

DECLARATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL EXPLAINER

Threats to aid workers

It has never been more dangerous to be an aid worker. Over one thousand humanitarian personnel have been killed in the last three years worldwide¹.

When humanitarians cannot operate safely in one place, their work is compromised everywhere.

The Declaration

In September 2025, the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel was launched in the margins of UNGA High-level Week with 106 signatories. This number continues to grow.

This Declaration translates political commitment into practical steps to better protect aid workers in conflict zones, against a backdrop of rising threats.

How was it developed?

The Declaration was collectively developed by a cross-regional Ministerial Group comprising Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

It is also informed by extensive consultation with humanitarian organisations.

The Declaration demonstrates practical measures that can be implemented across a range of operating contexts, representing the diversity of the UN.

How does the Declaration work?

The Declaration is a non-binding political commitment and reflects existing obligations under international humanitarian law.

It galvanises political pressure to promote

compliance with existing legal framework.

The Declaration complements and reinforces UN Security Council Resolution 2730 (May 2024), supporting the UN Secretary-General's efforts to address threats to humanitarian personnel.

The Declaration also provides a framework to support complementary initiatives, including the ICRC's *Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law*.

The Group of Friends

Implementation is supported through a Group of Friends for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel based in Geneva. The Group of Friends is open to all signatories to the Declaration.

The Group of Friends serves as a critical platform to contribute to practical and tangible policies and practices that support the Declaration's aims. It also offers a forum to exchange good practices and connect with humanitarian organisations.

How do I sign on?

The Declaration remains open for endorsement. We strongly encourage all countries to join and commit to working together to secure the safety of all humanitarian workers.

To sign on, a Third Person Note / Note Verbale endorsing the Declaration can be submitted to the accredited Australian mission.

Please direct any questions on endorsement to protectionhumanitarianpersonnel@dfat.gov.au

¹ Source: Aid Worker Security Data Base 2023-2026.

What does the Declaration cover?

The Declaration contains practical steps that states may wish to take under four key areas:

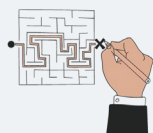
ADHERENCE

Adherence to international humanitarian law



ACCESS

Facilitation of safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access



ALIGNMENT

Alignment of protections for international, national and local workers



ACCOUNTABILITY

Increased accountability and justice

