

## WORKING DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTMAKING

Human rights grantmaking empowers individuals, communities, and institutions to promote the protection and enjoyment of the rights enumerated below. These rights are based on those enshrined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and draw on ideas expressed in more recent international covenants and conventions. These rights apply across all identities; thus specific identity groups are not explicitly referenced within this definition. Human rights grantmaking has a special focus on, or duty to, support the efforts of **disadvantaged or marginalized populations**.

A grant or grants programme is defined as human rights funding if it seeks **systemic change** in the implementation of rights through the strategic application of philanthropic funds for or to individuals, communities, institutions, and movements.

Human rights grantmaking seeks systemic change through support of a range of approaches, including, but not limited to:

- Public education and awareness-raising concerning the existence of human rights and how to exercise them;
- Policy advocacy to ensure that states and non-state actors recognize, conform to, and implement international human rights standards;
- Documentation, monitoring, reporting and fact-finding to expose human rights violations and their perpetrators;
- Assistance to individuals and communities in seeking remedies for violations, including truth-seeking, reparations, litigation, and policy change, to uphold human rights and hold abusers accountable;
- Research and scholarship to define the content of rights and develop norms within the field;
- Direct services to individuals and communities, if combined with another strategy in pursuit of structural change;
- Media and technology to promote human rights standards and to assist human rights defenders;
- Work that seeks to transform cultures and social structures to be more respectful of human rights;
- Grassroots organizing and coalition- and movement-building to further the effectiveness of a global human rights movement; and
- Capacity building, technical assistance and evaluation for individuals, organizations and states engaged in the above work.

### **Categories of human rights:**

#### **Access to Justice/Equality Before the Law**

##### **Civic and Political Participation**

Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association

Voting Rights

##### **Economic and Labor Rights**

##### **Environmental and Resource Rights**

Cooperative Rights/Sustainable Agriculture Rights

Right to a Healthy Environment/Share in and Determine the Distribution of Lands, Territories, and Resources

Right to Own Property

Right to Water

##### **Equality Rights and Freedom from Discrimination**

##### **Expression and Information Rights**

Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, and Correspondence

Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Freedom of Information

##### **Freedom from Violence**

Freedom from Domestic Violence

Freedom from Gender/Identity-based Violence

Freedom from Slavery and Trafficking

Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment

##### **Health and Well-being Rights**

Right to Adequate Housing

Right to Rest and Leisure

Right to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health

##### **Migration and Displacement**

Right to a Nationality and Freedom to Change Nationality

Right to Asylum in Other Countries

##### **Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

Right to Decide Freely and Responsibly on the Number and Spacing of Children

Right to Sexual Expression

##### **Social and Cultural Rights**

Freedom of Belief and Religion

Right to Education

Right to Marriage and Family

Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of a Community/Engage in Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development

##### **Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding**