

Recommendations made by UN member states to the Maldives at the 36th session of the Universal Periodic Review, specifically on the right to freedom of association, the right to freedom of expression and regarding human rights defenders.

Germany: Enable human rights defenders to work freely and conduct a transparent and public investigation on the ban of the Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN).

Switzerland: Repeal or amend all legislation and any decree restricting and criminalizing the rights of human rights defenders in order to guarantee, among other things, the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

UK: Expand and protect space for civil society organisations to operate in order to promote social cohesion.

Australia: Guarantee freedom of expression for all, including human rights defenders, and ensure all citizens are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse.

Canada: Ensure and protect the safety, rights and liberty of human rights defenders and civil society organizations and promptly investigate, prosecute and punish threats or acts of violence against them.

Luxembourg: Ensure safe and favourable environment where human rights defenders can work without fear of sanction, reprisals or intimidation.

Portugal: Protect women human rights defenders from those who seek to intimidate them

USA: Ensure human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations are able to operate without undue interference and fear of reprisals.

Austria: Ensure that Civil Society Organizations are free to carry out their activities without fear or hindrance, in this regard remove undue restrictions on the freedom of association, in accordance with article 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Spain: Increase measures to promote and protect freedom of expression.

Switzerland: Repeal or amend all legislation and any decree restricting and criminalizing the rights of human rights defenders in order to guarantee, among other things, the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

Brazil: Strengthen efforts to apply, in law and practice, the full respect to the freedom of opinion and expression.

Greece: Further strengthen efforts to protect freedom of expression and take appropriate measures to enhance the safety of journalists, including by considering taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Holy See: Ensure freedom of expression, religion and belief to all religious minorities, providing them access to legal protection and redress.

India: Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

Indonesia: Strengthen the protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, as well as strengthen efforts in addressing the issue of prison overcrowding, especially during this time of pandemic.

Malta: Work towards creating an enabling environment where individuals can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression and association.

New Zealand: Take concrete measures to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression.

Compiled with selected recommendations to highlight those relevant to the arbitrary ban of MDN.