



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY
PROGRAMME
STRATEGY

FY 2014/15
Human Rights and Democracy Department

Programme Name	Human Rights and Democracy
SRO	Paul Arkwright - Director MPD with Delegated SRO Head Human Rights and Democracy Department
Programme Manager	Giles Cutler – until 7 February 2014

Programme Overview

What is the Programme seeking to achieve?

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme (HRDP) is the FCO's dedicated fund supporting human rights and democracy work overseas. The Programme aims to make a difference to people's lives, helping to build the capacity of governments and civil society to promote and protect human rights. In 2013/14, we supported over 80 projects worldwide. The HRDP is a strategic Programme and we assess every bid we receive very carefully for impact and whether it fits with the HRDP strategy and our local human rights strategy for that country.

Foreign Policy Priorities

Which FPP will you help deliver and how

*Please note any **Priority Outcomes** that your Programme will help deliver*

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the heart of HMG's foreign policy. The HRDP targets areas that are both important to us and where we consider we can make the greatest impact in delivering the FCO's overarching purpose to "pursue an active and activist foreign policy, working with other countries and strengthening the rules-based international system in support of our values"

Thematic and/or Geographic Priorities and Objectives		
<i>Please provide detailed, focussed information to ensure well targeted project proposals</i>		
Theme/Geographic Area	Objective	Focus Issues and Indicators of Success
<p>Global Torture Prevention: The right not to be tortured or subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are fundamental to human dignity, as well as to democracy and the rule of law. Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are prohibited in international law. The UK considers torture to be an abhorrent violation of human rights and human dignity, and consistently and unreservedly condemns the practice. See our Torture Prevention Strategy for more information on our policy</p>	<p>To contribute to international efforts to prevent torture</p>	<p>Greater adherence to international human rights standards in criminal justice systems. Legal frameworks to prevent and prohibit torture exist and are enforced. For this bidding round, we will prioritise projects focusing on pre-trial detention or the police.</p>
		<p>Increase in political will and capacity to prevent and prohibit torture. Increased ratification and implementation of CAT and OPCAT.</p>
		<p>Support for civil society efforts to hold states to account. Organisations on the ground have the expertise and training they need to prevent torture.</p>
<p>Abolition of the death penalty: The UK strongly believes, as a matter of principle, that the death penalty should never be considered an acceptable criminal punishment, and is committed to its universal abolition. See our Death Penalty Strategy for more information on our policy.</p>	<p>To contribute to the abolition of the death penalty leading to universal abolition.</p>	<p>Human rights compliant alternatives to the death penalty are promoted to policy makers, civil society, media and the public.</p>
		<p>Legislative, procedural, constitutional or policy amendments leading to a reduction in the number of offences to which the death penalty applies, or the number of sentences imposed.</p>
		<p>Greater adherence to international standards and principles in relation to the death penalty.</p>
<p>Freedom of Expression: The UK promotes freedom of opinion and expression, including on the Internet, as an essential element of its efforts to promote human rights and democracy. Freedom of expression is a fundamental building block of democracy and the gateway to the realisation of many other human rights. It ensures</p>	<p>To contribute to upholding freedom of expression including on the internet;</p>	<p>Bringing legislation regulating media and the Internet, which has an impact on freedom of expression, into line with international standards.</p>
		<p>Projects that help to provide citizens with greater access to information or ability to express legitimate viewpoints.</p>

<p>that people can exchange ideas and make informed decisions; it supports transparency and deters corruption; and exposes human rights violations.</p>		<p>Projects that promote freedom of expression including capacity building for bloggers, journalists and others, that result in, for example, safer operating environments; greater freedom of expression for legitimate viewpoints, and produce better quality reporting contributing to improved transparency and accountability and the promotion of standards.</p> <p>Better protection for those using media of any choice – including on the Internet – from repressive action by States. Effective action to tackle impunity.</p>
<p>Freedom of Religion and Belief: Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief is guaranteed by many human rights treaties. Many conflicts have their roots in the tensions between different religious communities and violence against a religious group can be a forewarning of wider conflict. Upholding religious freedom is often a crucial factor in conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building.</p>	<p>Governments uphold freedom of religion and belief. Individuals targeted for exercising their freedom of religion or belief are protected. Inter-faith co-operation and voices of moderation among religious communities are strengthened</p>	<p>Bring policies and legislation regulating freedom of religion and belief into line with international standards. Ensure these standards are implemented - for example registration requirements which focus disproportionately on smaller or less traditional religions.</p> <p>Promotion of tolerance, non-violence and better understanding through improved links and dialogue between civil society groups, religious leaders and religious groups.</p>
<p>Women's Rights: The UK promotes gender equality and tackles violence against women and girls as a matter of principle. Societies are likely to be healthier, more prosperous and more peaceful where women's rights are enjoyed and protected.</p>	<p>To address the structural causes of discrimination and violence against women and girls to ensure their equality before the law and their participation in political and public affairs in</p>	<p>Discriminatory laws and policies reformed or removed. Constitutions, legislation and policies tackling violence against women and girls developed in line with regional and global commitments.</p> <p>Initiatives that prevent violence against women and girls, particularly by challenging societal attitudes and behaviour.</p> <p>Increased participation of women in political and public affairs.</p>

	accordance with international standards.	
<p>Business & Human Rights: Business investment, economic growth, development, human rights and the rule of law should be complementary and mutually reinforcing. Businesses operating in compliance with international human rights standards benefit directly, as do host communities, from sustainable market conditions. The government has made it clear that our commitment to supporting UK business internationally is consistent with our determination to put human rights at the core of our foreign policy. See the UK national action plan.</p>	<p>Increased State and corporate understanding and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (aka the “Ruggie principles” or the Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework)</p>	<p>State duty to protect: Promote international uptake and awareness of the UNGPs, support the development of national implementation plans and work with other states to help them meet their human rights obligations.</p>
		<p>Corporate respect for human rights: Increase business awareness of the importance of respecting human rights throughout business operations. Develop models and examples of best practice to demonstrate benefit of respect for human rights. Improve business understanding of the importance of the Ruggie Principles leading to better business practice and new or improved relationships between business, governments and civil society.</p>
		<p>Access to an effective remedy: Assist states wishing to develop their human rights protection mechanisms and reduce barriers to remedy within their jurisdiction. Support civil society efforts to access an effective remedy and promote protection of human rights defenders active on business and human rights. Support business efforts to provide, adopt or participate in effective grievance mechanisms.</p>
<p>Democratic Processes: Support for democracy is integrated throughout our objectives. Elections are a vital element to democracy, but also need to be considered as part of a long-term, comprehensive approach rather than as a single event.</p> <p>Please note: We do not provide support to political parties and/or parliaments (the Westminster Foundation for Democracy may be able to assist see www.wfd.org for further information)</p>	<p>To strengthen democratic processes, improving the credibility of elections and compliance with international standards,</p>	<p>Improving the quality of electoral processes throughout the electoral cycle. Improving electoral management, voter registration, civic and voter education, , election monitoring. NB priority will be given to projects, which address recommendations from international Election Observation Missions.</p>
		<p>Increasing participation in the democratic process for civil society, especially marginalised groups. Support to CSOs</p>

		strengthening democratic reform and dialogue, constitution building.
<p>Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative: The UK promotes gender equality and tackles violence against women and girls as a matter of principle. The Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) is concerned with the impact sexual violence in conflict can have on prospects for long-term peace and stability.</p> <p>For more information, please see the G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted in London on 11 April 2013, available here.</p> <p>Projects funded under this scheme will focus on the work that civil society can do to hold governments to account against commitments made to address sexual violence in conflict. They will also focus on practical protection and prevention approaches that can have a demonstrable and measureable impact. Funding will be made available for civil society organisations and specifically for projects and programmes that address rape and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts.</p>	<p>To support the work of civil society organisations, including women’s organisations, and human rights defenders and networks to:</p> <p>Enhance community-level prevention and protection against sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict environments.</p> <p>Help victims and survivors of sexual violence to get better access to justice;</p> <p>and</p> <p>Promote greater accountability by national institutions responsible for tackling sexual violence.</p>	<p>Prevention Initiatives for advocacy and action at the community and national level to tackle sexual violence. Greater women’s - but also men’s - participation and engagement as partners in actions to reduce the likelihood of sexual violence taking place (for example actions that aim to change attitudes and behaviours and aim to work with state and local institutions – schools, churches, national authorities perhaps). Initiatives that build grassroots awareness of the issue and how to overcome the challenges in tackling sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations (for example, outreach and training for civil society and state actors on legal and other rights)</p> <p>Protection Initiatives that enhance the role of those who defend the human rights of women to carry out or support monitoring, fact-finding and documenting cases of sexual violence and empowering victims to access justice.</p> <p>Accountability Initiatives that aim to promote greater accountability of national justice and other institutions and bodies through advocacy and action.</p>

ANNEX A: Indicative Priority Countries except for Abolition of the Death Penalty

Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Fiji	Somalia
Bangladesh	India	South Africa
Belarus	Indonesia	South Sudan
Brazil	Iran	Sri Lanka
Burma	Iraq	Sudan
Central African Republic	Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories	Syria
China	Libya	Tunisia
Colombia	Mexico	Turkey
Cuba	Morocco	Turkmenistan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Nigeria	Uzbekistan
Democratic Republic of Congo	Pakistan	Vietnam
Egypt	Russia	Yemen
Eritrea	Rwanda	Zimbabwe

Priority Countries

The majority of funding will be allocated to Priority countries, however **we do accept bids from countries not on this list**. Project proposals from non-priority countries should ensure they clearly set out why there is an issue in the particular country in the relevant section on the project proposal form.

Commonwealth

The Government is committed to strengthening the Commonwealth as a focus for promoting democratic values, development and prosperity. The HRDP welcomes projects that support Commonwealth values of democracy and human rights, and promote and protect these values proactively across the Commonwealth. **We strongly encourage projects from Commonwealth countries that seek to support the thematic target areas.**

International human rights mechanisms

The HRDP supports the International human rights mechanisms and particularly welcomes projects that support implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, concluding observations from Treaty Bodies, and recommendations from Human Rights Council Special Rapporteurs. Project proposals should support one of **the individual thematic priorities and clearly demonstrate this in the proposal.**