

# CALL TO ACTION

## for Protection of Migrant Human Rights Defenders in Asia and the Pacific



From 28th to 29th November 2024, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) co-organized the *'Asia Pacific Regional Consultation with Migrant Human Rights Defenders'*<sup>1</sup> in Bangkok, Thailand. Gathered together at the Consultation, human rights defenders, grass-roots activists and advocates from across Asia and the Pacific, including migrants themselves, identified the following actions as priority recommendations<sup>2</sup> to States.

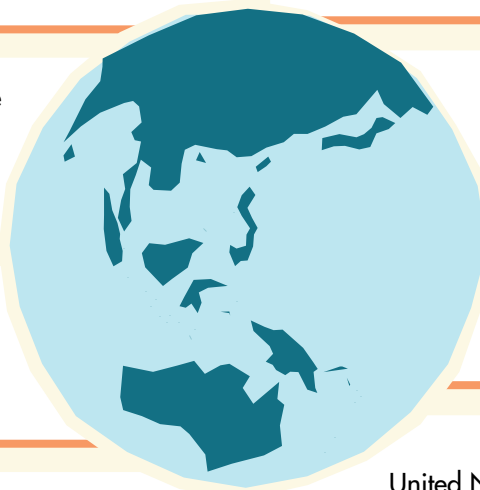
Provide, in law and in practice, a safe, accessible and enabling environment for individuals and organizations that work to promote or protect the human rights of migrants and their families, including human rights defenders who are themselves migrants.

Investigate and prosecute any attacks by State and non-State actors against human rights defenders, their families, associates or legal representatives.

Recognize publicly the important role played by migrant human rights defenders, in all their diversity, and the legitimacy of their work.

Enable everyone to defend the rights of others regardless of their immigration status, including by recognizing in domestic legislation migrants' right to freedom of association and encourage and enable them to self-organize, regardless of their migration status.

Establish public policies and programmes that sustainably support and protect migrant human rights defenders in all stages of their work.



Take all necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders and their families are protected from violence, retaliation, threats including threats of immigration enforcement, cancelling of visas, detention, deportation, bans or fines, criminal prosecution, all forms of discrimination, and other kinds of pressure or arbitrary action by State or non-State actors as a consequence of their work to defend the rights of migrants.

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and related organizations are urged to recognize and publicly promote the important role played by migrant human rights defenders, including by ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels, such as the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at country, regional and global levels.



<sup>1</sup> Individuals or groups who, in their personal or professional capacities and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote the human rights of migrants.

<sup>2</sup> The recommendations are based on the [UN Declaration on human rights defenders](#), the Principle 18 of the [OHCHR principles and guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations](#), and the recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in her report ['Refusing to turn away: human rights defenders working on the rights of refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers'](#).