HUMAN RIGHTS AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE
A PRESENTATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL WORK
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

In the current global context, the legitimacy of human rights is being increasingly challenged. Nevertheless, the Danish Institute for Human Rights insists on human rights as main drivers of change.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development has given us a universal roadmap for change, including renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. No matter whether you set out to fight poverty, create equal opportunities for everyone, ensure access to justice for all or make a profit, human rights play a crucial role. Human rights are the foundation for leaving no one behind.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights is Denmark’s national human rights institution. This makes us an independent state institution mandated by law to promote and protect human rights both in Denmark and internationally.

The role of the Danish Institute for Human Rights is to identify and monitor areas containing human rights challenges as well as to advise the government, the Parliament, authorities and the business community on human rights.

Globally, we do not have a monitoring role. However, we are in a unique position, as we are a national human rights institution which has substantial international capacity. This combination enables us to operate in the nexus between government institutions, the business community and civil society.

In a country like Mali where the formal justice system is out of reach for the majority, voluntary community paralegals play a key role. With our support and the support of our partner DEME SO, 678 paralegals like 42-year-old Awa Sidibe are helping their local community with issues related to women’s rights, access to justice, land rights and much more.

In Nepal, we support the traffic police among other law enforcement and security agencies in finding practical ways to improve good governance and human rights protection within their institutions. A specific focus is given to prevent torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and improper use of force.
A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ongoing technical assistance that the institute has provided was instrumental for the development of our first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Through the work undertaken with this ministry, the institute has developed relations with other state institutions and has established links with these to work on both business and human rights, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile

STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF STATES

To make progress for human rights, we must combine the efforts of all actors in society. States hold the primary obligation to protect human rights, but everyone must respect and promote human rights if everyone is to enjoy human rights. With more than 25 years of experience, we know that the major challenge for achieving a high level of human rights protection is that state institutions are often too weak. Therefore, we help states strengthen their capacity.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL AND CORPORATE POLICIES

If the private sector and international actors respect and promote human rights, they can make a crucial difference; just as they can impair human rights if they do not. Therefore, we cooperate with companies and international organisations on integrating human rights into their policies and standards.

ASSESS AND REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Driving change at the local level requires knowledge of the current human rights standards. Therefore, we build the expertise of our partners enabling them to assess and report on the human rights situation in their country, to influence policy and legislation, to cooperate with the international human rights protection system and to follow up on human rights reports.

\[
y_{it} = \sum_{k=1}^{p} \gamma_k y_{i,t-k} + \sum_{k=0}^{r} \beta_k x_{i,t-k} + \sum_{k=0}^{q} \phi_k z_{i,t-k} + u_{it} \\
u_{it} = \alpha_i + \epsilon_{it}
\]

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Inclusive economic growth is key for sustainable development. Therefore we are investigating how rights interact with economic growth. Our initial research indicate that freedom and participation rights have a positive effect on economic growth. Especially, the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and association and electoral self-determination demonstrate a significant positive effect on economic growth.
In Rakhine State in Myanmar, large gas terminals are run by multinational companies while the local community continues their artisanal oil drilling nearby. Together with the Institute for Human Rights and Business, we have established the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business to ensure that existing and new investments are consistent with international human rights standards and best practice.
THE CHANGE WE MAKE LOCALLY

Selected results from our work

Our partnership with the ALBANIAN Ombudsman has made the institution more efficient and respected, and it is now considered to have a high level of integrity, advocating the rights of the citizens.

With our support, Kyrgyz public institutions have gained clarity on their human rights mandates and the citizens of KYRGYZSTAN have become more aware of their rights and which institutions to turn to with appeals to protect those rights.

As part of our programme, the MYANMAR Centre for Responsible Business conducts an annual analysis of the level of transparency of 100 of Myanmar’s largest companies, which has resulted in more companies disclosing information.

With our help, a group of leaders in NEPAL’s law enforcement and security agencies have designed and implemented their own projects to prevent torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

With our support, close to 2,000 prosecutors and 15,000 criminal defense lawyers in CHINA has been trained. The training has led to a process of balancing criminal procedure as a mechanism for fighting crime and protect human rights.

As a result of our support throughout the process, the final draft of the LIBYAN Constitution includes a 25 % quota for women in the future elected parliaments.

With our support, the Human Rights Commission in MALI is now an independent national human rights institution that will be able to monitor the human rights situation in Mali.

Our training has made the police forces in NIGER change their attitude towards human rights. Instead of regarding human rights as a hindrance for effective policing, they now see themselves as protecting citizens’ rights.

We have helped ZIMBABWE build its own national human rights commission. The commission received more than 500 individual human rights complaints in 2016 and helped citizens with advice and support.

With our support, the Human Rights Ministry in TUNISIA has resulted in a strategic plan on human rights and an active inter-ministerial committee for human rights reporting.

As part of our programme, the MYANMAR Centre for Responsible Business conducts an annual analysis of the level of transparency of 100 of Myanmar’s largest companies, which has resulted in more companies disclosing information.
THE CHANGE WE MAKE GLOBALLY

The best way to know what impacts a company has on human rights is to get out there to see by yourself and learn from all relevant stakeholders. This is what we have been doing with the Danish Institute for Human Rights since 2008.

Yann Wyss, senior public affairs manager, Social & Environmental Impact, Nestlé HQ

Sustainable development and human rights for everyone will not be achieved through local initiatives alone. The international community, regional structures and multinational companies play a crucial role. Therefore, we are also active at regional and global levels.

LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
We have developed a human rights guide to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), establishing the human rights anchorage of the 17 goals and 169 targets. Our guide enables actors to use human rights as drivers for realising the SDGs and for using the SDGs to realise human rights.

OFFERING HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING
We conduct national, regional and global courses, workshops and seminars in cooperation with networks of national human rights institutions. Among others, we have provided training and technical advice to EU country delegations all over the world, enabling them to base their development efforts on human rights standards and principles.

CONNECTING BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
National action plans for business and human rights establish guidelines to help national leaders and administrations integrate respect for human rights into corporate culture. More than 20 countries use a toolkit developed by us in partnership with the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable. Among the countries are the United States, Chile and Germany.

During the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2017, we gathered numerous key actors to discuss the role of human rights in the 2030 Agenda. The event resulted in a strong consensus that human rights are crucial for realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We organised the event with partners from governments, UN agencies, indigenous peoples, business and civil society.
OUR CORE ASSETS

The institute knows the context we are operating in very well. We welcome this partnership which has allowed us to strengthen both our protection and promotion mandate. The quality of our annual human rights report has improved and we are now well equipped to deal with human rights and business issues.

Amadou Alíchina Kourguéni, secretary general, the National Human Rights Commission in Niger

Our unique position with a strong mandate, local approach, research capacity and years of experience forms the basis of our expertise.

LEGITIMACY
Our status as an independent state institution gives us legitimacy in our work with both civil society, governments, international institutions and businesses.

LOCAL APPROACH
We work in local partnerships to ensure sustainability and local relevance of our work. The partners are the indisputable experts on their local contexts, while we offer our expertise to ensure the fulfilment of our common goals. We form partnerships with other national human rights institutions and their networks, state institutions, justice system actors, the UN system, regional bodies, the private sector and civil society.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD
We have had activities all over the world for more than 25 years. Thus, we have a proven record of accomplishment.

RESEARCH CAPACITY
And we have one of the largest human rights research centres in Europe. Our in-house research capacity ensures that we build our projects, tools and trainings on scientific evidence and solid academic knowledge.

As a result, we combine our academic research with practical experience in the implementation of human rights projects in Denmark and abroad. We combine human rights expertise with knowledge of the geographic, political and economic contexts in which we work.
FACTS AND FINANCES

Our funding comes from a cooperation agreement with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other donors, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the German GIZ and the EU. We also generate income by working as consultants with companies to improve their human rights impact.

STAFF
The international division consists of 50+ full-time practitioners and experts who split their working time between our headquarters in Denmark and field work around the world. In addition, 14 local staff members work full-time on the ground in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia. Furthermore, 11 researchers work on our international programmes. In the national division we have 30+ colleagues.

INCOME (IN MILLION DKK)

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<th>Service functions and general management and administration</th>
<th>National Human Rights Institution</th>
<th>Equal Treatment Body</th>
<th>Income-generating activities</th>
<th>Subsidy-financed research activities</th>
<th>Cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</th>
<th>Other subsidy-financed activities</th>
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Total 130 million

SUPPORT DRIVERS OF CHANGE
We have a substantial portfolio of current projects and emerging concepts which are in need of additional investors. Thus we have opportunities for foundations, corporations, development agencies and state governments to support our work. For more information, please contact Marvin Radford on mara@humanrights.dk or +45 91 32 57 42.