A Pivotal Year for Human Rights Funders Network

We became Human Rights Funders Network to reflect the increasing diversity and reach of our global membership. Our new website, launched in July 2017, serves as a platform for members to share resources and perspectives.

In 2017, HRFN welcomed 342 new individual members from 26 countries across the world. Our membership is now over 1,550 grantmakers across 68 countries.

“HRFN looks very different from when I started coming to the conferences in 2010. It was very Global North–centric. As an African grantmaker, I was often assumed to be an activist brought to the conference by a donor. The funder landscape at HRFN looks more global now.”

— Wanja Muguongo, UHAI EASHRI

Building Trust and Facilitating Learning

In 2017, HRFN held 20 webinars that brought over 500 funders together in dialogue around grantmaking practice, human rights trends, and closing civic space.

Our July conference Map --> Resist --> Support in New York focused on responding to global trends of closing civic space and rising authoritarianism. Over 250 funders from 29 countries convened to assess risks, share concrete tactics to resist, and chart new ways to support human rights organizing under threat. The Funders’ Initiative for Civil Society launched its strategy at our conference.

We launched our Foundation Leaders Circle, hosting intimate conversations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, in New York City and San Francisco. These opportunities fostered connections and community among leadership at member institutions.

Over 98% of conference evaluators indicated that the conference helped them build new or stronger relationships with other funders, with 90% agreeing that it helped them reflect on their own grantmaking practice and strategies.
Amplifying and Influencing

Our members led conversations on a range of pressing topics—from the implications of the Global Gag Rule in our post-US election series to the Rohingya crisis in Burma/Myanmar—sharing recommendations through partnerships and outreach. From environmental justice to closing civic space, we continue to integrate human rights philanthropy within diverse spaces, collaborating with peer networks such as Media Impact Funders, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and Prospera.

The Advancing Human Rights initiative remains a key resource to inform human rights funders’ grantmaking strategies and philanthropic advocacy.

In 2017, in partnership with Foundation Center, we released two new years of data, bringing our analyses closer to real time. Our members continue to connect across regions, find new partners, and map their own grantmaking by using our funder-only Foundation Maps: Human Rights. This map is updated on a weekly basis.

“One of the things I love about the network is the appetite for learning and willingness to try new things, [and its] appetite for experimentation.”

— Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

HRFN’s 2017 operating expenses totaled $1,023,572. Our 2017 income breakdown was approximately 59% general operating, 18% membership dues, 9% restricted, 9% registration fees, and 5% in-kind. HRFN received voluntary dues from 92 participating institutions.
HRFN thanks the following members for their support through voluntary dues:

Access Now  
American Jewish World Service  
Ansara Family Fund at the Boston Foundation  
Arca Foundation  
Arcus Foundation  
As You Sow  
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice  
Both ENDS  
Brazil Fund for Human Rights  
Bright Horizon Fund  
CarEth Foundation  
CASA Socio-Environmental Fund  
Channel Foundation  
Chino Cienega Foundation  
Compton Foundation  
Darian and Rick Swig Philanthropic Fund  
Disability Rights Fund  
ELAS Fund – Fundo de Investimento Social  
EMpower – The Emerging Markets Foundation  
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to Support Human Rights Defenders  
Flora Family Foundation  
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres  
Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises  
Ford Foundation  
Foundation for a Just Society  
Freedom Fund  
Freedom House  
FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund  
Front Line International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders  
Fund for Global Human Rights  
General Service Foundation  
Global Dialogue  
Global Fund for Children  
Global Fund for Community Foundations  
Global Fund for Women  
Global Greengrants Fund  
Grassroots International  
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation  
Henry M. Jackson Foundation  
HER Fund  
HIVOS  
HOW Fund  
Humanity United  
Instituto Betty e Jacob Lafer  
International Center on Nonviolent Conflict  
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights  
King Baudouin Foundation United States  
Levi Strauss Foundation  
MADRE  
Mama Cash  
MATCH International Women’s Fund  
Media Democracy Fund  
Mongolian Women’s Fund  
Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust  
NEO Philanthropy  
New Israel Fund  
Nexus Fund  
NoVo Foundation  
One World Children’s Fund  
Overbrook Foundation  
Partners Asia  
Peace Development Fund  
The Pollination Project  
Porticus  
Proteus Fund  
Renewable Freedom Foundation  
Seattle International Foundation  
Security and Rights Collaborative  
Semillas – Sociedad Mexicana pro Derechos de la Mujer  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
South Asia Women’s Fund  
Stewart R. Mott Foundation  
The Summit  
Charitable Foundation  
Tamalpais Trust  
TCC Group  
Tevah Fund of Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Thousand Currents  
Tides Foundation  
True Costs Initiative  
UHAI – The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative  
Unbound Philanthropy  
Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Methodist Women  
Until There’s a Cure Foundation  
Urgent Action Fund – Africa  
Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights  
Urgent Action Fund of Latin America  
Wallace Global Fund  
Wikimedia Foundation  
WING International  
Women’s Fund in Georgia

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