Oral Statement
ITEM 3: General Debate
ID SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

UN Human Rights Council
Fortieth session
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Thank you, Mr President,

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, which provides a comprehensive overview of the gendered barriers encountered by women defenders in law, policy and practice every day.

Over recent years, women defenders around the world, including Right Livelihood Award Laureates, have increasingly been subjected to discrimination, harassment, threats and prosecution.

Such is the case of Ms **Mozn Hassan**, an Egyptian human rights activist, whose work on sexual and reproductive rights has been criminalised, in the context of the well-known NGO Foreign Funding Case. The charges faced by Ms Hassan in said case include: “inciting and calling for the irresponsible liberation of women”.

Ms **Khadija Ismayilova**’s case also illustrates the report’s findings. As a journalist, she has worked to reveal corruption within the Azerbaijani government. In retaliation, her right to privacy was violated through the release of intimate online videos, for which the government was recently required to pay compensation by the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms **Kasha Nabagesera** is an LGBTQI defender who has fought homophobic legislation and practice in Uganda at great personal cost. She plays a leading role in Uganda’s LGBTQI movement but has also endured reprisals, harassment and physical attacks due to her sexual orientation and non-conforming gender identity.
Mr President,

In different parts of the world, women human rights defenders share the need for an enabling and sustainable environment, free of persecution and discrimination, where accountability and respect for international law are upheld.

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation welcomes the priorities set forth by the Special Rapporteur in his report. We urge States to implement the recommendations, and to respond to the increasingly dangerous global environment for women defenders.

Thank you.