Recommendations of the Workshop on Human Rights Defenders organized by the Commission on 19.02.2015

S.No.	Recommendation	Concerned Authority/Stakeholder required to take action
1.	India must ratify the International Convention against Torture and bring in a domestic legislation against Torture on priority in accordance with the International Convention.	**Central Government**
2.	Foreign funding of Non Governmental Organisations should not be at the cost of security concerns. However, at the same time, government may also not misuse the provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act to thwart the work of HRDs and silence dissent.	**Central Government**
3.	There is a need to create a HRD Emergency Fund for providing for relief and assistance to HRDs in emergency situations, including medical treatment etc.	**Central Government**
4.	The post of Secretary General, NHRC & Secretary of SHRCs should be having a fixed tenure of 2 years. PHR Act may be amended for this purpose.	**Central Government**
5.	There should be sensitization of the security as well as Armed Forces and law	**Central Government and State Governments**

	enforcement officials at all levels to promote understanding about the role of HRDs so that they can work together for the promotion and protection of human rights.	
6.	Legal Service Authorities must be supported and strengthened throughout the country for providing necessary and free legal aid to the deprived sections of society.	**Central Government and State Governments**
7.	There is a need for greater transparency in the process of government funding of NGOs.	**Central Government and State Governments**
8.	The telephone numbers of the Focal Points of NHRC/SHRCs must be made toll free.	**Central Government, State Governments and NHRC**
9.	There is need for establishment of SHRCs in all States and where they exist, strengthen them by providing adequate infrastructure viz., human, financial and other resources.	**State Governments**
10.	There is also a need for training for capacity building of HRDs on issues like safety/security of HRDs, data safety etc.	**NHRC**
11.	There is a need to sensitize the Judiciary towards the challenges being faced by HRDs in the discharge of their work so that they may receive prompt assistance and relief whenever they are targeted by state and non-state actors.	**NHRC**
12.	The National Human Rights Commission must call for the Action Taken by the	**NHRC**

	States on the letter dated 11.12.2013 from Secretary General, NHRC to all States regarding the provision of a conducive environment to HRDs for the performance of their work.	
13.	The NHRC must recommend to the States to set up Human Rights Courts under Section 30 of the PHR Act, 1993 in their respective States.	**NHRC**
14.	NHRC, India must monitor and take necessary steps for the implementation of the UPR recommendations, especially those concerning HRDs.	**NHRC**
15.	The NHRC must consider observing 9th December every year by acknowledging the work done by HRDs and also to encourage SHRCs to observe the same.	**NHRC**
16.	An interactive window can be created on the NHRC website for HRDs.	**NHRC**
17.	All SHRCs must set up Focal Points for HRDs as has been done by the NHRC and the role and functions of these focal points must be strengthened. A fast track procedure could also be devised in NHRC/SHRCs to deal with cases of harassment and intimidation of HRDs.	**NHRC and SHRCs**
18.	The NHRC and SHRCs must consider organising workshops on HRDs once in 2 years, both at the National and State levels.	**NHRC and SHRCs**
19.	Sensitization of the Parliamentarians/ Legislators on human rights issues.	**NHRC and SHRCs**

20.	Like the NHRC, SHRCs should also have a separate section in their Annual Reports on HRDs.	**SHRCs**
21.	HRDs should bring to the notice of these Commissions (NHRC and SHRCs), the instances where NGOs misuse the names of these Commissions and mislead the public for their own benefit.	**NGOs / HRDs / civil society**
22.	There is need for greater solidarity even among various human rights defenders so that the cause of human rights protection is not diluted.	**HRDs**

****