

Summary of the Roundtable

"Justice has been very difficult": Overcoming the barriers to accountability for attaches on aid workers to improve their protection worldwide

Nairobi, 2023

On 9 November 2023, Legal Action Worldwide hosted the roundtable, "Justice has been very difficult": Overcoming the barriers to accountability for attacks on aid workers to improve their protection worldwide, at the Alliance Française, Nairobi, with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Centre de Crise et de Soutien - CDCS). 21 key humanitarian actors, including representatives from NGOs, the UN, donors and organisations working on the security of aid workers attended the event in person and online. They shared their comments and feedback on the findings and preliminary recommendations that resulted from LAW's extensive research on the barriers to access justice for aid workers who are victims of violence. The research included in-depth individual consultations with 73 members of the humanitarian community of 30 different nationalities based in 11 different locations, 9 presentations to NGO forums and organisations in four countries where over 150 humanitarians provided feedback, an ongoing online survey and open-source research.

LAW presented the main findings on the barriers aid workers face to access justice which the participants discussed and commented on. Then, in groups, participants discussed the recommendations to ensure better access to legal aid and justice and reverted in plenary with concrete feedback on whether the recommendations were appropriate, realistic and actionable to address the barriers identified. They supported the majority of the recommendations, and also suggested new recommendations. LAW appreciated the great interest shown in the subject and the active participation of the stakeholders present. The findings and recommendations of LAW's research, incorporating the feedback from the roundtable, will inform a report that LAW will publish in early 2024.