

First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs)
3-4 June 2026, Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg

RESOURCE LIST FOR EHRDs



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1. UN resources

- [Aarhus Convention](#)
- [The UN Declaration on human rights defenders](#)
- [Secretary General report on the 20th anniversary of the Declaration](#)
- [Human Rights Council Resolution 40/11](#) on “Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development.”
- [UN General Assembly Resolution 68/181](#) on protecting women human rights defenders
- [UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300](#) on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- [Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#)
- [What is the right to a healthy environment?](#)
- [Fact Sheet No. 29: Human Rights Defenders: Protecting the Right to Defend Human Rights](#) (updated version forthcoming)
- [United Nations Guidance Note on Environmental Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [United Nations Guidance Note on the protection and promotion of civic space](#)
- [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [General Comment 27](#) on economic, social and cultural rights and the environmental dimension of sustainable development
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, [General Comment 26](#) on children’s rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change
- [OHCHR Youth Rights advocacy toolkit](#)
- Civil Space:
 - [Civic Space Brief: Protection Networks](#)
 - [Civic Space Brief: Freedom of Assembly](#)
 - [Transnational repression](#)
 - [Civic Space and Tech Brief: Online platform Governance & Human Rights | OHCHR](#)
 - [Civic Space & Tech Brief: Encryption](#)
 - [Civic Space & Tech Brief: Hacking and spyware](#)
- SLAPPs:
 - [Briefing on SLAPPs](#)
 - [Latest SG report on the safety of journalists focusing on environmental journalists](#)

1.1. Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

- [ISHR's guide for human rights defenders: Special Procedures](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders**
 - [About the mandate](#)
 - [Commentary to the Declaration on human rights defenders: an essential guide to the right to defend human rights](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression:**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on Peaceful assembly and of association:**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights**
 - [About the mandate](#)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples**
 - [About the Mandate](#)
- **UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**
 - [About the Mandate](#)
- **UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**
 - [About the Mandate](#)

1.2. Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention

- [About the mandate](#)
- [How to submit a complaint to the Special Rapporteur](#)
- Video presentation of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention ([ENG](#); [FRA](#); [HUN](#); [RUS](#); [SPA](#)).
- [Guidelines on the right to peaceful environmental protest and civil disobedience](#) ([ENG](#), [ESP](#), [FRA](#), [RUS](#))
- [Report on key trends and threats regarding environmental defenders identified by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders](#) ([ENG](#), [FRA](#), [RUS](#))
- [Report on regional consultations with environmental defenders](#) ([ENG](#), [FRA](#), [RUS](#), [SPA](#))

2. Council of Europe resources

- [Department on the Reykjavík Process and Environment](#)
- [Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment](#)
- [Action Plan on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment](#)
- [Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#)
- [Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(Bern Convention\)](#)
- [The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law](#)
- [Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms \(ETS No. 005\)](#)
- [European Social Charter \(revised\) \(ETS No. 163\)](#)

2.1. Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)20](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and the protection of the environment
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)6](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people and climate action
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs)

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)3](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and business

2.2. Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)

- [Resolution 1660 \(2009\)](#) / [Recommendation 1866 \(2009\)](#) – The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States.
- [Resolution 1891 \(2012\)](#) – The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States.
- [Resolution 2095 \(2016\)](#) / [Recommendation 2085 \(2016\)](#) – Strengthening the protection and role of human rights defenders.
- [Resolution 2225 \(2018\)](#) – Protecting human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States.
- [Resolution 2398 \(2021\)](#) / [Recommendation 2213 \(2021\)](#) – Addressing issues of criminal and civil liability in the context of climate change.
- [Resolution 2545 \(2024\)](#) / [Recommendation 2272 \(2024\)](#) – Mainstreaming the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with the Reykjavík process.

2.3. Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

- Commissioner O’Flaherty, [Shout Out](#) – Alarming trends: the crisis facing civil society and human rights defenders in Europe, 9 October 2025.
- Commissioner O’Flaherty, [Memorandum](#) on the human rights of Roma and on issues related to the right to a clean and healthy environment in North Macedonia, 29 July 2025.
- Commissioner O’Flaherty, [Letter](#) to the President of the Senate of Italy – The Commissioner asks the Italian Senate to amend the ‘security bill’ to safeguard human rights, 16 December 2024.
- Commissioner O’Flaherty, [Speech](#): Commissioner pledges to prioritise the defence of civil society, 8 April 2024.
- Commissioner Mijatović, [Letter](#) to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan – Concerns about the disproportionate use of force by police during environmental protests and restrictions to the work of human rights defenders, lawyers, and journalists, 13 July 2023.
- Commissioner Mijatović, [Human Rights Comment](#): Crackdowns on peaceful environmental protests should stop and give way to more social dialogue, 2 June 2023.
- Commissioner Mijatović, [Human Rights Comment](#): Let us make Europe a safe place for environmental human rights defenders, 25 May 2021.
- Commissioner Mijatović, [Report](#) on environmental rights activism and advocacy in Europe: issues, threats, opportunities, 31 March 2021.

2.4. Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and studies

- [Guide to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights – Environment](#)
- Factsheet - [Climate change](#)
- Factsheet - [Environment](#)
- [Thematic factsheet on environment and climate change](#)
- [Climate change - ECtHR and CJEU Case-Law](#)
- [Study on national climate litigation](#)

2.5. The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs)

- [CINGO study on recent adverse developments for non-governmental organisations in Europe](#)
- [CONF/AG\(2025\)REC2 - Recommendation on the shrinking Civic Space and actual political developments](#) - adopted on 9 April 2025
- [Stigmatisation of Non-Governmental Organisations In Europe \(2024\)](#)
- [Non-Governmental Organisations and the Implementation of Measures Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing \(2022\)](#)
- [The Execution of Judgments Involving Freedom of Association \(2022\)](#)
- [The Legal Space for Non-Governmental Organisations in Europe \(2021\)](#)
- [Information brochure on Young Environmental Defenders and Their Rights \(2021\)](#)

3. European Union resources

3.1. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

- [Civic Space Update: Enabling civil society to uphold EU values and strengthen democracy \(2026\)](#)
- [Opinion on Draft Simplified European Sustainability Reporting Standards \(2026\)](#)
- [Towards a fundamental rights-compliant European Green Deal \(2025\)](#)
- [Summary of key findings from FRA's civic space consultation covering 2024 \(2025\)](#)
- [Chapter 2 of the Fundamental Rights Report \(2024\)](#)
- [Protecting human rights defenders at risk: EU entry, stay and support \(2023\)](#)
- [Fundamental rights and housing in the EU's climate and energy transition \(2026\)](#)

- [Climate change - ECtHR and CJEU Case-Law \(ECtHR-FRA Joint Factsheet\) \(2025\)](#)
- [A Human Rights Approach to Due Diligence: Reflections on key principles \(2025\)](#)
- [Enforcing consumer rights to combat greenwashing \(2024\)](#)
- [Business and human rights – access to remedy \(2020\)](#)

3.2. European Parliament

- [Environmental human rights defenders: new developments and their implications for the European Union and the European Parliament \(2025\)](#)
- [EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders - European Implementation Assessment \(2022\)](#)

3.3. European Commission

- [EU Strategy for Civil Society \(2025\)](#)
- [Final Report: A thriving civic space for upholding fundamental rights in the EU \(2023\)](#)

4. Civil Society resources

- [Realizing protection for human rights defenders and civil society organizations in Europe: mapping paper \(2024\)](#)
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, [Defending rights and realizing just economies: Human rights defenders and business \(2015-2024\)](#)
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, [Navigating a Global Crossroads: Human Rights Defenders and Business in 2025](#) (available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French)
- EEB information portal <https://eeb.org/en/my-environmental-rights/>
- [ISHR Academy](#), Helping human rights defenders strengthen their advocacy skills with the UN & regional human rights systems.
- [Declaration +25](#), A supplement to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- [The CASE Handbook on how to prevent SLAPPs or get help if it's too late](#)
- [The CASE 2025 report on SLAPPs in Europe](#)
- [CliDef SLAPP Resilience Fund](#)
- Protection International, A Critical Approach to the Protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

