



Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel

2026 UNGA High-Level Week Event: Inaugural Meeting of Signatories to the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026, 16:30-17:30
ECOSOC CHAMBER, UN NEW YORK

CONCEPT NOTE

In September 2025, the Ministerial Group for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel – Foreign Ministers of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – launched the [Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel](#) at UNGA High-Level Week.

One year on, signatories are turning political commitment into practical actions to strengthen the protection of humanitarian personnel. Over 125 Member and Observer States have endorsed the Declaration to date – more than half of the United Nations.

Despite this momentum, humanitarian personnel continue to face immense challenges and risk. 350 aid workers were killed in 2025, and over 145 major attacks have been recorded already this year. These figures underscore the urgent need to translate political commitment into sustained and coordinated action, reinforce adherence to international humanitarian law and strengthen accountability to better protect humanitarian workers in conflict settings.

Inaugural Meeting of Signatories to the Declaration

At High-Level Week 2026, the Ministerial Group for the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel will co-host an event marking one year since the launch of the Declaration. Ministers will highlight tangible actions they are taking that advance the objectives of the Declaration. The event will:

- **Demonstrate the global impact of the Declaration**, by sharing practical steps taken to strengthen the protection of humanitarian personnel, while acknowledging remaining gaps and calling for stronger collective action.
- **Highlight the experiences of humanitarian personnel** through in-person and video addresses, recognising the ongoing risks to their safety and security.
- **Underscore the role of the Declaration** in the multilateral system to promote adherence to international humanitarian law and strengthen accountability.

Event format

The meeting will be co-hosted by the Declaration's Ministerial Group. Remarks will be delivered by ministers from Ministerial Group countries, ministers from other signatories to the Declaration, and prominent leaders of UN agencies and humanitarian organisations.

Key speakers include:

- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Co-chair of the Group of Friends for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel
- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Jordan, HE Mr Ayman Safadi, Co-chair of the Group of Friends for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel
- President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Ms Mirjana Spoljaric
- United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr Tom Fletcher
- Humanitarian personnel from the field.

Countries that have endorsed the Declaration since its launch at 2025 High-Level Week, but have not yet signed the Declaration's signature book, will have an opportunity to sign the book at the meeting.

Media

International media will be invited to cover the event. National media of participating countries are also welcome.