

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



Safeguarding and Empowering Young Human Rights Defenders: Research, Dialogue, and Action

Consultative meeting

1-2 June 2026

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, room 3.1

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1

09:30 – 10:15 **Opening Session**

- Welcome by the Youth Partnership
- Tour de table (name and organisation)
- Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting

10:15 – 11:15 **Setting the Stage: Who Are Young Human Rights Defenders?**

- Participants share short presentations on their areas of engagement, how are they connected to the topic, their achievements and challenges (5-7 minutes each)

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 12:30 Setting the Stage: Who Are Young Human Rights Defenders? – continued

- Continuation of presentations
- Plenary discussion – who is missing from the room?

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00- 14:45 **Panel Discussion: Mapping Threats and Challenges for YHRDs**

- Overview of legal, social, and practical threats faced by YHRDs (e.g. financing, new technologies, harassment, intimidation, surveillance, etc.)
- Q&A

14:45-15:30 Breakout Workshops: Mapping Threats and Obstacles

- Working in groups of 4-5 participants to map the main obstacles and threats young activists face

15:30– 16:00 Coffee break

16:00-16:45 Plenary – Sharing the outcomes of discussions and reflections

16:45 – 17:00 Closing of Day 1

Day 2

09:00-09:15 What are the needs of young HR defenders? – introduction

09:15 – 10:15 Panel Discussion: National, European and International Frameworks & Instruments

- Mapping of relevant support services and legal instruments/ policies aimed at protecting young HR defenders

10:15– 12:00 Breakout session: Needs Assessment for Young Human Rights Defenders
(including the coffee break)

- Identify key areas of support needed: legal, psychological, resources, networks, etc.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 Discussion on implementation gaps of different frameworks and protection mechanisms

14:30-16:15 Collaborative Session: Recommendations for Research, Policy and Practice
(including the coffee break)

- Group work – recommendations for Youth Partnership’s upcoming research
- Who should we reach out to and how (which channels should be used for that)?
- What type of tool would support young HR defenders in their work?

16:15- 17:00 Sharing in Plenary

17:00-17:15 Closing remarks – Youth Partnership

- Next steps on future research collaboration and knowledge products