/G1707746.pdf?OpenElement>

UN OHCHR Commentary to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Defenders/CommentarytoDeclarationondefendersJuly2011.pdf>

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights (B&HR) project/consultation on support for human rights defenders

Thematic page:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/HRDefendersCivicSpace.aspx>

Background note:

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ForumSession6/UNWG\\_ProjectHRDsBackgroundNote12052017.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ForumSession6/UNWG_ProjectHRDsBackgroundNote12052017.pdf)

Blog:

<https://business-humanrights.org/en/protecting-and-respecting-those-who-speak-up-against-business-impacts-on-human-rights-takeaways-from-the-un-forum-and-the-way-forward>

Discussion paper, call for Inputs (until March 15, 2018):

[http://www.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Issues/Business/HRD\\_Guidance\\_UNGPS.pdf&action=default](http://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Issues/Business/HRD_Guidance_UNGPS.pdf&action=default)

Summary of expert workshop (Geneva, May, 2017)

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/Session18/WorkshopSummaryConsultationHRDefenders.pdf>

Summary of multistakeholder consultation (Geneva, November, 2017)

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ScalingUpInitiativesProtectHRDefenders\\_30Nov2017.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ScalingUpInitiativesProtectHRDefenders_30Nov2017.pdf)

Concept Note for consultations with States (February 2018):

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ConsultationWithStates21Feb2018\\_ConceptNote.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ConsultationWithStates21Feb2018_ConceptNote.pdf)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders:

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/guidelines-on-the-protection-of-human-rights-defenders?download=true>

Council of Europe: Guidelines on Protecting human rights online for internet intermediaries (March 2018)

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/-/recommendation-on-the-roles-and-responsibilities-of-internet-intermediaries-adopted-by-the-council-of-europe-committee-of-ministers>

European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders:

[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu\\_guidelines\\_hrd\\_en.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu_guidelines_hrd_en.pdf)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Report on the situation of human rights defenders in the hemisphere

<http://www.cidh.org/countryrep/defensores/defensorescap5.htm>

United Nations Global Compact:

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/4721>

OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises:

<http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/48004323.pdf>

### **Governmental**

Global Affairs Canada (GAC): **Voices at risk: Canada's guidelines (for GAC officials) on supporting human rights defenders** (2017) –

[http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_developpement-enjeux\\_developpement/human\\_rights-droits\\_homme/rights\\_defenders\\_guide\\_defenseurs\\_droits.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/rights_defenders_guide_defenseurs_droits.aspx?lang=eng)

Government of the Netherlands Speech by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in Support of Human Rights Defenders, Lilianne Ploumen, at the International Business and Human Rights Conference (19 April 2017)

<https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2017/04/19/speech-minister-ploumen-on-international-business-and-human-rights>

Government of the Netherlands, Gilles Goedhart, Senior Human Rights Policy Officer at Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs :

<https://business-humanrights.org/en/breaking-through-the-impasse-corporate-human-rights-defenders-at-the-un-forum>

Swiss Guidelines for the Foreign Service on Protection of Human Rights Defenders (2013)

[https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/publications/MenschenrechtshumanitaerePolitikundMigration/Leitlinien-zum-Schutz-von-HRD\\_en](https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/publications/MenschenrechtshumanitaerePolitikundMigration/Leitlinien-zum-Schutz-von-HRD_en)

Norway Guide for the Foreign Service on Supporting Human Rights Defenders (2010):

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/b7384abb48db487885e216bf53d30a3c/veiledningmrforkjengelskfin.pdf>

Colombian Information System on Attacks against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia (SIADDHH)

<http://somosdefensores.org/attachments/article/137/el-cambio-informe-somosdefensores2015.pdf>

Guatemalan Unit for the Protection of Defenders in Guatemala:

[http://udefegua.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/08/informe\\_final\\_2015.pdf](http://udefegua.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/08/informe_final_2015.pdf)

### **Private Sector**

Adidas Group: **Policy in Support of Human Rights Defenders** (2016)

[https://www.adidas-group.com/media/filer\\_public/f0/c5/f0c582a9-506d-4b12-85cf-bd4584f68574/adidas\\_group\\_and\\_human\\_rights\\_defenders\\_2016.pdf](https://www.adidas-group.com/media/filer_public/f0/c5/f0c582a9-506d-4b12-85cf-bd4584f68574/adidas_group_and_human_rights_defenders_2016.pdf)

Coca Cola Company **Human Rights Defenders** (February 2018)

<http://www.coca-colacompany.com/stories/human-rights-defenders-and-the-coca-cola-company>

Tiffany & Co, Brilliant Earth and Leber Jeweller Support of Human Rights Defenders (2017):

<https://business-humanrights.org/en/tiffany-co-brilliant-earth-and-leber-jeweler-support-rafael-marques-in-angola>

Apparel Industry MSI Quick Response Group (Adidas, arena, Fair Labor Association, Fair Wear Association, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Puma):

[http://www.fairlabor.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/letter\\_to\\_prime\\_minister\\_hun\\_sen\\_oct\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fairlabor.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/letter_to_prime_minister_hun_sen_oct_2017.pdf)

Global Network Initiative (information communications technology forum re: protecting and advancing free expression and privacy online)

<https://www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/>

Business for Social Responsibility (BSR):

[https://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR\\_Rights\\_Holder\\_Engagement.pdf](https://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR_Rights_Holder_Engagement.pdf)

Google:

<https://www.google.com/nonprofits/stories/witness.html>

Yahoo:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Expression/Telecommunications/Yahoo.pdf>

Unilever:

<https://allrohingyanow.org/media/unilever-responds-rohingya-activists-campaign/>

S Group:

<https://innovation-forum.co.uk/analysis.php?s=thai-court-case-thats-redefining-corporate-activist-relationships>

ICMM Statement of Support for Human Rights Defenders (2017):

<https://www.icmm.com/protect-hr-defenders>

### **Civil Society**

Global Witness July 2017 “Defenders of Earth” report

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defenders-earth/>

Business and Human Rights Resource Centre continually updated coverage:

<https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/human-rights-defenders/latest-news-on-human-rights-defenders>

Institute for Human Rights and Business:

<https://www.ihrb.org/uploads/reports/2015-12-Human-Rights-Defenders-and-Business.pdf>

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FDFH):

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders>

Civicus:

<https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/SOCS/2017/essays/human-rights-defenders-under-attack-the-role-of-business-in-protecting-their-space.pdf>

Frontline Defenders:

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/violation/killing>

EarthRights International:

<https://earthrights.org/what-we-do/earth-rights-defenders/>

Greenpeace:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/archive-international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/there-are-no-human-rights-on-a-dead-planet/blog/48953/>

Amnesty International (Canada):

<http://www.amnesty.ca/category/issue/human-rights-defenders>

International Service for Human Rights

<http://www.ishr.ch/>

Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA)

<http://cnca-rcrce.ca/about-us/what-we-do/>

Human Rights Watch:

<https://www.hrw.org/tag/human-rights-defenders>

Above Ground:

<http://aboveground.ngo/>

Peace Brigades

<https://www.peacebrigades.org/en/human-rights-defenders-fighting-impunity>

Charities Aid Foundation:

<https://www.cafonline.org/about-us/publications/2016-publications/beyond-integrity>

MiningWatch

<http://miningwatch.ca/>

Oxfam International: The Risks of Defending Human Rights Defenders (2016):

<https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bn-el-riesgo-de-defender-251016-en.pdf>

David Suzuki Foundation:

<http://bluedot.ca/stories/making-federal-environmental-rights-reality/>