

# How to Defend Human Rights during a Pandemic?

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## ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic and state responses to it represent a set of new challenges and threats for those who advocate for human rights. In April 2020, Amnesty International urged states to ensure that they include human rights defenders in their management of the crisis, as they play a major role in ensuring that the measures applied to respect human rights and leave no one behind. It was also called not to use the restrictions linked to the pandemic as a pretext to further reduce civic space and suppress dissidents and human rights defenders, or to dismiss relevant information deemed inconvenient for the government. Despite these warnings and the commitments made by the international community, more than two decades ago to protect and recognize the right to safeguard human rights, there are threats and attacks that continue to target these rights in the midst of a pandemic.

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