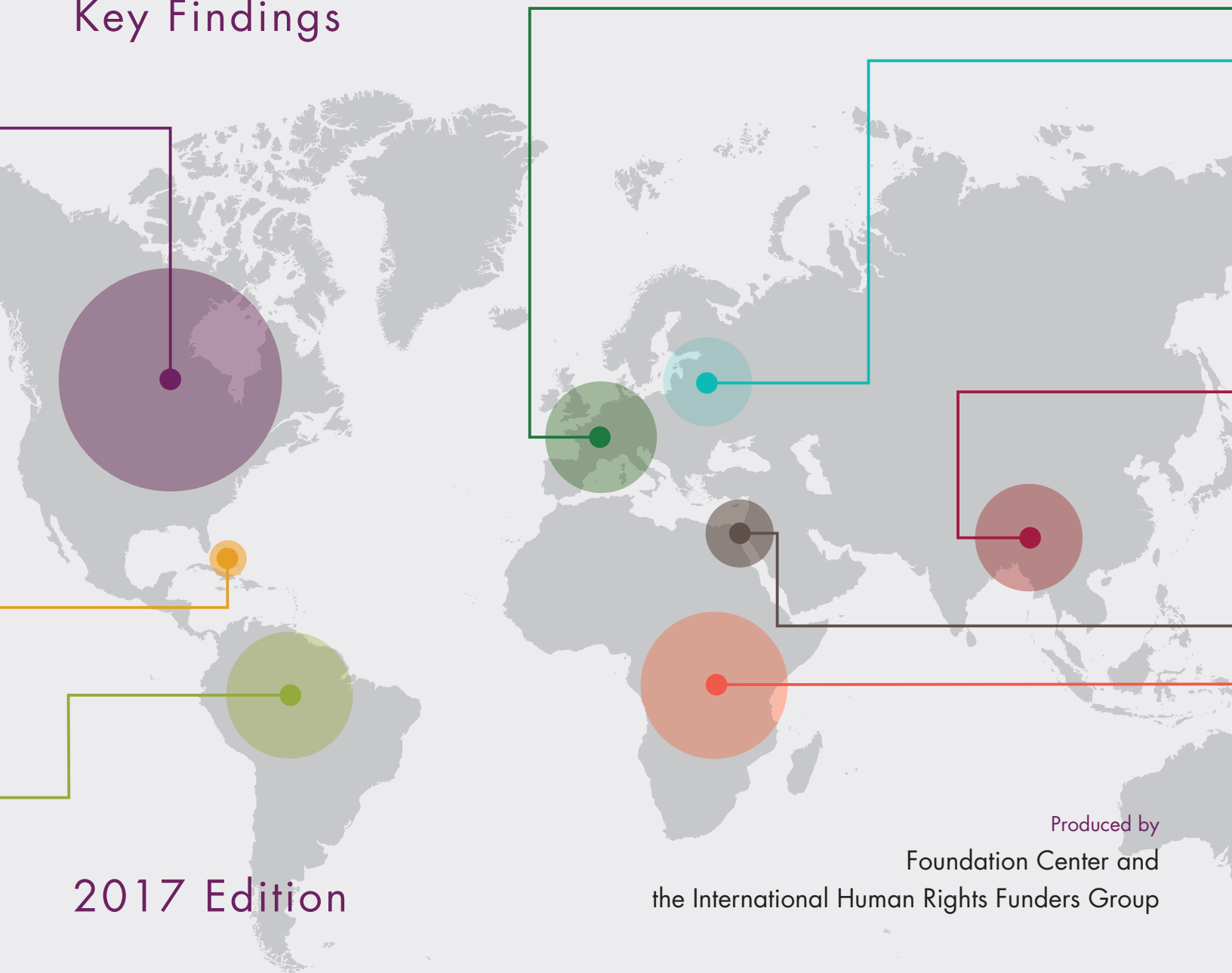


ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

Update on Global Foundation Grantmaking

Key Findings



2017 Edition

Produced by
Foundation Center and
the International Human Rights Funders Group

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ABOUT THE ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS: KNOWLEDGE TOOLS FOR FUNDERS INITIATIVE

A multiyear, collaborative effort by the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG), Foundation Center, Ariadne, and Prospera to create interactive data and research tools to help human rights funders and advocates increase their effectiveness.

"...[this data] has the potential to really shift the way we collaborate with other funders."

—Heather Benjamin, Open Society Foundations

What You Can Learn From the Research

The *Advancing Human Rights* initiative has produced three sets of tools to date:

- Our [annual reports](#) on key findings—like this one—analyze the landscape of human rights funding by foundations as well as bilateral and multilateral donors;
- Our *Advancing Human Rights* [website](#) goes a step beyond the reports, allowing users to view funding flows and intersections by region, issue, population, and strategy; and
- [Foundation Maps: Human Rights](#), our online map of human rights funding accessible to IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera members, offers grants-level data and searches at the nexus of various issues, populations, or regions.

What You Can Do With the Research

- Understand where you fit in the field and inform your funding strategies;
- Identify potential funding partners and grantees;
- Better understand the funding landscape for particular issues, regions, populations, or strategies; and
- Leverage additional resources to address funding gaps.

Most recently, funders have used the data to help develop local philanthropy in Kenya; to understand the landscape of funding for good governance, anti-corruption, and rule-of-law; and to advocate for increased government funding for human rights.

Visit the *Advancing Human Rights* website's [About](#) page to learn more about how funders are strengthening their work with the data.



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The State of Foundation Funding for Human Rights in 2014

The year 2014 saw the return of familiar threats to human rights: Israel and Palestine reclaimed headlines with renewed fighting in the Gaza Strip, and Cold War-era tensions reappeared amid conflict in Crimea. The year also brought the rise of new threats, with vicious attacks from extremist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram, a coup and military rule in Thailand, and the Ebola crisis in western Africa. It saw the magnification of ongoing trends, such as threats to civic space, and growing concerns around surveillance and digital security. The humanitarian crisis in Syria worsened, and the number of forcibly displaced people reached the highest level since World War II.

Amid growing threats, however, the world saw progress and the promise of hard-fought movements in several areas. Propelled by marches and protests, the United Nations Climate Summit brought global leaders, civil society, and the private sector a step closer to agreement on an international response to climate change. Human rights organizations launched collaborative campaigns to highlight abuses around mega-sporting events in Sochi, Russia, and across Brazil. India's Supreme Court recognized a third gender in a milestone ruling for the transgender community. In a victory for transparency, the United States Senate released a report on the Central Intelligence Agency's use of torture.

In 2014, foundations allocated \$2.7 billion in support of human rights.¹ As defined by the *Advancing Human Rights* initiative, human rights grantmaking pursues structural change, often in support of marginalized populations, to advance rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent rights treaties. All grantmaking consistent with this definition was included in this research, including grants by funders who do not consider themselves to be human rights funders but who support work in intersecting fields.

The 729 foundations included in this edition of *Advancing Human Rights: Update on Global Foundation Grantmaking* made over 20,600 grants to 12,888 organizations in 2014 in support of human rights.² These foundations range from those reporting over \$200 million in giving for human rights in 2014 to foundations with just one human rights grant. Fifty-three percent of grantmakers included in this research made five or more human rights grants, while 22 percent made just one or two grants meeting the human rights definition.

This fourth annual report explores 2014 human rights grantmaking by funder, region, issue, population, and strategy. To provide a more complete picture of giving for human rights, this report also includes data on bilateral and multilateral aid.

Advancing Human Rights: Update on Global Foundation Grantmaking also highlights key changes in foundation giving between 2013 and 2014. To control for year-to-year variations in the data set, this comparison draws from a subset of 579 funders whose grants were included in the research for both 2013 and

2014. Among this matched subset,³ total grant dollars for human rights rose by 20 percent and the number of grants increased by 11 percent.

Year-to-year changes in grantmaking levels can be influenced by the actions of one or a few foundations, the authorization of multiyear grants in a single year,⁴ a small number of very large grants, especially in issue areas that account for relatively smaller shares of grant dollars, or a foundation submitting more detailed and comprehensive grants data. Therefore, readers should be cautious about drawing long-term conclusions about shifts based on single-year changes. To examine shifts in human rights grantmaking over time, IHRFG and Foundation Center will release a five-year trend analysis later this year on human rights funding from 2011 through 2015.

WHO MAKES HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS?

The following analysis combines grants data collected from IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera with data collected by Foundation Center from a set of the largest U.S. private and community foundations.

- Human rights philanthropy is global: the 729 funders included in this analysis span 50 countries and eight major world regions.
- The Nationale Postcode Loterij ranked as the largest human rights funder in 2014 by grant dollars (\$292 million), followed by Ford Foundation (\$211 million) and Atlantic Philanthropies (\$197 million). The Open Society Foundations, which topped the list from 2011 through 2013, slipped in the rankings due to changes in their reporting methodology in 2014.⁵
- The 20 largest funders by grant dollars—six of which are located outside of North America—represented 66 percent of total funding. The top 20 funders by number of grants—eight of which are located outside of North America—accounted for 40 percent of human rights grants.
- North America accounted for the majority of funders (85 percent) included in the research,⁶ largely reflecting the relative accessibility of grants data for U.S. foundations. Nonetheless, the number of funders based outside North America included in this research has more than doubled since our initial analysis, from 49 foundations for 2010 to 112 foundations for 2014. These 112 foundations, almost all of whom identify as human rights and social change funders, accounted for almost a third of human rights funding.
- Of the 12,888 recipient organizations included in this research, just 4 percent received five or more human rights grants, representing 32 percent of total funding. Over three-quarters (78 percent) of recipients received only one grant meeting our definition.

HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS: A CLOSER LOOK

The data set for human rights includes grants from 237 members of IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera located across the globe. This research also includes data collected by Foundation Center from an additional 492 funders, the vast majority of which may not consider themselves human rights funders, but who made at least one grant that fell within the definition used for this analysis. The following provides a more in-depth look at the funding priorities of IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera members, the majority of whom self-identify as human rights and social change funders and who provide 80 percent of all dollars and 83 percent of grants included in the full data set. This section compares human rights funding between member and non-member foundations and also highlights funding from the growing number of grantmakers based in the Global South and East.⁷

WHAT POPULATION GROUPS DO IHRFG, ARIADNE, AND PROSPERA MEMBERS SUPPORT?

- The single largest share of funding among network members supported children and youth (22 percent), followed by women and girls (19 percent). The reverse was true for non-members: women and girls ranked first, accounting for 23 percent of funding, and children and youth came in second (16 percent). Migrants and refugees were the third-most supported group for each, representing 12 percent of member funding and 9 percent of non-member funding.

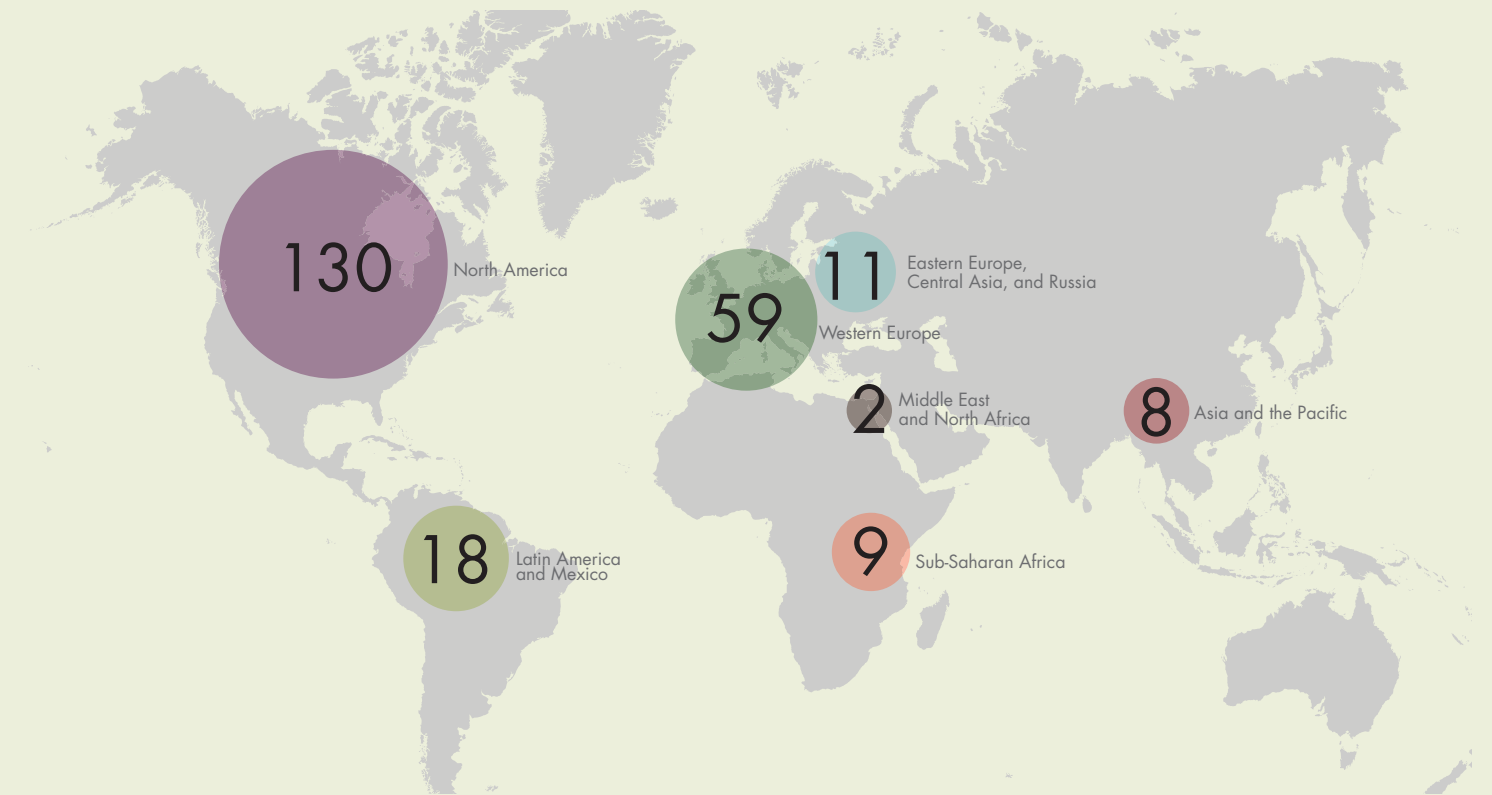
WHAT STRATEGIES DO NETWORK MEMBERS SUPPORT?

- While advocacy and systems reform ranked as the top strategy supported by both member and non-member foundations, network members dedicated a substantially larger portion of their funding to this approach (41 percent vs 28 percent for non-members). Capacity-building and technical assistance, and research and documentation received the second- and third-largest shares, respectively, from member funders. For non-members, media and technology ranked as the second-most funded strategy, followed by capacity-building and technical assistance.

WHERE DO NETWORK MEMBERS FUND?

- A smaller portion of members' funding focused on human rights work in North America (33 percent) compared to non-members (81 percent). This is largely a reflection of the data set, in which nearly all non-member funders are based in the United States, while network members are spread across the globe. Members awarded a substantially larger share of human rights funding to Western Europe (17 percent vs 1 percent from non-member funders) and to Eastern Europe (7 percent vs 1 percent from non-members). This also reflects the data set, with 70 members based in Europe, in contrast to five non-members.
- While a larger proportion of members are based outside North America and identify as international human rights funders, the research did not find that they dedicate a larger share of funding to work in the Global South and East than non-members. Both members and non-members allocated similar proportions of funding to Sub-Saharan Africa (8–11 percent) as well as Asia and the Pacific (7–10 percent).

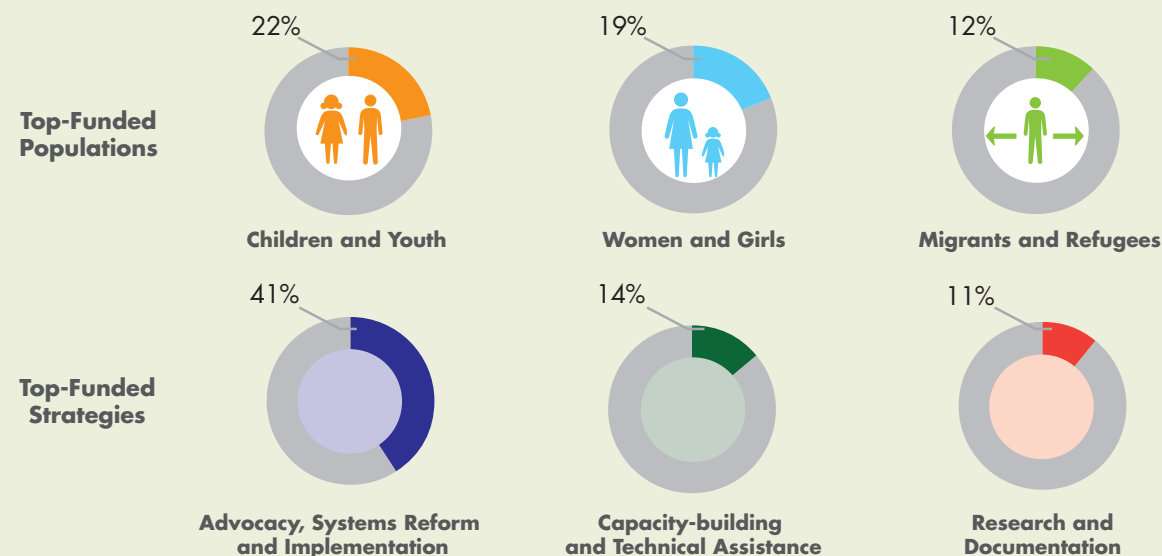
Number of Human Rights Funders by Region: IHRFG, Ariadne, & Prospera Members, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by the 237 member foundations affiliated with IHRFG, Ariadne, or Prospera. There are an additional 492 non-member foundations (487 based in North America, 2 based in Eastern Europe, and 3 based in Western Europe) included in the full data set referenced elsewhere in the analysis.

Human Rights Funding Focus: IHRFG, Ariadne, & Prospera Members, 2014

237 funders authorized 17,210 grants totaling \$2.2 billion



Source: Foundation Center, 2017.

HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS BASED IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND EAST

Support for human rights comes from a diverse community of grantmakers based across the globe, including a growing number of foundations in the Global South and East. Many of these funders are at the forefront of shifting local cultures of charitable giving to advance human rights over the long term.

- Of the 729 funders included in this analysis, 50 are based in the Global South and East, 48 of whom are IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera members. They represented 2 percent of members' total grants dollars and 11 percent of members' grants.
- In total, funders based in the Global South and East gave \$63.5 million in support of human rights through 2,259 grants to 1,837 recipients.
- Similar to the previous year, the top issue supported by funders based in the Global South and East was equality rights and freedom from discrimination (17 percent), followed by freedom from violence (14 percent) and environmental and resource rights (13 percent). By comparison, within the overall set of funders, equality rights ranked third (10 percent), environmental and resource rights fourth (9 percent), and freedom from violence sixth (8 percent).
- Funders based in the Global South and East were significantly more likely to support coalition-building and collaboration, allocating 18 percent of funding to this strategy, versus 6 percent among the overall set. Public engagement and awareness-raising also received 18 percent, while this strategy represented only 7 percent of the full data set's funding.
- Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation was the largest human rights funder based in the Global South or East (\$22.3 million), followed by the Panama-based Fundación AVINA (\$7.7 million) and Open Society Fund Prague (\$7.1 million).
- Fundación AVINA topped the list in terms of number of grants (247), followed by Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, Nicaragua (155), and African Women's Development Fund, Ghana, and Foundation for Human Rights, South Africa (each with 153).

Leading Foundations by Human Rights Grant Dollars, 2014

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	Number of Grants
1 Nationale Postcode Loterij*	NETHERLANDS	\$291.8 MILLION (M)	1,158
2 Ford Foundation*	USA	\$211.1 M	
3 Atlantic Philanthropies*	USA	\$197.0 M	
4 Open Society Foundations*	USA	\$137.8 M	
5 California Endowment	USA	\$124.1 M	
6 National Endowment for Democracy*	USA	\$101.6 M	
7 EEA and Norway Grants*	BELGIUM	\$99.6 M	
8 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	USA	\$90.9 M	
9 Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	USA	\$80.4 M	
10 Oak Foundation*	SWITZERLAND	\$77.1 M	
11 NoVo Foundation*	USA	\$76.1 M	
12 Foundation For The Carolinas	USA	\$72.5 M	
13 Comic Relief*	UNITED KINGDOM	\$70.4 M	
14 W. K. Kellogg Foundation*	USA	\$62.2 M	
15 Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program*	USA	\$60.9 M	
16 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*	USA	\$42.2 M	
17 American Jewish World Service*	USA	\$35.7 M	
18 Hivos*	NETHERLANDS	\$32.0 M	
19 JPB Foundation	USA	\$31.4 M	
20 Sigrid Rausing Trust*	UNITED KINGDOM	\$28.7 M	

Leading Foundations by Number of Human Rights Grants, 2014

Foundation Name	Location	No. Grants	Total Granted Amount
1 EEA and Norway Grants*	BELGIUM	1,158	\$291.8 Million
2 National Endowment for Democracy*	USA	1,035	
3 Ford Foundation*	USA	644	
4 Global Greengrants Fund*	USA	593	
5 American Jewish World Service*	USA	570	
6 Hivos*	NETHERLANDS	437	
7 Open Society Foundations*	USA	419	
8 Mensen met een Missie*	NETHERLANDS	361	
9 California Endowment	USA	360	
10 Global Fund for Women*	USA	355	
11 Fund For Global Human Rights*	USA	324	
12 NEO Philanthropy*	USA	290	
13 Abilis Foundation*	FINLAND	278	
14 New Israel Fund*	USA	276	
15 Foundation Open Society Institute - Switzerland*	SWITZERLAND	266	
16 Fundación AVINA*	PANAMA	247	
17 Sigrid Rausing Trust*	UNITED KINGDOM	220	
18 Global Fund for Children*	USA	218	
19 Wikimedia Foundation*	USA	193	
20 Esmée Fairbairn Foundation*	UNITED KINGDOM	180	

Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries. 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 \$2.7 billion for 2014 total human rights grantmaking figure that appears in other sections of the analysis.

The Open Society Foundations, which topped the list from 2011 through 2013, slipped in the rankings due to changes in their reporting methodology in 2014.

*Denotes membership in IHRFG, Ariadne, or Prospera in 2014.

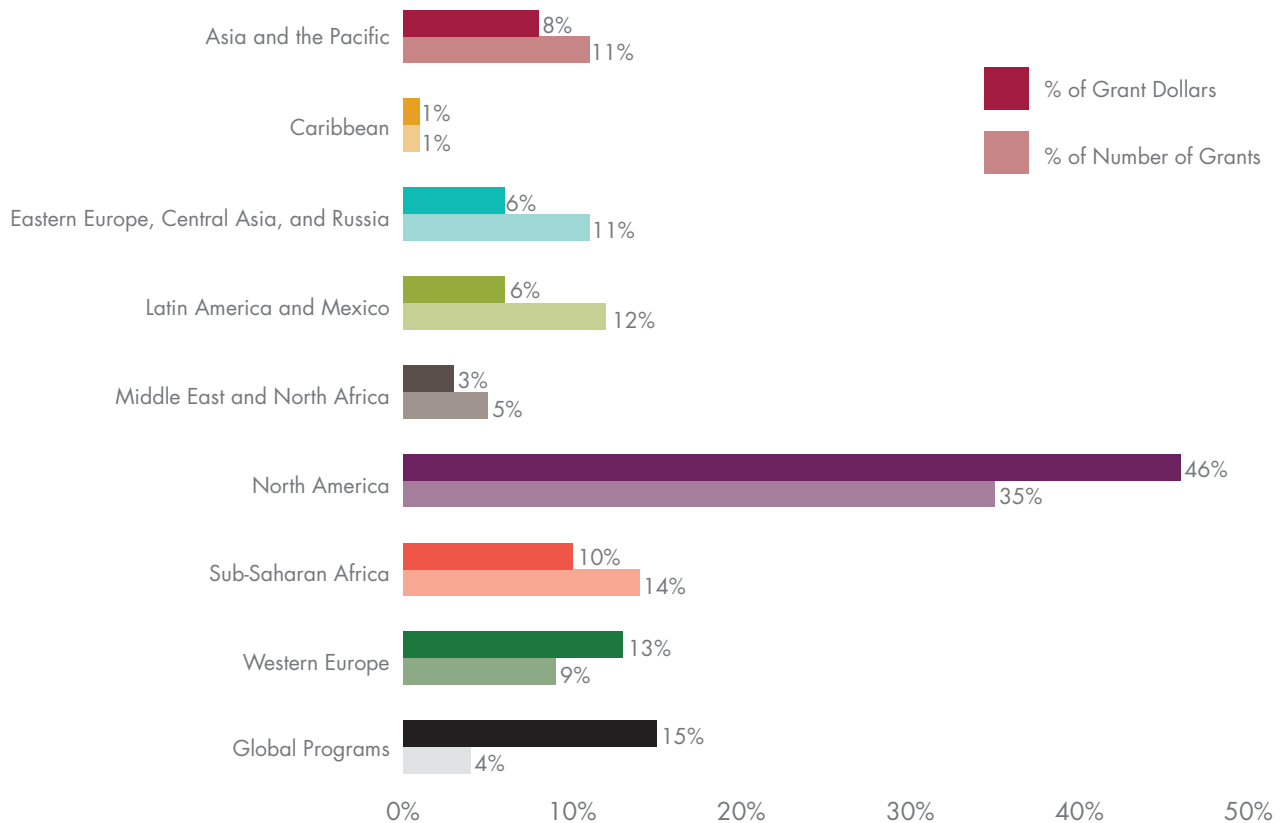
WHERE DO HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS GO?

Organizations and advocates in every major region of the world receive human rights funding. The following analysis considers the full data set and examines the distribution of human rights funding by geographic focus (regardless of whether the grant recipient was based in or outside of the region—see page 10). In this analysis, the full value of a grant is counted toward each applicable region. For example, the full amount of a grant supporting human rights work across Europe is counted within the totals for both Eastern and Western Europe.

- Approximately 46 percent of human rights funding in 2014 (\$1.2 billion) focused on rights-related work in North America, from expanding access to healthcare to advancing racial equity. See page 3 for a few contributing factors as to why North America accounts for such a large proportion.
- The second-most supported region was Western Europe, with 13 percent of overall funding (\$345 million)—an increased share over previous years due to a slight jump in the number of Western European funders submitting grants data for the research in 2014. Funding to Western Europe included support for the rights of older persons and migrant workers and work to advance social change through legal services.

- Sub-Saharan Africa followed with 10 percent, which included funding to protect the rights of children in conflict-affected areas, to promote sexual health advocacy, and to strengthen civil society’s role in democracy-building.
- Asia and the Pacific ranked fourth with 8 percent, including support for land rights among rural, indigenous populations and work to increase access to information through technology.
- Based on the matched subset of funders, from 2013 to 2014, seven of the eight major world regions exhibited growth in grant dollars received. Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia showed the largest increase in grant dollars and number of grants (up 152 percent and 78 percent, respectively). This is due to a significant increase in funding focused on the region, primarily from three large funders: EEA and Norway Grants, the Oak Foundation, and the National Endowment for Democracy. The year also saw increased funding focused on Russia and Ukraine amid conflict in Crimea. Other regions that saw a significant increase in funding include the Caribbean (up 47 percent) and Western Europe (up 45 percent).

Foundation Funding for Human Rights by Region, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries. Figures represent only grants awarded to support specified regions. Grants may benefit multiple regions and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures do not add up to 100 percent.

HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTMAKING

729 FOUNDATIONS IN 50 COUNTRIES MADE **20,600** GRANTS TOTALING **\$2.7 BILLION**

NORTH AMERICA \$1.2 BILLION (B)

Giving Focused on Region

Top Priorities

\$216.8 M
Health and Well-being Rights

\$137.2 M
Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination

\$114.4 M
Social and Cultural Rights

CARIBBEAN \$22 MILLION (M)

\$4.5 M
Health and Well-being Rights

\$3.6 M
Civic and Political Participation

\$2.7 M
Social and Cultural Rights

LATIN AMERICA AND MEXICO \$168 MILLION (M)

\$25.2 M
Human Rights—General

\$21.8 M
Environmental and Resource Rights

\$15.5 M
Civic and Political Participation

WESTERN EUROPE \$345 MILLION (M)

\$108.8 M
Human Rights—General

\$69.4 M
Health and Well-being Rights

\$34.3 M
Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA \$278 MILLION (M)

\$55.2 M
Health and Well-being Rights

\$34.0 M
Freedom from Violence

\$32.8 M
Social and Cultural Rights

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA \$83 MILLION (M)

\$14.1 M
Civic and Political Participation

\$13.1 M
Social and Cultural Rights

\$9.0 M
Human Rights—General

EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA, AND RUSSIA \$156 MILLION (M)

\$32.1 M
Freedom from Violence

\$26.7 M
Civic and Political Participation

\$17.1 M
Social and Cultural Rights

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC \$205 MILLION (M)

\$38.8 M
Health and Well-being Rights

\$26.2 M
Civic and Political Participation

\$24.6 M
Expression and Information Rights

GLOBAL PROGRAMS \$401 MILLION (M)

NOTE: Human rights grants made by foundations included in this study supported 12,888 organizations worldwide in 2014. Figures for each region represent human rights grantmaking for activities focused on that region, regardless of the recipient location. These figures exclude giving to organizations located in a specific region for activities focused on other regions.

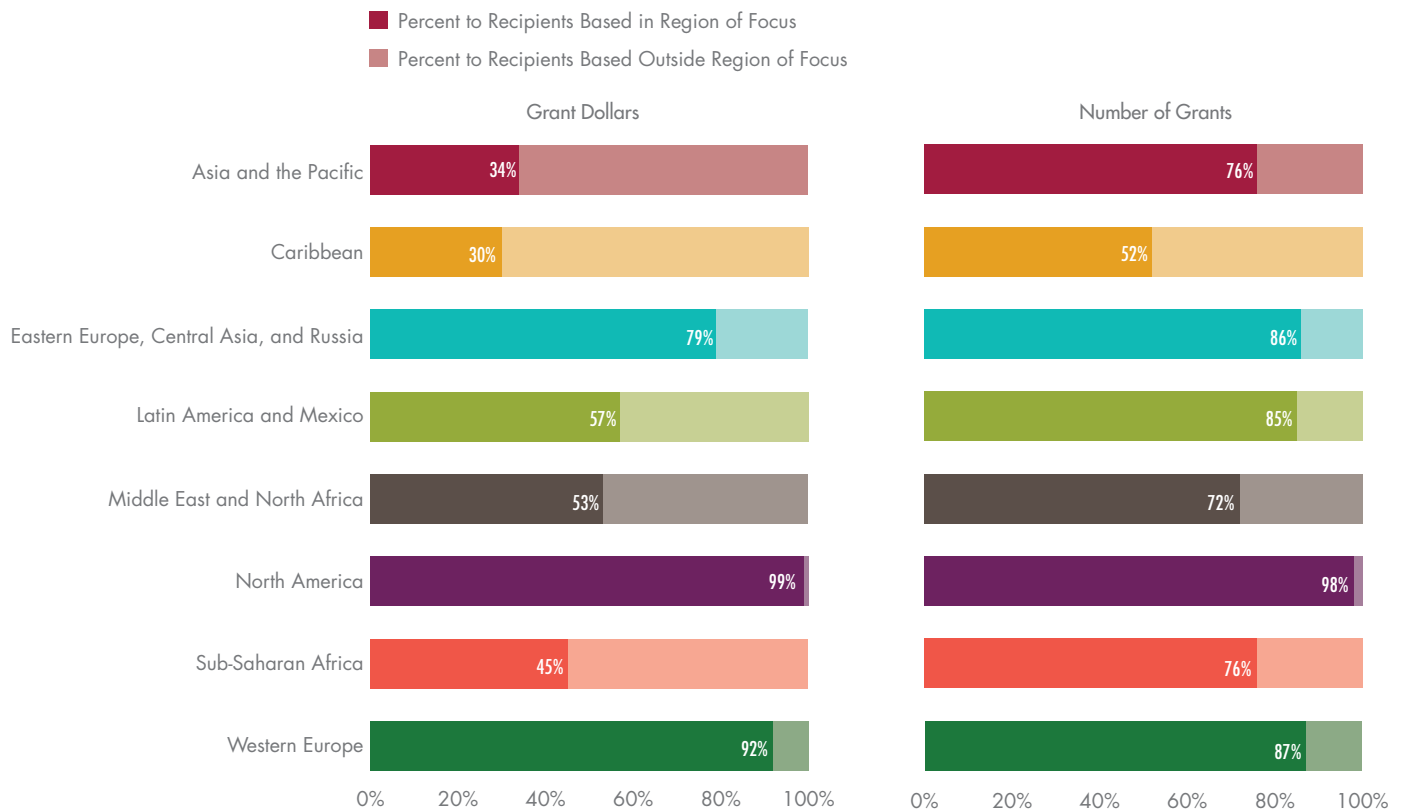
Human rights grants generally benefit a specific country or region. However, as grants with a focus on multiple regions do not specify the share of support that targets each region, the full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each specified region. "Global Programs" includes grants intended to support human rights globally. In addition, human rights grants totaling \$57 million focused on "developing countries" are not reflected in this graphic.

The \$2.7 billion total human rights grantmaking figure for 2014 excludes all double-counting of grants that focused on more than one region.

For a full list of funders included in the research: humanrightsfunding.org/about/#funders.

These findings were developed through the International Human Rights Funders Group and Foundation Center's *Advancing Human Rights: Knowledge Tools for Funders* initiative, with support from the Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Human Rights Funding to Recipients Based in the Region, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries.

- Sub-Saharan Africa (down 10 percent) was the only region that saw a decline in funding from 2013 to 2014. This decrease may represent a normalization of funding levels after an increase of 14 percent in funding to the region the previous year.
- Human rights funding that focuses on a specific country or region may be given to recipient organizations based in that region or based elsewhere. For example, Freedom Fund awarded a grant to the UK-based Environmental Justice Initiative to expose labor violations in Thailand's seafood sector. The Fund also awarded a grant to Tatvasi Samaj Nyas in India for work around trafficking. Both grants are coded as support for Asia and the Pacific.
- For all regions, a majority of grants intended to benefit a particular region were awarded to recipient organizations located in that region. However, in-region recipients did not always receive the majority of *grant dollars*. For example, within funding for the Caribbean, only 30 percent of grant dollars went to recipients in the region, and within Asia and the Pacific, only 34 percent.
- Compared to non-member funders, members of IHRFG, Ariadne, and Prospera dedicated a higher proportion of both grants and grant dollars to recipients based in the region of benefit. For example, non-members awarded 14 percent of grant dollars for both the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific to organizations based in each of these regions. For Sub-Saharan Africa, this share was lower, at 11 percent. In contrast, the proportions of in-region member funding to the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa were 31, 44, and 53 percent, respectively.

WHAT DO HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS SUPPORT?

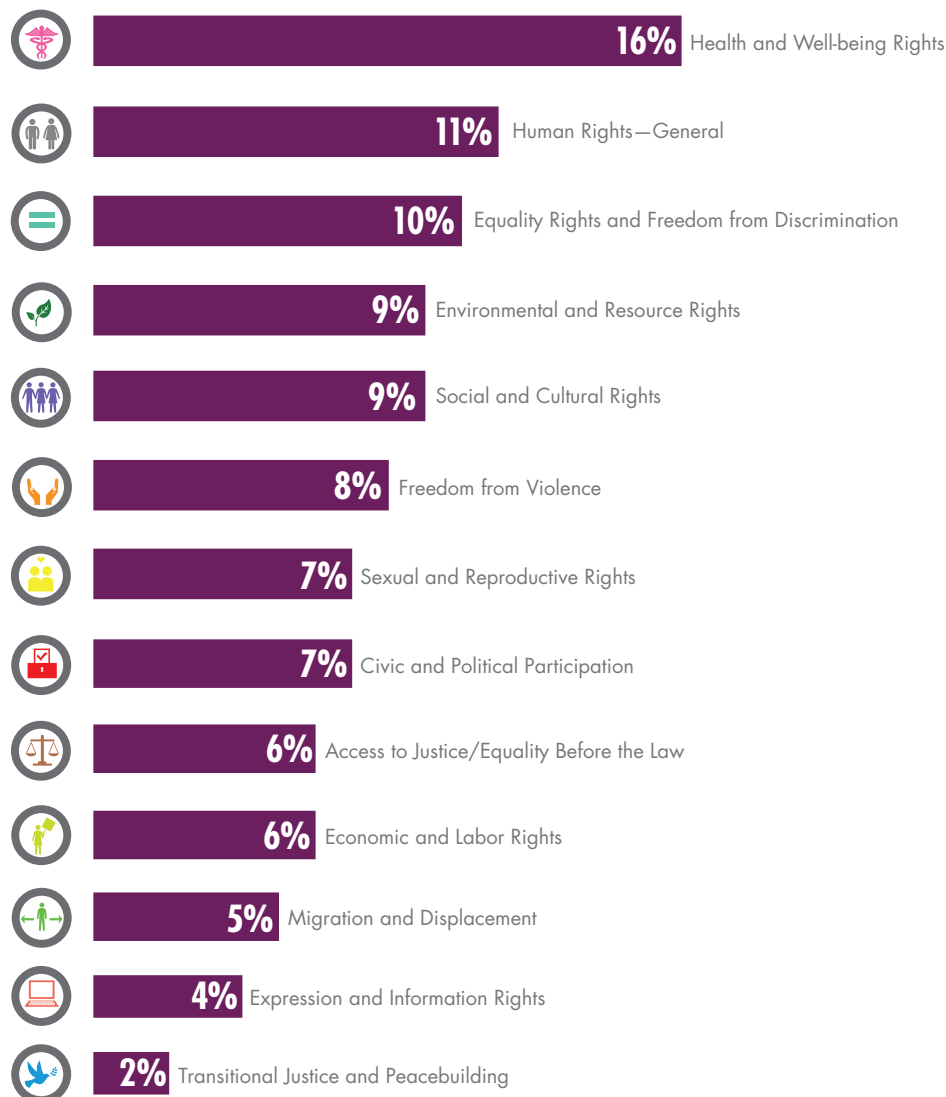
The human rights grantmaking described in this study has been classified into 30 unique issue areas grouped into 13 overarching categories.⁸ In this report, grants are assigned to one issue category only. Where grants support multiple issue areas, the researchers drew on available information to determine the most relevant category.

- In 2014, the largest share of human rights funding supported health and well-being rights (16 percent), reflecting a departure from previous years when equality rights and freedom from discrimination topped the list of most-funded issue areas. This was a 75 percent increase in funding for health and well-being rights, in a year that saw an Ebola crisis and large investments to increase equitable access to healthcare.
- In second and third place were human rights—general (11 percent) and equality rights and freedom from discrimination (10 percent). These areas include organizations

working on numerous rights issues and grants supporting the rights of particular populations where a separate issue focus was not named. For example, a grant from Haëlla Foundation to develop a “Know Your Rights” app counts as human rights—general, while a grant from WING International to empower women in Sierra Leone counts as equality rights and freedom from discrimination.

- The next-largest issue areas were environmental and resource rights and social and cultural rights, which each received 9 percent of human rights funding.
- From 2013 to 2014, the matched subset of funders reflected growth in nine of the 13 issue areas. Beyond health and well-being rights, issue areas experiencing significant growth in funding included environmental and resource rights (up 97 percent in a year that saw minor progress on climate change), social and cultural rights (up 68 percent), and freedom from violence (up 34 percent amid increased attention towards violent extremist attacks).

Foundation Funding for Human Rights by Issue Area, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries. Due to rounding, totals may not add up to 100 percent.

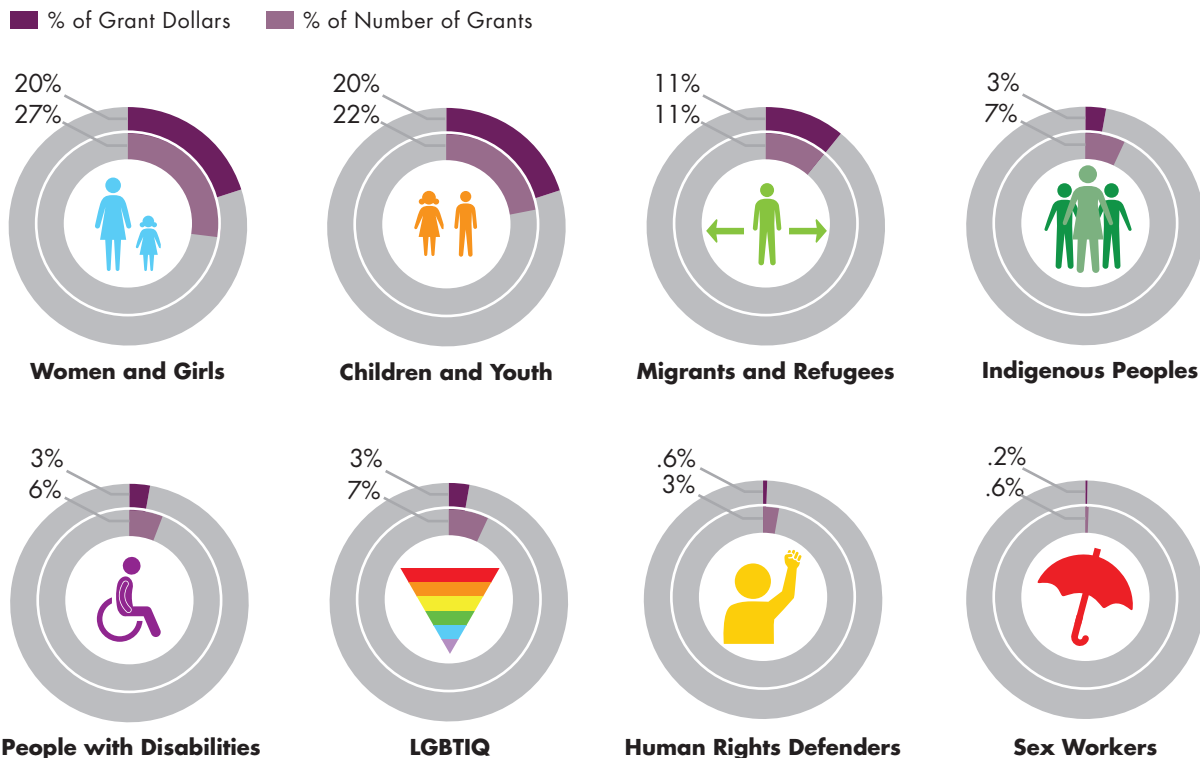
WHO IS THE FOCUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTS?

Eighty-two percent of human rights grants included an explicit focus on specific population groups. In the following analysis, the full value of a grant is counted toward all population groups identified as an explicit focus of the grant. For example, the full amount of a human rights grant to support girls is counted within the totals for both “children and youth” and “women and girls.”

- In 2014, 20 percent of grant dollars and 27 percent of grants specified a focus on women and girls. The purpose of this giving included support for women journalists in conflict areas and to increase access to maternal health services.
- Human rights funding focused on children and youth also accounted for 20 percent of grant dollars in 2014, ranging from support for youth-led community initiatives to addressing the root causes of child labor.
- Migrants and refugees were the focus of 11 percent of human rights grant dollars, including funding for technology innovations for migrant workers and support for Syrian torture survivors displaced throughout the Middle East.

- The matched subset of funders reveals a few changes in funding priorities by population group from 2013 to 2014. Funding for children and youth increased by 32 percent, in part due to large investments by several foundations in the United States to address the school-to-prison pipeline for young men of color. Human rights funding for women and girls also increased (up 10 percent), along with funding for people with disabilities (up 7 percent). At the same time, support for indigenous peoples declined (down 11 percent), as did funding for human rights defenders (4 percent) and LGBTIQ populations (1 percent).
- Within each particular issue area, the population breakdown differs. For example, under health and well-being rights, women and girls accounted for just 6 percent of funding, while they accounted for 93 percent of funding for sexual and reproductive rights. Funding for LGBTIQ populations and people with disabilities each accounted for just 3 percent of overall funding for human rights. However, as a proportion of funding for equality rights and freedom from discrimination, these population groups each represented 10 percent.

Foundation Human Rights Funding by Population Group, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries.

Figures represent only grants that could be identified as serving specific populations, either through the recipient’s mission or through the grant description itself. In addition, grants may benefit multiple population groups and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures do not add up to 100 percent.

Grants for human rights defenders include those that explicitly reference human rights defenders in the grant description, as well as those from funders that identified all of their funding as supporting this population.

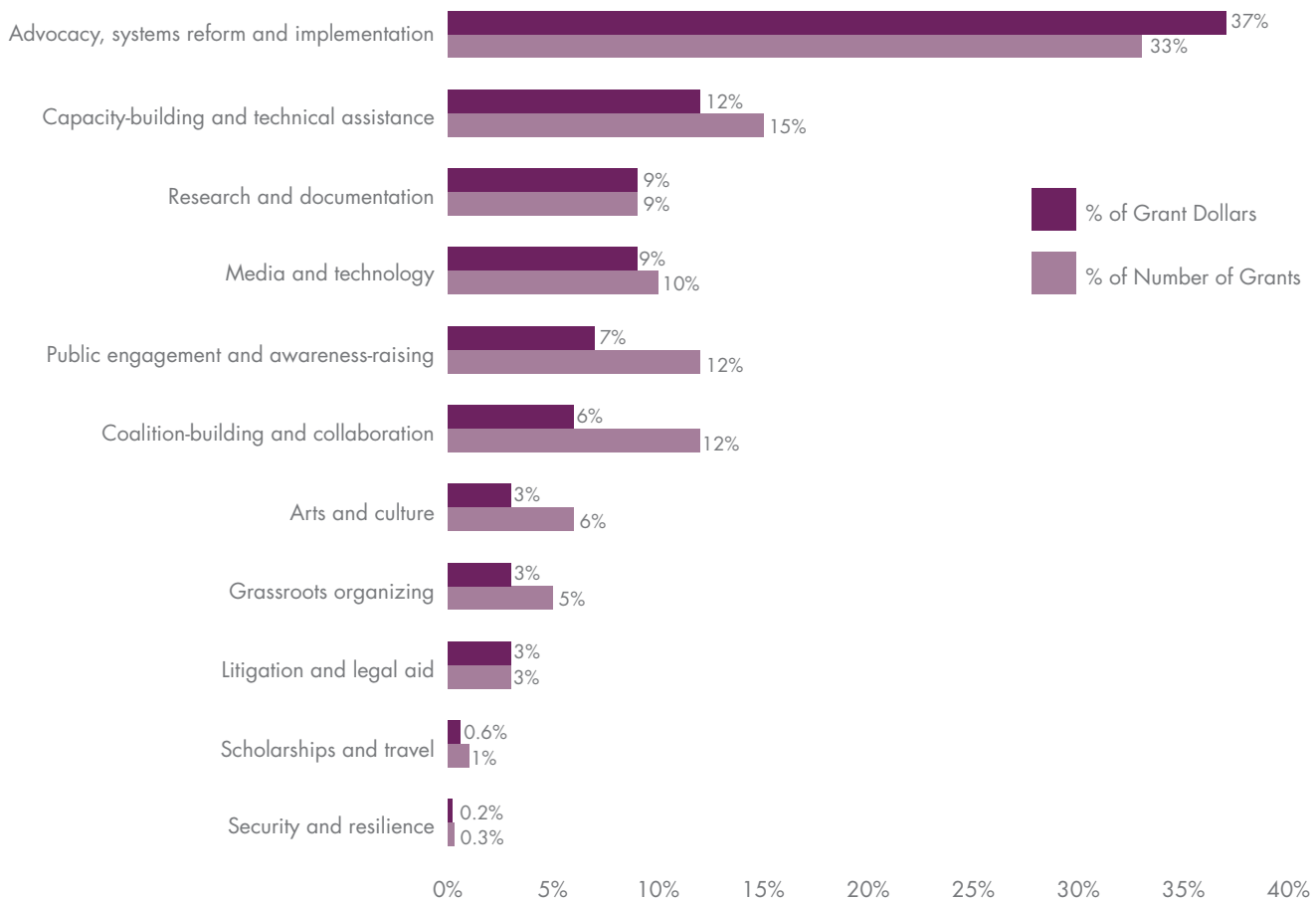
WHICH STRATEGIES ARE SUPPORTED BY HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS?

Last year, this research began tracking the strategies supported by human rights funding. Strategies range from grassroots organizing 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-two percent of human rights grants for 2014 supported at least one of the 11 strategies tracked by this research.

- Activities related to advocacy, systems reform and implementation received the single largest share of funding, at 37 percent—an increase of 62 percent over 2013. Half of all funders in the set made at least one grant to an organization using these strategies. Examples include grants to promote Global South voices in international institutions and to support policy advocacy and donor engagement around healthcare reform and implementation.

- Capacity-building and technical assistance accounted for the next-largest share of human rights funding (12 percent), with training to address the social impacts of mega-sporting events in Brazil as one example.
- Nine percent of human rights funding employed research and documentation as a strategy. Grantmaking included support for research on accountability in natural resource governance in developing countries and on the media’s role in engaging youth in political transition processes in Tunisia.
- Relative support for each strategy varied across the eight world regions. Funding for public engagement and awareness-raising, for example, accounted for only 5 percent of human rights funding for Western Europe but 26 percent for Eastern Europe. Coalition-building received the largest proportions of funding in Eastern Europe and the Caribbean (both at 14 percent) and Latin America (9 percent), but hovered closer to 5 percent for other regions.

Foundation Funding for Human Rights by Strategy Supported, 2014



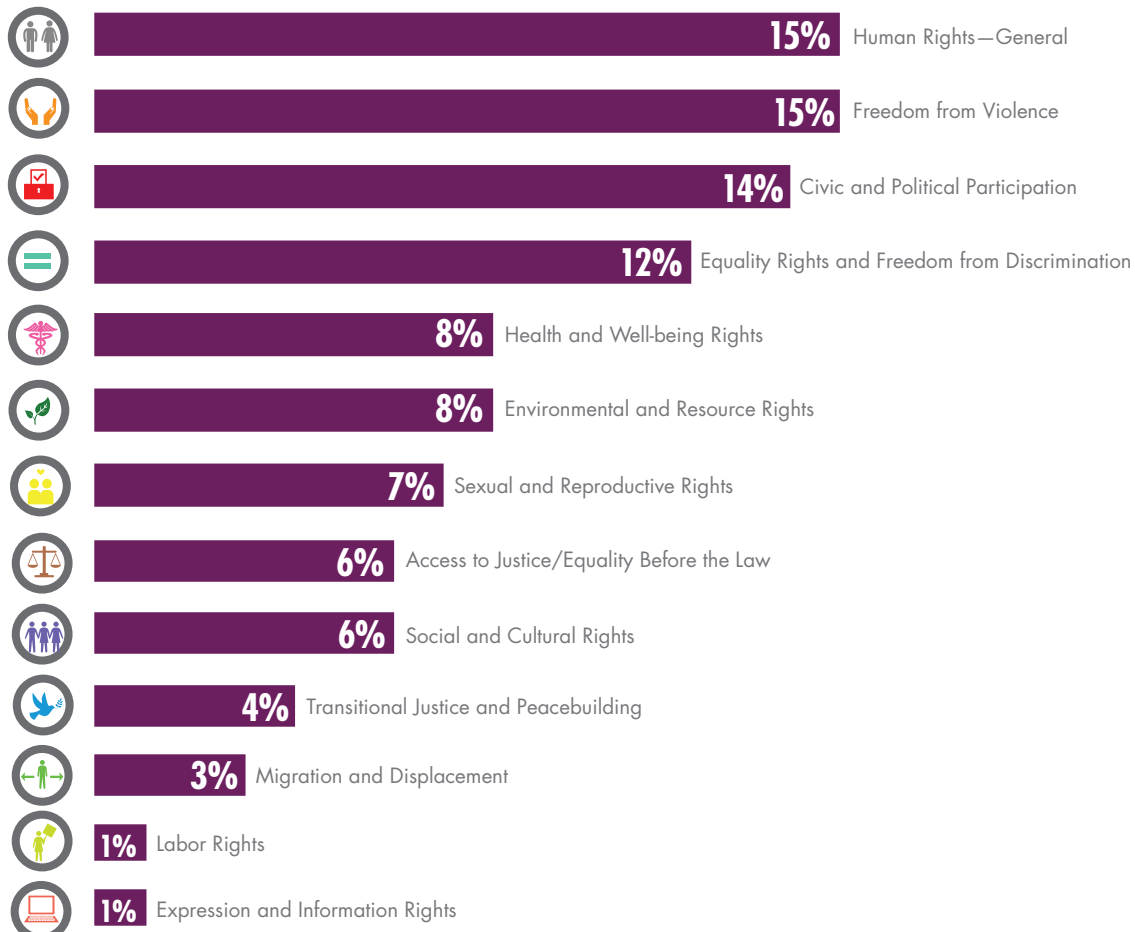
Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries. Figures represent only grants that could be identified as employing specific strategies, either through the recipient’s mission or through the grant description itself. In addition, grants may use multiple strategies, and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures do not add up to 100 percent.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

For a more comprehensive look at the human rights funding landscape, this research maps bilateral and multilateral aid to the Advancing Human Rights taxonomy. Using data from the OECD's Creditor Report System,⁹ we analyze funding by issue, region, and population. Disbursements are assigned to one category each for issue and region but may be assigned to multiple population categories.

- In 2014, researchers identified 14,941 human rights disbursements from bilateral and multilateral donors, totaling \$3.8 billion out of a total \$125 billion in bilateral and multilateral funding (3 percent, the same proportion as in 2013).
- Among issues, human rights—general and freedom from violence each received 15 percent of funding, followed by civic and political participation, with 14 percent. These were also the top issues supported in 2013, though civic and political participation then accounted for the largest share of funding.
- While the United States topped the list of overall aid donors, Sweden was the leading donor for human rights, providing 16 percent of funding. EU Institutions, Norway, and the United States had the next-largest shares, each contributing 10 percent of total human rights funding.
- Top recipients of human rights funding were Afghanistan, Rwanda, West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Colombia, which each received over \$89 million in human rights-related aid. The West Bank and Gaza Strip was a newcomer to the top recipients (up from seventh in 2013) amid renewed conflict and rocket strikes between Israel and Gaza in 2014.
- Regionally, Sub-Saharan Africa received the most support, accounting for 30 percent of funding, followed by Asia and the Pacific (19 percent) and Latin America (11 percent). These were also the top regions supported in 2013.¹⁰
- A closer look reveals that several funding priorities differed by region. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for under a third of total human rights funding but received 52 percent of all funding for health and well-being rights. Asia and the Pacific received 29 percent of funding for access to justice/equality before the law. The Middle East and North Africa, which received only 9 percent of total human rights funding, accounted for 19 percent of funding focused on migration and displacement.
- Just over half of the human rights disbursements supported at least one population group. Of these, 29 percent included a focus on women and girls and 26 percent on children and youth. Both proportions increased by 5 percent over the previous year.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Human Rights by Issue Area, 2014



Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on analysis of ODA commitments compiled in the OECD Creditor Reporting System. Due to rounding, totals may exceed 100 percent.

Foundation Funding for Human Rights by Issue Area, 2014

	Amount	No. Grants
Access to Justice/Equality Before the Law	\$164.6 M	1,004
Civic and Political Participation	\$186.6 M	1,610
Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association	\$147.4 M	1,366
Voting Rights	\$39.2 M	244
Economic and Labor Rights	\$149.0 M	1,224
Environmental and Resource Rights	\$242.3 M	2,107
Cooperative Rights/Sustainable Agriculture Rights	\$5.6 M	96
Right to a Healthy Environment/Share in and Determine the Distribution of Lands, Territories, and Resources	\$218.3 M	1,602
Right to Own Property	\$10.6 M	182
Right to Water	\$7.8 M	227
Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination	\$279.2 M	3,116
Expression and Information Rights	\$119.0 M	1,014
Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, and Correspondence	\$3.6 M	31
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	\$9.6 M	142
Freedom of Information	\$105.9 M	841
Freedom from Violence	\$217.5 M	2,627
Freedom from Domestic Violence	\$22.9 M	315
Freedom from Gender/Identity-based Violence	\$11.5 M	129
Freedom from Slavery and Trafficking	\$41.7 M	436
Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment	\$138.8 M	1,725
Freedom from Other Forms of Violence	\$2.7 M	22
Health and Well-being Rights	\$425.8 M	1,981
Right to Adequate Housing	\$27.1 M	267
Right to Rest and Leisure	\$19.5 M	188
Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health	\$379.2 M	1,526
Migration and Displacement	\$140.4 M	972
Right to a Nationality and Freedom to Change Nationality	\$82.7 M	567
Right to Asylum in Other Countries	\$57.7 M	405
Sexual and Reproductive Rights	\$188.3 M	877
Right to Decide Freely and Responsibly on the Number and Spacing of Children	\$185.4 M	834
Right to Sexual Expression	\$2.8 M	43
Social and Cultural Rights	\$240.5 M	2,130
Freedom of Belief and Religion	\$22.1 M	119
Right to Education	\$123.9 M	860
Right to Marriage and Family	\$21.7 M	100
Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of a Community/ Engage in Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development	\$72.8 M	1,051
Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding	\$41.7 M	554
Human Rights—General	\$303.6 M	1,405
Total	\$2.7 B	20,621

Source: Foundation Center, 2017. Figures based on grants awarded by 729 foundations located in 50 countries. Due to rounding, major category totals may not equal the sum of the associated sub-categories.

M = Million; B = Billion.

Endnotes

1. This figure excludes 456 grants totaling \$206 million, awarded by foundations to other foundations included in the 2014 set. Generally, these awards were made to either support regranteeing programs or build the capacity of the recipient foundations. They have been removed in order to avoid double-counting of grant dollars.
2. This figure is down from 803 foundations in 2013. Certain funders included in the 2013 analysis did not provide data for 2014 or their grants data were otherwise unavailable at the time this report was written. Grantmaking by these funders was not included in this analysis.
3. Five hundred seventy-nine foundations who made at least one human rights grant in 2013 and 2014 were tracked by the *Advancing Human Rights* project and included in the matched subset. Their giving represented 81 percent of human rights grant dollars tracked for 2013 and 92 percent for 2014.
4. For this analysis, the full value of the grant is attributed to the year in which it was authorized. Therefore, if a multiyear grant was authorized in 2014, the full value of that grant was included in the 2014 totals.
5. Starting in 2014, the Open Society Foundations' grants data are reported by and attributed to the individual legal entities that constitute the Foundations, and due to grantee security concerns they disclosed fewer grants to the *Advancing Human Rights* initiative than in previous years.
6. Figures for North America include four Canadian funders: the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the International Development Research Centre, MATCH International Women's Fund, and the Cloverleaf Foundation.
7. Global South and East includes all countries outside of Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.
8. We have continued to refine our taxonomy to more accurately capture human rights grantmaking since the inaugural *Advancing Human Rights* report. 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 renamed "Labor Rights" as "Economic and Labor Rights" to more accurately reflect the range of activity captured in this category.
9. The 2014 CRS data set includes aid funding flows from the 29 donor members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as well as a select number of non-DAC countries and multilateral organizations who choose to report (in 2014, this included 37 multilateral organizations and 17 non-DAC member donors) and only includes aid to countries qualifying for Official Development Assistance. For a list of donors submitting data to the OECD-CRS, visit oecd.org/dac/stats/dacdatasubmitters.htm.
10. Twenty-two percent of bilateral and multilateral human rights funding did not specify support for a specific country or region. This includes disbursements providing a global benefit or used to cover the donor's administrative costs.

HELP US STRENGTHEN THIS RESEARCH

The International Human Rights Funders Group and Foundation Center, along with Ariadne and Prospera, are committed to expanding understanding of global human rights funding. We can't do this without your support.

- **Submit data on time:** We all believe in the value of real-time data. Our analyses are only as up-to-date as the data we receive each year.
- **Provide detailed and accurate data:** The more information you can share about a grant's purpose and approach, the more accurately we can capture your work in the research.
- **Share data responsibly:** We are committed to mapping human rights philanthropy without jeopardizing the safety of activists and organizations. You have the option to keep yourself or recipients of sensitive grants anonymous with minimal information. Please see our [project security plan](#) to learn more.
- **Spread the word:** Collecting data from new funders, especially those outside North America, remains a key priority. Encourage new funders to get involved and share data!

Your input and feedback are critical to our efforts to support more strategic, effective, collaborative, and transparent human rights philanthropy. To provide feedback or discuss how to apply this research in support of your work, please contact Sarah Tansey at stansey@ihrfg.org.

To download this report or to access more detailed information about the state of global human rights funding, visit humanrightsfunding.org.

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