

In the current context of violence against human rights defenders and journalists in Mexico, the Espacio OSC invites Mexican government agencies to dialogue and to reorient the protection strategies and programs (created through the Federal Mechanism), as well as to strengthen and develop comprehensive actions that guarantee their obligations to respect and guarantee the rights of such persons.

Therefore, in order to contribute to the creation of a comprehensive public policy that recognizes human rights defenders and journalists as subjects of rights - instead of merely objects of protection - we at Espacio OSC propose four main strategic axes to be developed by the different governmental agencies, as follows: Prevention, prevention and protection of human rights defenders and journalists:

1. Prevention

2. Protection

3. Investigation

4. Compensation and non-repetition guarantees

In the area of
1. Prevention, the following actions are essential:

- a) Developing skills in the identification and management of risk from a gender, differential and communitarian approach.
- b) Recognition and support towards the activities of human rights defenders and journalists.

Regarding this matter, the two priority actions we consider to be of the utmost importance are:

- Have an up-to-date registry of aggressions at national and regional scale, which allows, first, to know the dimension of the phenomena and, second, to design risk maps for identifying patterns of assaults, aggressions and obstacles.

- Establish early warnings or contingency plans in high-risk regions in order to combat more effectively the structural causes that generate and allow aggressions.

In the field of
2. Protection actions are required in order to:

- a) Adapt protection measures to the diversity of risks for human rights defenders and journalists.
- b) Improve institutional management and articulation at federal, state and municipal levels.
- c) Improve risk analysis procedures.

In this item, the priority actions proposed are:

- In compliance with the recommendations issued by the UN-DH for the strengthening of the Federal Protection Mechanism, State Mechanisms and State Protection Units, report the progress regarding:

- Assignment of enough and trained staff
- Adoption of good practices in information management, victim care, risk analysis, implementation and follow-up of measures.
- Participation of civil society
- Among others.

- Ensure the integration and collaboration of authorities at the federal, state and municipal levels with planning and transparency objectives in the implementation of all protection procedures.

In the area of
3. Investigation, the following is required:

- a) Strengthen the institutional competencies of the Prosecutor's Offices.
- b) Strengthen the institutional competencies of the Prosecutor's Offices.

- c) To guarantee better victim care and transparency. Some of the priority actions to be taken are:

- Elaborate and implement a specialized investigation protocol for crimes committed against the right to defend human rights, which should establish simple, fast and effective procedures and also include monitoring and transparency mechanisms that allow for improvements in the implementation of the instrument.
- Implement, train and report on the status of implementation by local prosecutors' offices of the Standardized Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against Freedom of Expression.
- Maintain updated public databases on crimes, violations and the status of investigations.

Finally, for issue

4. Reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, the following is required:

- a) Actions for memory and recognition of the work of human rights defenders and journalists.
- b) Reinforce coordination and attention among the existing commissions for attention to victims.
- c) Guarantee the application of restitution, rehabilitation, compensation and satisfaction measures.

In this regard, some priority actions include:

- Set up coordination and victim care mechanisms among the State Commissions of Attention to Victims through simple, clear and transparent procedures that allow access to their rights as victims.
- Ensure that the State Commissions for Attention to Victims have adequate and trained personnel to provide the required attention with a human rights perspective, aimed at avoiding re-victimization.

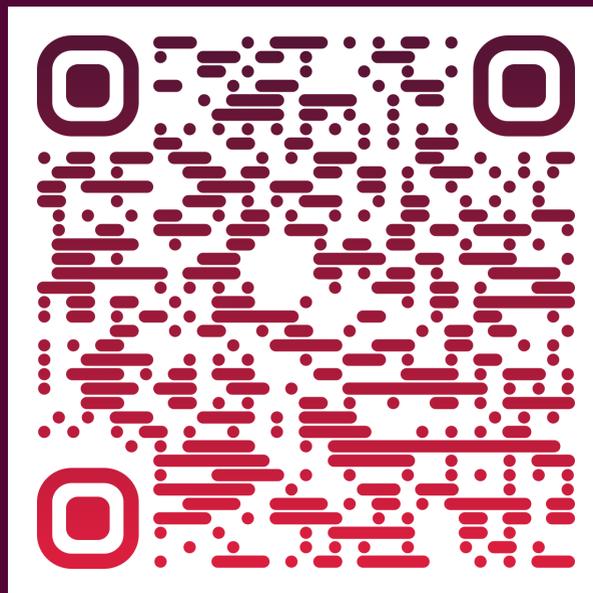
In order to be included, established and implemented, the aforementioned areas and guidelines demand the political determination and willingness of the following institutions:

- Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB),
- Human Rights Unit (SEGOB),
- Public Policy Direction (SEGOB),
- Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC),
- Attorney General's Office (FGR),
- National Human Rights Commission (CNDH),
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE),
- Executive Commission for Attention to Victims (CEAV),
- Among other government instances.

These actions will only be possible through the promotion of dialogue and the mobilization of human and financial resources and political support for their effective implementation. In addition, they will require harmonization with the rest of the regulations and systems for the protection for human rights, being essential to guarantee proper reporting and the participation of human rights defenders and journalists in the decision-making process that affects them.

Each of the guidelines for the fulfillment of the strategic axes must contain clear objectives, indicators and measurement and information instruments for their evaluation, as well as monitoring and follow-up mechanisms for their implementation and accountability.

Refer to the publication **Priority Points to Guarantee the Right to Defend Human Rights and Freedom of Expression**



Sitio web: <https://espacio.osc.mx/>

Email: contacto@espacio.osc.mx

Twitter: @EspacioOSC

ESPACIO OSC
Para la Protección de Personas Defensoras y Periodistas

Priority Areas in Guaranteeing the Right to Defend Human Rights and Freedom of Expression

