

CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights in Times of Crisis

Ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy a life in dignity and larger freedom is at the core of the UN's work. Through a combination of response mechanisms, national human rights protection systems, and strong governance institutions, people everywhere should enjoy the broad range of freedoms and human rights that many of us take for granted.

States are the primary duty bearers when it comes to upholding all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights - for all, at all times. These are deeply intertwined and are critical for a life free from fear and want. To help States and civil societies build societies where such a life would be possible, the UN is working closely with Governments and other actors not only in situations of crisis but also in times of peace. Despite longstanding efforts however, **the results are mixed.**

In part, this is due to the complexity of some of the situations that the UN has had to confront in the recent past. Recent independent reviews of UN action have demonstrated that, particularly in politically complex situations, rather than working together, including to support or reinforce existing mechanisms that can help detect rights abuses at an early stage and even prevent conflict, the UN tends to fragment and pursue diverse approaches. They illustrate the **need for a much stronger and more coherent internal orientation towards rights protection** as the primary guiding principle for all UN action.

An **Agenda for Protection for the United Nations System** will lay out and champion a common understanding of protection, building on the broad range of available UN actions and tools. The Agenda will set out the parameters of what coherent, human rights centered protection engagement looks like and will include an operational plan, offering recommendations for adjustments at the central level and in the field, providing an adaptable and long-term plan that the whole UN can support.

