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)

State and non-state actors have deterred Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from claiming their fundamental rights. However, it is important to know that as a HRD you have the **RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED** from human rights violations and **TO BENEFIT FROM EFFECTIVE REMEDIES**. (Article 9.1)

**COMMON PRACTICES USED TO DISCOURAGE HRDS IN ASIA FROM CLAIMING THEIR RIGHTS, AND THE ARTICLES IN THE DECLARATION HRDS CAN USE TO CHALLENGE THESE REPRESSIVE ACTIONS**

**TRENDS OF REPRESSIVE ACTION**

- Some states impose travel bans on HRDs to discourage them from meeting and engaging with human rights organisations
- Some HRDs who seek or reveal information about human rights violations often face threats to their lives
- A few states disregard complaints submitted by HRDs about the state’s inadequate action on addressing human rights issues
- There are states that do not accept complaints about human rights violations or provide the necessary support for victims to get justice

**YOUR RIGHTS**

- Right to communicate with any international human rights mechanisms such as the United Nations (Article 5c, 9.4)
- Right to seek, receive and share information on human rights issues (Article 6a & b, 9.3b)
- Right to submit complaints about authorities’ compliance with international human rights laws (Article 8.2, 9.3)
- Right to file legal complaints, seek legal advice, and be fairly treated by the judicial system in addressing human rights violations (Article 2, 3a, 9.3c)