

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.

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

<https://www.aedh.org/en/home/what-we-do/emergency-fund-for-human-rights-defenders>

AEDH 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/>

EMERGENCY GRANTS:

Targeted Emergency Grants

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

General: urgentactionfund.org

Africa: www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke

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);

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders

<http://emhrf.org/category/grants/>

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

Arab Human Rights Fund

<http://ahrfund.org/en>

Countries eligible for support: The Arabic-speaking region and Arabic-speaking communities in adjacent countries. The Fund defines the "Arab region" as the 22 members of the Arab League. How to apply: Submit requests through the site's [portal](#).

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.

scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu

Scholar Rescue Fund

<http://www.scholarrescuefund.org/> provides temporary academic positions. Click here for [application](#).

Astraea Lesbian Foundation

<http://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

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.

C1@fidh.org

Freedom House Emergency Assistance and Thematic Programs

<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 emergency.assistance.inquiries@gmail.com

intersex (LGBTI) communities and directly address oppression based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression. Click here to [apply](#).

OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture)

<http://www.omct.org/> Provides urgent assistance to victims of torture.

Scholars at Risk

<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/> 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 emergencies@cpj.org

Reporters Without Borders <http://en.rsf.org/>

Program called SOS Press. This free hotline allows them 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

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

Emergency assistance program called Reporters Respond. Application form available [here](#) or contact Reporters Respond at: reportersrespond@freepressunlimited.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

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.

diaspora communities wanting to improve human rights in their countries of origin.

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

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/>

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_guidebook.pdf (page 9)

www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org

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.

<https://tacticaltech.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 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.

Resources for Human Rights Defenders

REGIONAL NETWORKS:

Central Africa:

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

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

Email: redhac.executifddhafricentrale@gmail.com

East Africa:

<https://defenddefenders.org/>

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://emhrf.org/>

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders.

Asia:

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

INTERNATIONAL NGOS:

Protectionline

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

Protectionline 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.

Protectionline also offers *online training* in security and protection. For more info: e-learning@protectioninternational.org

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.

Asian Human Rights Commission.

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

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

The Americas:

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

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

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

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

Europe:

<http://emhrf.org.prolinux3.curanetserver.dk/>

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

Website:

Email: grants@euromedrights.net

International:

<https://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)

<https://freedomhouse.org/>

Email. Emergency.assistance.inquiries@gmail.com

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/>; <https://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.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/>

WHRDIC has coalition resources such as *Gendering Documentation: A Manual for and About Women Human Rights Defenders*; *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, explains mechanisms for protection of HRDs, and gives a holistic report on the obstacles that women HRDs face in their work.

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