

Defenders in Development Campaign Security Working Group Resources for Campaign Members and Partners at Risk

The security working group of the Defenders in Development (DiD) campaign is comprised of staff of Forum Asia, Front Line Defenders, Civil Rights Defenders, Amnesty International, Defenders Protection Initiative, Freedom House, Public Association (Dignity), JASS, UAF Latin America, Open Briefing, and American Bar Association, Center for Human Rights.

If an individual, organisation or community are at risk because of their human rights activities in the context of a development project, they can apply for assistance to one of the groups below.

Procedure: If a member of the campaign or a partner is at risk, contact one of the below organisations depending on type of assistance sought and the location.

When making contact, please state:

- that you are seeking to access the Defenders in Development Security Working Group
- the type of assistance you are seeking
- how you would like to be contacted (keeping in mind security of communication – see resources below)

All requests will be securely circulated to the Security Working Group and contact arranged with organisations which are able to respond. Depending on the type of assistance required, this may be more than one organisation. The type of assistance provided will be generally rapid response, although in some circumstances, longer term support may be possible.

Security: If the case/incident is of a sensitive nature, contact one of the organisations below requesting to speak with them via a secure channel and they will propose one to you. **Do not send sensitive information to the email addresses below.**

Forum Asia

Geographic scope: For HRDs in Asia who are one of the member/partner organisations of FORUM-ASIA or work on human rights issues together with FORUM-ASIA's members/partners organisations in Asia. Member list:

https://www.forum-asia.org/?page_id=4001

Services:

- Financial assistance for temporary relocation – up to six months to a max of 5,000USD
- Urgent financial assistance – up to a max of 5,000USD
- Trial Observation - costs for trials observer teams to be present during the trial of the HRD up to a max of 5,000USD

Contact person: Sejin Kim sejin@forum-asia.org

Website: <https://www.forum-asia.org/>

Front Line Defenders

Geographic scope: Global

Services:

- Advocacy for human rights defenders at risk at national and international levels
- Protection Grants of up to €7,500 to improve the security of HRDs at risk (legal, medical, physical security measures, temporary relocation. See <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/programme/protection-grants>)
- Digital security assistance
- Remote consultations on physical security, risk assessment and protection planning
- Longer term training may be possible, depending on capacity. Please contact for further information.

Contact person: Ed O'Donovan ed@frontlinedefenders.org

Website: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

Civil Rights Defenders

Geographic scope: Global

Services:

- Digital and physical security consultations
- Security trainings (digital, physical, psychological, etc.), but availability varies depending on our current budget
- Emergency Fund, which can fund relocation efforts, legal aid, or other costs necessary for an HRD's security.

Contact person: Mike Runey Michael.Runey@civilrightsdefenders.org

Website: <https://crd.org/>

Amnesty International

Geographic scope: Global

Services:

- **Advocacy;** Amnesty International runs a worldwide urgent action appeal to support cases of those in imminent risk of human rights violations and/or for those who have

suffered human rights violations. If you know of an Amnesty Office in your country please write to them in the first instance, otherwise write to Lisa Maracani, lisa.maracani@amnesty.org, or Ana Paula Almeida-Seele, anapaula.almeidaseel@amnesty.org

- **Relief fund:** Amnesty also runs a small relief fund for individuals who have suffered human rights violations and need financial assistance for example to be relocated for some time or for medical assistance due to the violations suffered. As above please contact Amnesty Offices in the country in the first instance or otherwise contact Guadalupe Marengo gmarengo@amnesty.org

Website: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

Defenders Protection Initiative

Geographic scope: East Africa

Services:

- Individual / Organisational risk assessments
- Post-Incident Reviews after registration of security incidents
- Limited Short-term Emergency Response to HRDs under threat (Uganda Only).
- Security Advisory Services including assistance to develop interim and long-term personal security plans.
- Digital Security Support Services for websites, emails, and networks; authentic software licences, risk assessment and post-incident analysis.

Contact person: IT@defendersprotection.org / protection@defendersprotection.org / digisecurity@defendersprotection.org

Website: www.defendersprotection.org

Freedom House

Geographic Scope: Global

Services:

- **Emergency funding:** *Freedom House's Global Fund for HRDs* can provide emergency funds to human rights defenders (HRDs), including journalists, who are under threat, attack, detention, prosecution, or otherwise at risk due to their work. We can support individuals with financial assistance to improve their physical security, including for temporary relocation and other security related expenses. We also provide grants for medical expenses (including psycho-social care), legal representation, prison visits, trial monitoring, humanitarian assistance, equipment replacement and dependent support if family is at imminent risk because of a HRD's work. **Amount:** Up to \$10,000 (USD).

- ***The Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund*** is a sister fund to the Global Fund for Human Rights Defenders, which provides rapid response advocacy grants to civil society organizations (CSOs) pushing back against restrictions on civil society space. Advocacy grants support short-term initiatives that identify civic space challenges, such as threats to freedom of association, assembly, and expression or attacks on civil society, and target key actors associated with the resolution of these threats. Successful initiatives seek to establish or maintain the ability of civil society to work on good governance and human rights, especially in high-risk environments where state or non-state actors seek to limit civil society's influence.
- ***Resiliency Grants*** [contains technical training component for digital and/or physical security skills building]. Given the global crackdown on civil society, many CSOs face legal, administrative, judicial harassment; direct violence; arbitrary arrest, detention, and imprisonment; and surveillance or intimidation. Lifeline rapid response resiliency grants provide support to at-risk CSOs to proactively avoid or mitigate the threats they face and help them continue to work in high-risk environments. These grants are highly flexible and support a range of activities including digital or physical security training; technical training on how to respond to restrictive CSO legislation; building peer-to-peer support networks, or establishing temporary collaborative space to help CSOs return to work. **Amount** up to \$20,000 (USD)
- ***The Dignity for All: LGBTI Assistance Program*** provides emergency funds, advocacy support, and security assistance to human rights defenders and civil society organizations under threat or attack due to their work for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) human rights.

Dignity for All also supports targeted, time-bound advocacy campaigns to respond to threats or attacks on LGBTI human rights and human rights work, as well as assistance for individual victims or communities connected to funded advocacy campaigns. Security training is available to proactively assist organizations to continue their work more safely. Amount: Up to \$10,000 (USD) Individual and \$20,000 Civil Society Organization.

Contact person: Sheryl Mendez Mendez@FreedomHouse.org

Website: <https://freedomhouse.org/program/emergency-assistance-programs>

Public Association Dignity

Geographic Scope: Kazakhstan

Services:

- Monitoring of situation of HRDs with special attention to environmental HRDs
- Legal assistance (include lawyer representation, preparation of complaints to UN Committees)
- Trial observation

- Medical insurance (limited resource)
- Internal relocation
- Security planning consultation
- Preparation of "amicus curiae" for HRDs
- Solidarity campaigns

Contact person: Anara Ibrayeva dignityast@gmail.com

Website of Dignity: www.kkassiyet.wordpress.com

Website of Kazakh HRD Coalition: www.pana-defenders.info

JASS - JUST ASSOCIATES

Geographic scope: Mesoamerica (Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala mainly), Southern Africa (Malawi and Zimbabwe, mainly) and Southeast Asia.

Services:

- Advice on feminist protection to different organizations, institutions and WHRDs at risk and development of methodological tools and analysis on this issue.
- Accompany processes for creation and development of local/regional WHRD networks for protection and strengthening organizational and protection capacities with WHRDs and grassroots organizations from a movement building and Popular Feminist Education approach.
- In Mesoamerica, we are part of Mesoamerican WHRD Initiative that, through WHRDs protection networks in 5 countries of the region (Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala), accompanies WHRD at risk, mobilizes emergency resources, have two shelters and a self-care home for WHRD and their families, documents attacks against WHRD and share urgent actions, etc.

Contact person: Carme Clavel Arcas, Co-Directora Regional I Regional Co-Director, Mesoamérica, Carme@justassociates.org

Website: <https://www.jass-fghr.org/power-and-protection>; <http://im-defensoras.org/en/>

American Bar Association - Center for Human Rights

Geographic Scope: Global

Services: The ABA Center for Human Rights Justice Defenders Program coordinates pro bono legal support and engages in advocacy on behalf of human rights defenders around the world. Its staff attorneys have regional portfolios and extensive regional and legal expertise. Examples of its services include:

- **Pro bono legal support to local lawyers defending HRDs facing frivolous charges**, including through additional research, support drafting pleadings, mentorship and strategic consultation, and the filing of expert declarations in local court.
- **Pro bono legal support to local advocates and NGOs** to enable them to file amicus curiae briefs, release reports with strong technical legal analysis, and to file regional and international petitions as appropriate, including to secure protective measures.
- **Monitoring trials** for procedural irregularities both to ensure fair trials for HRDs and to hold governments accountable for the proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against HRDs.
- **Independent fact-finding and advocacy** on threats to HRDs and violations of their rights, including through direct engagements with State and non-State actors as appropriate.

Contact: ginna.anderson@americanbar.org

Website: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/justice_defenders/

Urgent Action Fund LATIN AMERICA

Geographic Scope: Latin America and the Spanish Speaking Caribbean

Services: UAF-LAC receives requests for Rapid Response Grants - RRGs **365 days** a year in the following categories:

- Security and Protection Actions: Respond to situations of risk or threats that impact the security of women activists and defenders, their collectives, or organizations.
- Opportunity Grants: Take advantage of opportunities to advance or deter setbacks to the rights of a diversity of women.

All requested grants must respond to five selection criteria:

1. The action must be implemented by **women's civil society organizations from the diversity of women** (including trans women*) or mixed gender organizations led by women.

2. The action must be **urgent**: it must be an immediate intervention to:

Respond to an unexpected (unplanned) situation, an attack against the integrity or life of women defenders, or a threat against women's rights.

Take advantage of a window opportunity to defend and promote women's rights.

3. The action must be **strategic**: looking to advance the agenda of women's rights and justice and contribute to medium or long term structural changes.

4. The action must be **sustainable**: the applicant organization must have the capacity (political and financial) to continue work in the future building on the action's results.

5. The organization is **recognized by networks and groups associated with UAF-LAC**: it must be recognized by other organizations that work for women's human rights on a national or regional level.

Regarding the applicant organization, the following is taken into account:

- That it is a civil society women's or feminist organization
- If it is a mixed gender organization, that its legal representation and leadership are women
- That the organization is not characterized as an individual enterprise
- That the organization is not part of local or sub-regional governments
- That the organization has turned in all reports from previous grants (if this is not the first time that support is requested from UAF-LAC)

It is important to mention the kinds of actions that are **INELIGIBLE**:

- Productive businesses or projects
- Co-financing for government projects (municipal, departmental/provincial, or national)
- Partisan political agendas
- Agendas of religious groups
- Humanitarian aid in the face of natural disasters
- Individual participation in events (forums, workshops, conferences, seminars)
- Individual scholarships

To apply for a RRG you must:

1. Enter the online request system **SÍGUEME** (in this video tutorial you can consult the steps to enter and use the system <https://vimeo.com/206320714>)
2. The UAF-LAC team ensures that the request fulfills the institutional criteria. If in the first revision it is determined that there are questions or further information is needed, the UAF-LAC team will contact the organization.
3. Once all necessary information is acquired, it will be evaluated by two or three advisers from the country. The local reference organizations listed on the application will also be contacted.
4. Once this information is collected, the application will be sent to the Review Board, who will make the final decision on the requested support.
5. If the request is approved, the money will be transferred in three working days (depending on the banking situation in each country).
6. After three months, an activities report must be filled out in the online system.

Contact Person: Rapid Response Grants Coordinator:
apoyos@fondoaccionurgente.org.co

If you have technical problems, please contact soporte@fondoaccionurgente.org.co

Website: <https://fondoaccionurgente.org.co/en/>

Open Briefing

Geographic Scope: Global

Services: Open Briefing defends, strengthens and empowers those on the frontlines of civil society by keeping them and their partners safe and secure online and in the real world. In 2020, Open Briefing released an holistic security protocol for human rights defenders at risk. It is available in multiple languages: <https://protocol.openbriefing.org/>

Examples of Open Briefing services available in English and Spanish include:

- **Safety and security:** Security audits; Risk assessments; Travel threat assessments; Security risk management frameworks; Security mentoring; Risk advisory.
- **Digital and information security:** Information security assessments; Information security workshops; Digital security training; Website vulnerability assessments.
- **Wellbeing and resilience:** Counselling and Psychological First Aid; Organisation wellbeing frameworks; Safeguarding audits.

Organisations requesting support will need to self-fund, be sponsored by a funder, or able to access emergency funding from another working group member. Open Briefing occasionally has funds available to provide pro bono support to at-risk priority populations.

Contact person: Dan Williamson, dan.williamson@openbriefing.org

Website: <https://www.openbriefing.org>

Additional resources from other members of the Defenders in Development Campaign:

EarthRights International

Geographic Scope: Southeast Asia (Mekong region and Myanmar), Latin America (Peru), USA

Services:

- Security training for HRDs
- Assistance in developing comprehensive security plans at organizational/individual/community level
- Individual security consultations and risk assessment
- Legal defence and litigation (depending on country)

Contact person: Mona Laczó mona@earthrights.org

Website: www.earthrights.org

Urgent Action Fund

Geographic Scope: North America, Europe, Central Asia, Russia, Turkey, Middle East [Note that there are UAF Sister Funds in [Africa](#), [Latin America and Caribbean](#), and [Asia and Pacific](#) for those regions]

Services: UAF makes rapid response security and advocacy grants to women human rights defenders facing urgent and unexpected situations due to their activism. You can find more information as well as the application form on our website: <https://urgentactionfund.org/apply-for-a-grant/>. Our grants are up to US\$8,000.

Contact person: Applications: proposals@urgentactionfund.org, Nathalie Margi: Nathalie@urgentactionfund.org

Website: www.urgentactionfund.org

Digital Security Resources

There are a number of straightforward digital security guides online which partners can use to brief themselves on the basics of digital security. Bear in mind that what is considered secure may change quickly, so get in touch if you need further assistance. Online tools include:

- <https://ssd.eff.org/>
- <https://digitaldefenders.org/digitalfirstaid>
- <https://hygiene.digitalpublicsquare.com/>
- https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/d3devm/motherboard-guide-to-not-getting-hacked-online-safety-guide
- <https://securityinabox.org/en/>
- <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/workbook-security-practical-steps-human-rights-defenders-risk>