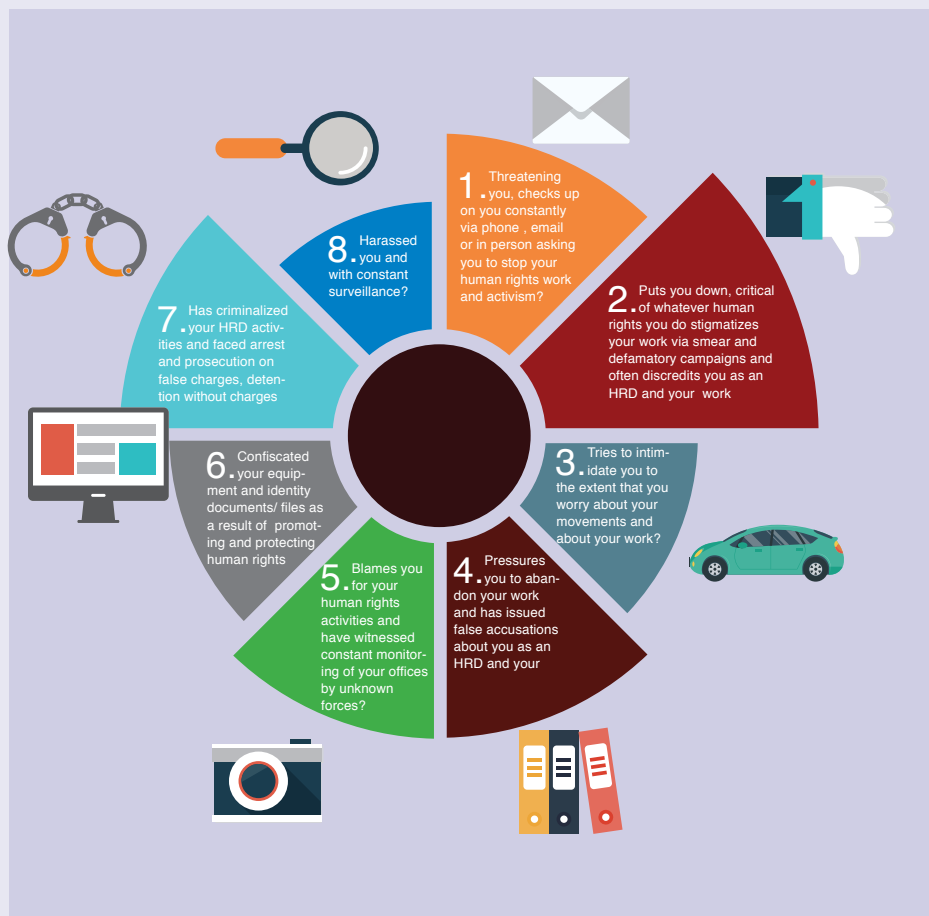


# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HRD

Violations against HRDs are deliberate actions by state and non-state actors in response to the work and activities performed by HRDs for protection and promotion of human rights.

## TYPES OF VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS.

Is there is someone ( state or non-state actor) who is or has



If you answered "YES" to any of these questions about yourself or someone you know, help is available you may be at risk of abuse. You can call 0800100250 or contact any of the following members of the HRD referral network.

Help for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda  
Protection for Human Rights Defenders  
Keeping HRDs safe in Uganda  
+256 410 342 543



June 2017

## WHO IS HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDER? HRD

An HRD is a person who, individually or with others, acts to promote or protect human rights.

A person is characterized as an HRD by engaging in activities in support of human rights behalf of any individual or group.

It is not essential for a person to be known as a "human rights activists" or to work for an organization that includes "human rights" in its name or with a specific human rights focus, to be an HRD

To be an HRD, a person can act to address any particular human right, or collection of different human rights, on

A person is characterized as an HRD by engaging in activities in support of human rights on behalf of any individual or group.

HRDs can seek to promote, protect or realize any or all human rights; civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights

It is the nature of the work conducted in support of human rights that characterizes an individual as an HRD, rather than a particular job title or being part of a particular organization.

Anyone can be an HRD. No specific "qualification, such as an academic qualification, is required to be an HRD. It is an individual's work for human Rights that counts.



## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS HELP US ALL! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

### **HRDs Promote and protect any human rights:**

To be an HRD, an person may work to address any human rights concerns, including arbitrary arrest, torture, discrimination, forced evictions, access to health care and education. Some HRDs work to address the rights of specific categories of persons including children, women, ethnic rights, some on specific human rights issues such as freedom of expression

### **HRDs Collect and disseminate information on violations of human rights:**

HRDs can investigate, gather information and report on violations of human rights. For example human rights Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) disseminate their reports on human rights violations to national (such as the Uganda Human Rights Commission), regional and international mechanisms (such as treaty bodies, Human Rights Council, or raise awareness and to call for action, to prevent future violations and to seek redress for the past violations.

### **HRDs Support victims of human rights violations:**

Many HRDs work in support of victims of human rights violations. For example, some HRDs provide legal assistance to victims by filing first information reports with the police on their behalf regarding violations or abuses they suffered, while others provide counseling and rehabilitation support.

### **HRDs Seek accountability and end impunity:**

Many HRDs work to put pressure on authorities to respect human rights legal standards, lobbying and advocating for greater efforts by the Government to meet international standards and obligations and publicizing information on the Government's records in meeting such standards. Some also seek accountability for the violations that have taken place by pursuing judicial proceedings.

### **HRDs Provide human rights education and training:**

Education, training and information dissemination on human rights are also important tasks performed by HRDs. For example, HRDs organise awareness raising programmes on different human rights issues in which government authorities participate, including police officers and district administration officials

### **HRDs Contribute to the implementation of human rights treaties:**

Many HRDs greatly contribute to the practical implementation of international human rights treaties within our country. For example, NGOs are helping to establish accessible health care, thus contributing to the realization of the right to health.

### **HRDs Support better governance:**

Some HRDs work on good governance, including working to end corruption and the abuse of power and authority



# WE CAN ALL DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT HRDS TO DO THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

## MPs

As lawmakers your responsibility is to create legislation that protects the safety, and well-being of all citizen's of Uganda. As representatives of the GoU you have the responsibility to operationalize the national, regional and international commitments Uganda



has signed such as the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders and Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs 16 which address peace, security and justice for all), and the Constitution of Uganda. Help GoU meet its commitments.

- Support enactment of a specific law on protection of HRDs or legislations that are relevant and can be used for the protection and promotion of the work and rights of HRDs.
- Educate your constituency about the importance of Human Rights Defenders in Uganda and Support for women human rights defenders to carry out their work free from threats and violence



## Police

Provide the safety and security for HRDs. Handle civil and criminal cases by taking a case and statement of the HRD victim ,initiate investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of violations and abuses against HRDs.



## Civil Society organizations

Civil Society Organizations...as non-governmental organizations, as HRD your responsibility is to own networks that can help HRDs themselves to share information on threats and violations with each other. As watchdog s to exert pressure on the authorities and seek solidarity and support from like-minded organizations. Even a phone call could provide a significant moral boost for HRDs at risk.

- Educate yourselves, your staff, policy makers, opinion leaders, and the general public about the need for protection of HRDs..
- Lobby the GoU to pass the legislations to protect HRDs .
- Add your voice to the call for creating secure environment for HRDs..



## Journalists

As reporters and editors your responsibility is to inform and educate the public, promote the public good and influence public opinion. You are also a watch dog of the GoU – ask the critical question; are they are fulfilling their duty to protect Human Rights Defenders from threats and attacks?

- Publish objective articles that clearly explain the works of Human Rights Defenders and their significance for Ugandans
- Clear up misconceptions about the role of HRDs
- Use your editorial space to call on the GoU to pass laws that promote the protection of Human rights defenders.

