



“Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international level.”

Article 1 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, March 8, 1999

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) are defined by the United Nations as “people who, individually or with others, act to promote or protect human rights”. The term “HRD” encompasses anyone, whether social worker, journalist, lawyer, community group, organisation, or volunteer, who works to defend human rights.

HRDs, on behalf of the most vulnerable people, strengthen accountability of public officials, report on human rights violations, encourage public debates, investigate sensitive issues affecting rights realisation etc. to ensure the achievement of basic human rights for their communities.

Contact us

Your national focal point in Uganda

National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda

c/o Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-U)

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The Fund's Head Office

The African Great Lakes Human Rights
Defenders Protection Fund

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HRD

PROTECTION FUND



How to access the Fund

HRDs need to meet the below criteria to be eligible:

- Be at risk because of their peaceful and apolitical actions taken to promote and/or protect human rights;
- Demonstrate an existing need in being protected legally;
- Not be involved in, or perceived to promote violence;
- Be a citizen of the region, or protection needs must arise from the region; and
- Requests must not overlap with any other funding.

HRDs who are eligible can then apply for funding to either their National Focal Point (see details at the back) or the Fund's regional office. This can be done either by completing the Request Form on our website or by sending an email.

Based on the actual needs and the context, the Fund will provide a response. This may take many forms such as dispensing grants or arranging technical support.



About us

The African Great Lakes Human Rights Defenders Protection Fund (the Fund) has been set-up to protect the rights and freedoms of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda).

It has been established as a partnership between key organisations who share the belief that HRDs are fundamental to the development of democracy and that their security is directly linked to the security of their communities.

By working to reduce restrictions on the rights and freedoms of HRDs, the Fund envisions the creation of an environment in which it is safe to participate in democratic debates and to claim fundamental rights.

The Fund is a financial mechanism that exclusively supports HRDs and human rights organisations. Its resources are used for two key needs:

- To provide immediate legal protection to HRDs whose rights are at risk, or are already restricted; and
- To initiate and support projects and activities that will strengthen legal protection practices in the region.

Our leadership

The Fund is a partnership that brings together leading organisations in the region who work to protect HRDs. Such a partnership combines all the legal expertise and experience in protecting HRDs and ensures the implementation of high-quality interventions to respond to unaddressed needs in the region.

The Fund is managed by a Fund Manager and his team, who is guided by the Board of Directors. The Board is composed of the following organisations:

