

General Risk Outline for Specific Human Rights Defender Profile

Purpose:

To define risk per specific HRD profile so as to take it into account when drawing security/protection plans and promoting organisational policies.

Beyond common risks faced by all human rights defenders, chapter 1.9. illustrates how specificities of a group of human rights defenders must be taken into account when it comes to drawing a security/protection plan whether at individual, organisational and/or inter-organisational level.

The manual cannot be exhaustive and explore all specific HRD profiles working in different political contexts. Each group and situation would deserve at least a whole chapter, if not a whole dedicated protection manual: religious institutions; indigenous communities; groups working on economic, social and cultural rights; groups working on child rights; lawyers and jurists; journalists; rural organisations; environmentalists; trade unionists; minorities; LGBTI¹, ...

Moreover, it would require continuous updating as the political context is dynamic, and so is the risk

However, let's not forget that the underlying risk analysis logic stays the same for all HRD groups and individuals. It just needs to be implemented taking into account HRD specific profiles and related threats, vulnerabilities and capacities.

Below is a non exhaustive table on how specific data can be illustrated through brainstorming. It can be considered as a starting point that each HRD group will need to explore and detail further as each element can have several shades.

For example, religious networks and institutions could be christian (catholic, apostolic, evangelist, mormon, quakers...), islam (sunni, shi'a, sufi...), hindu, budhist etc.; they can be working in an urban or rural area; in a more or less human rights oriented political context; on more or less contentious topics, etc.

A same threat can be conveyed through different patterns, i.e. threat of aggression can be against people, against material...

For each profile, chart 3 (page 32-35) still needs to be used to complement the information.

¹ Protection Manual for LGBTI Defenders, PI©2009

General Risk Outline per Specific Human Rights Defenders profiles (non exhaustive)

PROFILES	AREAS OF WORK	THREATS DUE TO WORK/IMPACT	VULNERABILITY/ CAPACITIES
RELIGIOUS NETWORKS (...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, food security and religious values • Cross denominational group • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredit when labelled as "supporters of illegal armed groups" • Aggressions because of the label • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical isolation • Lack of institutional support • Access to networks • Working from a converging element (religious belief) • (...)
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS - ESCR) ORGANISATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment at individual and organisational levels • Food security, environmental management and protection, agrarian projects, education • Identity and minority rights • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational strengthening breaks down the hegemony of armed actors • Economic embargoes • Infiltration • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed to armed actors in the regions where they work • Geographical isolation • Access to networks tackling same topics often less contentious than some other human rights issues like political prisoners, for example • Access to acceptance as their work generates immediate benefits for local communities • (...)
LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ORGANISATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence of HR often through emblematic cases • Training on HR • Struggle against impunity and for trial observation • Juridical and political consultancy • Public denunciation of HR violations • Political thematic campaigns • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredit • criminalization • judicialization • attacks against their social image • Infiltration • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance from civil and political authorities • Limited internal political support • Institutional profile relatively high • Institutional support • Access to international homologue networks • (...)
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian assistance • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigmatization and persecution • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure • Over confidence (god willing/ god protecting/ reincarnation...) • Legitimacy • Networks and resources- Credibility • Political incidence/influence • Hierarchical • Ideology identity • (...)

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PROFILES	AREAS OF WORK	THREATS DUE TO WORK/IMPACT	VULNERABILITY/ CAPACITIES
RURAL COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land claim and recovery • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial control by third parties • Displacement or confinement • Intimidation from powerful land owners • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation • Weak leadership • Poverty • Skills to grow products • Knowledge of territory • Organisational skills • Difficult access to information and education • Difficult access to electricity and water • Shared agricultural territory • Heterogeneous in interests and composition • (...)
TRADE UNIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour human rights • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredit and criminalisation • Lay-off • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social organisation worldwide with registered membership • Exposed to protagonist attitude • Political partisanship • Working in networks • Capacity to mobilise large number of members and non-members • Capacity to have impact on key economic and social areas • Social recognition • Reluctance to collaborate with HRD • Political identity • Hierarchical structure • (...)
JOURNALISTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation and publication of HR violations. • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredit • Aggression • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed to corruption and media magnates • Access to International network and journalist associations • Access to media • Public image • Democracy watch-dog • Individuals • (...)

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PROFILES	AREAS OF WORK	THREATS DUE TO WORK/IMPACT	VULNERABILITY/ CAPACITIES
LGBTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTI rights • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denigration, discredit and criminalisation • Public anti-LGBTI campaign • Anti-LGBTI legislation • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed to morale/religious /cultural/social prejudices • Access to International Networks • Often excluded by other HRD • Sometimes low profile • Difficult promotion of their rights • Transversal to all HRD organisations • Easily recognizable • Exposed to homo and transphobia also from authorities supposed to protect all citizens • Exposed to psychological pressure and stress • (...)
MINORITY IDENTITY GROUPS • (...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity rights • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discredit and exclusion • Restriction of their civic rights • (...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share a cultural and ethnic identity • Can be settled in different geographic areas • Tendency to work in a closed circle • Isolation • Difficult access to other HR groups • Difficulty in promoting awareness around their case • (...)