



Strengthening Human Rights in New Spaces

In 2018, we launched a new and ambitious [theory of change](#). Developed with substantive input from our Steering Committee and our 2017 member survey, this guiding framework will enable us to better orient our programming to desired outcomes. We move forward with a commitment to promoting **more and better** funding for human rights.

In 2018, 305 new individuals participated in our network, bringing our total reach to over 1,800 grantmakers from approximately 450 institutions across 70 countries.



“We are no longer a small group of funders getting together to share learning and discuss ways to work together. We are a vibrant, mission-oriented field coming together to strategize, build, protect and fight for our democracies and lead with our hearts, our hope and our vision for human rights for every individual across the globe.”

— Mona Chun, Executive Director, HRFN

Building Trust and Facilitating Learning

Our 2018 annual conference, [“Reimagining Human Rights: New Energy for a New Era.”](#) hosted in Mexico City, was our first held outside of the United States in HRFN’s almost 25-year history. Attended by over 300 people representing 50 countries, it showcased current global trends and critical perspectives from Latin America and the Global South. The event was [featured in Mexico’s progressive newspaper, La Jornada](#), and [a new report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders highlighted the pledge presented by girl activists to funders at the conference closing.

Our 11 webinars—which garnered excellent or very good ratings from 90% of respondents—fostered dialogue on a range of topics, including funders’ roles in movement building, climate justice and the threats facing indigenous human rights defenders.

We launched our first-ever [Advancing Human Rights funding trends analysis](#) at our San Francisco event, [Mapping the Money: A Changing Landscape of Human Rights Funding](#). HRFN members wrote our accompanying blog series, [Trends in Human Rights Funding](#), to illustrate the context behind funding shifts, while a second series, [Data in Dialogue](#), used interviews to highlight a range of funders’ perspectives on regional and population-based trends. An in-depth [evaluation of the research and related tools](#), confirmed the impact the initiative has had on funders’ knowledge, collaborations, and practices.



“[The 2018 conference] was more international and more activist. More progressive and radical conversations and more communities engaged, directly speaking, participating than I had ever experienced it before.”

- [HRFN 2018 Conference Evaluation](#)

BY THE NUMBERS: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

91% of Advancing Human Rights research users said they are more knowledgeable about the human rights funding landscape. **50%** said it informed the strategic direction of their project, program, or organization.

96% of respondents from our 2018 conference evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that it felt like a space for them. **40%** of respondents identified themselves as from the Global South or East.

91% of respondents from our 2018 conference evaluation said they built stronger and more trusted relationships at the conference.

9300x: Our Community Voices blog was read 9300 times. Our most popular [article](#) was viewed **974** times.

20+ community events were held at the 2018 conference.



Human Rights
Funders Network



Amplifying and Influencing

HRFN provides a unique space for funders to come together and seed new ideas. For example, over the past four years, our Participatory Grantmaking Working Group co-hosted with Ariadne served as a forum for information sharing and experimentation that evolved into a platform for action. In 2018, in partnership with GrantCraft, these funders released a groundbreaking guide [Deciding Together: Shifting Power and Resources Through Participatory Grantmaking](#). Read more about the journey from a community of practice to sphere of influence in this recent [Inside Philanthropy](#) article.

Our Foundation Leaders' Circle strengthens relationships among heads of philanthropic organizations and has the potential to shift institutional agendas. Our Early Career Professionals Initiative is building a supportive community of young professionals committed to social justice philanthropy.

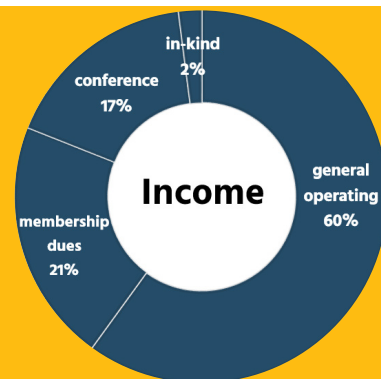
In the context of shrinking civic space, HRFN's leadership in the *Funders' Initiative for Civil Society (FICS)*, in partnership with Ariadne and Global Dialogue, remains vital. FICS has led the development of key resources for funders seeking to respond to closing space for civil society, including an April 2018 report "[What is closing space grant-making?](#)" which analyzed strategies to support resistance and resilience and a December 2018 [report](#) documenting trends in closing space grantmaking.

"[Quantitative data from HRFN's Advancing Human Rights research] begins to ground conversations in the reality of what's really happening, and provide a benchmark to measure change over time to see how the field is evolving."

— [Advancing Human Rights Research Evaluation](#)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

HRFN's 2018 operating expenses totaled \$1,190,800. Our 2018 income breakdown was approximately 60% general operating, 21% membership dues, 17% conference (restricted support and registration fees), and 2% in-kind. HRFN received voluntary dues from 95 participating institutions.





Human Rights Funders Network

HRFN thanks the following members for their support through voluntary dues:

Access Now	Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres	King Baudouin Foundation United States	Sum of Us
African Women's Development Fund	Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises	Lawson Valentine Foundation	The Summit Charitable Foundation
American Jewish World Service	Ford Foundation	Levi Strauss Foundation	Tamalpais Trust
Angelica Foundation	Foundation for a Just Society	The Libra Foundation	Taso Foundation
Appleton Foundation	Freedom Fund	MADRE	TCC Group
Arcus Foundation	Freedom House	Mama Cash	Tevah Fund of Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
As You Sow	FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund	Mary's Pence	Thousand Currents
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	Front Line International	Media Democracy Fund	True Costs Initiative
Both ENDS	Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders	Mediterranean Women's Fund	UHAI - The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative
Brazil Fund for Human Rights	Fundacion Avina	Mongolian Women's Fund	Unbound Philanthropy
Bright Horizon Fund	Fund for Global Human Rights	Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust	Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program
Bulgarian Fund for Women	General Service Foundation	NEO Philanthropy	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
CarEth Foundation	Global Dialogue	New Israel Fund	Until There's a Cure Foundation
CASA Socio-Environmental Fund	Global Fund for Children	Nexus Fund	Urgent Action Fund - Africa
Channel Foundation	Global Fund for Community Foundations	NoVo Foundation	Urgent Action Fund - Asia and Pacific
Chino Cienega Foundation	Global Fund for Women	Overbrook Foundation	Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
Christensen Fund	Global Greengrants Fund	Partners Asia	Urgent Action Fund - Latin America
Compton Foundation	Henry M. Jackson Foundation	Peace Direct	Wallace Global Fund
Danielle Kraaijvanger	HER Fund	Porticus	Wikimedia Foundation
Disability Rights Fund	HIVOS	Rawa: Creative Palestinian Communities Fund	Women's Fund Asia
Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation	Horizons Foundation	Renewable Freedom Foundation	Women's Fund in Georgia
EMpower - The Emerging Markets Foundation	Humanity United	SAGE Fund	
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to Support Human Rights Defenders	Instituto Betty e Jacob Lafer	Seattle International Foundation	
Flora Family Foundation	International Center on Nonviolent Conflict	Semillas - Sociedad Mexicana pro Derechos de la Mujer	
	Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights	Sigrid Rausing Trust	
		Stewart R. Mott Foundation	

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