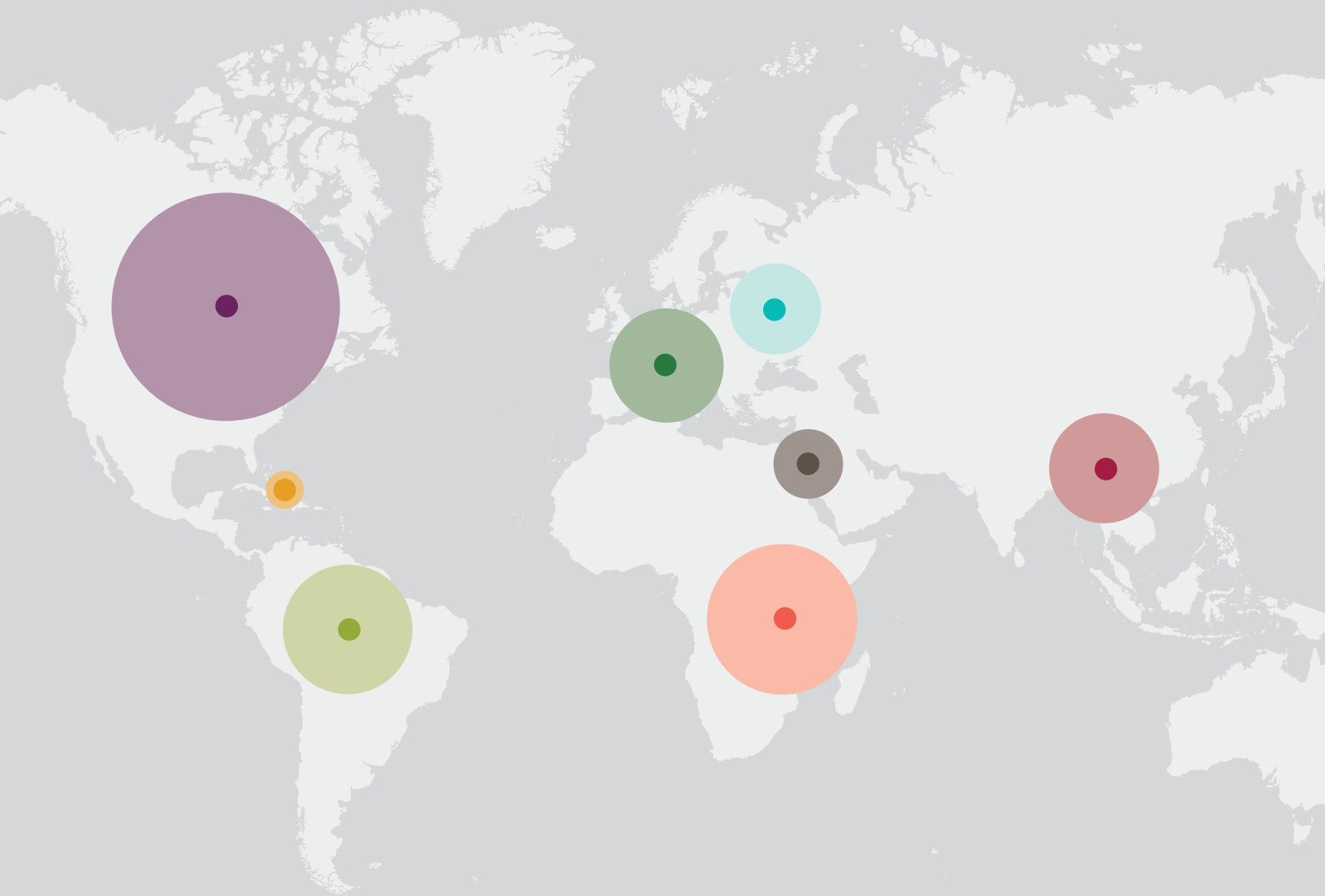


ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

Annual Review of Global Foundation Grantmaking

2015 KEY FINDINGS



Produced by

Candid. and



Human Rights
Funders Network

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About the *Advancing Human Rights* research

With limited resources and immense challenges, now more than ever human rights grantmakers and advocates are asking critical questions about the human rights funding landscape: Where is the money going? What are the gaps? Who is doing what?

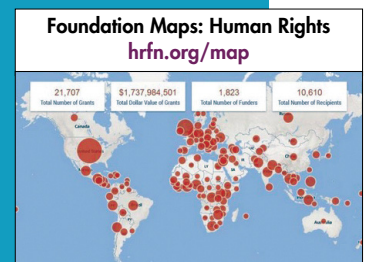
We developed the *Advancing Human Rights* research to answer these questions. It is a collaboration between Human Rights Funders Network (HRFN), Candid (formerly Foundation Center and GuideStar), Ariadne and Prospera to track the evolving state of human rights philanthropy by collecting and analyzing grants data.

Where can I learn more?

- Explore human rights funding over time by issues, populations, regions, and funding strategies on our [research hub](#)
- Dive deeper into grant-level details and find peers working on similar issues through our funders-only [database and mapping platform](#)
- Follow our [blog series](#) where we showcase funder perspectives to contextualize the numbers
- Reflect on the field's present and past through [reports and analyses](#)—like this one

What can I do with the findings?

- Increase your knowledge of the funding landscape and trends
- Understand where your organization fits in the field of human rights philanthropy
- Inform your strategies
- Identify new partners
- Mobilize additional resources to address funding gaps



Help us strengthen the research!

We are committed to expanding understanding of human rights funding but can't do it without your support.

- **Submit data on time:** We believe in the value of real-time data. We can't start our analysis until we receive your grants lists, so please email your most recent fiscal year data to info@hrfn.org by June 30 each year.
- **Provide detailed grant descriptions:** The more information you can share about a grant's purpose and approach, the more accurately we can capture your work.
- **Share data responsibly:** We believe funders can simultaneously protect the privacy and security of grantees while making the human rights field more transparent and effective. We encourage you to visit our [data security guidelines](#) and anonymize any grant details that you feel are too sensitive to be made public.
- **Spread the word:** Collecting data from new funders, especially those outside the United States, helps us build a more comprehensive picture of the funding landscape. Encourage your peers to get involved and share their grant information!

Your input is critical to our efforts to support more effective, collaborative and transparent human rights philanthropy. To submit data, provide feedback, or discuss how to apply this research in your work, please contact Rachel Thomas at rthomas@hrfn.org.

Designed by Betty Saronson, Candid

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THE STATE OF FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2015

In 2015, familiar threats to human rights and human rights philanthropy continued. As conflicts persisted in countries like Syria, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, the number of refugees fleeing violence and hunger soared. Extremist groups perpetrated mass violence from Nigeria and Egypt, to Kenya and France, including the targeted killing of staff from the French magazine Charlie Hebdo. Threats to closing civic space intensified as more countries adopted laws targeting and restricting organizations that work to hold governments accountable, including the funders that back them, often under the pretext of counterterrorism.

Despite these many concerns, we saw inspiring advances for human rights around the world across a range of issues. Women in Saudi Arabia voted and stood for election for the very first time, and the governments of the Gambia and Nigeria outlawed female genital mutilation. The Supreme Court in the United States legalized same sex marriage, while the Irish people did so through a historic popular vote. Cuba and the U.S. restored diplomatic ties after more than five decades, and Iran signed a deal to curb its nuclear program. At the end of the year, nearly 200 countries reached the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change to mitigate global warming.

Against this backdrop, in 2015 foundations allocated a total of \$2.4 billion in support of human rights.¹



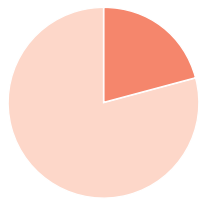
IN 2015,
746
FUNDERS MADE



22,524
HUMAN RIGHTS
GRANTS TOTALING
\$2.4 B



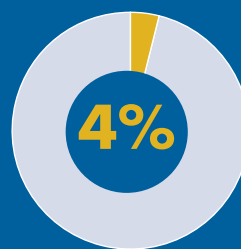
TO
14,133
RECIPIENTS



22%
OF THE FUNDING WAS
REPORTED AS FLEXIBLE
GENERAL SUPPORT

How do we define human rights grantmaking?

Human rights grantmaking addresses the root causes of injustice and inequality. This funding pursues structural change to ensure the protection and enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties. We analyze any grant that meets our definition, regardless of whether the funder considers their work to be human rights focused.



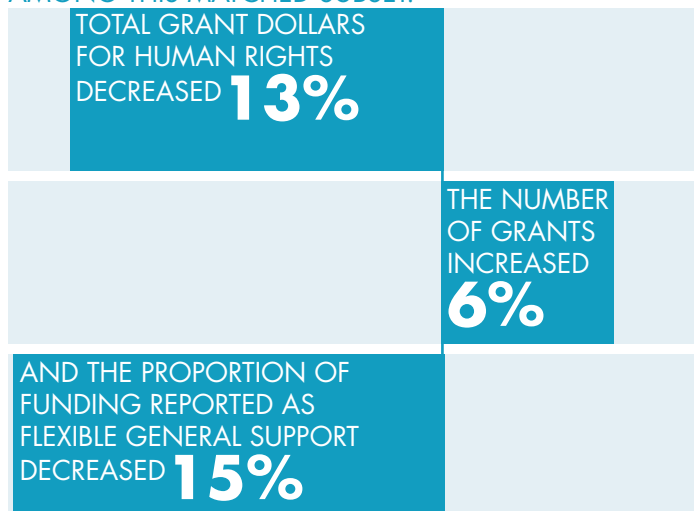
4%
OF FOUNDATION
FUNDING SUPPORTED
HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS
IN 2015²

How did human rights funding differ between 2014 and 2015?

We looked at changes in foundation funding between 2014 and 2015. To control for year-to-year variations, we used a subset of 549 funders whose grants were included both years.

Year-to-year changes in grantmaking can be influenced by the actions of one or a few foundations, the authorization of multi-year grants in a single year,³ a small number of very large grants, or a foundation submitting more detailed and comprehensive grants data. We should be cautious about drawing long-term conclusions about shifts in grantmaking based on single-year changes.

AMONG THIS MATCHED SUBSET:⁴

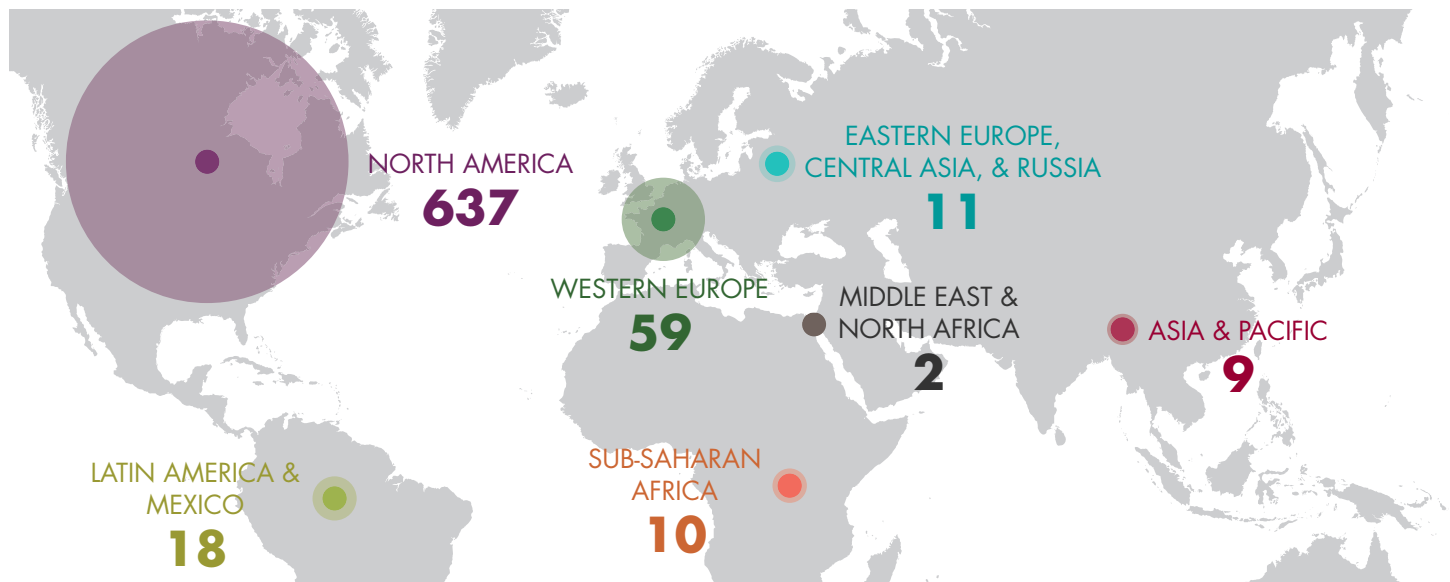


WHO MAKES HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS?

The 746 funders included in this analysis span 46 countries. Eighty-five percent were based in North America,⁵ largely reflecting the relative accessibility of grants data for U.S. foundations. Nonetheless, the number of funders based outside North America who submitted data has more than doubled since our initial analysis six years ago and they account for approximately 32 percent of human rights funding.

The research combines grants data collected from 241 HRFN, Ariadne, and Prospera members with data Candid collects from a set of the largest U.S. foundations. 505 of these foundations funded grants that meet our definition of human rights grantmaking, though many may not consider themselves human rights funders. While members account for just 32 percent of the funders included in the analysis, they are responsible for 67 percent of human rights grant dollars and 78 percent of human rights grants.

Number of human rights funders submitting data in 2015 by region



Top human rights funders by number of grants in 2015

1	Tides Foundation*	United States	1,479
2	Global Greengrants Fund*	United States	845
3	National Endowment for Democracy*	United States	807
4	American Jewish World Service*	United States	532
5	Ford Foundation*	United States	526
6	The Global Fund for Women*	United States	419
7	EEA and Norway Grants*	Belgium	385
8	Fund For Global Human Rights*	United States	382
9	The Pollination Project Foundation*	United States	379
10	Comic Relief*	United Kingdom	367
11	Big Lottery Fund*	United Kingdom	364
12	Mensen met een Missie*	Netherlands	293



THE **TOP 12**
HUMAN RIGHTS
FUNDERS BY
NUMBER OF GRANTS
ACCOUNTED FOR
30%
OF ALL HUMAN
RIGHTS GRANTS

*Denotes membership in HRFN, Ariadne, or Prospera.

WHO ARE THE LARGEST HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS?

Top human rights funders by grant dollars in 2015

1	Nationale Postcode Loterij*	Netherlands	\$230 M
2	Ford Foundation*	United States	\$176 M
3	Comic Relief*	United Kingdom	\$146 M
4	The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	United States	\$122 M
5	Oak Foundation*	Switzerland	\$102 M
6	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	United States	\$92 M
7	Tides Foundation*	United States	\$71 M
8	Foundation to Promote Open Society*	United States	\$71 M
9	NoVo Foundation*	United States	\$64 M
10	National Endowment for Democracy*	United States	\$64 M
11	Big Lottery Fund*	United Kingdom	\$58 M
12	Howard G. Buffett Foundation	United States	\$46 M



THE **TOP 12**
HUMAN RIGHTS
FUNDERS
ACCOUNTED FOR
47%
OF ALL HUMAN
RIGHTS FUNDING
TOTTALING
\$1.2B

Top human rights funders based in the Global South and East by grant dollars in 2015

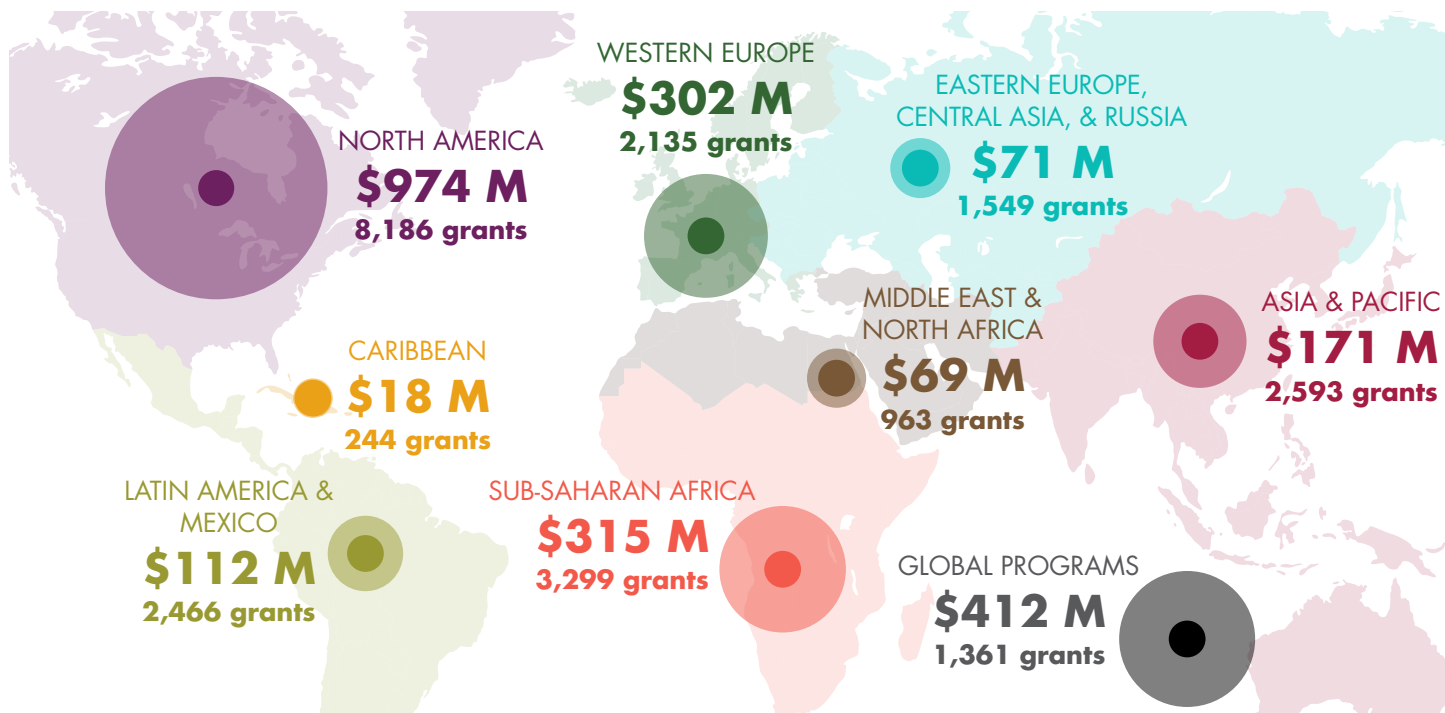
1	Fundacja Batorego*	Poland	\$7.4 M
2	Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres*	Nicaragua	\$3.3 M
3	Fundación AVINA*	Panama	\$2.6 M
4	African Women's Development Fund*	Ghana	\$2.2 M
5	TrustAfrica*	Senegal	\$1.9 M
6	Korea Foundation for Women*	Republic of Korea	\$1.4 M
7	Open Society Fund Prague*	Czech Republic	\$1.1 M
8	UHAJ: East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative*	Kenya	\$0.9 M
9	Trag Fondacija*	Serbia	\$0.9 M
10	Fundo Socioambiental CASA*	Brazil	\$0.8 M
11	Semillas*	Mexico	\$0.7 M
12	The Foundation for Civil Society*	Tanzania	\$0.7 M



50 FUNDERS
BASED IN THE
GLOBAL SOUTH
AND EAST MADE
2,170
HUMAN RIGHTS
GRANTS
TOTTALING
\$30 M

Source: Candid, 2019. The amounts presented here reflect the full value of each funder's grantmaking for human rights, including grants to other foundations in the set. To address potential double-counting in figures, recipients who are also funders were removed to arrive at the \$2.4 billion for 2015 total human rights grantmaking figure that appears in other sections of the analysis. *Denotes membership in HRFN, Ariadne, or Prospera.


WHERE DO HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS GO?

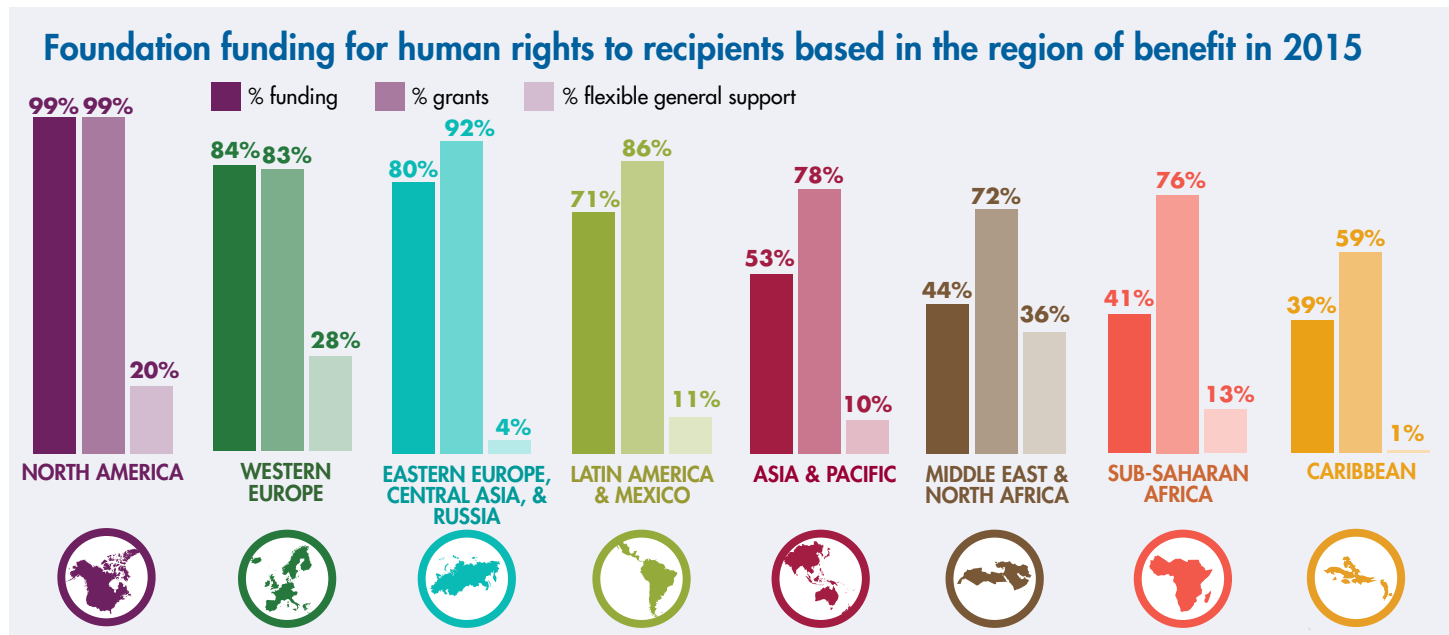


The human rights grants captured in this research supported 14,133 organizations worldwide in 2015.⁷ The totals for each region represent human rights grants for activities focused on that region, regardless of the recipient location.

Human rights grants generally benefit a specific country or region. However, because grants that focus on multiple regions do not specify how much money goes where, the full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each region. The category “global” includes grants intended to support human rights globally.⁸

For all of the regions, receipts located in each region received the majority of grants meant to benefit that region. However, in-region recipients were less likely to receive the majority of grant dollars in several contexts. In-region recipients located outside the Middle East and North Africa, Western Europe, and North America were also significantly less likely to receive flexible general support.

 To further explore funding by region, visit humanrightsfunding.org/regions



WHAT ISSUES DO HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS ADDRESS?

The human rights grantmaking described in this research has been classified into 30 unique human rights issues grouped into 13 overarching categories.⁹ In this report, grants are assigned to one issue only. Where grants address multiple issues, the researchers drew on available information to determine the most relevant category. The category “human rights general” captures grants to organizations that work across a range of human rights issues and do not stipulate a focus.



To see definitions for each category or further explore funding by issues, visit humanrightsfunding.org/issues

Foundation funding for human rights by issue in 2015

	Health and Well-being Rights	\$298 M	12%	2,134 grants
	Freedom from Violence	\$294 M	12%	2,782 grants
	Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination	\$271 M	11%	3,151 grants
	Social and Cultural Rights	\$247 M	10%	2,416 grants
	Human Rights General	\$218 M	9%	1,724 grants
	Environmental and Resource Rights	\$209 M	9%	2,650 grants
	Sexual and Reproductive Rights	\$182 M	8%	1,051 grants
	Economic and Labor Rights	\$177 M	7%	1,284 grants
	Civic and Political Participation	\$154 M	6%	1,575 grants
	Access to Justice/Equality Before the Law	\$112 M	5%	1,061 grants
	Migration and Displacement	\$108 M	5%	1,030 grants
	Expression and Information Rights	\$100 M	4%	1,056 grants
	Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding	\$50 M	2%	610 grants

WHAT STRATEGIES DO HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS SUPPORT?

The strategies that funders support through their grantmaking range from capacity-building, to research and documentation of human rights abuses, to advocacy for greater recognition of rights. Grants may support more than one strategy; for this analysis, the full grant amount is attributed to all applicable strategies. Sixty-five percent of human rights grants specified at least one of the 11 strategies we track in this research.



To further explore funding by strategies, visit humanrightsfunding.org/strategies

Foundation funding for human rights by strategy in 2015

	Advocacy, Systems Reform and Implementation	\$904 M	37%	10,151 grants
	Capacity-building and Technical Assistance	\$343 M	14%	3,536 grants
	Coalition-building and Collaboration	\$206 M	9%	2,704 grants
	Public Engagement and Awareness-raising	\$188 M	8%	2,714 grants
	Research and Documentation	\$169 M	7%	1,592 grants
	Media and Technology	\$162 M	7%	2,079 grants
	Grassroots Organizing	\$102 M	4%	1,397 grants
	Litigation and Legal Aid	\$97 M	4%	637 grants
	Arts and Culture	\$75 M	3%	1,348 grants
	Scholarships and Travel	\$4 M	0.2%	437 grants
	Security and Resilience	\$4 M	0.2%	73 grants









WHAT POPULATIONS DO HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS SUPPORT?

Sixty-two percent of human rights grants included an explicit focus on one or more of the eight population groups we track. In our analysis, the full value of a grant is counted toward each population named as a focus for the grant. For example, if a human rights grant mentions girls, its full amount is counted in the funding totals for both “children and youth” and “women and girls.”



To further explore funding by populations, visit humanrightsfunding.org/populations

Foundation funding for human rights by population in 2015

	Women and Girls	\$575 M	24%	6,454 grants
	Children and Youth	\$552 M	23%	5,189 grants
	Migrants and Refugees	\$276 M	11%	2,475 grants
	LGBTQI	\$101 M	4%	1,714 grants
	People with Disabilities	\$91 M	4%	1,177 grants
	Indigenous Peoples	\$91 M	4%	1,425 grants
	Human Rights Defenders	\$17 M	1%	484 grants
	Sex Workers	\$6 M	0.2%	152 grants

Endnotes

- 1 This figure excludes 480 grants totaling \$223 million awarded by foundations to other foundations included in the 2015 data set. Generally, these awards were made to either support regranting programs or build the capacity of recipient foundations. These grants have been removed in order to avoid double-counting of grant dollars.
- 2 Funding for human rights represents four percent of the \$32 billion given overall in 2015 by foundations in Candid's FC 1000 data set. The FC 1000 includes all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations. Of the 746 funders included in our analysis of human rights grantmaking, 504 were also included in the FC 1000 data set for 2015.
- 3 For this analysis, the full value of the grant is attributed to the year in which it was authorized. Therefore, if a multi-year grant was authorized in 2015, the full value of that grant was included in the 2015 totals.
- 4 A total of 549 foundations who made at least one human rights grant in both 2014 and 2015 were tracked in the *Advancing Human Rights* research and included in the comparison. Their giving represented 91 percent of human rights grant dollars tracked for 2014 and 88 percent for 2015.
- 5 In our analysis, North America is limited to Canada and the United States. Five Canadian funders contributed 2015 grants data: the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the International Development Research Centre, MATCH International Women's Fund, the Kenoli Foundation, and the Cloverleaf Foundation.
- 6 For this analysis, the Global South and East includes all countries outside of Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
- 7 The overall figures for 2015 of 22,524 human rights grants totaling \$2.4 billion excludes all double-counting of grants that focus on more than one region.
- 8 Human rights grants totaling \$133 million that specified “developing countries” as the region of benefit are not reflected in this graphic.
- 9 We have continued to refine our taxonomy to more accurately capture human rights grantmaking since our inaugural *Advancing Human Rights* report produced in 2013. Changes include dividing the overall category of “Individual Integrity, Liberty, and Security” into “Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination” and “Expression and Information Rights;” adding “Voting Rights” as a sub-category of “Civic and Political Participation” and “Other Forms of Violence” under “Freedom from Violence;” and adding a category for “Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding” and a population code for “Human Rights Defenders.” We also changed the naming of “Labor Rights” to “Economic and Labor Rights” to more accurately reflect the range of activity captured in this category. You can view the full list of human rights issues here: humanrightsfunding.org/faq

Authors

Anna Koob Director of Research, Candid
Rachel Thomas Director of Research Initiatives, Human Rights Funders Network

Acknowledgments

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About Human Rights Funders Network

The Human Rights Funders Network (HRFN) was founded in 1994 by a small group of human rights grantmakers who wanted to share strategies and lessons learned, discuss field-wide trends, and collaborate. Since those early days, our community has grown into a global network of approximately 1,800 individual grantmakers and philanthropists across 70 countries committed to advancing human rights through effective philanthropy. Our membership includes 95 dues-paying institutions, while more than 350 additional institutions engage in our activities. HRFN is based in New York, is fiscally sponsored by Proteus Fund, and is governed by a Steering Committee composed of HRFN member representatives. Learn more at hrfn.org.

About Candid

Foundation Center and GuideStar joined forces in 2019 to become Candid, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Every year, millions of nonprofits spend trillions of dollars around the world. Candid finds out where that money comes from, where it goes, and why it matters. Through research, collaboration, and training, Candid connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to do it. Candid's data tools on nonprofits, foundations, and grants are the most comprehensive in the world. Find out more at candid.org.

Share your grants data!

Foundations can submit their grants data using this [template](#) and should anonymize any details that are too sensitive to be made public. 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 data to info@hrfn.org by June 30 each year. If you have any questions about submitting your data, please let us know.

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doi.org/c9gh

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Candid.

32 Old Slip • New York, NY 10005
(800) 424-9836 • candid.org



**Human Rights
Funders Network**

500 Seventh Avenue • New York, NY 10018
(646) 867-8620 • hrfn.org