



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Supporting human rights defenders
Strengthening human rights systems
Achieving human rights change

Message from the Chairperson and Director

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Human rights defenders are the life blood of the human rights movement and at the heart of ISHR's work.

As ISHR Board member Hina Jilani, the UN's first Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, has said, governments may have the legal obligations to respect and protect human rights, but it is the courageous people challenging injustice who ensure

these obligations are fulfilled. 'Bridging the gap between lofty human rights agreements and the situation on the ground, they inform and educate the public on their rights, demand accountability from governments, and expose atrocities and violations,' she says. 'They carry out these activities despite being subject to harassment, detention, torture and even assassination.'

For almost 30 years ISHR has worked tirelessly and tenaciously to support human rights defenders and to make international and regional human rights systems more accessible and effective as levers for change.

Even by these high standards, 2013 was a year of profound impact.

Working in partnership with human rights activists, non-governmental organisations and progressive

States, we secured the adoption of the UN's first ever resolution on women human rights defenders. And we spearheaded efforts for the Human Rights Council to adopt landmark resolutions on the prevention of reprisals and the expansion of civil society space.

Building on decades of expertise, we provided intensive training and advocacy support to human rights defenders at risk from all over the world, from China to Côte d'Ivoire. Our work with human rights defenders from Syria helped focus the international community's attention on war crimes and crimes against humanity in that country. Similarly, our efforts to bring eleven gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists from around the world to Geneva ensured that diplomats and decision-makers heard first-hand evidence of the extent and impacts of homophobic violence and discrimination.



We're proud of our achievements in 2013, but with your generous support in 2014 we'll do even more to protect human rights defenders and achieve human rights change.

With a worsening incidence of attacks against those who expose and ensure accountability for corporate human rights violations, our agenda-setting advocacy work will put the protection of human rights defenders at the core of the business and human rights framework.

Throughout 2014 we'll roll out an ambitious project to develop a model national law for human rights defenders. The legal recognition and protection of defenders is a critical factor contributing to their safety and security. ISHR's model law will help ensure that the international Declaration on Human Rights Defenders – the 1998 adoption of which was the culmination of over a decade of relentless ISHR advocacy – is effectively implemented at the national level.

We'll also provide our unique high-quality training to a new generation of human rights defenders and experts. ISHR's training alumni include the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association, Burkina Faso's Minister for Human Rights, and the directors of leading human rights organisations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. In 2014 we'll build on this legacy, expanding ISHR's contribution to the development of international and regional human rights systems and networks.

None of this is possible without the support of people like you who are committed to human rights and the protection of the brave people who defend them. Thank you for being such an important part of ISHR's work to support human rights defenders, strengthen human rights systems and achieve human rights change.

Rosemary McCreery
Chairperson

Philip Lynch
Director

1

How we work and what we work on

Our proven methodology

With a 30-year track record to show it, ISHR uses a proven methodology to protect individual human rights defenders and achieve systemic human rights change.



Support

We support human rights defenders – the agents of human rights change – by providing them with intensive training, strategic advice and advocacy assistance. Our extensive research and lobbying helps ensure that defenders can operate in a safe and enabling environment which respects and protects their courageous work.

Strengthen

We strengthen international and regional human rights systems, making them more accessible to human rights defenders and more powerful as levers for human rights change. Our research, advocacy and outreach helps to protect space for human rights defenders, to amplify their voices, and to protect them from attacks and reprisals when they speak out in defence of rights.

Lead

We build and lead networks and coalitions because our experience demonstrates that human rights defenders and organisations who work in strategic partnerships are the most effective in achieving positive and sustainable human rights change.

Focusing on those who are most at risk

Our work focuses on those human rights defenders who are most marginalised or at risk, where our support can protect and strengthen them as agents of change.

In 2013 this included women human rights defenders and those working on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, human rights defenders working to expose and secure accountability for corporate human rights abuses, and human rights defenders in States undergoing major transition or change.

2

Strengthening laws and policies to protect human rights defenders and end reprisals

Context of our work

In all regions of the world human rights defenders face threats, attacks and reprisals for their work to expose human rights violations and obtain justice for victims. Increasingly, defenders in many regions are also subject to unreasonable limitations of their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

In 2013, ISHR's research, lobbying and advocacy focused on strengthening the legal recognition

and protection of human rights defenders at the international, regional and national levels. We work to ensure that defenders can operate in a safe, supportive environment and be free from attacks, reprisals and unreasonable legal restrictions.

Impact of our work

UN Human Rights Council calls for States to end the criminalisation of human rights defenders



An ISHR hosted discussion on reprisals at the UN Human Rights Council.

The use and misuse of laws to criminalise and stigmatise the work of human rights defenders – from laws which restrict NGO access to foreign funds in Ethiopia and Bangladesh, to laws that criminalise lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights activism in Russia and Uganda – is a disturbing global trend affecting many of our colleagues and partners. In response, ISHR worked in partnership with Norway to spearhead

a campaign for the world's top human rights body, the UN Human Rights Council, to declare such laws a breach of international human rights standards. Resolution 22/6, adopted with overwhelming support by the Council in March 2013, directs States to ensure 'that no law should criminalize or delegitimize activities in defence of human rights'.

Coordinating an international response to end reprisals

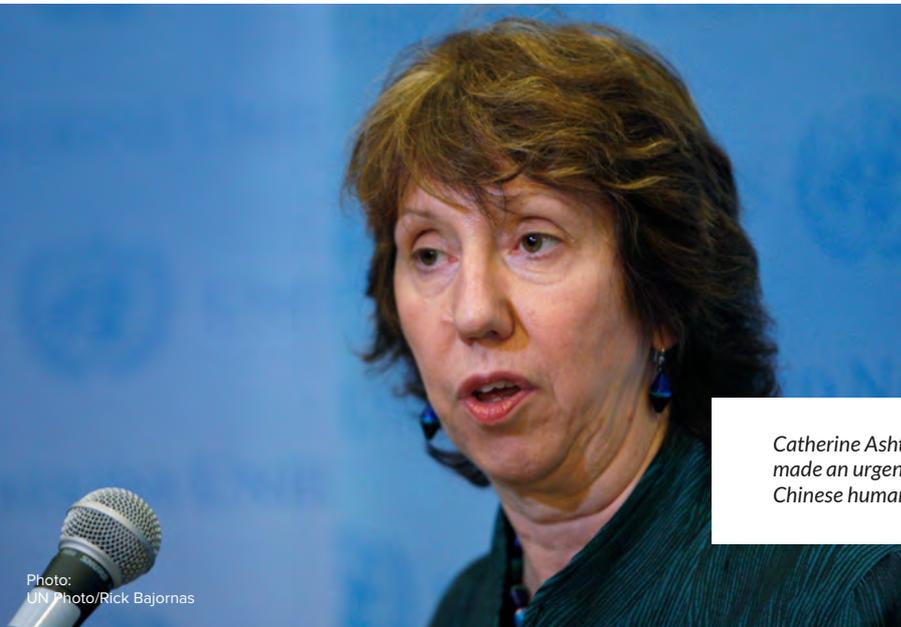
Many of the courageous human rights defenders with whom ISHR works have faced reprisals for their work to expose national-level human rights violations on the international stage. They have had their NGOs raided and de-registered, they have faced State-sponsored smear campaigns, and they have been arbitrarily detained and even disappeared. Following years of advocacy, ISHR achieved a crucial breakthrough in 2013, with the UN Secretary-General agreeing to appoint a

high-level official to coordinate an international response to reprisals and to intervene to prevent and expose attacks. Responding to an ISHR report in September 2013, the UN Human Rights Council also called on States to enact specific laws and policies to protect human rights defenders and end reprisals.

Global attention focuses on repression of Chinese human rights defenders

On 14 September 2013, a Chinese human rights defender, Cao Shunli, was intercepted at Beijing airport as she was about to board a flight to Geneva to undertake an ISHR advocacy course. She was detained without charge and subsequently disappeared. Working closely with activists in China and other human rights organisations, ISHR mobilised an international response. Cao Shunli's disappearance was covered by media outlets including the BBC and

CNN, condemned by UN human rights experts, and was the subject of an urgent appeal by the European Union's High Representative Catherine Ashton. Under international pressure Chinese officials confirmed the location of Cao Shunli's detention and provided her with access to a lawyer.



Catherine Ashton, the European Union's High Representative, made an urgent appeal regarding the disappearance of Chinese human rights defender Cao Shunli.

Photo:
UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

Next on the agenda

Developing a model national law on the protection of human rights defenders

The legal recognition and protection of human rights defenders at the national level is a crucial element of ensuring that they are able to work in a safe and enabling environment. Recognising this, ISHR is embarking on an ambitious project to develop a model national law for human rights defenders. The project, which is being undertaken in partnership with key national and regional-level human rights defender groups, will assist in the domestic implementation of the international Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which ISHR worked to develop over 15 years ago.



Photo:
Flickr/Inter-American Commission
on Human Rights

Defender's Voice

“ Enacting the rights of human rights defenders in national law would be a significant step towards transforming the international promise of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders into a national-level reality.

Gustavo Gallón,
Director of the Colombian Commission of Jurists



Photo:
UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz

Expert's View

“ The International Service for Human Rights and other groups play a vital role in relation to the situation of human rights defenders who are attacked or harassed by their governments.

Professor Philip Alston,
Former UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings

3

Empowering women human rights defenders

Context of our work

Women human rights defenders challenge gender inequality and promote women's empowerment and participation. They also challenge religious and cultural values and practices that subordinate, stigmatise or restrict women. Because of the nature of this work, women human rights defenders in all regions of the world face significant threats and attacks, from smear campaigns to sexual violence.

In 2013, our work strengthened the legal recognition and protection of the work of women human rights defenders and helped to protect them from discrimination and reprisals. We also guarded against threats to the enjoyment of universal rights posed by selective appeals to culture, religion and 'traditional values'.

Impact of our work

UN General Assembly adopts first ever resolution on protecting women human rights defenders



Photo:
Flickr/Hamed Saber

The promotion of women's rights and the protection of women human rights defenders are essential for peace, security and development. In November 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted its first ever resolution on women human rights defenders at the initiative of Norway. In addition to shaping the resolution, ISHR led global civil society mobilisation and diplomatic lobbying, which included working with women Nobel Peace Prize winners and

members of The Elders to pressure the Foreign Minister of every government in the world. Our work helped to ensure the successful passage of the resolution despite concerted opposition from many African and Gulf States and the Holy See.

Threat of regress in international women's rights defeated... for now

While pushing for progress, ISHR is always vigilant to guard against threats of regress in the enjoyment of women's rights. In 2013, such a threat emerged with Egypt proposing a Human Rights Council resolution that would have diminished women's rights in the interests of 'protection of the family'. Following sustained advocacy by ISHR and a coalition of NGO partners and concerned States, Egypt backed down and withdrew the proposal.



Photo:
UN Photo/Martine Perret

Advancing international women's rights in Africa

ISHR's work supports human rights defenders to use international human rights systems as levers for national-level change. In 2013, we worked intensively with women human rights defenders and high-level government officials from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to implement women's rights recommendations made to those countries through the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review.

Next on the agenda

Implementing international women's rights at the regional and national levels

Following the success of our campaign for a UN General Assembly resolution on the protection of women human rights defenders, our focus will shift to the regional and domestic implementation of that resolution. At the regional level, our lobbying and advocacy will be directed to ensuring that the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and other regional bodies adopt strong resolutions on the situation and protection of women defenders. At the national level, we will continue to provide high-quality training and strategic advice to women human rights defenders to enable them to use international human rights laws and systems as effective pressure points for change on the ground.



Photo:
UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

Defender's Voice

“ Human rights defenders often face brutal reprisals. Women human rights defenders in particular face specific threats, because in many parts of the world, standing up and speaking out defies gender norms that prescribe women's passivity.

Navi Pillay,
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



Photo:
The Elders/Tom Pietrasik

Expert's View

“ This resolution recognises the courageous women who defy patriarchy every day, everywhere in the world, to champion human rights. They hold communities together in times of war – and hold the key to building peaceful communities when the guns go silent. In so many male-dominated institutions, they campaign for women's voices to be heard.

The Elders,
A group of global leaders brought together by the late Nelson Mandela,
in a statement on the UN's women human rights defender resolution coordinated by ISHR

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Supporting LGBT human rights defenders

Context of our work

Violence and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons remains widespread in all regions of the world. Almost 80 countries continue to criminalise same-sex relations and in many places those who advocate for LGBT rights are subject to physical attacks, smear campaigns and legal restrictions. In 2013, our work focused on supporting and

strengthening the advocacy of LGBT human rights defenders at the international level, ensuring that the Human Rights Council hears directly from those who advocate daily and courageously for LGBT rights at the national level.

Impact of our work

Training a new generation of LGBT human rights defenders



LGBT human rights defender and ISHR trainee Tampose 'Tee Pee' Mothopeng presents a statement to the UN Human Rights Council.

For more than twenty years ISHR has provided extensive training and expert advice to national-level human rights defenders in order to strengthen their international human rights advocacy. In 2013, we intensified our support for LGBT defenders, providing strategic advice and diplomatic assistance to eleven courageous activists from all regions of the world to advocate at the UN Human Rights Council. From enabling the defenders to deliver formal statements in the Council to coordinating lobbying meetings with Ambassadors and Special Rapporteurs, ISHR

ensured that the voices of national-level LGBT advocates were heard on the international stage.



LGBT human rights defenders and ISHR trainees at the UN in Geneva.

Opening the UN’s doors to LGBT defenders

The UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations acts as the gatekeeper to NGO access to the UN. Without the approval of the NGO Committee, civil society organisations are unable to attend many UN meetings in New York or make formal statements at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. For many years, ISHR has undertaken extensive research and persistent advocacy to expose the ways in which the NGO Committee systematically denies access to many human rights groups, including those who work on LGBT rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and minority issues. In 2013, working in partnership with progressive States, ISHR began to turn the tide, with the NGO Committee finally granting consultative status to LGBT organisations for the first time in five years.

Next on the agenda

Tackling violence, discrimination, harassment and homophobia

In 2014, ISHR will continue to provide training, strategic advice and advocacy support to ensure LGBT defenders can effectively use international human rights mechanisms as strategic tools to advance LGBT rights at the national level. Building on our leadership in developing the historic Yogyakarta Principles on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, we'll also work with national, regional and international LGBT advocates to ensure the UN Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights take strong action to tackle violence, discrimination, harassment and homophobia.



Defender's Voice

- “ As the UN's peak human rights body, the Human Rights Council has an obligation to institutionalise its response to the shocking human rights violations perpetrated against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons worldwide.

Anthony Oluoch,
Former Executive Director of the Gay Kenya Trust, delivering an ISHR statement to the Human Rights Council



Expert's View

- “ The creation of an international mechanism charged with devoting attention to LGBT issues would be groundbreaking, bringing systemic attention to an issue that has long struggled to find its rightful place on the international agenda.

Dr Heather Collister,
Manager of ISHR's LGBT Human Rights Defender Programme, writing in the *Global Post*

Our Enduring Global Impact



Deirdre Duffy
Year of ISHR training: 2010
Now: Senior Research and Policy Programme Manager, Irish Council for Civil Liberties



Asger Kjaerum
Year of ISHR training: 2006
Now: Head of Geneva Office, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims



Julie Somba-Nigna
Year of ISHR training: 2011
Now: Burkina Faso Minister for Human Rights



Mohammed al-Maskati
Year of ISHR training: 2012
Now: President of the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights



Michael Heichen
Year of ISHR training: 2006
Now: Programme Manager (Corporate Accountability) and Human Rights Council Advocacy Director



Sheila Keetharuth
Year of ISHR training: 2011
Now: UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in



Dr Teng Biao
Year of ISHR training: 2013
Now: Human rights lawyer and scholar



Yap Swee Seng
Year of ISHR training: 2001
Former Executive Director, FORUM-ASIA



Sayeed Ahmad
Year of ISHR training: 2007
Now: Country Programme Manager, FORUM-ASIA



Maina Kiai
Year of ISHR training: 1997
Now: UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association



Violet Tsisiga Awori
Year of ISHR training: 2007
Former Expert Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women



Lucia Nader
Year of ISHR training: 2005
Now: Executive Director, Conectas Human Rights



Juana Kweitel
Year of ISHR training: 1999
Now: Programme Manager, Conectas Human Rights



Andressa Caldas
Year of ISHR training: 2002
Now: Executive Director, Justiça Global



Clément Nyaletsossi Voulé
Year of ISHR training: 2005
Now: Expert Member, African Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations



Abdoul Gadir Diallo
Year of ISHR training: 2008
Now: Executive Director, West African Human Rights Defenders Network



Cephas Lumina
Year of ISHR training: 1992
Now: UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Foreign Debt



Ben Shockman
Year of ISHR training: 2008
Now: Director of International Advocacy, Human Rights Law Centre

5

Protecting defenders
who expose and secure
accountability for
corporate human rights
abuses

Context of our work

Human rights defenders play a critical role in preventing, exposing and ensuring accountability for corporate human rights abuses. Despite this, around the world there is an increase in attacks, restrictions, surveillance, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders who work on corporate accountability issues, both by State and non-State actors. Violations against these defenders include arbitrary arrest and detention, disappearances, judicial harassment, torture and ill-treatment, and even killings.

In 2013, ISHR worked to develop a global advocacy agenda for defenders who advocate on business and human rights issues, seeking to place human rights defenders at the centre of the international business and human rights law framework. Our work also served to protect such defenders from attacks, restrictions and reprisals associated with their work.

Impact of our work

Developing international guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders in the context of major corporate and development projects

ISHR has played a significant role in the development of a range of international human rights standards for many years. In 2013, within the context of a worsening pattern of violence and repression against human rights defenders who oppose or protest against large-scale development projects, ISHR worked with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders to develop guidelines on a human rights-based approach to development projects.

The guidelines seek to ensure that defenders can exercise their right to participate in decision-making processes or to oppose and protest against large-scale development projects.

Promoting accountability for corporate human rights violations in Africa

Extractive industries are responsible for some of the most serious and significant human rights violations worldwide, including land grabs, mass evictions, environmental degradation and the targeting of protesters and human rights defenders. In his capacity as an expert member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples'

Rights Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations, ISHR's Clément Voulé works to investigate, expose, prevent and ensure accountability for such violations.



ISHR's Clément Nyaletsossi Voulé with Michael Addo, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, at the African NGO Forum, October 2013.

Putting human rights defenders at the centre of the business and human rights agenda

ISHR works in partnership with grassroots human rights defenders and progressive States to shape the global human rights agenda. In 2013, ISHR's research, advocacy and mobilisation helped to move human rights defenders towards the heart of the business and human rights agenda. At the national level, the United

Kingdom became the first State to adopt an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights pledging support to human rights defenders. At the international level, a group of States led by Norway called on the Human Rights Council and States to respect and protect defenders' corporate accountability work.

Next on the agenda

Supporting and protecting human rights defenders who work on issues of corporate accountability

In 2014, ISHR will work both to support and build the capacity of human rights defenders who expose and seek redress for corporate human rights violations. We will strengthen the national and international legal frameworks within which they work, including through research, advocacy and strategic litigation.



Defender's Voice

“ Large-scale development projects – including gas, oil and mining projects – can contribute positively to development but all too often have negative impacts on the most vulnerable, including indigenous peoples, women, and human rights defenders who sound the alarm on such impacts.

Cristina Hardaga Fernandez,
Women human rights defender, JASS Mesoamerica (Mexico)



Expert's View

“ There appears to be a stepping up of pressure against human rights defenders who work on issues of corporate accountability, with attacks and violations becoming more frequent. Human rights defenders are often the first to identify and expose adverse human rights impacts associated with business and development and are therefore the first to suffer attacks and violations as a result.

Pavel Sulyandziga,
Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights,
at an ISHR event held at UN Headquarters in New York

6

A moment for change: Human rights defenders in States in transition

Context of our work

The process of transitioning to democracy can present both great challenges and opportunities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Our work with human rights defenders helps to propel States towards transition. In States undergoing transition, we assist to expose and ensure

accountability for human rights violations and contribute to the creation of new laws and institutions that uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law.



Syrian participants of ISHR's Geneva training course.

Impact of our work

Strengthening the capacity of human rights defenders from East Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and West Africa

In 2013, ISHR was privileged to work intensively with human rights defenders from Syria, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, among others, to expose national human rights issues on the international stage and to use the international system to build pressure for human rights change on the ground. Our work accompanying and advocating with defenders from Syria

at the Human Rights Council helped focus world attention on civilian casualties of the conflict, while our work with Chinese human rights defenders ensured that the UN's top human rights bodies and experts received first-hand testimony from victims and defenders.

Supporting human rights defenders at the African Commission

ISHR has worked for more than a decade to support, strengthen and coordinate civil society voices at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Africa's main human rights body. In 2013, ISHR intensified this important work, working with Commissioners to strengthen the response to reprisals; with the Commission's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders to focus attention on the situation of women human rights defenders in Africa; and with national, sub-regional and pan-African human rights defenders to lobby States to provide a safe and enabling environment for their work. The

impact of ISHR's engagement with States in Africa was reflected in the position of some of those States at the international level, with Botswana, Sierra Leone, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire all subsequently supporting a landmark UN Human Rights Council resolution on the prevention of reprisals.



ISHR's Clément Nyaletsossi Voulé at the African Commission's 54th session.

Strengthening protection of the rights to freedom of association and assembly in Africa

Exercise of the rights to freedom of association and assembly is essential to the transformative work of human rights defenders. In 2011 the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights mandated a group of experts to conduct a comprehensive study of laws and practices which enable or restrict the enjoyment of these rights. ISHR was the only non-continental NGO

appointed to the expert group, which is now developing guidelines to strengthen the protection of the rights to freedom of association and assembly across Africa.

Next on the agenda

Amplifying the voices and impact of national human rights defenders on the international stage

In 2014, ISHR will intensify its support for human rights defenders in States in transition. We will provide expert training, monitor and advocate in relation to national laws and policies which restrict or enable their work, and will act to amplify their voices and impact at the UN in Geneva and New York. Our initiative to develop a model law on human rights defenders will provide a powerful advocacy tool for the enactment of national laws that support defenders' work, while our advocacy at the African Commission to develop an institutional response to reprisals will assist to protect defenders from intimidation and attacks.



Photo:
AP Greg Barker

Defender's Voice

“ Of course, I am clear that social progress always demands somebody pays a price. I am willing to pay the price for faith in freedom, justice, and love, for the beautiful future of China.

Xu Zhiyong,
Chinese human rights defender, convicted in January 2014 to four years in prison for “gathering crowds to disturb public order”.



Photo:
UN Photo/Violaine Martin

Expert's View

“ The struggle to realise human rights is constant and never-ending. Rights are not “self-executing”- without courageous people to challenge injustices and ensure that our human rights are respected, we can have the most progressive human rights laws but live under oppression.

Hina Jilani,
ISHR Board member and former UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders

7

Strengthening human rights systems and protecting civil society space

Context of our work

International and regional human rights systems can be used by human rights defenders to ensure accountability for human rights violations and to create and maintain pressure for human rights change.

In 2013, our work focused on ensuring that these systems are accessible to civil society organisations, with our research, advocacy and technical support helping to create and protect the space

for human rights defenders and ensuring their voices were heard at the highest levels. We also undertook research and advocacy to strengthen the human rights systems themselves, making them more powerful as levers for national-level change.

Impact of our work

Developing the first ever UN resolution on the protection of civil society space



US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power raised concerns about domestic laws that restrict civil society space.

Photo:
US Mission Geneva

According to the US Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, in the last five years alone more than 40 countries have passed 'restrictive laws trying to shrink the space' for civil society. Countering this trend, in 2013 ISHR worked with a coalition of NGOs and a group of States from all regions led by Ireland to develop the UN's first ever resolution on the protection of civil society space. In addition to calling on governments to 'create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe

and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity', the resolution also calls on the United Nations itself to treat the creation and protection of civil society space as a global priority.

Defeating efforts to restrict NGO access and participation at the UN Human Rights Council

In July 2013, the Government of Pakistan sought to coordinate an initiative on behalf of 'like-minded States' which would have had the effect of restricting NGO participation in the work of the Council by enabling the arbitrary or discriminatory exclusion of NGO representatives. It would have exposed such representatives to increased risk of intimidation or reprisal, and facilitated the censorship of NGO side-events.

Following an intensive campaign in response to this, which was coordinated by ISHR and supported by many NGOs and States, Pakistan's proposals were endorsed by just 13 of the UN's 193 Member States.



Strengthening the membership of international human rights bodies

The effectiveness of international and regional human rights bodies is closely associated with the membership of those bodies. In 2013, we worked in close partnership with Amnesty International to strengthen the UN's human rights treaty bodies and to develop guidelines and terms of reference for the selection of the UN's next Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. We also collaborated with Human Rights Watch to use States' candidacies for the

Human Rights Council to secure new commitments to protect human rights defenders and expose and highlight State policies and practices which undermine or threaten their work.

Next on the agenda

Connecting national-level human rights defenders directly with international decision-makers

Building on the success of our advocacy on civil society space at the Human Rights Council, ISHR will focus on expanding the space for NGO participation at the General Assembly and other high-level meetings in New York. We will continue to provide strategic advice to human rights NGOs to enable them to obtain UN consultative status, and continue accrediting national-level human rights defenders to ensure they can tell their stories directly to the UN and diplomatic officials in New York and Geneva.

In partnership with grassroots human rights defenders, ISHR will work at the national level to advocate for the enactment of laws and policies which support and enable their work, using the international system to highlight regressive national measures and build pressure for change.



Photo:
UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

The Human Rights Council speaks

“ The Human Rights Council urges States to acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of civil society in the promotion of human rights... and emphasizes the essential role of civil society in subregional, regional and international organizations, including in support of the organizations’ work, and in sharing experience and expertise through participation in meetings.

Human Rights Council,
Resolution 24/21 adopted in September 2013



Photo:
UN Photo/Mark Garten

Expert’s View

“ We are seeing a rise in laws that restrict the activities of human rights defenders. We are seeing new ways to impede their work – through over-reaching anti-terrorism and national security legislation; measures relating to public morals, or defamation; laws requiring registration and funding of associations; and new rules regulating Internet access.

Ban Ki-moon,
UN Secretary-General

Our Board and Staff

Board and Officers

Chair	Rosemary McCreery (Ireland) Former UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources, former head of UNICEF in Russia and Belarus, and former Director of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia.
Vice-Chair	Chris Sidoti (Australia) International human rights expert, former Australian Human Rights Commissioner, and former Executive Director of ISHR.
Treasurer	Jean-Marie Fakhouri (Switzerland/Lebanon) Former Controller and Director of Resource Management with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq.
Member	Reine Alapini-Gansou (Benin) Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and former Secretary-General for Women in Law and Development in Africa.
Member Appointed 28.05.2013	Sir Nicolas Bratza (United Kingdom) Former President and judge of the European Court of Human Rights, and current President of the British Institute of Human Rights.
Member	Gustavo Gallón (Colombia) Director of the Colombian Commission of Jurists and UN Independent Expert on human rights in Haiti.
Member Appointed 28.05.2013	Hina Jilani (Pakistan) Former UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, member of The Elders, and founder of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.
Member	Asma Khader (Jordan) Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, member of the Permanent Arab Court on Violence against Women, and former Minister of the Jordanian Government.
Member Appointed 17.05.2013	Egbert Myjer (The Netherlands) Professor of Human Rights Law, Commissioner with the International Commission of Jurists, and former judge of the European Court of Human Rights.
Member Appointed 11.10.2013	Jean-Daniel Vigny (Switzerland) Expert-consultant on international human rights issues for the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and former Minister for the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York and Geneva.
Chair (Retired) Resigned 12.10.2013	Mehr Khan Williams (Pakistan) Former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Regional Director of UNICEF in East Asia and the Pacific.
Member (Retired) Resigned 12.10.2013	Walter Kaelin (Switzerland) Professor of Law at the University of Bern and member of the UN Human Rights Committee.

Staff

Philip Lynch Executive Director
Heather Collister Programme Manager (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) and Head of Treaty Body Advocacy
Marina Dailly Accountant and Finance Manager
Chris Duckett Manager of Development and Fundraising
Anne-Sophie Dumeste Administration and Human Resources Manager
Michelle Evans New York Manager and Advocacy Coordinator
Michael Ineichen Programme Manager (Corporate Accountability) and Human Rights Council Advocacy Director
Eleanor Openshaw Programme Manager (Women Human Rights Defenders) and Head of Regional Advocacy
Will Fihn Ramsay Communications Manager
Madeleine Sinclair Programme Manager (Reprisals) and Legal Counsel
Olivia Starrenburg Communications Manager
Clément Nyaletsossi Voulé Programme Manager (States in Transition) and Head of African Commission Advocacy

Our Supporters and Donors

Thank You

The generous contributions of our supporters, including progressive governments, foundations and dedicated individuals, sustain and enable our work to support human rights defenders, strengthen human rights systems and achieve human rights change.

From the development of the international Declaration on Human Rights Defenders to the training and protection of grassroots defenders around the world, none of our impact would be possible without you.

Expanding our impact

In 2013, ISHR launched a crucial campaign to expand our impact, providing more training and support to human rights defenders and undertaking more research and advocacy to protect them from threats and attacks. We are delighted to welcome the Open Society Foundations as a supporter of this campaign. However, for this work to be sustainable and effective, we need to expand our support base further, developing new partnerships with trusts, foundations, philanthropists and individuals who share our passion and commitment to human rights.

As a registered non-profit association in Switzerland, and recognised as tax exempt in the US under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, your gift to ISHR may be tax deductible. Please support human rights defenders and invest in ISHR.

Supporter's View

“ ISHR provides invaluable support to human rights defenders around the world.

Navi Pillay
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



www.ishr.ch/donate

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Supporter's View

“ No one will enjoy human rights without the work of human rights defenders. And their work is supported best at the international level by the International Service for Human Rights. Contributing to ISHR means contributing to human rights. It's as simple as that.

Chris Sidoti
ISHR Board member

International law firms

During 2013, ISHR developed pro bono relationships with a number of the world's leading law firms, enabling us to leverage substantial legal expertise and resources.

Allens

Brigard & Urrutia

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

DLA Piper

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Reed Smith

Simmons & Simmons

Winston & Strawn LLP



Supporter's View

“ For more than 30 years ISHR has worked to strengthen and support the work of human rights defenders. ISHR has already made an important impact, but with human rights defenders facing unprecedented attacks and restrictions, support for its work has never been more necessary.

Sir Nicolas Bratza,
Former President of the European Court of Human Rights

Financial Statements

For a copy of ISHR's audited financial statements please contact Chris Duckett at c.duckett@ishr.ch

For more information about our work,
or any of the issues covered in this
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