

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS: KNOWLEDGE TOOLS INITIATIVE SECURITY PLAN

October 2017

BACKGROUND

The *Advancing Human Rights: Knowledge Tools* initiative is committed to providing information to human rights grantmakers and advocates about the state of human rights funding, while ensuring that this information does not put grantees at risk. As we've developed tools to share data about human rights funding, we've grappled with exactly how much detail to make available. Our concerns have grown recently as the environment for human rights work has become increasingly repressive. According to the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, in the past few years, more than 100 laws have been proposed or enacted by governments aimed at restricting the registration and operation of non-governmental organizations, including numerous laws restricting the receipt of foreign funding.

We have released four tools to date:

1. **Foundation Maps: Human Rights**, a map that funders can use to scope out new thematic priorities and/or geographic areas; identify potential grantees and funding partners; and inform their strategic planning. This tool contains grant-level information and is password-protected. However, the Foundation Center includes this data in its other research tools, so grant-level data can be accessed by anyone who subscribes to *Foundation Maps* or uses the tool at no cost at Foundation Center libraries, although data is not searchable by the human rights taxonomy.
2. **Advancing Human Rights: The State of Global Foundation Grantmaking**, our benchmark report on the state of human rights funding, based on 2010 grants data and a series of interviews. This report is publically available and contains top donor lists and aggregate information about funding flows.
3. **Advancing Human Rights: Update on Global Foundation Grantmaking**, brief quantitative analyses on the state of human rights funding. These reports are publically available and contain top donor lists and aggregate information about funding flows. We release a new version of this report annually.
4. **Advancing Human Rights website**, an interactive site through which human rights funders, activists, researchers, and academics can explore the rights funding landscape. This public website includes aggregate-level information about funding flows, lists of the top 25 donors per issue, population, and region, and select examples of grants. Based on the recommendations of project advisers, we do not include country-specific information.

WINGS Data Charter Principle 4, Accountability: Data providers, collectors, and users should be responsible stewards of data, placing concerns for human dignity and confidentiality first, but striving for maximum transparency, truthfulness and objectivity, and for the productive and constructive use of data.

SECURITY PRACTICES

Guiding Principle: Safety comes first! Each grantmaker submitting data should feel comfortable if that data were to be accessed publically.

HRFN commits to:

- ◆ Be responsive to funders' concerns
- ◆ Document security concerns as they arise
- ◆ Continue to learn from other organizations' security practices, including the responsible data community
- ◆ Share insights and best practices to assist funders in their own continuous learning

Overall Practices

- ◆ Due to constantly changing and unpredictable contexts for human rights work, funders always have the option to request to remove specific grants information from Foundation Center's database. Funders can request to remove specific details or to delete grants entirely
 - *Process:* Funder makes the request to HRFN or directly to Foundation Center. The change will be made within 30 days and can be done more quickly if there is an immediate security risk.
 - Funders need to specify the exact desired changes when making the request. HRFN will also ask funders why they would like to make those changes, as a means for continually tracking issues and geographies of concern.
 - Once a grant has been removed from Foundation Center's database, it will not be added at a later date, even if the security concern is resolved.

- Foundation Center will not delete information that is publically available (e.g. on a funder's website or for US foundations, via its 990 form).
- Grants data that was once accessible online may still be stored in the cache on the user's computer or in web-based archives, which cannot be changed by Foundation Center or HRFN.
- ◆ HRFN will remind funders during annual data collection to check their grants on *Foundation Maps: Human Rights* and let us know if any information has become too sensitive to include.
- ◆ A security committee will speak regularly to discuss any security-related concerns associated with the project. This committee will also provide ongoing guidance and insight to project partners as issues arise.

Data Collection

- ◆ HRFN will include security-related information in annual data collection emails:
 - Where data will be available and who will have access
 - How to de-identify grantees and provide aggregate-level information when necessary
 - Process for modifying grants information retroactively if security concerns arise

- A link to Foundation Center's data use policy
- A link to a sample foundation transparency policy
- Will note the importance of grantees being comfortable with the data being shared, but will not require funders to confirm directly with the project partners that they have consulted with their grantees

Advancing Human Rights Website

- ◆ Will not include country-level data
- ◆ All sample grants will be reviewed and approved by the relevant funders before posting
- ◆ All case studies will be reviewed and approved by the relevant funders before posting

Foundation Maps: Human Rights

- ◆ *Foundation Maps: Human Rights* is password-protected, exists behind a firewall, and is the only tool through which users can search grants by the human rights taxonomy
- ◆ The data is also included on the main *Foundation Maps* platform, accessible by subscribers (including non-funders) and in Foundation Center libraries

APPENDIX

Select Examples of Sensitive Contexts and HRFN Members Concerns

- ◆ Grants to Egypt, due to a law criminalizing foreign funding and crackdown on civil society [concerns: naming grantees, providing grantee locations; naming funders; showing money for human rights going into Egypt]
- ◆ Grants to Algeria [concerns: naming grantees, providing grantee locations; naming funders; showing money for human rights going into Algeria]
- ◆ Grants to Russia, due to "foreign agent" law and crackdown on civil society [concerns: naming grantees; providing grantee locations; naming funders; showing money for human rights going into Russia]
- ◆ Grants to Hungary [concerns: naming some grantees in light of Hungarian government's repressive actions]
- ◆ Grants to China, due to repression of civil society [concerns: naming grantees, providing grantee locations]
- ◆ Grants to support LGBT rights in Uganda [concerns: naming grantees, providing grantee locations]
- ◆ Grants to support human rights in Ethiopia [concerns: naming grantees, showing money for human rights going into Ethiopia]
- ◆ Grants to support human rights in Burma [concerns: naming grantees; providing grantee locations]
- ◆ Grant to Syria [concerns: naming grantees; providing grantee locations]