

INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE

RETHINKING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

A critical and innovative reflection on protection approaches

12th & 13th December 2017, Brussels

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Tuesday, 12th December

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome & Opening

09:45 Introduction *(by PI and CAHR)*

Presentation of the objectives, programme and participants

10:45 STRAND I: RE-CONCEPTUALISING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The session will focus on how the conceptualisation and definitions contained in international standards facilitate or hinder the protection of human rights defenders. It will also discuss the relation between HRDs' multiple identities and protection practices.

Panel discussion

11:45 Break

12:00 Working groups

Participants will choose among 6 working groups and continue the discussion on the 3 main topics presented by the panellists

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Feedback session on strand I followed by a Q&A session.

14:30 STRAND II: GAPS IN CURRENT PROTECTION APPROACHES (part 1)

Protection mechanisms, principles and practices have evolved over time, in response to perceptions of the realities that defenders face around the world. This session reviews the current protection regime to identify strengths and critical gaps, discussing the factors that shape the development of national policies for the protection of HRDs.

Panel Discussion

16:00 Break

16:15 Summary of the day

Day 2: Wednesday, 13th December

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome and opening

09:45 STRAND II: GAPS IN CURRENT PROTECTION APPROACHES (part 2)

Presentation and summary of panel strand 2 - *drawing by artist*

Open discussion in World Café inspired style

Following up on the panel discussion of the previous day, participants will have the opportunity to choose 2 among 6 “cafés” and discuss the topics presented by the panellists.

10:45 Break

11:00 Feedback session in plenary

Rapporteurs will present the main ideas discussed in each “cafés”

11:30 STRAND III: RETHINKING THE PROTECTION OF HRDs

The objective of this session is to gather creative thinking from participants and explore ways forward and new approaches to the protection of human rights defenders worldwide.

Speeches in plenary

Lightning talks presented in response to the following question:

What would you like HRD protection to be? Why? How?

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Free to walkin' working groups

Participants will be free to move from one group to another and interact with the speakers to discuss the ideas they presented.

14:30 Debate session in plenary

Participants will be invited to shortly present one main idea at a time

16:00 Break

16:15 Summary of the day

Closing remarks

17:15 End of the round-table

Please note that the Chatham House Rule will be applied: No names of participants should be made public by PI and CAHR without permission. Please do not name or quote any participant to the conference unless you have asked for their permission first.