

Invitation to the KOFF Roundtable

Challenges and Experiences of Human Rights Defenders in Kenya

Tuesday, 2 October 2018, from 14:15 to 17:30 at swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, Bern

with the participation of

Maria Mahia-Ini	Woman Human Rights Defender, WHRD Toolkit Organizer
Stephen Mwangi	Grassroots Human Rights Defender, Mathare Social Justice Center
Sabine Dwinger	Advocacy Officer for PBI in Kenya

It has been twenty years since the Human Rights community adopted the [Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#) (HRDs). On the occasion of this anniversary, KOFF and Peace Brigades International (PBI) are happy to invite you to a KOFF Roundtable on HRDs in Kenya.

Grassroots Human Rights Defenders (GHRDs) play an important role in Kenyan Civil Society as they are often the ones present on the ground, documenting cases, collecting evidence and speaking to victims and community members. As such, they are very visible and vulnerable to possible aggressors, but may lack the resources and the networks to provide for adequate protection. Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) face many of the same challenges as their male counterparts. However, many face additional obstacles and threats because of their gender.

The roundtable will highlight the vital work of GHRDs and WHRDs to promote and protect human rights in Kenyan society. Our guest speakers will share their experiences and talk about challenges they see for HRDs, grassroots activists and civil society more generally regarding the prevention of violence in Kenya. Following, we will open up the space for an exchange and discussion on questions such as: What is the context of Kenya regarding civil society space? What forms of violence are HRDs facing in Kenyan society and how are they dealt with? What are the particular risks or vulnerabilities that WHRDs face? How can HRDs and civil society actors better work together toward violence prevention?

If you would like to participate, kindly send a confirmation e-mail to [Dayana Hug](#) by September 21, 2018.

We look forward to a fruitful exchange and a rich discussion!

Best wishes,

Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding KOFF

Andrea Grossenbacher