



# Human Rights Funders Network

## IHRFG Members Advanced their Work through Dialogue & Exchange

IHRFG members [took advantage of many opportunities](#) to share and build knowledge in 2016. Funders gathered in [New York](#), [San Francisco](#), and [Amman](#) to learn together, make new connections, and strategize with their peers. IHRFG members authored **30** [blog articles](#) and joined **21** [webinars](#) to discuss emerging trends and vital issues in human rights philanthropy.

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*"We shouldn't take old ways of operating for granted...we have to question every assumption we've ever made."*

– Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

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At our **Responsible Data Forum for Human Rights Funders**, members developed tools and guidelines for supporting responsible data culture. Funders also compiled a list of [ten best practices](#) for supporting youth-led innovation and change following a session at our San Francisco Conference.

During the IHRFG-Ariadne **Funder Learning Visit** to Jordan, funders reflected on the challenges of forced migration and identified [potential opportunities](#) to promote the rights of internally displaced people and refugees.



At [IHRFG's July Institute](#), funders discussed how philanthropy can ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals lead to the realization of human rights.

[Working groups](#) fostered communities of practice. In 2016, members launched two new working groups:

- The **Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and Human Rights Working Group** convened funders to share climate-financing strategies after the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The **Middle East & North Africa Funders Working Group** held a debriefing in New York following the [Funder Learning Visit](#) to Jordan and shared recommendations for other funders working in the region.

### Read Top Blog Posts!

[Donor Ethics and Revolution in the Making: Understanding the Role of Wellbeing in Human Rights Funding](#), Meerim Ilyas and Tatiana Cordero Velásquez

[Harnessing Our Collective Power: What We are Taking Forward from the AWID Forum](#), Ana Valéria Araújo, Mona Chun and Annie Hillar

[Human Rights Philanthropy When the Walls Come Down](#), Jenna Capeci

[Meeting Putin's Challenge: Practical Recommendations for Supporting Human Rights Defenders](#), Andrew Anderson

### Listen to Popular Webinars!

[Statelessness and the Deportation Crisis in the Dominican Republic](#)  
Password: statelessness602

[Political Crisis and Human Rights Backlash in Brazil: From Global Emergency to Opportunity](#) Password: brazil07062016

[Using Evaluation to Generate Knowledge for the Field](#)  
Password: lme12122016



# Human Rights Funders Network

## IHRFG Members Led Efforts to Protect Civic Space

IHRFG members were at the forefront of identifying closing civic space as a defining challenge for philanthropy. In 2016, our members analyzed forces behind this trend and developed strategies to respond, such as building bridges between sectors, supporting cutting-edge work to counter the narratives attacking civil society, and investing in broader constituencies and grassroots organizing.

At our January and July Conferences, funders strategized about **how human rights philanthropy can respond to new restrictions** in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa. In a series of calls, funders working in Mexico and Brazil discussed how to address local challenges to civil society including impunity and defamation campaigns.



In response to increased risks for human rights grantmaking, we developed a comprehensive [security plan](#) for our [Advancing Human Rights](#) research. To aid funders submitting grants data, we provided [security tips](#), sample [transparency guidelines](#) and instructions on how to keep anonymous or remove grants in light of shifting contexts.



In January, 35 funders and activists from 12 countries joined IHRFG's first-ever **Human Rights Lab** to **craft strategies to challenge the narratives** feeding closing civic space. Using "design thinking," a highly interactive and collaborative method of collective problem solving, participants developed [seven prototypes to counter toxic narratives](#).

**The Funders Initiative for Civil Society (FICS)** is a joint initiative launched by IHRFG, Ariadne, the European Foundation Center, the Cross-Border Philanthropy Working Group and Global Dialogue. FICS aims to build connections and share knowledge among funders in different sectors, provide information to civil society organizations under threat, and develop better channels of communication with state actors and international institutions.

Released in 2016, FICS' inaugural publication, [Challenging the Closing Space for Civil Society: A Practical Starting Point for Funders](#), provides analyses, case studies, and practical actions for funders to support civil society and counter the trend of increasingly restrictive funding environments. In October 2016, FICS co-hosted the [International Civic Forum](#), a meeting of leaders from civil society, media, foundations, and government working to protect civic space around the globe.



### Listen to Telebriefings on Civic Space!

[Crisis at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#)  
Password: IACHR9222016

[Safeguarding Civic Freedoms in the United States: The Role of Funders](#)  
Password: civicfreedoms12091016

[Understanding the Changing Environment for Indian NGOs](#)  
Password: india2242016



# Human Rights Funders Network

## Research Built Knowledge & Strengthened the Field

In 2016, IHRFG's *Advancing Human Rights* research presented the most comprehensive picture of human rights funding to date.



A record 803 foundations submitted grants data, including 109 funders based outside of North America. (This figure – up from 49 in our first report – is a testament to the growing diversity of the field!)

In addition to highlighting the issues, populations, and regions that get the most support, our *latest analysis* offered a more comprehensive look at the field, with data on the **strategies**

**funders supported, bilateral/multilateral funding, and how IHRFG members and Global South and East funders stand out.**

Members used *Foundation Maps: Human Rights*, our funder-only map that offers detailed, grants-level data, to deepen their understanding of the funding landscape. With **environmental rights and migration as the top two search categories this year**, funders are using the map to inform their work around current issues. Funders are also using the map to connect across regions, find new partners, and to map their own grantmaking.

*"IHRFG is...using data to make stories true, but using stories to make data real."*

*– IHRFG member*

In 2016, funders used IHRFG's research to **advocate to government leaders** about gaps in human rights funding, to **understand the work of donors** not traditionally considered "human rights funders" and, in the case of one nascent funder, to **inform their institution's strategic approach** to funding non-violent resistance movements.

## Funder Perspectives

**Funding the Frontlines: The Value of Supporting Grassroots Organizing,**  
Hilal Baykara, Sabanci Foundation, Turkey

**Defending Environmental Rights: Funding Priorities in the Global South and East,**  
Maria Amália Souza, Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, Brazil

**The World is Upside-Down. What are Human Rights Funders Doing to Turn it Over?**  
Carla López C., Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, Nicaragua

## IHRFG's Research In the News

**Another Look at Funder Transparency**  
*Exponent Philanthropy*

**What Does the Current Global Human Rights Funding Landscape Look Like?**  
*Inside Philanthropy*

**Human Rights Causes Receive \$2.3 Billion from Foundations**  
*The Non Profit Times*

**Insisting and Resisting: Women's Funds Lead the Way for Local Philanthropy**  
*openDemocracy*



# Human Rights Funders Network

## Financial Support

IHRFG's 2016 operating budget was \$941,203. Our 2016 income breakdown was approximately 43% core support, 23% project support, 18% membership dues, and 16% registration fees. IHRFG received voluntary dues from 87 participating institutions.

### **IHRFG thanks the following members for their support through voluntary dues:**

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The Freedom Fund • Freedom House • FRIDA—Young Feminist Fund • Front Line 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 • Heising-Simons Foundation  
Henry M. Jackson Foundation • HER Fund • HIVOS • HOW Fund • Humanity United  
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NoVo Foundation • The Overbrook Foundation • Partnership for Transparency Fund  
Peace Development Fund • Porticus • Proteus Fund • The Schooner Foundation  
Security and Rights Collaborative • Semillas – Sociedad Mexicana pro Derechos de la Mujer  
Stephen Lewis Foundation • Stewart R. Mott Foundation • The Summit Charitable Foundation  
Tamalpais Trust • Tevah Fund of Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund • UHAI - The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative • Unbound Philanthropy • Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Fund  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee • United Methodist Women • Urgent Action Fund – Africa  
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