

Brussels, Belgium. The 25th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights 4–5 Dec 2023

Our representative Yara Abdallah who is a lawyer and also the International Criminal Justice Program Coordinator attended the 25th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights which was held on the 4th and 5th of December 2023.

The 25th EU-NGO forum looked on different aspects of the work of young Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and of the struggles and threats they face. In particular, it explored the conditions and ways of working together — both *as youth HRDs* and *with youth HRDs* — that will better enable impactful engagement by current and future generations of young activists and intergenerational cooperation throughout the HRD community. Participants exchanged with representatives of EU institutions, Member States and other international organizations that (can) support young HRDs.



Its objectives were Support young HRDs in building a wider network by connecting them with other HRDs from different countries and regions, including the EU, and EU officials and UN experts; Support networking and peer learning of young HRDs, including with inter-generational panels - involving knowledge transfer between different generations of HRDs).

Understand better how States and international organizations can tailor specific measures to protect young HRDs; Gather inputs from young HRDs and youth associations on key human rights topics, including practical recommendations on EU external action. Identify ways to rebuild the constituency and engagement for human rights among young people and reflect on future human rights challenges and needs.; Awareness-raising of EU youth policies

Identify ways to give visibility to young HRDs, foster partnerships and identify ways to engage with young people meaningfully in decisions affecting them. Identify ways to engage and support youth in their civic and political participation in the public sphere.



One of the highlights of the 25th EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights Forum for the year 2023 was that our representative along with few of other young human rights defenders expressed themselves with holding signs practicing their freedom of speech while Josep Borrell the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was giving his streamed speech and which was turned into a rich discussion.

