

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

www.frontlinedefenders.org/security-grants-programme

Frontline Defenders provides grants to organizations and individual at-risk HRDs. Send grant applications to grants@frontlinedefenders.org.

Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'homme (AEDH)

http://www.aedh.org/new_en/

AEDH provides emergency funding for persecuted or threatened Human Rights Defenders (NGO members, lawyers, journalists, union leaders, etc).

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

<http://www.prisonersofconscience.org/grants/default.aspx>

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. Send applications to grantsofficer@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/International-Federation-for-Human-Rights/human-rights-defenders/>

The fund provides human rights defenders, their families, and at-risk organizations with emergency assistance including security, medical fees, psychosocial support, relocation, legal fees, and basic needs.

Email Alexandra Poméon (FIDH Head) at: apomeon@fidh.org.

EMERGENCY GRANTS:

Targeted Emergency Grants

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

General: urgentactionfund.org

Africa: www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke

Latin America: www.fondoaccionurgente.org.co

UAF provides emergency grants to women HRDs.

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

proposals@urgentactionfund.org (general);

proposals@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke (Africa);

info@fondoaccionurgente.org.co (Latin America).

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders

www.emhrf.org/en/grants.php

EMHR provides emergency grants to HRDs in the South-Mediterranean region. Send grant applications to grants@euromedrights.net.

Scholars at Risk

scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu

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.

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 JournAsst@cpj.org, Attn: Journalist Assistance Program.

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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.

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/international_human_rights_mechanisms_2.html

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.

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

Amnesty International

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

www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT10/002/1997

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.

www.apwld.org/resources/apwld-publications/ (page 9)

(English, French, Spanish)

www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org

(Arabic, Thai)

Global Voices Advocacy

Global Voices Advocacy provides tools for advocacy blogging and online advocacy campaigns.

advocacy.globalvoicesonline.org/projects/guide

Tactical Technology Collective

The Tactical Technology Collective offers several toolkits and guides to support a variety of advocacy strategies.

www.tacticaltech.org/toolkitsandguides

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

www.achpr.org/mechanisms/human-rights-defenders/

The Special Rapporteur supports and protects HRDs in Africa. Send concerns to achpr@achpr.org.

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 Co-operation 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.

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REGIONAL NETWORKS:

Central Africa:

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

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

Email: contact@redhac.org.

East Africa:

<http://www.defenddefenders.org/about-ehahrdp/>

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

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:

Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Trust (SAHRDT).

Email: leopoldoa@osisa.org.

Northern Africa:

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

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders.

Asia:

<http://www.humanrights.asia/contact-us>

Asian Human Rights Commission.

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

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances. Email: afad@surfshop.net.ph.

The Americas:

www.acuddeh.org

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

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

UDEFEGUA (The Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit, Guatemala). Email: udedefegua@udedefegua.org.

Europe:

www.emhrf.org/en/guidelinesstandard.php

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support for Human Rights Defenders (provides emergency grants)

Website:

Email: grants@euromedrights.net

International:

www.frontlinedefenders.org

International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Email: info@frontlinedefenders.org

Lifeline: Embattled CSO Assistance Fund (provides emergency financial assistance to Civil Society Organizations/Advocates under attack)

www.freedomhouse.org/program/lifeline#.Utaw0_RDt1U

Email: Emergency.assistance.inquiries@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NGOS:

Protectionline

<http://www.protectionline.org>

Protectionline offers resources for HRDs, including a Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders, which covers security, protection, and risk self-assessments. Protectionline also offers online training in security and protection.

Frontline Defenders

www.frontlinedefenders.org/security-training

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

www.humanrightsfirst.org/our-work/human-rights-defenders/online-tools-and-manuals-for-human-rights-defenders/

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

www.peacebrigades.org

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

Association for Women's Rights in Development

awid.org; www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/resources.php

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.