



# CZECH REPUBLIC

## Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly

Third Committee – ID with Ms Mary Lawlor

**Statement by**

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Mr. Chair,

*The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement made by the EU.*

We thank Special Rapporteur Lawlor for her report and for her work. Support of human rights defenders is one of the key areas which the Czech Republic focuses on in its human rights policy.

Special Rapporteur, your report sheds light on the very important efforts of human rights defenders working on the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees and the vulnerable situations that these defenders often find themselves in. It is really concerning to learn about the range of attacks that they have to face, including smear campaigns, imprisonment and even murder.

The report points out that human rights defenders are being targeted and prosecuted for doing the very thing that is required of them according to the laws of their countries - assisting those in danger. Many of them are forced to work in secret for fear of attacks and reprisals which further complicates their situation.

Human rights defenders and other civil society actors play a crucial role in upholding the rights of migrants, providing services to vulnerable groups and working with Governments. We fully support your call on States to provide a safe, accessible and supportive environment for individuals and organisations that undertake this work and to ensure that they are being protected from attacks.

*Special Rapporteur,*

*you mention in your report certain positive actions by states in this field. Can you elaborate a little on this aspect and share what, in your view, are best practices of states to enable the work of defenders?*

Thank you.