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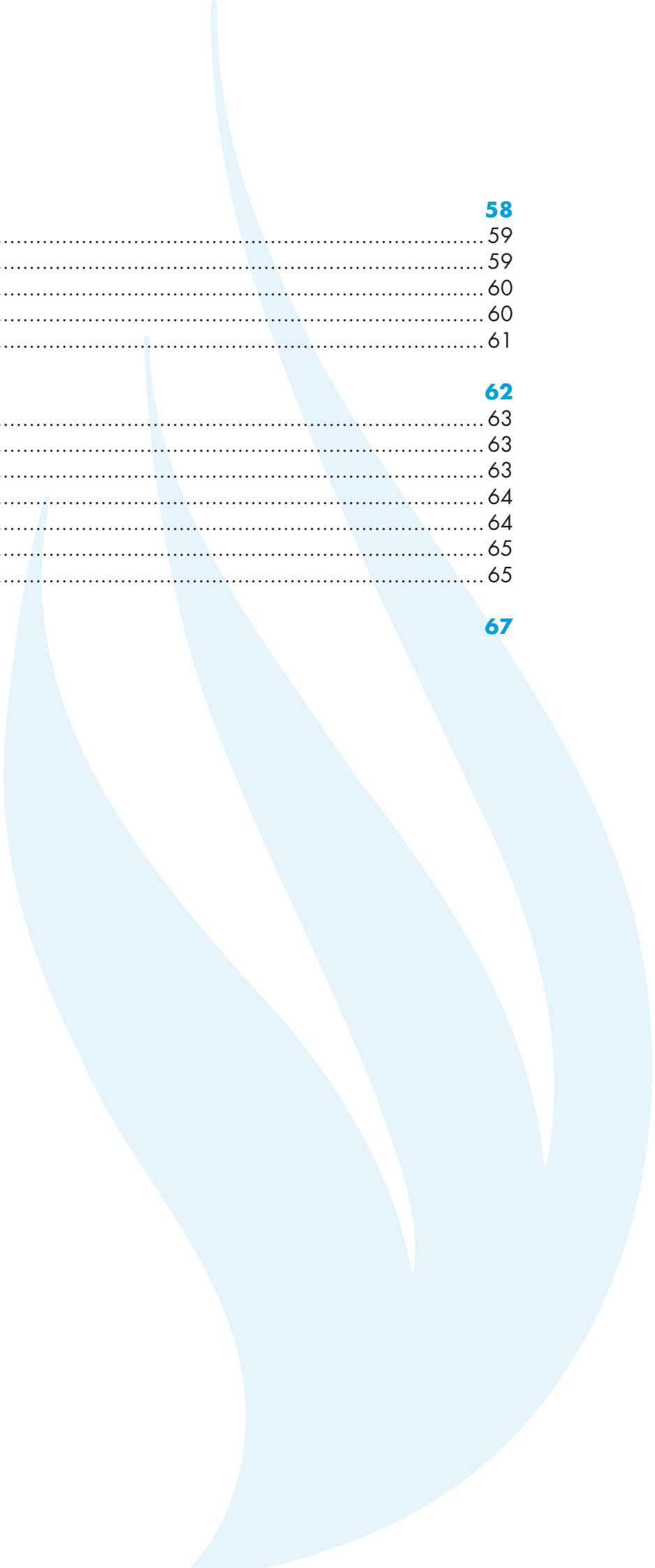
Compilation of Recommendations Issued to South Asian Countries by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms on Issues Related to Democratic Space and Women Journalists

2014-2022

This compilation, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) South-East Asia Regional Office in 2022, includes publicly available recommendations made to South Asian countries by the UN human rights mechanisms on the issues related to democratic space and women journalists from 2014 to 2022.

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Freedom of Expression

AFGHANISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/3\), 2020¹](#)

Para. 36

The Committee urges the State party to protect the life, personal liberty and security of women human rights defenders and journalists, to guarantee their freedom of movement and expression (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/5\), 2019²](#)

Para. 136.121

Ensure freedom of expression, offline as well as online (...) (Estonia).

BANGLADESH

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2019³](#)

Para. 31

The State party should:

- (a) Communicate at the highest level that civil society activists, lawyers and journalists who publicize information or allegations concerning human rights violations play a vital role in society and should not be subjected to retaliatory charges of contempt of court, defamation or sedition for criticizing government leaders or their performance;
- (c) Amend the legislation, including the Information Communication and Technology Act of 2006, the Digital Security Act of 2018, and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act of 2016 to eliminate provisions prohibiting derogatory remarks being made about the Constitution and constitutional bodies, engaging in “anti-State activities”, “tarnishing the image of the nation” and similar provisions that

- have provided a basis for arresting and prosecuting individuals who have publicized allegations of torture, disappearance, extrajudicial killings or ill-treatment, or criticized the State party's response to such allegations;
- (d) Ensure that members of civil society and NGOs who have cooperated with the Committee in the context of its consideration of the State party's initial report are protected from any reprisals or harassment, including charges of breaching the Information and Communications Technology Act, in keeping with the pledge given by the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/BGD/CO/1), 2017⁴

Para. 10

The State party should ensure that: (d) Counter-terrorism measures are not used to restrict freedom of expression and opinion of journalists and human rights defenders;

Para. 28

The State party should immediately undertake the following measures to protect the rights of journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations:

- (b) Repeal or revise the laws mentioned above with a view to bringing them into conformity with the State party's obligations under the Covenant, taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression. In particular, it should clarify the vague, broad and open-ended definition of key terms in these laws and ensure that they are not used as tools to curtail freedom of expression beyond the narrow restrictions permitted in article 19 of the Covenant;
- (c) Repeal the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, (...) ensure that NGOs can operate freely and without fear of retribution for exercising their freedom of expression.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/39/12), 2018⁵

Para. 147.7

Bring legislation into conformity with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by repealing restrictive provisions that limit the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organizations to freedom of expression and free speech (Latvia);

- Para. 147.65
Take effective measures to ensure that the press can work free from the oppression by instances of censorship, threats, physical assaults and killings (Slovakia);
- Para. 147.66
Take prompt and effective measures to ensure that freedom of (...) expression extends in practice — both online and offline — to all people, media, civil society and political parties, throughout the upcoming election campaign and beyond (Canada);
- Para. 147.67
Protect freedom of expression in media, politics and religion, and work with civil society to address concerns regarding section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Para. 147.68
Review all existing and proposed legislation relating to freedom of expression, both online and offline, to ensure that it fully complies with the relevant international standards (Ireland);
- Para. 147.69
Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and end all assaults on journalists and human rights defenders, as well as ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);
- Para. 147.70
Guarantee freedom of expression in the Digital Security Act (France);
- Para. 147.71
Ensure democratic space for all political actors, including the implementation of domestic laws, without restrictions on the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Switzerland);
- Para. 147.74
Continue efforts to protect freedom of expression (...) for all citizens and residents, and to support civil society participation (Poland);
- Para. 148.3
Enforce constitutional provisions safeguarding freedom of expression, including by amending section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and relevant provisions of the draft Digital Security Act (Australia);

- Para. 148.13
Review and amend the laws that restrict freedom of expression, such as section 57 of the 2006 Information and Communication Technology Act (Mexico);
- Para. 148.14
Review and redraft the proposed Digital Security Act to ensure online freedom of expression (Norway);
- Para. 148.15
Redraft the Digital Security Act in line with international norms and standards for freedom of expression (Sweden);
- Para. 149.45
Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (...) (Estonia);
- Para. 149.46
Revise media laws, in consultation with civil society, to decriminalize “defamation” and “hurting religious sentiment”, and limit proposed extended jail terms for these offences (United States of America);
- Para. 149.47
Expand its democratic space online and offline in which opposition politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives, and to this end revise section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);
- Para. 149.48
Ensure that human rights activists and journalists can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression (...) including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information and Communication Technology Act (in particular section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);
- Para. 149.49
Repeal the Information and Communication Technology Act (2006), as amended in 2013, or modify the Information and Communication Technology Act to bring it in line with international law and standards (Greece);

Para. 149.50

Repeal all laws and policies that restrict the activities and rights of its citizens and civil society organizations, including the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 and the Foreign Donations Regulation Act of 2016 (Netherlands).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief \(A/HRC/31/18/Add.2\), 2016⁶](#)

Para. 104

The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations, addressed mainly to Government agencies: (l) The Government should repeal restrictive legislation, such as the Information and Communication Technology Act, that prevents civil society activists from voicing their criticism and concerns without fear of sanctions;

Para. 105

The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations addressed to religious communities: (f) Civil society should continue to claim its space, with the support of international stakeholders, to express dissenting views and voice concerns as appropriate.

BHUTAN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/42/8\), 2019⁷](#)

Para. 157.47

Prevent the misuse of defamation laws to unduly constrain freedom of expression both online and offline (United States of America).

INDIA

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/10\), 2017⁸](#)

Para. 161.131

Ensure that any measure limiting freedom of expression (...) on the Internet is based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with international law including international human rights law (Sweden);

Para. 161.142

Put an end to all curbs on freedom of expression (...) (Pakistan);

Para. 161.143

Guarantee freedom of expression (...) for all individuals and promote meaningful dialogue that embraces and allows freely organized advocacy of diverging views by civil society (Canada);

Para. 161.145

Bring all legislation concerning communication surveillance in line with international human rights standards and especially recommend that all communication surveillance requires a test of necessity and proportionality (Liechtenstein).

MALDIVES

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/6\), 2021⁸](#)

Para. 22

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (b) Guarantee that women human rights defenders and activists can freely carry out their advocacy for women's human rights and exercise their rights to freedom of expression (...) without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions;
- (c) Expedite the adoption of the bill (...) criminalizing hate speech.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/MDV/CO/4-5), 2016¹⁰

Para. 23

The Committee reminds the State party that human rights defenders deserve special protection, as their work is critical for promoting human rights for all, including children, and thus strongly recommends that the State party take immediate action to allow journalists, human rights defenders and all NGOs to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without threat and harassment. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/46/10), 2020¹¹

Para. 133.76

Substantively revise discriminatory legislation, particularly all provisions that discriminate on the basis of religion, and safeguard the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as required under international law (Sierra Leone);

Para. 133.144

Increase measures to promote and protect freedom of expression (Spain);

Para. 133.148

Guarantee freedom of expression for all, including human rights defenders, and ensure that all citizens are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);

Para. 133.150

Strengthen efforts to apply, in law and practice, full respect for freedom of opinion and expression (Brazil);

Para. 133.156

Further strengthen efforts to protect freedom of expression (...) (Greece);

Para. 133.159

Ensure freedom of expression, religion and belief for all religious minorities, providing them access to legal protection and redress (Holy See);

Para. 133.161

Repeal or amend all legislation and any decree restricting and criminalizing the work of human rights defenders in order to guarantee, inter alia, the rights to freedom of expression (...) (Switzerland);

- Para. 133.162
Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression (...) (India);
- Para. 133.163
Strengthen the protection of freedom of expression (...) (Indonesia);
- Para. 133.166
Work towards creating an enabling environment in which individuals can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression (...) (Malta);
- Para. 133.167
(...) combat attacks against human rights defenders who promote freedom of (...) expression (Mexico);
- Para. 133.170
Take concrete measures to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression (New Zealand);
- Para. 133.173
Take the necessary measures to urgently and effectively combat violent extremism and hate speech in accordance with international standards (Togo).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/43/50/Add.2\), 2020](#)¹²

- Para. 93
In order to strengthen the legal framework for implementing human rights, the Government should: (g) Improve conditions for the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, including expression related to religion or belief, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Para. 97
In order to increase human rights mainstreaming into planning for and responding to environmental threats and climate change, the Government should:
- (e) Prosecute members of fundamentalist groups that are inciting violence, including online, and take measures to effectively address the growing problem of online hate speech;
 - (f) Stop pressuring civil society organizations to censor themselves, lift without delay the suspension on the Maldivian Democracy Network and demonstrate commitment to freedom of expression.

NEPAL

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6\), 2018](#)¹³

Para. 15

The Committee recommends that the State party: (c) Revise the draft national integrity and ethics policy, the draft privacy policy and the draft online media directive and amend the Electronic Transactions Act and the National Broadcasting Regulations, in consultation with the National Human Rights Commission and civil society, to ensure that they do not restrict the (...) freedom of expression of representatives of non-governmental organizations working on women's rights.

[Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD/C/NPL/CO/17-23\), 2018](#)¹⁴

Para. 16

Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that racial and caste-based hatred constitute an aggravating circumstance when they serve as the motivation for an offence, both in law and in practice;
- (b) Ensure that law enforcement officers properly identify, register, investigate, prosecute and sanction racist hate crimes, organizations and hate speech.

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/NPL/CO/2\), 2014](#)¹⁵

Para. 14

(...) The State party (...) should undertake a comprehensive registration exercise of long-staying Tibetans to ensure that all persons have proper documentation and ensure, in law and in practice, that all refugees and asylum-seekers are not subjected to arbitrary restrictions of their rights under the Covenant, including freedom of expression (...);

Para. 19

(...) The State party should guarantee, in law and in practice, the right to freedom of expression to all individuals, including non-citizens, and ensure that any restriction to the right is in compliance with the restrictions as set out in article 19, paragraph 3 of the Covenant and the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on freedoms of opinion and expression. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/10\), 2021](#)¹⁶

Para. 159.73

Consider revising the local legislation on media and information technology in order to guarantee the full respect of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Brazil);

Para. 159.74

Ensure that legislation on cybersecurity guarantees the (...) freedom of expression (Chile);

Para. 159.75

Safeguard the freedom of expression and foster civil society participation; (...). (Czechia);

Para. 159.76

Repeal or amend sections 155, 156 and 158 of the Penal Code so it is consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);

Para. 159.77

Ensure the right to freedom of expression online and offline, in law and in practice (...) (Estonia);

Para. 159.78

Guarantee freedom of expression, information (...) by putting an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrators, human rights defenders and journalists, as well as by sanctioning the perpetrators of violations of their rights (France);

Para. 159.79

Ensure no person is arrested for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression (...) and that all arrests are carried out in accordance with the law and in line with international human rights standards (Greece);

- Para. 159.81
Protect and uphold the freedom of expression (...), including by respecting and supporting the free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland);
- Para. 159.82
Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression (...) of all residents of Nepal (Latvia);
- Para. 159.84
Eliminate all provisions that restrict freedom of expression, through any means, such as criminal provisions relating to slander or defamation (Mexico);
- Para. 159.88
Ensure the right to freedom of expression and ensure all individuals are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);
- Para. 159.89
Reform the Electronic Transactions Act to eliminate the criminalization of speech (United States of America);
- Para. 159.104
Uphold respect for freedom of expression and the right to privacy, including in draft legislation regulating information technology, media and mass communications (Canada).

PAKISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/PAK/CO/1\), 2017¹⁷](#)

- Para. 34
The State party should:
- (a) Repeal all blasphemy laws or amend them in compliance with the strict requirements of the Covenant, including as set forth in the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression, para. 48;
 - (d) Ensure that all cases of hate speech and hate crimes are thoroughly

and promptly investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished;

Para. 38

The State party should decriminalize defamation, and ensure that imprisonment is never a punishment for defamation and that criminal laws are not improperly used against journalists and dissenting voices. It should also review its legal provisions relating to freedom of expression, including article 19 of the Constitution, the rules applicable under the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act 2007 and the code of conduct for programmes and advertisements for broadcast media and distribution services, with a view to putting in place effective oversight mechanisms and procedural safeguards and bringing these provisions into line with article 19 of the Covenant. (...).

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/PAK/CO/21-23), 2016¹⁸

Para. 10

Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) and No. 15 (1993) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2015) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a legislative framework, including a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, that prohibits and criminalizes all acts of racial discrimination in line with article 4 of the Convention;

Para. 16

Drawing the State party's attention to its general recommendation No. 35 (2015) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to enhance the reporting of racist crimes, including through reinforcing victims' trust in the police and prosecutors;
- (b) Investigate all reported cases of racist hate speech and hate crimes, prosecute and punish the perpetrators with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences, and provide the victims with effective remedies;
- (c) Take comprehensive measures to combat racist hate speech, including through enhanced human rights education and awareness-raising campaigns, and ensure that public officials refrain from such speech and condemn it;

Para. 22

The Committee recommends that the State party consider repealing the blasphemy laws that go against freedom of expression (...), as established in the Constitution. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/37/13), 2017¹⁹

Para. 152.122

Immediately repeal legislation that provides for the possibility to impose the death penalty for cases related to freedom of speech, in particular section 295C of the Penal Code, in order to ensure compliance with articles 6 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);

Para. 152.150

Amend its national legislation on defamation and blasphemy in accordance with international human rights law (Lithuania);

Para. 152.155

Repeal the blasphemy laws and restrictions and end their use against Ahmadi Muslims and others, and grant the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (United States of America);

Para. 152.160

Ensure the protection of the right to freedom of (...) expression (...) by decriminalizing blasphemy and respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all religious minorities, including the Ahmadi, Shia Muslims, Christians and Baha'is (New Zealand);

Para. 152.170

Intensify efforts aimed at efficiently safeguarding the freedom of expression (Cyprus);

Para. 152.171

Stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate criticism in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (India);

Para. 152.172

Take steps to protect freedom of expression, including online freedoms (Australia);

Para. 152.176

Implement measures to protect the right to life and freedom of expression of journalists and human rights defenders (...) (Greece).

SRI LANKA

UN Treaty Bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/LKA/CO/10-17), 2016²⁰

Para. 17

Bearing in mind its general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (b) Adopt comprehensive legislation on hate speech fulfilling the requirements of article 4 of the Convention, which requires States parties to ensure the prohibition of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred, the incitement to racial hatred, acts of violence against any race or groups of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and incitement to such acts. It also recommends that the State party ensure that its criminal legislation defines racial motivation as an aggravating circumstance;
- (c) Enforce legislative provisions to prosecute perpetrators of hate speech, incitement to violence and hate crimes to deter further crimes and prevent impunity of perpetrators. It also recommends that the State party provide information in its next periodic report on the number of cases reported, investigations, prosecutions, convictions of perpetrators and remedies for victims.

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5), 2014²¹

Para. 11

(...) The State party should take all measures, including amending its legislation, to ensure that all security measures comply with the provisions of the Covenant and contain clear prohibitions against arbitrary arrest and detention as well as clear safeguards against torture and protections of the rights to freedom of expression (...);

Para. 21

(...) The State party should refrain from any measures amounting to intimidation or harassment taken against persons exercising their right to freedom of expression, and ensure that any restriction to that right is in compliance with article 19, paragraph 3, of the Covenant. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/37/17\), 2017²²](#)

- Para. 116.40
Adopt comprehensive legislation on hate speech and incitement to hatred (Sierra Leone);
- Para. 116.41
Continue the efforts to combat hate speech (Tunisia);
- Para. 116.42
Take concrete measures aimed at preventing and punishing the perpetrators of hate speech and incitement of violent attacks against ethnic and religious minorities (Namibia);
- Para. 116.43
Investigate all attacks and hate speech against members of religious minorities, prosecute perpetrators and take steps to prevent reoccurrence (Australia);
- Para. 117.26
End impunity and ensure that perpetrators of incitement to hatred and violence are brought to justice in compliance with international law (Sweden).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief \(A/HRC/43/48/Add.2\), 2020²³](#)

- Para. 93
The Special Rapporteur would like to urge:
(a) The media and social media platforms to enforce community standards and invest more resources in monitoring and responding to incitement to hatred or violence while protecting freedom of expression (...).

[Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism \(A/HRC/40/52/Add.3\), 2018²⁴](#)

- Para. 62
The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka:
(p) Guarantee that all cases of hate speech and attacks on minorities are fully investigated and prosecuted and the perpetrators punished, without discrimination.



Freedom of Association

BANGLADESH

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2019³](#)

Para. 31

The State party should: (d) Ensure that members of civil society and NGOs who have cooperated with the Committee in the context of its consideration of the State party's initial report are protected from any reprisals or harassment, including charges of breaching the Information and Communications Technology Act, in keeping with the pledge given by the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2017⁴](#)

Para. 28

The State party should immediately undertake the following measures to protect the rights of journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations:

- (c) Repeal the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, ensure that any legal provisions restricting access to foreign funding does not risk the effective operation of NGOs as a result of overly limited fundraising options (...).

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/8\), 2016⁴](#)

Para. 25

The Committee recommends that the State party review and amend the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act to ensure that it does not restrict the free registration, operation (...) of non governmental organizations working on women's rights and gender equality and that it does not create disproportionate financial and administrative barriers undermining their effective functioning;

Para. 31

The Committee recommends that the State party : (d) Remove all obstacles to the establishment of trade unions, especially for women employed in the agricultural sector.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/BGD/CO/1), 2018²⁵

Para. 41

The Committee recommends that the State party promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and dismissal of trade union activists, guarantee trade union rights effectively, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with adequate remedies;

Para. 43

The Committee recommends that the State party review the Bangladesh Labour Act and other labour laws and regulations with a view to rationalizing the procedures and requirements for trade union registration, particularly the minimum membership requirement, and removing overly restrictive provisions on trade union rights, including the right to strike.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/39/12), 2018⁵

Para. 147.66

Take prompt and effective measures to ensure that freedom of assembly (...) extends in practice — both online and offline — to all people, media, civil society and political parties, throughout the upcoming election campaign and beyond (Canada);

Para. 147.71

Ensure democratic space for all political actors, including the implementation of domestic laws, without restrictions on the exercise of the rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly (Switzerland);

Para. 147.109

Amend the Bangladesh Labour Act and Export Processing Zone Labour Act, in consultation with workers and employers, to ensure the provisions on freedom of association conform to international labour standards (United States of America);

Para. 149.47

Expand its democratic space online and offline in which opposition politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives, and to this end revise section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);

Para. 149.48

Ensure that human rights activists and journalists can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to (...) association and peaceful assembly, including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information and Communication Technology Act (in particular section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);

Para. 149.50

Repeal all laws and policies that restrict the activities and rights of its citizens and civil society organizations, including the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 and the Foreign Donations Regulation Act of 2016 (Netherlands).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief \(A/HRC/31/18/Add.2\), 2016⁶](#)

Para. 104

The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations, addressed mainly to Government agencies:

- (e) The Government should protect the vibrant civil society and pluralistic society in Bangladesh by addressing the existing anxiety expressed by members of religious minorities and indigenous peoples who feel vulnerable in the face of rising religious extremism and acts of violence perpetrated against them;

Para. 105

The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations addressed to religious communities: (f) Civil society should continue to claim its space, with the support of international stakeholders, to express dissenting views and voice concerns as appropriate.

BHUTAN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/42/8\), 2019^z](#)

Para. 157.18

Further promote genuine participation of civil society organizations, including in the area of awareness-raising, advocacy and monitoring, in the field of human rights (Austria).

INDIA

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/10\), 2017⁸](#)

Para. 161.131

Ensure that any measure limiting freedom of (...) assembly and association on the Internet is based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with international law including international human rights law (Sweden);

Para. 161.135

Amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act to ensure the right to freedom of association, which includes the ability of civil society organizations to access foreign funding, and protect human rights defenders effectively against harassment and intimidation (Germany);

Para. 161.136

Revise the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act to ensure benign working conditions for civil society in India (Norway);

Para. 161.137

Improve the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act so that it could fund a broader scope of non-governmental organizations (Republic of Korea);

Para. 161.138

Ensure consistent, transparent application of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act regulations to permit full exercise of the right to freedom of association (United States of America);

Para. 161.139

Review and amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, which may restrict the access of NGOs to foreign financial assistance and lead to their arbitrary shut-down (Czechia);

Para. 161.140

Lift legal restrictions or hurdles to the work of civil society individuals or organizations and ensure that they can undertake their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals (Switzerland);

Para. 161.142

Put an end to all curbs on freedom of (...) association (Pakistan);

Para. 161.143

Guarantee freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly for all individuals and promote meaningful dialogue that embraces and allows freely organized advocacy of diverging views by civil society (Canada).

MALDIVES

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/6\), 2021⁹](#)

Para. 22

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (b) Guarantee that women human rights defenders and activists can freely carry out their advocacy for women's human rights and exercise their rights to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly and association, without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions;
- (c) Expedite the adoption of the bill on associations (...).

[Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/MDV/CO/4-5\), 2016¹⁰](#)

Para. 23

(...) The Committee also urges the State party to ensure, as indicated in the dialogue, that reported instances of intimidation and harassment of NGOs, human rights defenders and civil society activists are promptly

and independently investigated, and those responsible for such abuses are held accountable. The Committee further recommends that the State party systematically involve all NGOs working in the field of children's rights in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children;

Para. 37

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/MDV/CO/3, para. 51) and recommends that, as indicated during the dialogue, the State party amend the Association Act to allow children to form associations, encourage children to form associations and create opportunities for their involvement in the formulation of policies and decisions that affect them.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/46/10\), 2020¹¹](#)

Para. 133.146

Expand and protect the space for civil society organizations to operate in order to promote social cohesion (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 133.147

Ensure that human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations are able to operate without undue interference and fear of reprisals (United States of America);

Para. 133.149

Ensure that civil society organizations are free to carry out their activities without fear or hindrance, and in this regard remove undue restrictions on freedom of association, in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria);

Para. 133.151

Ensure and protect the safety, rights and liberty of human rights defenders and civil society organizations and promptly investigate, prosecute and punish threats or acts of violence against them (Canada);

Para. 133.160

Guarantee and promote workers' freedom of association (...) (Holy See);

Para. 133.161

Repeal or amend all legislation and any decree restricting and criminalizing the work of human rights defenders in order to guarantee, inter alia, the rights to freedom (...) of peaceful assembly and of association (Switzerland);

Para. 133.166

Work towards creating an enabling environment in which individuals can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression and of association (Malta);

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/43/50/Add.2\), 2020](#)¹²

Para. 93

In order to strengthen the legal framework for implementing human rights, the Government should: (j) Take measures to ensure that employees of resorts fully enjoy their human rights, including their right to form unions and to participate in cultural life, and regularly monitor resort compliance with international human rights standards;

Para. 97

In order to increase human rights mainstreaming into planning for and responding to environmental threats and climate change, the Government should: (f) Stop pressuring civil society organizations to censor themselves, lift without delay the suspension on the Maldivian Democracy Network and demonstrate commitment to freedom of expression.

NEPAL

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6\), 2018](#)¹³

Para. 15

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (b) Strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission for the protection of civic space and the promotion of civil society engagement;
- (c) Revise the draft national integrity and ethics policy, the draft privacy policy and the draft online media directive and amend the Electronic Transactions Act and the National Broadcasting Regulations, in

consultation with the National Human Rights Commission and civil society, to ensure that they do not restrict the activities (...) of representatives of non-governmental organizations working on women's rights.

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/NPL/CO/2), 2014¹⁵

Para. 14

(...) The State party (...) should undertake a comprehensive registration exercise of long-staying Tibetans to ensure that all persons have proper documentation and ensure, in law and in practice, that all refugees and asylum-seekers are not subjected to arbitrary restrictions of their rights under the Covenant, including freedom of (...) assembly and association. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/47/10), 2021¹⁶

Para. 159.75

(...) foster civil society participation; ensure that NGOs active in the field of human rights – including those receiving foreign grants – are free to operate (Czechia);

Para. 159.78

Guarantee freedom of (...) peaceful assembly by putting an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrators, human rights defenders and journalists, as well as by sanctioning the perpetrators of violations of their rights (France);

Para. 159.79

Ensure no person is arrested for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of (...) association or assembly and that all arrests are carried out in accordance with the law and in line with international human rights standards (Greece);

Para. 159.81

Protect and uphold the freedom of (...) peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting the free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland);

Para. 159.82

Promote and protect the right to freedom of (...) peaceful assembly of all residents of Nepal (Latvia);

Para. 159.83

Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment, and to relax the requirements for registering NGOs (Latvia).

PAKISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/5), 2020²⁶

Para. 26

The Committee (...) recommends that the State party review the procedure for non-governmental organizations to obtain foreign funding and ensure that they can freely carry out their advocacy work.

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/PAK/CO/1), 2017¹⁷

Para. 40

The State party should review its legislation on the registration of international NGOs with a view to bringing it into line with article 22 of the Covenant.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/PAK/CO/1), 2017²⁷

Para. 50

The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and other measures necessary to provide an enabling environment for workers to freely form and participate in trade unions and exercise their union rights.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/37/13\), 2017¹⁹](#)

Para. 152.160

Ensure the protection of the right to freedom of (...) association and peaceful assembly by decriminalizing blasphemy and respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all religious minorities, including the Ahmadis, Shia Muslims, Christians and Baha'is (New Zealand).

SRI LANKA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/LKA/CO/5-6\), 2018²⁸](#)

Para. 20

The Committee recommends that the State party revise its Prevention of Terrorism Act to bring it into line with children's rights standards and to refrain from using this piece of legislation to restrict the freedom of association of children, in particular children suspected of alleged terrorist activities.

[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(E/C.12/LKA/CO/5\), 2017²⁹](#)

Para. 34

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that workers enjoy their trade union rights without undue restrictions or interference, and urges it to effectively investigate all allegations of violations of trade union rights. It also recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that migrant workers have the right to join trade unions freely and to take part in trade union activities.

Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW/C/LKA/CO/2), 2016³⁰

Para. 37

The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary, including legislative amendments, to guarantee all migrant workers, including those in an irregular situation, the right to take part in trade union activities and to join trade unions freely, in accordance with article 26 of the Convention;

Para. 43

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CMW/C/LKA/CO/1, para. 32) that the State party take the necessary measures to guarantee migrant workers and members of their families the right to form and be members of the executive bodies of associations and unions for the promotion and protection of their economic, social, cultural and other interests, in accordance with article 40 of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5), 2014²¹

Para. 11 (...)

The State party should take all measures, including amending its legislation, to ensure that all security measures comply with the provisions of the Covenant and contain clear prohibitions against arbitrary arrest and detention as well as clear safeguards against torture and protections of the rights to freedom of (...) association. (...);

Para. 22 (...)

The State party should take measures to ensure the protection of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association of all individual and groups, including the Tamil minority, in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant.

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association \(A/HRC/44/50/Add.1\), 2020³¹](#)

Para. 94

The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government:

- (b) Undertake a review of the Constitution with a view to extending the fundamental rights contained therein to all those under the Government's jurisdiction, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other non-citizens, as per the requirements of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- (c) Consider repealing article 16 of the Constitution, which forbids judicial review of existing legislation that violates the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and other fundamental rights;
- (d) Ensure non-discriminatory application of legislation across communities, including ethnic, religious, LGBTQI+ and other groups, undertaking review of such legislation in order to prevent its discriminatory use, and providing guidelines to law enforcement on the application of legislation that might be prone to misuse;
- (e) Complete its review and repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, replacing it instead with legislation that is fully compliant with international human rights norms and standards, in continued consultation with civil society; implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism with regard to the draft Counter-terrorism Act, and immediately establish a moratorium on the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act for new arrests until it is repealed;
- (f) Implement comprehensive security sector reform and demilitarization, in line with the country's transitional justice commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, and order all security forces to immediately end all forms of surveillance and harassment of and reprisals against human rights defenders, other actors, and victims of human rights violations;
- (i) Safeguard the democratic gains made by the country in the last five years, including through the preservation of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution;
- (j) Guarantee a vibrant civic space, where all civil society actors are able to carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment, free from threats or acts of violence, intimidation, surveillance, or any other form of harassment, including judicial harassment and reprisals;
- (k) Ensure that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association can be effectively exercised, in law and in practice, fulfilling the indispensable role that they play in the promotion of a fair, free,

pluralistic and democratic society where minority and dissenting views are respected;

- (l) Take steps to address the perceived climate of impunity by improving access to justice, promoting and mainstreaming human rights through its legislation, procedures and other actions, and taking resolute steps towards bringing the perpetrators of human rights violations to justice;

Para. 95

With regard to peaceful assembly, he recommends that the Government:

- (a) Consider revising the laws and regulations relating to freedom of peaceful assembly in order to ensure their compliance with international human rights norms and standards;
- (b) Consider developing clear and accessible guidance based on the laws and regulations regarding the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in order to facilitate the organization of assemblies according to law, both by organizers and law enforcement authorities;
- (c) Consider amending the law regarding notification procedures in order to allow for the occurrence of spontaneous or urgent assemblies without risk of criminality;
- (d) Refrain from using national security legislation, including the Prevention of Terrorism Act, to criminalize protesters legitimately exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly;
- (e) Refrain from shutting down the Internet, in whole or in part, which always contravenes international human rights standards, and work collaboratively with civil society, the media, Internet service providers, and social media companies in order to find effective and evidence-based solutions to counter violent content and disinformation online, in a manner consistent with international human rights law;
- (f) Ensure that any use of force to disperse assemblies is in accordance with international human rights law, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, including through the provision of relevant training;
- (g) Ensure that any court orders sought in order to prevent or stop an assembly allow organizers adequate time and opportunity to challenge them, and also ensure that organizers of protests are not held personally accountable for illegal acts committed by others in the context of the protests that they have organized;
- (h) Ensure the safe exercise of the right by groups such as national and religious minorities, LGBTQI+ groups, children and women, including by protecting them from attacks, harassment and intimidation by third parties;
- (i) Ensure that all incidents in which the actions of security forces have resulted in human rights violations, in particular death and injury, are

promptly, independently and transparently investigated and prosecuted, including the Rathupaswala, Welikada prison and Roshan Chanaka cases;

Para. 96

With regard to the right to freedom of association, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government:

- (a) Ensure that existing legislation dealing with the right to freedom of association is in line with international human rights laws and standards, in particular in relation to registration, reporting requirements, the right to privacy and suspension or dissolution of associations, and avoid enacting regressive legislation in the future, including legislation mandating the registration of associations;
- (b) Engage in meaningful consultation with civil society and the National Human Rights Commission on all relevant legislation, including at the drafting, review and implementation stages, especially when such legislation pertains to an alteration in the status, rights or obligations of associations, such as NGOs and trade unions;
- (c) Ensure that all administrative authorities at the national, divisional and district levels dealing with the right to associate are duly trained on international human rights norms and standards in order to create a favourable and enabling environment for civil society to operate;
- (c) Ensure that all administrative authorities at the national, divisional and district levels dealing with the right to associate are duly trained on international human rights norms and standards in order to create a favourable and enabling environment for civil society to operate;
- (e) Ensure the rights to form and join trade unions, both inside and outside of free trade zones, and guarantee their rights to strike and collectively bargain, including through the removal of the 40 per cent threshold in this regard; also ensure that no restrictions are placed on the right to strike, other than those listed as permissible under articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- (f) Accurately measure and record the membership and representative status of trade unions and engage in efforts to promote fruitful interactions between them, with the aim of improving labour standards, guaranteeing labour rights and assisting in the realization of common goals.



Protection of Human Rights Defenders

AFGHANISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/3\), 2020](#)¹

Para. 36

The Committee urges the State party to protect the life, personal liberty and security of women human rights defenders (...), to guarantee their freedom of movement (...), to prosecute acts of murder or gender-based violence and intimidation committed against them and to adequately punish the perpetrators of such crimes. The Committee recommends that the State party work with civil society organizations to raise the awareness of political leaders, communities and the media of the importance of the work of women human rights defenders.

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/AFG/CO/2\), 2017](#)³²

Para. 44

The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To ensure that human rights defenders are able to conduct their work and activities freely in the State party, without fear of reprisals or attacks;
- (b) To investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all violations committed against human rights defenders, prosecute and punish appropriately those found guilty and provide redress to the victims.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/5\), 2019](#)²

Para. 136.85

Continue its fight against and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, with special emphasis on human rights defenders (Spain);

Para. 136.94

Investigate and punish the perpetrators of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, intimidation and threats against the population, in particular against human rights defenders (...) (Argentina);

- Para. 136.95
Take steps to protect against and prosecute those who attack and obstruct the work of (...) human rights defenders (Canada);
- Para. 136.119
Take steps to ensure a safe working environment for human rights defenders (Estonia);
- Para. 136.120
Promote additional measures to maintain a favourable environment for and protect the work of civil society and human rights defenders (...) (Chile);
- Para. 136.122
Guarantee the safety and security of journalists (...) (France);
- Para. 136.123
Take all measures to protect and support (...) human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and civil society organizations; investigate all attacks against them; and bring perpetrators to justice (Iceland);
- Para. 136.125
Adopt specific measures to protect and support (...) human rights defenders and other actors of civil society, enabling them to work freely, without fear of reprisal or attack (Lithuania);
- Para. 136.126
Take further concrete measures to improve conditions for (...) human rights defenders (Norway);
- Para. 136.127
Make further efforts to protect civil society organizations, human rights defenders (...) from attacks and threats, and ensure a safe and secure environment for their work (Republic of Korea);
- Para. 136.128
Implement an effective policy to protect human rights defenders in coordination with civil society (Luxembourg).

BANGLADESH

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2019³](#)

Para. 31

The State party should: (b) Investigate all allegations of unlawful or arbitrary arrest, harassment, torture, ill-treatment or violence against human rights defenders, including civil society actors, lawyers (...).

[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(E/C.12/BGD/CO/1\), 2018²⁵](#)

Para. 12

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure a safe and favourable environment for human rights defenders, review the above-mentioned legislation in close consultation with such defenders with a view to removing restrictive provisions, including section 57 of the Act on information and communications technology and similar provisions in the draft act on digital security of 2018, and repeal the Special Powers Act, 1974. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its statement on human rights defenders and economic, social and cultural rights (E/C.12/2016/2).

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2017⁴](#)

Para. 28

The State party should immediately undertake the following measures to protect the rights of (...) human rights defenders and civil society organizations:

- (a) Protect them from unlawful killings, physical attacks and harassment; ensure that police and officials receive adequate training regarding the protection of human rights defenders; register complaints and thoroughly investigate all attacks on the life, physical integrity and dignity of these persons, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with appropriate remedies.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/39/12\), 2018⁵](#)

Para. 147.23

Ensure that police officers are adequately trained and instructed to investigate reports of harassment, attacks and death threats against (...) human rights defenders and activists and ensure the protection of those under threat in accordance with international human rights law (Finland);

Para. 147.69

(...) end all assaults on (...) human rights defenders, as well as ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);

Para. 147.75

Publicly commit to ensuring that (...) human rights defenders and civil society organizations are able to carry out their activities without fear of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arrest, prosecution or retribution (Austria);

Para. 147.76

Guarantee the security of human rights defenders (France);

Para. 147.77

Protect human rights defenders (...) from harassment by combating impunity and ensuring the prompt and impartial investigation of all violations against human rights defenders (Netherlands);

Para. 147.78

Ensure that human rights defenders (...) and civil society have a safe and enabling environment and can operate freely without fear of reprisals (Norway);

Para. 147.80

Ensure effective protection of the lives and security of human rights defenders (...) against human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and extrajudicial killings (Republic of Korea);

Para. 147.86

Ensure that investigations into cases of killings, abduction attempts, physical attacks and threats against human rights defenders are prompt, effective and impartial (Ireland);

Para. 149.33

Ensure that threats and violence against human rights defenders, and in particular women defenders and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or

intersex defenders, because of their work or perceived or actual gender identity, are effectively prosecuted and do not go unpunished (Belgium);

Para. 149.47

Expand its democratic space online and offline in which opposition politicians (...), human rights defenders and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives, and to this end revise section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);

Para. 149.48

Ensure that human rights activists (...) can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information and Communication Technology Act (in particular section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);

Para. 149.53

End impunity by conducting thorough investigations and criminal prosecutions of human rights violations and abuses against human rights defenders (...), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Germany).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief \(A/HRC/31/18/Add.2\), 2016⁶](#)

Para. 104

The Special Rapporteur would like to make the following recommendations, addressed mainly to Government agencies:

- (f) When publicly condemning acts of violence, including killings, that target members of religious minorities, civil society activists and Internet activists, the Government should meticulously avoid any ambiguities that could be perceived as putting the blame partially on the victims of such violence. All incidents of attacks must be investigated and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

INDIA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/IND/CO/4-5\), 2014³³](#)

Para. 13

The Committee calls upon the State party: (h) To remove restrictions on the work of human rights defenders, such as restrictions on their funding and by not placing them under surveillance.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/10\), 2017⁸](#)

Para. 161.134

Enact a law for the protection of human rights defenders (Lithuania).

MALDIVES

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/6\), 2021⁹](#)

Para. 22

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prevent reprisals against women human rights defenders, ensure their protection from violence and intimidation, and investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all threats and harassment against them;
- (b) Guarantee that women human rights defenders and activists can freely carry out their advocacy for women's human rights and exercise their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, without harassment, surveillance or other undue restrictions.

[Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/MDV/CO/4-5\), 2016¹⁰](#)

Para. 23

The Committee reminds the State party that human rights defenders deserve special protection, as their work is critical for promoting human rights for all, including children, and thus strongly recommends that the State party take immediate action to allow (...) human rights defenders and all NGOs to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without threat and harassment. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure, as indicated in the dialogue, that reported instances of intimidation and harassment of NGOs, human rights defenders and civil society activists are promptly and independently investigated, and those responsible for such abuses are held accountable. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/46/10\), 2020¹¹](#)

Para. 133.147

Ensure that human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations are able to operate without undue interference and fear of reprisals (United States of America);

Para. 133.148

Guarantee freedom of expression for all, including human rights defenders, and ensure that all citizens are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);

Para. 133.151

Ensure and protect the safety, rights and liberty of human rights defenders and civil society organizations and promptly investigate, prosecute and punish threats or acts of violence against them (Canada);

Para. 133.154

Enable human rights defenders to work freely and conduct a transparent and public investigation into the ban of the Maldivian Democracy Network (Germany);

Para. 133.165

Ensure a safe and favourable environment in which human rights defenders can work without fear of sanction, reprisal or intimidation (Luxembourg);

Para. 133.167

(...) combat attacks against human rights defenders who promote freedom of religion and expression (Mexico);

Para. 133.171

Protect women human rights defenders from those who seek to intimidate them (Portugal).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights \(A/HRC/43/50/Add.2\), 2020¹²](#)

Para. 97

In order to increase human rights mainstreaming into planning for and responding to environmental threats and climate change, the Government should: (g) Ensure that human rights defenders and experts working to counter fundamentalism are able to do their work without facing restrictions, threats or coercion;

Para. 99

The Human Rights Commission of Maldives should: (c) Establish a national protection system for human rights defenders, as defined in 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 (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders), including women human rights defenders and cultural rights defenders.

NEPAL

UN Treaty Bodies

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/NPL/CO/2\), 2014¹⁵](#)

Para. 19

(...) The State party (...) should also investigate all cases of threats and attacks against (...) human rights defenders, hold the perpetrators accountable, and provide effective remedies to victims.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/10\), 2021¹⁶](#)

Para. 159.77

(...) guarantee a safe and enabling environment for (...) human rights defenders (Estonia);

Para. 159.78

Guarantee freedom of expression, information and peaceful assembly by putting an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrators, human rights defenders (...) as well as by sanctioning the perpetrators of violations of their rights (France);

Para. 159.83

Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (...) (Latvia);

Para. 159.85

Introduce and implement measures to protect lawyers and human rights defenders, including investigating and prosecuting all forms of attacks against them (Netherlands).

PAKISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/5\), 2020²⁶](#)

Para. 26

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women human rights defenders and political activists are able to exercise their political rights and receive adequate protection from intimidation, reprisals and violence, and that perpetrators of such acts are prosecuted and adequately punished. (...).

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/PAK/CO/1), 2017¹⁷

Para. 38

The State party should (...) promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of harassment, disappearance and killing of human rights defenders, bring the perpetrators to justice and intensify its efforts to ensure a safe and favourable environment for the work of (...) lawyers and human rights defenders.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/PAK/CO/1), 2017²⁷

Para. 14

The Committee urges that the State party make every effort to protect human rights defenders from abduction, killings and intimidation; promptly and thoroughly investigate all reported cases of harassment, disappearance and killing of human rights defenders and bring the perpetrators to justice; and take all measures necessary to ensure a safe and favourable environment for human rights defenders and civil society actors. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its statement on human rights defenders and economic, social and cultural rights (E/C.12/2016/2).

Committee against Torture (CAT/C/PAK/CO/1), 2017³⁴

Para. 23

The State party should take all the necessary measures to protect human rights defenders, lawyers (...) from harassment and attacks, systematically investigate all reported instances of intimidation, harassment and attacks with a view to prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, and guarantee effective remedies to victims and their families, including in the above-mentioned cases. The State party should ensure that no person or organization is subjected to harassment or intimidation as a result of having published information concerning the State party's compliance with its obligations under the Convention.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/PAK/CO/21-23), 2016¹⁸

Para. 40

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all reported cases of intimidation, abduction and killing of human rights defenders, lawyers (...) are promptly and thoroughly investigated and that those responsible are

held accountable. It also recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to provide a safe environment for those working to protect and promote human rights.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/37/13), 2017¹⁹

Para. 152.132

Conduct an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearances of human rights defenders and hold accountable those responsible (Germany);

Para. 152.171

Stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate criticism in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (India);

Para. 152.175

Investigate all reports of attacks on (...) human rights defenders, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway);

Para. 152.176

Implement measures to protect the right to life (...) of (...) human rights defenders, ensuring that the perpetrators of violence against them are brought to justice (Greece);

Para. 152.177

Bring to justice anyone who threatens, abducts or attacks human rights defenders (...) or others who work to promote democracy (Canada);

Para. 152.180

Continue the adoption and implementation of administrative legal measures for the protection of (...) human rights defenders, and ensure that the perpetrators of violence against them are referred to the courts (France);

Para. 152.181

Continue its efforts to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to ensure that all allegations of improper use of criminal laws against (...) dissenting voices, including human rights defenders, are investigated in an effective, impartial and prompt manner (Ireland).

SRI LANKA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/LKA/CO/5-6\), 2018²⁸](#)

Para. 12

The Committee, while welcoming the cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in certain fields and recalling the 2017 concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (see CAT/C/LKA/CO/5, paras. 39–40), urges the State party to ensure that child rights defenders can safely carry out their functions in a manner consistent with the principles of a democratic society, that all instances of arbitrary arrest, intimidation and harassment of these activists are promptly and independently investigated and that those responsible for such abuses are held accountable.

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/LKA/CO/5\), 2017³⁵](#)

Para. 40

The Committee requests the State party to:

- (a) Publicly condemn threats and attacks against human rights defenders (...) and to ensure their effective protection;
- (b) Promptly investigate the cases brought to the Committee's attention, including those mentioned in the Committee's list of issues (see CAT/C/LKA/Q/5, para. 36). The State party should ensure that suitable action is taken against those responsible and remedies granted to the victims;
- (d) Put an end to the practice of detaining or prosecuting (...) human rights defenders as a means of intimidating them or discouraging them from freely reporting on human rights issues.

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5\), 2014²¹](#)

Para. 21

(...) The State party (...) should vigorously investigate all cases of threats and attacks against (...) lawyers, clergymen, political activists, members of non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders, hold the perpetrators accountable and provide effective remedies to victims. Furthermore, it should ensure that any individual or organization can provide information freely to the Committee, and should protect them against any reprisals for providing such information.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/37/17\), 2017²²](#)

Para. 116.105

Ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders (Norway);

Para. 116.106

Ensure in line with international human rights the protection of women human rights defenders — including through human rights training of the police — so that they can fully participate in society without fear of harassment or violence (Finland);

Para. 116.107

Take measures to adequately protect human rights defenders, to ensure proper investigation into alleged attacks and to prosecute those found responsible (Ireland).

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence \(A/HRC/45/45/Add.1\), 2020³⁶](#)

Para. 87

Since one of the aims of transitional justice is to foster trust, the Government should consider other confidence-building measures. For example, the Government should: (b) Cease the continued harassment and surveillance by security and intelligence personnel of human rights defenders and other social actors, especially women.

[Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism \(A/HRC/40/52/Add.3\), 2018²⁴](#)

Para. 62

The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka: (o) Publicly issue unequivocal instructions to all security forces to immediately end all forms of surveillance and harassment against human rights defenders and victims under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and their families.



Protection of Journalists/ Media Workers

AFGHANISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/3\), 2020¹](#)

Para. 36

The Committee urges the State party to protect the life, personal liberty and security of women (...) journalists, to guarantee their freedom of movement and expression, to prosecute acts of murder or gender-based violence and intimidation committed against them and to adequately punish the perpetrators of such crimes. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/5\), 2019²](#)

Para. 136.93

Hold accountable individuals responsible, including government officials, for threats and violence against journalists (United States of America);

Para. 136.94

Investigate and punish the perpetrators of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, intimidation and threats against the population, in particular against (...) journalists (Argentina);

Para. 136.95

Take steps to protect against and prosecute those who attack and obstruct the work of journalists (...) (Canada);

Para. 136.101

Promptly and impartially investigate all attacks on journalists, and ensure that appropriate measures are taken against any person found responsible for them (Greece);

Para. 136.102

Guarantee the safety of journalists and media workers operating throughout the country, and end the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against them (Albania);

- Para. 136.120
Promote additional measures to maintain a favourable environment for and protect the work of civil society (...), including journalists (Chile);
- Para. 136.121
(...) improve work concerning the prevention and investigation of attacks against journalists, media workers and media offices (Estonia);
- Para. 136.122
Guarantee the safety and security of journalists (...) (France);
- Para. 136.123
Take all measures to protect and support journalists (...), including women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and civil society organizations; investigate all attacks against them; and bring perpetrators to justice (Iceland);
- Para. 136.124
Adopt effective measures to ensure adequate protection of journalists (Italy);
- Para. 136.125
Adopt specific measures to protect and support journalists (...) and other actors of civil society, enabling them to work freely, without fear of reprisal or attack (Lithuania);
- Para. 136.126
Take further concrete measures to improve conditions for journalists (...) (Norway);
- Para. 136.127
Make further efforts to protect civil society organizations (...) and journalists from attacks and threats, and ensure a safe and secure environment for their work (Republic of Korea).

BANGLADESH

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2019³](#)

Para. 31

The State party should:

- (a) Communicate at the highest level that civil society activists, lawyers and journalists who publicize information or allegations concerning human rights violations play a vital role in society and should not be subjected to retaliatory charges of contempt of court, defamation or sedition for criticizing government leaders or their performance;
- (b) Investigate all allegations of unlawful or arbitrary arrest, harassment, torture, ill-treatment or violence against (...) journalists.

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/BGD/CO/1\), 2017⁴](#)

Para. 28

The State party should immediately undertake the following measures to protect the rights of journalists, bloggers (...) and civil society organizations:

- (a) Protect them from unlawful killings, physical attacks and harassment; ensure that police and officials receive adequate training regarding the protection of human rights defenders; register complaints and thoroughly investigate all attacks on the life, physical integrity and dignity of these persons, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with appropriate remedies.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/39/12\), 2018⁵](#)

Para. 147.23

Ensure that police officers are adequately trained and instructed to investigate reports of harassment, attacks and death threats against journalists, media workers (...) and activists and ensure the protection of those under threat in accordance with international human rights law (Finland);

Para. 147.65

Take effective measures to ensure that the press can work free from the oppression by instances of censorship, threats, physical assaults and killings (Slovakia);

- Para. 147.69
Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and end all assaults on journalists (...), as well as ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);
- Para. 147.75
Publicly commit to ensuring that journalists, bloggers, (...) and civil society organizations are able to carry out their activities without fear of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arrest, prosecution or retribution (Austria);
- Para. 147.77
Protect (...) journalists from harassment by combating impunity and ensuring the prompt and impartial investigation of all violations against human rights defenders (Netherlands);
- Para. 147.78
Ensure that (...) journalists and civil society have a safe and enabling environment and can operate freely without fear of reprisals (Norway);
- Para. 147.80
Ensure effective protection of the lives and security of (...) journalists against human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and extrajudicial killings (Republic of Korea);
- Para. 147.89
Investigate all cases of murder and violence against journalists and bloggers and bring the perpetrators to justice (Slovakia);
- Para. 149.47
Expand its democratic space online and offline in which opposition politicians, journalists, (...) and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives, and to this end revise section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);
- Para. 149.48
Ensure that human rights activists and journalists can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information and Communication Technology Act (in particular section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);

Para. 149.53

End impunity by conducting thorough investigations and criminal prosecutions of human rights violations and abuses against (...) journalists, bloggers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Germany).

INDIA

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/36/10\), 2017⁸](#)

Para. 161.141

Carry out independent investigations in all cases of attacks against journalists (Lithuania).

MALDIVES

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC/C/MDV/CO/4-5\), 2016¹⁰](#)

Para. 23

The Committee reminds the State party that human rights defenders deserve special protection, as their work is critical for promoting human rights for all, including children, and thus strongly recommends that the State party take immediate action to allow journalists (...) and all NGOs to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without threat and harassment. (...).

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/46/10\), 2020¹¹](#)

Para. 133.156

(...) take appropriate measures to enhance the safety of journalists, including by considering taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Greece).

NEPAL

UN Treaty Bodies

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/NPL/CO/2\), 2014¹⁵](#)

Para. 19

(...) The State party (...) should also investigate all cases of threats and attacks against journalists (...), hold the perpetrators accountable, and provide effective remedies to victims.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/10\), 2021¹⁶](#)

Para. 159.77

Ensure the right to freedom of expression online and offline, in law and in practice, and guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalists (...) (Estonia);

Para. 159.78

Guarantee freedom of expression, information and peaceful assembly by putting an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrators (...) and journalists, as well as by sanctioning the perpetrators of violations of their rights (France).

PAKISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Human Rights Committee \(CCPR/C/PAK/CO/1\), 2017¹⁷](#)

Para. 38

The State party should decriminalize defamation, and ensure that imprisonment is never a punishment for defamation and that criminal laws are not improperly used against journalists and dissenting voices. (...) Furthermore, it should (...) intensify its efforts to ensure a safe and favourable environment for the work of journalists, (...).

Committee against Torture (CAT/C/PAK/CO/1), 2017³⁴

Para. 23

The State party should take all the necessary measures to protect (...) lawyers and journalists from harassment and attacks, systematically investigate all reported instances of intimidation, harassment and attacks with a view to prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, and guarantee effective remedies to victims and their families, including in the above-mentioned cases. The State party should ensure that no person or organization is subjected to harassment or intimidation as a result of having published information concerning the State party's compliance with its obligations under the Convention.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/PAK/CO/21-23), 2016¹⁸

Para. 40

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all reported cases of intimidation, abduction and killing of (...) lawyers and journalists are promptly and thoroughly investigated and that those responsible are held accountable. It also recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to provide a safe environment for those working to protect and promote human rights.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/37/13), 2017¹⁹

Para. 152.173

Prevent impunity for crimes against journalists and media workers (Sweden);

Para. 152.174

Protect independent journalists and the media against any intimidation or violence, including enforced disappearance (Czechia);

Para. 152.175

Investigate all reports of attacks on journalists (...), and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway);

Para. 152.176

Implement measures to protect the right to life (...) of journalists (...), ensuring that the perpetrators of violence against them are brought to justice (Greece);

Para. 152.177

Bring to justice anyone who threatens, abducts or attacks (...) journalists, bloggers or others who work to promote democracy (Canada);

Para. 152.178

Introduce strong legislation prohibiting attacks against journalists, effectively investigate such acts and prosecute the perpetrators, as previously recommended (Austria);

Para. 152.179

Provide updated information regarding the judicial status of cases of murdered journalists for the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity (Sweden);

Para. 152.180

Continue the adoption and implementation of administrative legal measures for the protection of journalists (...), and ensure that the perpetrators of violence against them are referred to the courts (France);

Para. 152.181

Continue its efforts to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to ensure that all allegations of improper use of criminal laws against journalists and dissenting voices (...) are investigated in an effective, impartial and prompt manner (Ireland).

SRI LANKA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee against Torture \(CAT/C/LKA/CO/5\), 2017](#)³⁵

Para. 40

The Committee requests the State party to:

- (a) Publicly condemn threats and attacks against (...) journalists and to ensure their effective protection;
- (b) Promptly investigate the cases brought to the Committee's attention, including those mentioned in the Committee's list of issues (see CAT/C/LKA/Q/5, para. 36). The State party should ensure that suitable action is taken against those responsible and remedies granted to the victims;
- (c) Promptly inform the Committee about the developments in and the outcome

- of the judicial proceeding instituted against the alleged perpetrators of the abduction of Prageeth Eknaligoda and ensure that Mr. Eknaligoda's family members are provided with effective protection from all forms of harassment or reprisal;
- (d) Put an end to the practice of detaining or prosecuting journalists (...) as a means of intimidating them or discouraging them from freely reporting on human rights issues.

Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5), 2014²¹

Para. 21

(...) The State party (...) should vigorously investigate all cases of threats and attacks against journalists, lawyers, clergymen, political activists, members of non-governmental organizations (...), hold the perpetrators accountable and provide effective remedies to victims. Furthermore, it should ensure that any individual or organization can provide information freely to the Committee, and should protect them against any reprisals for providing such information.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

UPR, third cycle (A/HRC/37/17), 2017²²

Para. 116.104

Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of civil society actors and journalists and to investigate cases of threats and attacks against them (State of Palestine).



Media Freedom

AFGHANISTAN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/5\), 2019²](#)

Para. 136.121

Ensure freedom of expression, offline as well as online, and improve work concerning the prevention and investigation of attacks against journalists, media workers and media offices (...) (Estonia).

BANGLADESH

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/39/12\), 2018⁵](#)

Para. 147.65

Take effective measures to ensure that the press can work free from the oppression by instances of censorship, threats, physical assaults and killings (Slovakia);

Para. 147.67

Protect freedom of expression in media, politics and religion, and work with civil society to address concerns regarding section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

Para. 147.69

Take effective measures to (...) ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);

Para. 147.73

Safeguard freedoms of political expression and association, without reprisals, censorship, intimidation or restrictive legal action, and that Bangladesh safeguard the independence of media (New Zealand);

Para. 149.45

(...) take steps to create an independent broadcast licensing authority (Estonia);

Para. 149.46

Revise media laws, in consultation with civil society, to decriminalize “defamation” and “hurting religious sentiment”, and limit proposed extended jail terms for these offences (United States of America).

INDIA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD/C/IND/CO/1\), 2019³⁷](#)

Para. 45

The Committee recommends that the State party: (c) Enforce the national broadcast legislation that introduced sanctions for lack of compliance with the accessibility requirements.

MALDIVES

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/46/10\), 2020¹¹](#)

Para. 133.162

Take further steps towards enhancing (...) freedom of the press (India);

Para. 133.163

Strengthen the protection of (...) freedom of the press (...) (Indonesia).

NEPAL

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/10\), 2021](#)¹⁶

Para. 159.73

Consider revising the local legislation on media and information technology in order to guarantee the full respect of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Brazil);

Para. 159.81

Protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting the free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland).



Right to Information

AFGHANISTAN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/41/5\), 2019²](#)

Para. 136.72

Further progress in streamlining and implementing new legislation in the fields of combating torture and access to information (Turkey).

BHUTAN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/42/8\), 2019⁷](#)

Para. 157.50

Continue efforts to provide government services on the Internet (Jordan).

INDIA

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD/C/IND/CO/1\), 2019³⁷](#)

Para. 45

The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize sign language as official language, allocate public resources to provide training and increase the availability of sign language interpreters in court proceedings and in health-care, education, leisure, religious and cultural services;
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to all public information and services using augmentative and alternative communication, Easy

Read, plain language, tactile communication and accessible digital Internet-based services, taking account of internationally recognized accessibility standards.

MALDIVES

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/46/10\), 2020](#)¹¹

Para. 133.188

Guarantee access to information (...) (Mexico).

NEPAL

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD/C/NPL/CO/17-23\), 2018](#)¹⁴

Para. 34

The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to establish a centre for sign language research and training of sign language interpreters, and ensure their certification, involving the representative organizations of deaf persons.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

[UPR, third cycle \(A/HRC/47/10\), 2021](#)¹⁶

Para. 159.74

Ensure that legislation on cybersecurity guarantees the rights of access to information (...) (Chile);

Para. 159.78

Guarantee freedom of (...) information (...) (France).

PAKISTAN

UN Treaty Bodies

[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(E/C.12/PAK/CO/1\), 2017²⁷](#)

Para. 88

The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to improve access to the Internet, especially in rural areas.

SRI LANKA

UN Special Procedures

[Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence \(A/HRC/45/45/Add.1\), 2020³⁶](#)

Para. 88

Concerning truth-seeking, the Government should publish all reports of previous commissions and make their records and archives available to any future transitional justice mechanism.

[Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances \(A/HRC/33/51/Add.2\), 2016³⁸](#)

Para. 82

The Working Group also recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka:

- (j) Immediately open archives, including military archives, relevant to cases of enforced disappearance in order to facilitate the localization of undiscovered gravesites and speed up the search for missing persons;
- (k) Promulgate a law on access to information and develop a proper legislative framework on archives so as to guarantee full access to all information that could potentially lead to clarification in cases of disappeared persons;

Para. 83

The Working Group recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka: (d) Ensure that the judicial accountability mechanism comprises all stages of the prosecution and judicial process and provide access and information to the families of disappeared persons.

End Notes

- 1 <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/3>
- 2 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/5>
- 3 <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/BGD/CO/1>
- 4 <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/BGD/CO/1>
- 5 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/39/12>
- 6 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/31/18/Add.2>
- 7 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/42/8>
- 8 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/36/10>
- 9 <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/6>
- 10 <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/MDV/CO/4-5>
- 11 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/10>
- 12 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/50/Add.2>
- 13 <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6>
- 14 <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/NPL/CO/17-23>
- 15 <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/NPL/CO/2>
- 16 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/10>
- 17 <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/PAK/CO/1>
- 18 <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/PAK/CO/21-23>
- 19 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/13>
- 20 <https://undocs.org/CERD/C/LKA/CO/10-17>
- 21 <https://undocs.org/CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5>
- 22 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/17>
- 23 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/43/48/Add.2>
- 24 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/52/Add.3>
- 25 <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/BGD/CO/1>
- 26 <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/5>
- 27 <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/PAK/CO/1>
- 28 <https://undocs.org/CRC/C/LKA/CO/5-6>
- 29 <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/LKA/CO/5>
- 30 <https://undocs.org/CMW/C/LKA/CO/2>
- 31 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/50/Add.1>
- 32 <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/AFG/CO/2>
- 33 <https://undocs.org/CEDAW/C/IND/CO/4-5>
- 34 <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/PAK/CO/1>
- 35 <https://undocs.org/CAT/C/LKA/CO/5>
- 36 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/45/Add.1>
- 37 <https://undocs.org/CRPD/C/IND/CO/1>
- 38 <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/33/51/Add.2>



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