

OUR VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2016 we will work together with our network of brave human rights defenders, progressive business partners, forward-leaning diplomatic allies, and invaluable financial supporters to turn back the tide on civil society repression and to achieve significant and sustainable human rights change.

With your support, we will:

Empower human rights defenders

- Build the skills and impact of more than 100 human rights defenders working on the frontlines, assisting them to use the UN and regional mechanisms to expose violations, secure accountability and push for change
- Produce the first-ever series of comprehensive Chinese-language international human rights training videos, better connecting Chinese activists with the UN system
- Build an innovative, interactive online platform and community to enable human rights defenders from around the world to access the UN Human Rights Council and to strategise and collaborate for greater impact



Strengthen human rights laws and systems

- Launch a comprehensive model national law on human rights defenders, helping to ensure the international Declaration on Human Rights Defenders is incorporated, implemented and enforced at the domestic level
- Work with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, supporting it to fully implement its mandate to prevent, investigate and remedy cases of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders
- Use the tenth anniversary of the UN Human Rights Council as an opportunity to drive reform to make the Council more accessible, effective and protective for human rights defenders and victims
- Spearhead a campaign to reform the UN Committee on NGOs and ensure the UN accreditation process for civil society is transparent, expeditious and non-discriminatory





Flickr, Marco Fieber

Promote accountability for violations

- Conduct strategic litigation in international courts and tribunals to enhance the protection of human rights defenders globally, including defenders of LGBTI rights in Russia and Uganda, and rule of law defenders in the Maldives
- Produce a comprehensive manual for human rights defenders working in States in transition, equipping them with knowledge to use UN and regional human rights mechanisms in their fight for democracy and an end to impunity
- Continue to push for investigations, accountability and an end to impunity in cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and killings of human rights defenders



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Secure implementation at the national level

- Lead the campaign for UN bodies and mechanisms to effectively implement the breakthrough UN resolution on the participation of national human rights institutions
- Work with national partners in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to secure enactment of a comprehensive national law on human rights defenders, and with partners in Côte d'Ivoire to establish a protection mechanism which responds to the particular needs of women
- Produce an innovative guide that equips activists to push for the national implementation of key resolutions and recommendations on the protection of women's rights defenders
- Collaborate with the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable to produce comprehensive guidance to States on how to engage and protect defenders through National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights



UN Geneva, Violaine Martin

Build powerful partnerships

- Convene and mobilise a network of leading multinational companies committed to actively protecting human rights defenders and civil society space
- Spearhead a global civil society campaign to enhance the membership of the UN Human Rights Council and ensure that egregious human rights violators are not elected to sit at the human rights high table
- Leverage the expertise and vast resources of some of the world's leading law firms to provide pro bono legal advice and support to protect human rights defenders at risk

We need your support to pursue this ambitious agenda. Whether you are an NGO colleague, a diplomatic partner or a financial supporter, your contribution is essential to achieve collective impact in 2016.



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