

# WEBINAR

# Human Rights Defenders and Diplomats: Reflections from Practice

## WEBINAR DETAILS

**Date:** Monday, 22 June 2025  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:30pm AEST  
8:00 - 9:30am CEST  
**Location:** Online Webinar, Zoom

## ABOUT THE WEBINAR

Join Swiss diplomat Cecilia Neyroud and Sri Lankan human rights defender Ruki Fernando, who will share their experiences of working with diplomats to protect human rights defenders.

For over 20 years, Swiss diplomats have been applying human rights principles in their diplomacy worldwide. This has involved life-saving interventions, often in collaboration with other diplomats, as well as more regular diplomacy to promote the importance of HRDs. Ruki Fernando is a direct beneficiary of such interventions and has helped other HRDs to engage diplomats.

This webinar will share the experiences of Cecilia and Ruki in how diplomats can protect HRDs, explore how diplomats to promote the safety of HRDs and their work and uphold wider civil society space, and examine how HRDs can most effectively engage diplomats in defence of universal standards of human rights.

### About the HRD Webinar Series

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and Front Line Defenders are hosting a special series of webinars to build awareness and promote the role of diplomats in defending and protecting Human Rights Defenders



**DIPLOMACY**  
TRAINING PROGRAM

**f** **FRONT LINE**  
**DEFENDERS**

## SPEAKERS



**Cecilia**  
**Neyroud**  
Diplomat

Cecilia is a senior diplomat with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. She has extensive experience engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and training human rights defenders.



**Ruki**  
**Fernando**  
Human Rights Defender

Ruki is an experienced Sri Lankan human rights defender. His work has made him a target of previous Sri Lankan governments. Ruki is also a writer and trainer.

## MODERATOR



**Álvaro Gomez**  
**del Valle**  
Front Line Defenders

Álvaro is a Senior Advocacy Lead for Front Line Defenders. He supports human rights defenders at risk through targeted advocacy, including with the European Union and the United Nations.

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