



About Us

The Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) is an informal grouping of NGOs operating at the EU-level in the broader areas of human rights, democracy and peacebuilding.

HRDN's vision is that human rights and democracy are placed at the heart of the EU's internal and external policy agenda. This vision should manifest itself in an EU which effectively protects human rights at home and is a force for positive change in the world.

In pursuit of this vision, the network aims to influence EU and EU Member States' human rights policies and the programming of their funding instruments to promote democracy, human rights and peace.

Our Work

HRDN is coordinated by a governing troika consisting of three representatives of its member organisations who are elected by the entire membership during the annual general meeting. HRDN carries out advocacy actions and monitoring of EU policies and cooperates with other NGOs networks on issues related to human rights and democracy.

HRDN's policy work is led by working groups consisting of representatives of its member organisations. Current working groups are focused on the following issues:

European Parliament

The aim is to contribute to the enhancement of the European Parliament's engagement on human rights and democracy matters and support the EU role as a global actor on these issues, through engagement with the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) and Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), the Human Rights Action Unit and through interaction with the EP Friends of Human Rights group of MEPs.

Funding for Human Rights and Democracy

The working group follows closely the programming and implementation of the EU funds supporting actions on human rights and democracy, in particular the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), with a view of increasing the effectiveness of the EU financial support to human rights defenders and civil society organisations in the EU's partner countries.

EU Internal Human Rights Policy

The working group advocates that the EU should define a more comprehensive internal Human rights strategy that mirrors its external strategic framework and devise a corresponding action plan to guide collective EU action.

NGO Forum

The working group convenes annually on an ad hoc basis to plan the annual EU human rights NGO forum, taking place in December. Together with the European External Action Service, HRDN has a key role in shaping the agenda and format of the annual forum.

Membership procedure

HRDN accepts applications to troika@hrdn.eu from eligible organisations which are then reviewed by a membership committee, before being submitted to the whole membership twice a year – Spring (March-April) and Autumn (September-October).

Contacts

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Member Organisations

HRDN has 57 member organisations (May 2020)

1. [Act Alliance EU](#)
2. [Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme](#)
3. [AidSFonds](#)
4. [Amnesty International](#)
5. [Association for the Prevention of Torture](#)
6. [Brot für die Welt](#)
7. [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#)
8. [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
9. [Christian Solidarity Worldwide](#)
10. [Civil Rights Defenders](#)
11. [Clean Cloths Campaign \(CCC\)](#)
12. [Coalition for the International Criminal Court \(CICC\)](#)
13. [Committee to Protect Journalists \(CPJ\)](#)
14. [Conference of European Churches \(CEC\)](#)
15. [DEMAS](#)
16. [DOCIP](#)
17. [End FGM European Network](#)
18. [Ensemble contre la peine de mort](#)
19. [EU-Lat Network](#)
20. [EuroMed Rights](#)
21. [European Network for Central Africa \(EurAc\)](#)
22. [European Partnership for Democracy \(EPD\)](#)
23. [European Peacebuilding Liaison Office \(EPLO\)](#)
24. [Fair Trials](#)

25. [Front Line Defenders \(FLD\)](#)
26. [Free Press Unlimited](#)
27. [Human Rights House Foundation \(HRHF\)](#)
28. [Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#)
29. [Human Rights Without Frontiers \(HRWF\)](#)
30. [ILGA-Europe](#)
31. [International Center for Transitional Justice \(ICTJ\)](#)
32. [International Commission of Jurists \(ICJ\)](#)
33. [International Dalit Solidarity Network \(IDSN\)](#)
34. [International Federation for Human Rights \(FIDH\)](#)
35. [International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture \(FIACAT\)](#)
36. [International Partnership for Human Rights \(IPHR\)](#)
37. [International Planned Parenthood Federation \(IPPF\)](#)
38. [International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims \(IRCT\)](#)
39. [Justice and Peace](#)
40. [La Strada International](#)
41. [Light for the World](#)
42. [Minority Rights Group International](#)
43. [Open Society Foundations](#)
44. [Peace Brigades International \(PBI\)](#)
45. [Penal Reform International](#)
46. [Plan EU Office](#)
47. [PICUM – Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#)
48. [Protection International](#)
49. [Quaker Council for European Affairs](#)
50. [Save the Children](#)
51. [Search for Common Ground](#)
52. [Reporters without Borders](#)
53. [Terre des Hommes International Federation](#)
54. [Netherlands Helsinki Committee](#)
55. [World Coalition against the Death Penalty](#)
56. [World Organisation Against Torture \(OMCT\)](#)
57. [World Vision International](#)