

Resources for Human Rights Defenders

A Human Rights Defender (HRD) is a person or group that works on the front lines to promote and protect human rights. Because Human Rights Defenders are directly challenging human rights abuses by governments and private parties, their own rights can be endangered. This resource sheet is designed specifically for Human Rights Defenders, providing information about safety and security, emergency assistance for at-risk HRDs, and advocacy tools.

EMERGENCY GRANTS:

General Emergency Grants

Frontline Defenders

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/programme/protection-grants>

Frontline Defenders provides grants to organizations and individual at-risk HRDs. Click here to [apply](#).

Agir Ensemble pour les droits humains

<https://agir-ensemble-droits-humains.org/notre-fonds-urgence/>

Agir Ensemble provides emergency funding for persecuted or threatened Human Rights Defenders (NGO members, lawyers, journalists, union leaders, etc. Email: agir-ensemble@aedh.org

Amnesty International

www.amnesty.org

AI's relief program provides human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations in emergency situations with funding for assistance such as legal aid, emergency flights, living costs and trial observation or security equipment. Email: amnestyis@amnesty.org

Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund

<https://www.prisonersofconscience.org/grants/>

The Fund provides grants to persons who have suffered persecution for their beliefs, provided they have not used or advocated violence. Individuals must be represented by an organization. Email: info@prisonersofconscience.org

Fund for Global Human Rights

<http://www.globalhumanrights.org/>

The fund provides human rights defenders from any country with emergency assistance related to security, urgent projects, medical, psychological, legal, and relocation services. Email proposals to info@globalhumanrights.org.

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (Joint Program of the FIDH-OMCT)

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/>

The fund provides human rights defenders, their families, and at-risk organizations with emergency assistance

EMERGENCY GRANTS:

Targeted Emergency Grants

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

General: urgentactionfund.org

Africa: www.uaf-africa.org/

Latin America: <https://fondoaccionurgente.org.co/en/>

Asia & Pacific: <https://www.uafanp.org/>

UAF provides emergency grants to women HRDs.

Applications and forms are available on the website. Send applications to:

proposals@urgentactionfund.org (general)

proposals@uaf-africa.org (Africa)

grants@uafanp.org (Asia & Pacific)

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders

<http://emhrf.org/standard-grants/>

EMHRF provides emergency grants to HRDs in the South-Mediterranean region. Send grant applications to grants@emhrf.org

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

<https://defenddefenders.org/>

DefendDefenders provides emergency assistance and protection grants to HRDs in the East and Horn of Africa. Click here to [apply](#). Email: info@defenddefenders.org

Scholars at Risk

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/>

Scholars at Risk provides sanctuary by offering temporary academic positions to at-risk scholars, professors, lecturers, researchers, and other intellectuals who suffer threats in their home country. Application available [here](#). Email: apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu

Scholar Rescue Fund

<https://www.scholarrescuefund.org/>

The Scholar Rescue Fund provides temporary academic positions to threatened or displaced researchers, professors, and public intellectuals. Click here for [application](#). Email: srf@iie.org

including security, medical fees, psychosocial support, relocation, legal fees, and basic needs. Send applications to C1@fidh.org

Freedom House

<https://freedomhouse.org/programs/emergency-assistance-and-thematic-programs>

The Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund provides emergency financial assistance to civil society organizations (CSOs) under threat or attack and advocacy support responding to broader threats to civil society. To contact email info@csolifeline.org

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

EIDHR provides emergency funds to human right defenders, both individuals and organizations, at risk. Email grant requests to europaaid-eidhr@ec.europa.eu

Digital Defenders Partnership

<https://www.digitaldefenders.org/funding/incident-emergency-funding/>

DDP's Incident Emergency Funding provides grants to human rights defenders, CSOs, and journalists facing digital attack or emergency. Click here to [apply](#).

Astraea Lesbian Foundation

<https://www.astraeafoundation.org/>

For Justice Groups eligible for support: Astraea's International Fund supports groups, projects, or organizations working towards progressive social change which are led by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) communities and directly address oppression based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression. Click here to [apply](#).

Freedom House

<https://freedomhouse.org/programs/emergency-assistance-and-thematic-programs>

The Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program provides emergency grants to increase the security of LGBTI human rights defenders and CSOs facing threat because of their work. The program also provides short-term rapid response funding to support any urgent advocacy or initiative to advance LGBTI rights. To contact email info@csolifeline.org

OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture)

<https://www.omct.org/assistance-to-victims/about/>

OMCT provides urgent legal, social, or medical assistance to victims of torture. Send [applications](#) to victims@omct.org

Committee to Protect Journalists

www.cpj.org/campaigns/assistance/how-to-get-help.php

The Committee to Protect Journalists maintains a small assistance program for journalists who are at-risk as a result of their work. Send grant requests to emergencies@cpj.org

Reporters Without Borders

<http://en.rsf.org/>

SOS Press is a free hotline which allows reporters to instantly transmit information to a Reporters Without Borders' representative who, depending on the situation, can provide them with advice and contacts, or alert local or consular authorities, etc. Free hotline: (33) 1 4777-7414

Free Press Unlimited

<https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/projects/reporters-respond-emergency-funding-for-the-media>

The Reporters Respond program provides emergency support to journalists and media outlets under threat. Application form available [here](#).

Email: reportersrespond@freepressunlimited.org

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression

https://www.cjfe.org/journalists_in_distress_fund

The Journalists in Distress program provides humanitarian financial assistance to journalists whose well-beings are at risk due to their work. Click here for [application](#).

Email: cjfe@cjfe.org

International Media Support

<https://www.mediasupport.org/what-we-do/safety-for-journalists/#safety-fund>

The Safety Fund provides short-term support to journalists or their close relatives. Assistance is available in cases

where a journalist has been killed or cannot sustain their family, immediate legal or medical assistance is needed, or a journalist requires protection because of a direct threat. For information on applying contact lwn@mediasupport.org

International Women’s Media Foundation

<https://www.iwmf.org/programs/emergency-fund/>

The IWMF Emergency Fund provides direct assistance to women journalists seeking assistance with a crisis situation connected to journalism work. Grants, relocation assistance, and legal aid are provided. Application form available [here](#). Email: info@iwmf.org

Les Maison des Journalistes

<http://www.maisondesjournalistes.org/about-la-maison-des-journalistes/>

Les Maison des Journalistes offers temporary housing and meals in Paris to persecuted journalists who have been forced to flee their countries. Along with shelter, Les Maison offers these journalists administrative, legal, and social assistance. To apply click [here](#).

Rory Peck Trust

<https://rorypecktrust.org/freelance-assistance/Assistance-Grants/>

The Assistance Grants provide support to freelance journalists and their families who have been imprisoned, threatened, injured, exiled, or killed. For information on applying contact assistance@rorypecktrust.org

Resources for Human Rights Defenders

ADVOCACY TOOLS:

The Advocates for Human Rights

A Guide to International Human Rights Mechanisms is a basic tool for international human rights advocacy with the UN and regional treaty bodies.

https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/chapter_9.pdf

https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/chapter_10.pdf

A Practitioner's Guide to Human Rights Monitoring, Documentation, and Advocacy covers every step in the human rights documentation and advocacy process.

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/a_practitioner_s_guide_to_human_rights_monitoring_documentation_and_advocacy.html

Paving Pathways for Justice & Accountability: Human Rights Tools for Diaspora Communities is a toolkit for diaspora communities wanting to improve human rights in their countries of origin.

<https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/pathways>

Protecting Human Rights in Times of Protest and Uprising: Video Series

- Documenting and Reporting to the United Nations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bvsu4eoAGbw&feature=youtu.be>
- Navigating the online form for UN Special Procedures communications
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmlmR2rN2fg&feature=youtu.be>

Amnesty International

Amnesty International Campaigning Manual is a guide to conducting various types of human rights campaigns.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act10/002/2001/en/>

Open Briefing

The Defender's Protocol, currently available in twelve languages, provides guidance on how to increase safety and security for HRDs.

<https://protocol.openbriefing.org/home>

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice: A Guidebook on Women Human Rights Defenders contains advocacy tools specifically tailored for women HRDs.

https://www.ishr.ch/sites/default/files/article/files/whrd_guid_ebook.pdf

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MECHANISMS:

UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx

The Special Rapporteur supports the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders by receiving and acting on reports of violations against HRDs. Send concerns to urgent-action@ohchr.org

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders

www.oas.org/en/iachr/defenders/default.asp

The Office of the Rapporteur monitors the security of HRDs in the Americas and encourages the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect threatened HRDs. Send concerns to cidhdefensores@oas.org

African Commission, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa

<https://www.achpr.org/specialmechanisms/detail?id=4>

The Special Rapporteur supports and protects HRDs in Africa. Send concerns to Africancommission@Yahoo.Com

Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights

www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Activities/HRD/default_en.asp

The Commissioner cannot act upon individual complaints but supports HRDs and their work by acting upon information received and intervening in serious situations. Send concerns to commissioner@coe.int

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

www.osce.org/odihr

ODIHR's Focal Point for HRDs and National Human Rights Institutions closely monitors conditions for HRDs, identifies issues of concern, and seeks to promote and protect their interests. The Focal Point trains HRDs, supports HRD networks, and may address individual cases where appropriate. Send concerns to office@odihr.pl

JASS (Just Associates)

Our Rights, Our Safety: Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders provides approaches and strategies designed to assist women HRDs.

<https://www.justassociates.org/en/resources/our-rights-our-safety-resources-women-human-rights-defenders>

Tactical Technology Collective

The Tactical Technology Collective offers several toolkits and guides to support advocacy strategies using digital technologies. The [Holistic Security Manual](#) provides a guide to human right defenders on how to establish and improve security strategies.

<https://tacticaltech.org/#/>

New Tactics in Human Rights

The Strategy Toolkit provides tactics for HRDs on how to effectively carry out human rights work. The Toolkit follows a five-step process with resources to guide HRDS through the entire advocacy process.

<https://www.newtactics.org/toolkit/strategy-toolkit>

Resources for Human Rights Defenders

REGIONAL NETWORKS:

Central Africa:

<http://www.redhac.info/>

Réseau de Défenseurs des Droits Humains de l'Afrique Centrale (REDHAC).

Email: redhac.executifddhafricentrale@gmail.com

East Africa:

<https://defenddefenders.org/>

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP).

Email: info@defenddefenders.org

West Africa:

<http://westafricadefenders.org/en/>

Reseau Ouest Africain des Defenseurs des Droits Humains/West African Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADDH/WAHRDN).

Email: info@westafricadefenders.org

Southern Africa:

<http://www.southernafricadefenders.africa/>

Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN).

Email: info@southernafricadefenders.africa

Northern Africa:

<http://emhrf.org/>

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF).

Asia:

<http://www.humanrights.asia/>

Asian Human Rights Commission.

Email: info@ahrc.asia

<https://www.afad-online.org/>

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD).

Email: afad@surfshop.net.ph

The Americas:

<http://www.acuddeh.org/>

Acción Urgente para Defensores de Derechos Humanos, Mexico (ACUDEH).

Email: acuddeh@riseup.org or acuddeh@gmail.com

<http://www.udefegua.org/>

The Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit, Guatemala (UDEFEGUA).

Email: udefegua@udefegua.org

Europe:

<http://emhrf.org/>

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF).

INTERNATIONAL NGOS:

Protection International

<https://www.protectioninternational.org/>

Protection International offers resources for HRDs, including a *Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders*, which covers security, protection, and risk self-assessments. The manual is available in seven languages. Protection International also offers [online training](#) in security and protection.

Frontline Defenders

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en>

Frontline Defenders provides resources on personal and digital security, including a *Workbook on Security*, a *Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders*, and a *Manual on Digital Security and Privacy*.

Human Rights First

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>

Human Rights First has compiled resources for protecting the privacy and digital security of HRDs, including tips for online activism and general advocacy. The tools show Defenders how to report corruption and abuses from danger zones safely and anonymously.

Peace Brigades International

<https://www.peacebrigades.org/>

Peace Brigades provides protective accompaniment for HRDs threatened by political violence.

Association for Women's Rights in Development

<https://www.awid.org/>

AWID's *List of Materials and Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders* contains resources for HRDs concerning self-care and self-defense, human rights documentation and monitoring, and topics particularly relevant to women HRDs, including sexual orientation and religious fundamentalism. AWID's *Urgent Responses For Women Human Rights Defenders At Risk: Mapping And Preliminary Assessment* identifies available resources for addressing needs of women HRDs, including urgent appeals, safe houses, temporary relocation, stress management, medical and legal assistance, fellowships and awards, advocacy, and contact information for NGOs assisting HRDs. AWID's *Ten Insights to Strengthen Responses for Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk* aims to ensure that women HRDs are strategic and properly resourced.

Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

<https://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/our-work/resources/>

International:

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Email: info@frontlinedefenders.org

WHRDIC has coalition resources such as *Gendering Documentation: A Manual for and About Women Human Rights Defenders* and *Our Right to Safety; Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice: A Guidebook on Women Human Rights Defenders* that provide instructions on how to be a human rights defender, explain mechanisms for protection of HRDs, and give a holistic report on the obstacles that women HRDs face in their work.

JASS (Just Associates)

<https://www.justassociates.org/en/resources/training-tools-how-tos>

JASS provides training tools and publications to women HRDs on how to engage in advocacy and social justice work. JASS also engages in feminist movement-building in Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, and Mesoamerica.

HREA (Human Rights Education Associates)

<http://www.hrea.org/>

HREA develops materials for human rights education and provides training and programming for human rights defenders. The [Resource Centre for Human Rights Education](#) is a repository of materials that HREA has built over 18 years. The [Human Rights Campus](#) offers self-directed and tutored e-courses for HRDs led by practitioners and human rights experts.

CIVICUS

<https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-center/resources/toolkits/civicus-resources>

CIVICUS provides guides and toolkits for HRDs on a variety of issues, including advocacy and campaigning, UN engagement, organizational planning, and media. The [Protest Resilience Toolkit](#) offers protest tactics and strategies for civil society.

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