

Projects promoting Human Rights

- Information for applicants -

Basis for support

Germany is committed to protecting and promoting human rights across the world. To this end, the Federal Foreign Office makes available funding to support human rights projects. This money has to be used and accounted for in accordance with German budget law. Such funding may only be used for specific projects with a limited and clearly defined duration and content. It is not possible to provide institutional support for organisations working in human rights, for instance by assuming ongoing personnel or operating costs.

Please note that the average funding for concrete projects is between 50,000 and 150,000 euros.

The German Embassy in Kyiv's support for human rights projects in 2027 will focus on the following priority areas:

- **Combating disinformation:** freedom of the press and media, as well as preserving evidence to ensure accountability and justice. Particular focus on providing support in defending against SLAPP lawsuits.
- **Promotion of children's rights:** Strengthening the rights of children and youth, particularly by promoting education as part of Ukrainian culture and identity.
- **Gender-based violence:** Support for protection programs for survivors, with a special focus on preventing and combating domestic violence, the reintegration of traumatized veterans into their families, and psychosocial support for those involved.

Projects running over several years are, in general, not eligible for funding. Irrespective of when they are launched, projects must be completed by 31 December 2027 by the latest. The funding of projects which have already started is, in principle, not possible. There is no entitlement to support.

Projects can, for example, focus on the objectives identified in the German Government's Action Plan for Human Rights:

Preserving and expanding human rights acquis	Combating human rights violations
• Strengthening human rights in the context of the digital transition • Tackling climate action, protection of biodiversity and the environment, and defence of human rights as a unified challenge • Promoting the rights to water and sanitation, health, housing and nutrition • Strengthening human rights in the context of business and trade • Championing freedom of the media and freedom of opinion • Championing freedom of religion or belief • Championing gender equality • Actively promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda • Strengthening children's rights • Championing the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees • Championing the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples • Strengthening the rights of older people • Promoting the right to education	• Combating racism, antisemitism and other forms of hatred against particular groups • Opposing the death penalty around the world • Combating torture and enforced or involuntary disappearance • Combating discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity • Combating human trafficking • Opposing discrimination against people with disabilities
Strengthening institutions and stakeholders dedicated to protecting human rights	Consolidating the rule of law
• Creating and preserving spaces where civil society can operate, including online; supporting the work of human rights defenders • Strengthening international instruments, bodies and monitoring agencies and national human rights institutions • Promoting the realisation of human rights through development cooperation	• Combating impunity • Strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings • Promoting the rule of law in crisis situations and fragile contexts as an important contribution to human rights protection and peacekeeping, not least in peace missions • Urging compliance with human rights in the fight against terrorism

For the purposes of submitting project applications, the objectives can be broken down into more specific aims, for example as follows:

a) Strengthening civil society, in particular supporting human rights defenders, human rights institutions and media, e.g. by:

- supporting project activities run by human rights defenders;
- promoting local, national and regional networks;
- protecting journalism;
- promoting freedom of opinion and of the press;

b) Protecting and promoting the rights of women, e.g. by:

- tackling discrimination on the grounds of gender;
- combating trafficking in women;
- countering/preventing violence against women, including in armed conflicts;
- fostering gender equality and the political participation of women;

c) Promoting and Implementation of the Agenda “Women, Peace and Security”, e.g. by:

- supporting projects to implement the Action Plan of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;
- supporting projects to strengthen women’s participation in prevention, peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction;
- preventing and combating sexualised and gender-based violence in conflicts;

d) Protecting and strengthening rights of sexual minorities, e.g. by:

- promoting local civil society organisations and networks;
- supporting projects related to protection and strengthening the human rights of LGBTIQ people;
- supporting projects combating and prosecuting violence against LGBTIQ people;
- supporting and promoting access to education, the right to have a family, freedom of assembly and the right to asylum;

e) Protecting and promoting children’s rights, e.g. by:

- combating child trafficking, child labour and sexual exploitation;
- protecting children in armed conflicts;

f) Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), e.g. by:

- supporting projects relating to the right to housing and water;
- supporting projects relating to the right to health;
- supporting projects relating to the right to education;

Procedure

The first step is to complete the project outline form. This can be found on our website. After receiving feedback from the embassy, you will receive the application form required for project funding.

The application must be accompanied by a financial plan including a detailed list of projects costs. Organisations’ running costs (e.g., rental costs, salaries of permanent staff) cannot be funded, except if they are purely project-related! The organisation should cover some of the project costs using its own funds. Own funds should be described in relation to the total budget, not to individual budget items.

Once the Federal Foreign Office has approved the application, a funding agreement will be concluded under German law.

Once the project has been completed, proof of employment of funds must be given using the sample text available from the mission.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kyiv will be happy to answer any questions on application or project support procedures.

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