Regional Action Plan on GANHRI Marrakesh Declaration

NHRI Action to Promote & Protect Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) & Enable Democratic Space

**PREVENT**

- Compliance with Paris Principles
- Promoting & protecting enabling environment
- Bridge-building with stakeholders

**REACT**

- Continuous action to tackle undermining of democratic space
- Rapid reaction when HRDs, including NHRIs, face threats

European NHRIs working nationally & collectively

Enabling Democratic Space

Democracy & HRDs Under Threat

January 2019
### European NHRIs (nationally)

**PREVENT**
Ensuring an enabling environment

- **Compliance with Paris Principles**
  - Take steps to ensure full compliance with Paris Principles and so act as independent and pluralistic HRDs

- **Promoting an enabling environment**
  - Raise awareness of the role of HRDs in democratic societies
  - Support effective participation of civil society HRDs in policy and legislative processes
  - Promote human rights education and the use of social media, easy language and fact-based positive messages
  - Promote national HRD guidelines/model laws

- **Protecting an enabling environment**
  - Conduct data collection and reporting on democratic space
  - Monitor and intervene in legislative and policy processes concerning independent state authorities, NGOs, individual HRDs, and related fundamental rights

- **Bridge-building with stakeholders**
  - Promote open dialogue between CSO/HRDs and state authorities
  - Cooperate with stakeholders for effective implementation of international/regional standards
  - Cooperate with HRDs, including forging new partnerships (youth)

**Continuous action to tackle undermining of democratic space**

- Introduce HRD focal point within the NHRI
- Provide information to HRDs on actors/tools that can support them if under threat
- Strategic litigation before national and regional courts and facilitate pro bono legal support for CSOs and individual HRDs
- Follow-up recommendations/decisions of international/regional/national actors on HRDs towards state authorities
- Report threats in Annual Reports and other publications

**Rapid reaction when HRDs face threats**

- Install rapid reaction processes, such as activation of helpline
- Raise public awareness of issue and, where appropriate, specific cases
- Provide legal advice and cooperate with pro bono lawyers
- Conduct complaints-handling and visits to detained HRDs
- Provide support to other NHRIs under threat
- Identify with partners alternative CSO fundraising

### ENNHRI (European NHRIs collectively)

**Compliance with Paris Principles**
Support NHRIs to be established and to function as HRDs, in compliance with the Paris Principles

**Promoting an enabling environment**

- Include promotion of HRD role in ENNHRI activities
- Develop a database of NHRI key messages and practices, including on rule of law, economic and social rights, and asylum and migration
- NHRI capacity-building on impactful human rights communication
- Data-collection on national HRD guidelines/model laws

**Protecting an enabling environment**

- Conduct data-collection and reporting on regional trends
- Intervene in legislative and policy processes at regional level, on HRDs and democratic space
- Promote civil society participation in legislative/policy processes on HRDs

**Bridge-building with stakeholders**

- Link up NHRIs to relevant regional actors and mechanisms
- Cooperate with HRDs (and their networks), including forging new partnerships

**Continuous action to tackle undermining of democratic space**

- Provide information for NHRIs on regional mechanisms and tools for supporting HRDs, including NHRIs
- Peer-support on interventions before regional courts (CJEU, ECtHR)
- Preventive peer exchange on restrictive country-trends
- Support NHRIs on national implementation of recommendations
- Exchange of information/cooperation in defence of regional human rights frameworks, mechanisms and actors
- Facilitate peer exchange in relation to introduction and functioning of HRD focal points

**Rapid reaction when NHRIs face threats**

- Operationalise ENNHRI’s policy on NHRIs under threat:
  - Facilitate peer support among members
  - Where appropriate, raise public awareness
  - Facilitate NHRI access to regional/global protection mechanisms
  - Coordinate approach with partners at regional level for joint rapid response
  - Coordinate with GANHRI for action at global level
  - Establish global fund for rapid response support in-country (TBC)
The implementation of the Regional Action Plan is integrated into ENNHRI's Strategic and Operational Plans for 2018-2021. It will also be subject to review and evaluation for consideration in future plans.