FORUM-ASIA recognises the need to address the on-going violations against and criminalisation of HRDs, who play a key role in ensuring that everyone’s human rights are protected and fulfilled. To this end, on the 20th year anniversary of the Declaration on HRDs, FORUM-ASIA is producing visual materials that emphasise the importance of HRDs and their contributions, the rights they have, and the responsibilities of others towards HRDs, under the Declaration.

**DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

**RIGHTS OF HRDs**

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders emphasises that everyone **has the right** to work on or engage in **peaceful activities** aimed at the **protection and promotion of human rights**. (Article 1, 11)

**KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER (HRD) IS CRUCIAL.** By knowing them, you can take action to protect yourself and your community from rights violations and abuses.

**KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS**

- **Common Forms of Harassment Against HRDs in Asia, and the Articles in the Declaration that HRDs can use to protect their rights**

**TRENDS OF HARASSMENT**

- Some states arbitrary arrest people for joining and/or organising peaceful protests
- It is common for some states to impose lengthy registration processes for NGOs, and arbitrarily revoke NGOs’ licenses
- In certain states, people are targeted simply for discussing human rights issues publicly
- There are a few states that restrict HRDs’ access to resources that enable them to pursue their human rights work

**YOUR RIGHTS**

- Right to freely assemble in order to address human rights violations (Article 5, 12.1)
- Right to participate in any organisations or groups working on human rights (Article 5)
- Right to develop, discuss and promote human rights ideas and principles (Article 7)
- Right to receive and use resources from anywhere to support human rights work (Article 13)