UNIVERSITY of York

Resolution 22/6: Protecting human rights defenders

Adopted by the Human Rights Council

Calls for States to create a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders

A/HRC/RES/22/6

States
are to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all human rights defenders

Human rights defenders
are essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights

Urges States to:

Ensure
that legislation affecting human rights defenders is consistent with international human rights law and does not restrict rights

Acknowledge
publicly the legitimate role of human rights defenders

Ensure
that human rights defenders are able to protest peacefully

Facilitate
access to information technologies and the media of one's choice

Respect, protect and ensure
the freedom of association of human rights defenders

Ensure
that measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security are in compliance with international law and not used arbitrarily against human rights defenders

States should also ensure that:

The promotion and protection of human rights is not criminalised

The judiciary in independent, impartial, and competent in relation to human rights defenders

Any provision or decision that interferes with the enjoyment of human rights is lawful, proportionate, non-discriminatory, and necessary

Dissenting views can be expressed peacefully

And States should:

Integrate
a gender perspective that addresses systemic and structural discrimination and violence faced by women human rights defenders

Ensure
unhindered access to and communication with international bodies

Refrain
from acts of intimidation or reprisals against those who cooperate with international institutions, ending impunity for those who perpetrate such acts