

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS

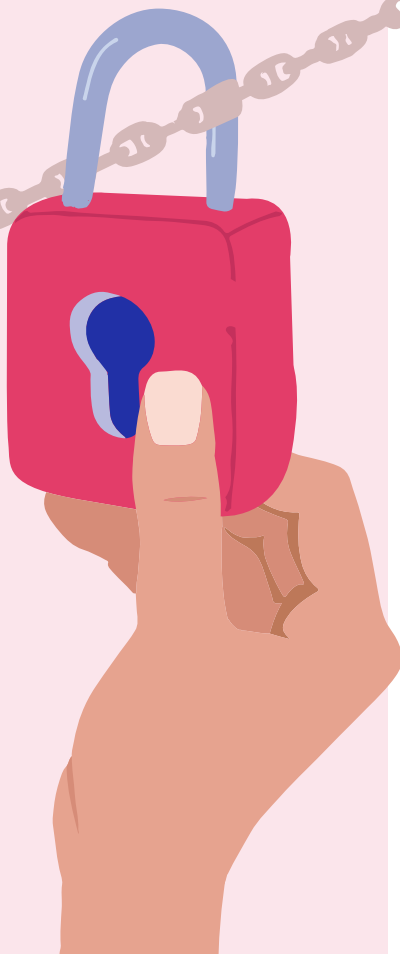


Don't hold peace and transition negotiations and peace-making processes behind closed doors and STOP obstructing civil society participation and inclusion.



Actively promote and facilitate meaningful inclusion and participation of diverse civil society during all steps of conflict-prevention, peace building, and transition:

- Recognize and regard civil society and social movements as valuable and integral partners for developing more sustainable solutions for peace-building and democratic transition.
- Ensure direct access of civil society, including women peace-builders, to formal peace processes and decision-making, respecting their agency.
- Ensure diverse civil society and communities are meaningfully consulted and involved from the design to the negotiations and implementation of peace agreements, and in the transition process and institution-building.
- Promote opportunities and create space to guarantee meaningful inclusion: create inclusive platforms, nation-wide consultations and dialogues implementing a bottom-up approach, where voices of all segments of communities are heard, and directly feed into peace deals and policy-making.
- Ensure equal representation and meaningful inclusion of women, marginalized groups and victims' groups throughout peace & security processes.



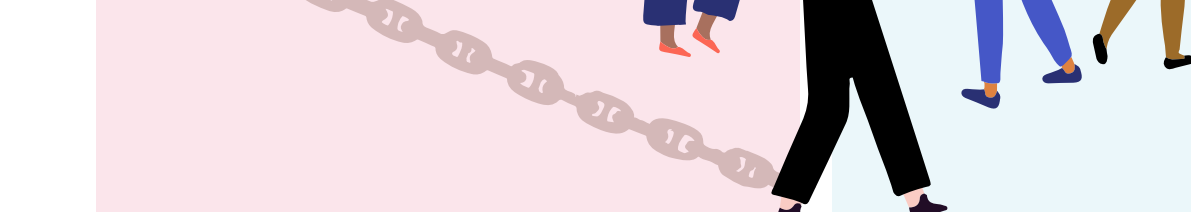
Don't treat civil society, activists and protesters as an obstacle to peace and political negotiation efforts.

- Don't adopt laws restricting and controlling registration, activities, funding, and providing for criminalization and dissolution of civil society organizations on the basis of broad terms such as prohibition of engaging in political activities, among others.
- Don't perpetuate gender discrimination by restricting the work of women activists and peace-builders by invoking traditional gender norms.

Create an enabling environment for the safe exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association during peace and transition processes:

- Ensure laws and regulations enable and facilitate the work of civil society, women activists, peacebuilders and peace movements, so they can freely organize and safely engage in peace and political processes;
- Ensure national security, public order or emergency laws and measures, and cybercrimes laws, are in line with international human rights standards, and are not misused to clampdown on civil society and activists.
- Extend protection against any forms of abuse and intimidation of those exercising their FoAA rights, including marginalized groups and women movements.
- Extend technical and financial support to enable diverse civil society's active and meaningful engagement in peace processes, by: ensuring civil society, regardless of their formal status and registration, are able to freely access resources, including foreign funding.
- *Exert pressure on de-facto* authorities and non-state armed groups in control over territory, as "duty-bearers", to fully respect international human rights law, including the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.





Stop reprisals, repression and abuse of civil society, activists, peaceful assemblies and rights movements engaged in peace and transitions processes, including on the pretext of states of emergency or of national security:

- Don't subject civil society and activists engaged in peace and transition processes to intimidation campaigns or attacks, or excessive use of force and reprisals for their engagement.
- Don't stigmatize civil society actors, activists and protesters or generate harmful and hostile narratives encouraging or condoning violence against them;

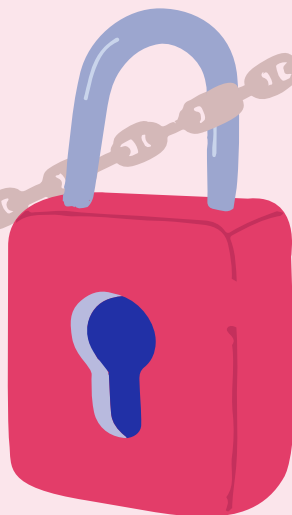
Ensure prompt and effective victim-centered accountability for serious human rights violations of those exercising their FoAA rights in the context of transition:

- Ensure all responsible, including those at command level are promptly brought to justice;
- Provide full and adequate reparations to victims and their families as needed;
- Guarantee access to adequate protection for activists and protesters, facing serious abuse including in connection to their participation in a peace and transition process;
- Ensure security sector reforms, enhancing accountability and oversight; avoid relying on forces outside of the law enforcement chain of command; and ensure law enforcement capacity building to guarantee effective enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association during transition contexts.

Stop securitizing peace and transition processes; and STOP undermining the needs of communities and victims & long-term needs of peace building and democratic transition.

Enshrine human rights, including respect to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in peace accords, and establish oversight mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability during the implementation phase;

- Ensure civil society's rights recommendations and victims' and marginalized groups demands are adequately reflected in the peace accords, constitution and institutions building.



The UN and the international community should continue to exercise its leadership and promote FoAA rights to ensure inclusive and participatory peace processes by:

- Ensuring peace and transition processes and agreements do not sacrifice accountability and protection of human rights for all.
- Making a requirement for the inclusion of broad civil society, and equal women representation, in all stages, including in decision-making, in UN-supported peace and political processes.
- Ensuring inclusive roadmaps are developed to support the safe and meaningful participation of civil society and women in all diversity and geographical representation, including in exile.
- Fostering and supporting locally driven movements, activism and peacebuilding initiatives;
- Holding robust, meaningful and regular consultations with civil society, prior and during the negotiations and ensuring their grievances and aspirations are reflected in the design of the negotiations agenda, agreements and outcomes.
- Including specific reference on the protection of civil society and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in Security Council resolutions and mandates for political and peace-keeping operations and Missions.
- Using all available leverage, including targeted sanctions, to exert pressure on non-State actors and de-facto authorities to seize all acts of attacks and intimidation of civil society, and ensure the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association can be exercised freely and safely.
- Supporting the establishment of an international independent investigation and accountability mechanism and strengthening of national accountability mechanisms to address human rights violations related to peaceful assembly and association.

