Online Training Project
Security and protection management for human right defenders and social organisations

Structure of the course

Course duration

The course has a total expected duration of 72 hours, which is spread across 12 weeks. Students will be asked to consult written and visual documents, carry out self-assessment exercises, submit written assignments (answering to questions and responding to case studies), conduct reflections linked to your work as a human rights defender, and exchange and participate in discussion forums with other students of the course.

Commitment of the students

Our proposal is that each student should dedicate an average of 6 hours per week to the course, during the 12-week (3-month) duration. The course is designed in such a way that it can accompany your existing work, and you may combine this course with other initiatives you may have.

Course contents

The course is based on the New Protection Manual (NMP) for Human Rights Defenders, developed by Protection International; however, this updated edition of the online course includes newly developed material. In this sense, it goes beyond the NMP by offering additional content and a wide range of practical case studies. The course is structured into three thematic modules: Risk Analysis; Protection Strategies and Responses; and Security Management. Each module includes several didactic units, with each module building on the following module.

For this new edition, we adopted an integrated and situated approach to conducting risk analyses and designing protection plans. This means that we take into account the physical, digital and emotional dimensions of security. It also means that we include a perspective based on both the concrete situations of risk faced by defenders and the identities of defenders (through a gendered and intersectional approach). We will think about protection and security in a way that is based on concrete risk situations and from the practices of defenders themselves.

Didactic Units

Welcome to the course (week 1)

1. Introduction to the platform
2. Introduction to the course

Module 1 - Risk analysis (weeks 2-3-4)

Contents:

1. Learning unit 1.1: Analysis of context, threats and security incidents
2. Learning unit 1.2: Analysis of practices, vulnerabilities and capacities.
3. Learning Unit 1.3: Identifying and assessing risk levels

Module 2 - Protective Responses (weeks 5-6-7-8-9)

Contents:

1. Learning Unit 2.1: Designing protection strategies and security measures
2. Learning unit 2.2: How to deal with and react to aggression
3. Learning unit 2.3: Protection and support networks (I)
4. Learning Unit 2.4: Protection and support networks (II)
5. Learning Unit 2.5: Collective Protection

Module 3 - Security Management (weeks 10-11)

Contents:

1. Learning Unit 3.1: Security planning, implementation and evaluation
2. Learning unit 3.2: Information management and security in the office/home

Closing of the course (week 12)

Conclusion of the course