Human rights monitoring: a set of planned actions to investigate a certain human rights issue or situation

**Who can do it?**
- International organizations
- National human rights institutions
- Civil society organizations
- State actors

**Key principles**
- Do no harm
- Emphasize state responsibility
- Build credibility & trust
- Seek informed consent
- Maintain confidentiality & privacy
- Know relevant human rights standards
- Provide precise information based on facts
- Be transparent
- Be aware of risk of (re)traumatization
- Include gender perspective
- Be impartial & objective

**Monitoring cycle**

1. **Information gathering**
   - Use simple and objective language
   - Align information-gathering methods with monitoring objectives
   - Take photos where possible

2. **Verification and analysis**
   - Cross-check information
   - Look for inconsistencies in information collected from multiple sources
   - Look for discrepancies in information collected from multiple sources
   - Consider past problems in human rights situations & advocate for human rights
   - Use specialized security tools & manuals available online

3. **Initial assessment of human rights issue**
   - Identify key human rights
   - Identify key objectives
   - Consider organizational capacity
   - Consider pressure of the situation
   - Consider gaps in implementation of human rights

4. **Identify relevant actors, key aspects, causes & legal/normative consequences of human rights problem**

5. **Make direct observations**
   - Conduct interviews/surveys
   - Organize focus groups

6. **Make recommendations**
   - Make direct observations
   - Make recommendations
   - Make recommendations to international organizations
   - Make recommendations to governments
   - Make recommendations to non-governmental organizations

7. **Final assessment of human rights issue**
   - Identify gaps in implementation of human rights
   - Address identified gaps

**Gender**
- Take into account different needs of men and women, boys and girls during the monitoring cycle.
- Gender is a key informational data point
- Gender-based your analysis
- Make sure recommendations are gender-sensitive
- Consider different social, cultural, economic, political and historical realities of men and boys of girls

**Safety & security**
- Key aspect of human rights monitoring
- Access to information:
  - Administrative data
  - Personal data
  - Protective measures
  - Physical & digital security
  - Psychological & emotional support
  - Use specialized security tools & manuals available online

**Steps for Success**
- Accurately identify the problem you want to address
- Estimate added value of monitoring this particular human rights issue
- Set aims and objectives of your monitoring
- Check all available sources, including:
  - Regional & international human rights standards
  - Recommendations from international organizations
  - Relief funds
  - Domestic human rights law
  - International human rights law
  - Government reports
  - National legislation
- Make direct observations
  - Conduct interviews/surveys
  - Organize focus groups
- Make recommendations
  - Make direct observations
  - Make recommendations
  - Make recommendations to international organizations
  - Make recommendations to governments
  - Make recommendations to non-governmental organizations

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