

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**77th Session of the UN General Assembly**

**3rd Committee**

**Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

New York, 13 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders for her presentation today.

We welcome her report on the situation of human rights defenders supporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and on the many barriers they face while carrying out their duties.

Madame Special Rapporteur,

It remains unacceptable that human rights defenders continue to face different forms of mistreatments or are being prosecuted for standing up for those in need. They must be able to do their work without fear of prosecution.

In your report you mention various protection mechanisms for human rights defenders. In this regard we would like to ask how such mechanisms best protect those defenders who are forced to work in secret from fear of attack? How can we ensure that criminal law is not misused to punish humanitarian acts?

Let me conclude by underlining that states have primary responsibility to protect human rights of all, including human rights defenders, and to reiterate Slovenia’s strong support for your mandate.

Thank you.

