

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

What is the Advancing Human Rights research and why is it important?

Advancing Human Rights tracks the evolving state of human rights philanthropy by collecting and analyzing grants data. It answers critical questions about the funding landscape — Where is the money going? What are the gaps? Who is funding what? — to help funders and advocates make more informed and effective decisions. It is also a critical tool in grantmakers' efforts to be more transparent and accountable. [Candid](#) and [Human Rights Funders Network](#) lead the research, in partnership with [Ariadne](#) and [Prospera](#).



How do we define human rights grantmaking?

With the guidance of human rights funders and activists, we adopted a definition that emphasizes funding in pursuit of structural change to ensure the protection and enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent rights treaties. We include any grant that meets our definition, regardless of whether the funder considers their work to be human rights focused. We assign each grant to one of 28 human rights categories, grouped into 13 overarching issues.

Since human rights grantmaking has a special focus on disadvantaged or marginalized groups, we track funding for eight populations to offer insights on funding trends for those communities. We also look at the strategies funders support to achieve systemic change, like grassroots organizing and litigation, to gain a more nuanced understanding of funding approaches.

How are funders using the research?

Grantmakers are not only learning from the research but applying the data to their decision-making. Funders who have used the research say it has helped them to:¹

- Increase their knowledge of the funding landscape (91%)
- Build their awareness about emerging or underfunded human rights issues (72%)
- Identify other funders working on their regions, issues, populations, or strategies (66%)
- Inform the strategic direction of their project, program, or organization (50%)
- Identify funding gaps and increase funding to those areas (42%)
- Find new partners or grantees in the field (41%)

Where can I learn more?

- Use our [research hub](#) to explore funding over time by regions, issues, populations and strategies.
- Dive into the funders-only [grants database and mapping platform](#) to see grant-level details and find peers.
- Follow our [blog series](#) where we showcase funder perspectives to contextualize the numbers.
- Reflect on [reports and analyses](#) of the field's present and past.

How can I contribute grants data?

Foundations can submit grants data using this [template](#) and should anonymize any identifying details that are too sensitive to be made public and could place grantees or communities at risk. If you use software from any of [these providers](#) to manage your grants, you can simply export your data to the template. Please email your most recent fiscal year or calendar year grant details by June 30 each year.

To share data, provide feedback, or discuss how to apply this research in your work, please contact HRFN (info@hrfn.org), Ariadne (info@ariadne-network.eu), or Prospera (info@prospera-inwf.org).

¹ These findings are from an [evaluation](#) of the *Advancing Human Rights* research.

How do my grants fit into the human rights funding landscape?

Below are the human rights issues, funding strategies, and populations we track in the research. To explore funding by category, or see definitions, visit our research hub at humanrights-funding.org.

ISSUES



Access to Justice/
Equality Before the Law



Equality Rights and Freedom
from Discrimination



Human Rights—
General



Civic and Political
Participation



Expression and
Information Rights



Migration and
Displacement



Economic and Labor
Rights



Freedom from
Violence



Sexual and Reproductive
Rights



Education, Religion
and Culture



Health and Well-being
Rights



Transitional Justice and
Peacebuilding



Environmental and
Resource Rights

STRATEGIES



Advocacy, Systems Reform
and Implementation



Grassroots
Organizing



Research and
Documentation



Arts and Culture



Litigation and
Legal Aid



Scholarships and
Travel



Capacity-building and
Technical Assistance



Media and Technology



Security and Resilience



Coalition-building and
Collaboration



Public Engagement and
Awareness-raising

POPULATIONS



Children and Youth



LGBTQI



Sex Workers



Human Rights
Defenders



Migrants and
Refugees



Women and
Girls



Indigenous
Peoples



People with
Disabilities



Human Rights
Funders Network

Candid.

ARIADNE
European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights



Prospera
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S FUNDS