

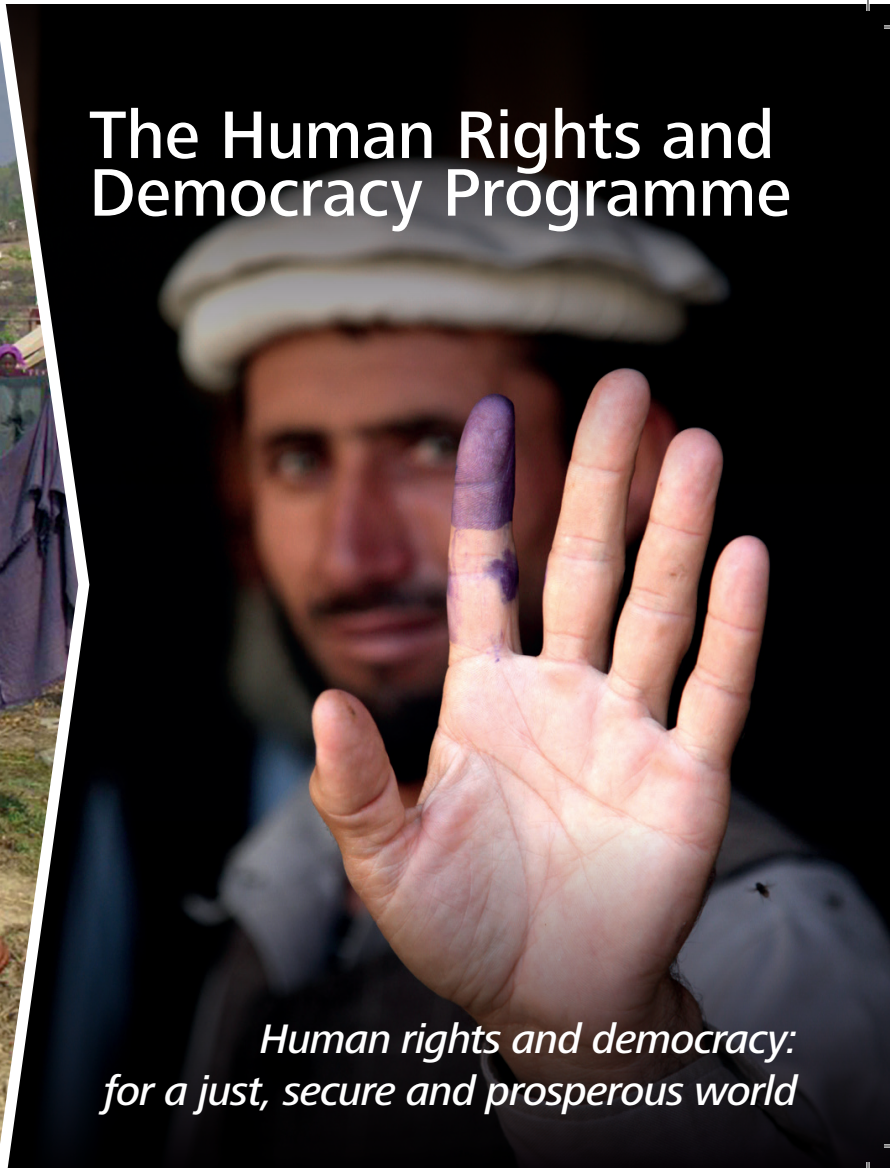
# The Human Rights and Democracy Programme



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



*Human rights and democracy:  
for a just, secure and prosperous world*







## Foreword



**Baroness Anelay**, Minister of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

>> The Human Rights and Democracy Programme is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) strategic response to serious human rights violations and abuses in countries around the world. <<

Using our global influence and staff expertise, we focus on priority areas to support local civil society to push for change, and to engage in constructive dialogue with political leaders. Our work plays an important role in improving the human rights of the individuals and groups we work with, and in contributing to our international peace,

security and prosperity agendas. Last year we supported more than 80 human rights projects in over 40 countries worldwide. I am proud of the fact that the projects we fund help to catalyse and sustain positive changes to the lives of people across the globe every year.

There is still much more to do. Progress on human rights is incremental, resulting from the efforts of past and future generations of human rights defenders. The UK remains committed to human rights; we will continue to speak up, in public and in private, to protect individuals from discrimination, violence and intimidation. We will continue to push for progress on our human rights priorities through our network of posts, the multilateral system and our dedicated Human Rights and Democracy Programme.



## Global Values: why Human Rights matter to the UK

As a nation with global interests, the UK has both the motive and the means to shape the international community's response to humanitarian crises, security threats and other human rights and geopolitical developments. Work on human rights is therefore a major focus of the FCO's bilateral and multilateral activity, carried out each day by our global network of Embassies and High Commissions.

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme (HRDP), a fund dedicated to supporting and building human rights work overseas, is one of the tools we use to help deliver this objective.

Between 2011- 2015 the HRDP will have spent in excess of

**£20million**  
on **over 280** projects  
in more than **60** countries  
worldwide



*“Human rights and democracy: for a just, secure and prosperous world”*



# Our Priorities

## Themes

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme is an annual fund which aims to make a real difference to people's lives through targeted projects overseas. It funds human rights projects to support transformative change across our eight thematic priorities:

- abolition of the death penalty
- business and human rights
- democratic processes
- promoting women's rights
- freedom of expression
- freedom of religion or belief
- global torture prevention
- preventing sexual violence in conflict

## Countries of Focus

HRDP projects complement the human rights work of individual British Embassies or High Commissions across the globe. Our designated HRDP priority countries are those where we actively encourage project bids; these are countries which:

- are one of the FCO's countries of concern or case studies, as set out in the Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report - [www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk](http://www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk)
- have particular opportunities to promote and protect human rights for one or more of our thematic priorities



# Our Programme

## Who we work with

Our overseas British Embassies and High Commissions work closely with civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, businesses and governments to deliver HRDP projects.



## The funding cycle

Project proposals are considered annually on a case-by-case basis by the Programme Team. This bidding process comprises two stages\*:

1. The bidding round opens and bids from prospective implementers are reviewed by the relevant overseas Embassy or High Commission.
2. The highest-quality proposals are sent to the Programme Board in London for the final assessment, where they are discussed and evaluated against criteria including:
  - alignment with priority theme
  - value for money
  - project design
  - evidence of need
  - viability
  - sustainability

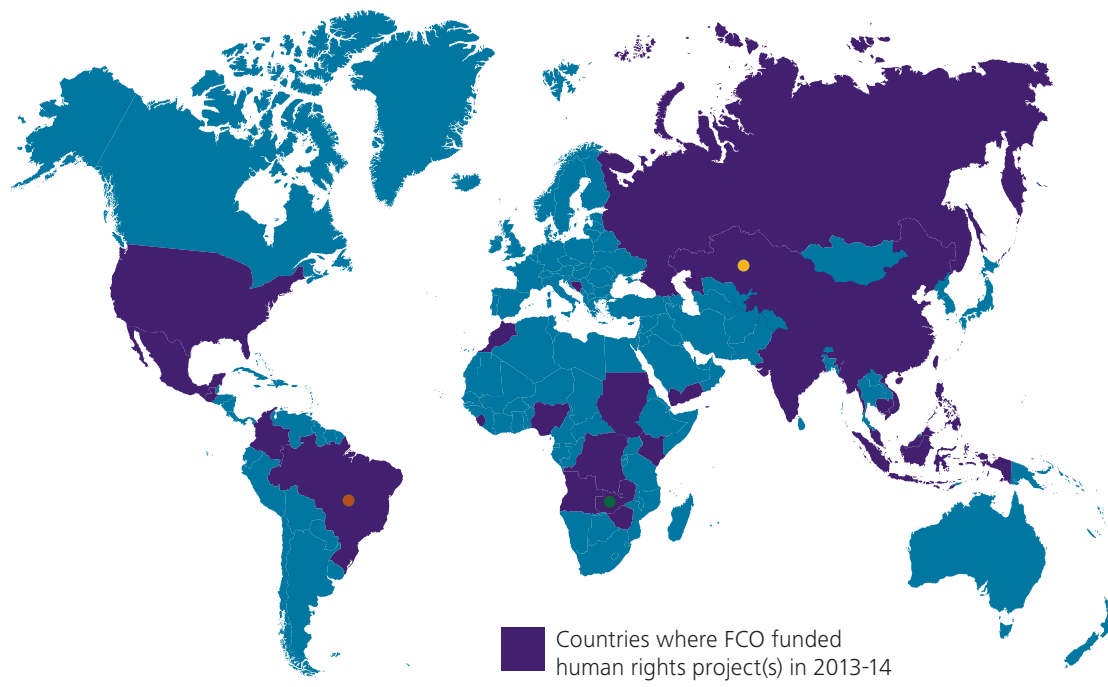


\*For Human Rights and Democracy Programme bidding guidance, visit: [gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme](http://gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme)



## At a glance: examples of our 2013-14 Human Rights and Democracy Projects

In 2013-14, the FCO spent in excess of £5.8 million in support of more than 80 human rights projects in over 40 countries worldwide\*. 24 of those projects are multi-year and continue to run in 2014/15.



### ● Brazil

Developed a GPS Smartphone application, Clique 180, which provides routes to the nearest facility of the Network to Confront Violence against Women, and access to a helpline.

### ● Zambia

Sponsored TV and radio debates on the delivery of essential public services, reaching over 400,000 Zambian citizens, as well as training NGOs, producers & journalists in media relations.

### ● Kazakhstan

Provided expert support in drafting the specific regulations and rules needed for the formation and operation of a National Prevention Mechanism of torture.

\*NB: this map does not include any sensitive or multi-country projects

## At a glance: our 2013-14 Human Rights and Democracy Projects



Abolition of the Death Penalty



11 Projects



Freedom of Religion or Belief



6 Projects



Freedom of Expression



13 Projects



Promoting Women's Rights



16 Projects



Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict



15 Projects



Business and Human Rights



10 Projects



Global Torture Prevention



8 Projects



Democratic Processes



12 Projects



# Case Studies: how we deliver sustainable change

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION – VIETNAM

### Project to enhance the responsiveness of government agencies to the media in Vietnam (2013-14)

#### The Issue

The exercise and protection of media rights remain a challenge in Vietnam, and public awareness of the rights of journalists is limited. There are gaps in regulations relating to the government's responsibility to proactively provide information to, and interact with, the media as well as in implementation.



#### What we did

The project provided recommendations to the Vietnamese government that contributed to bringing legislation on protection of media workers into closer alignment with international standards. Revised media regulations subsequently enhanced the safety of journalists.

By increasing the protection of journalists' rights, the project increased the ability of the media to represent the views of the public, thus increasing their voice. In addition, laws affecting communication with, and by, the media were modified and clarified, leading to government spokespeople being more proactive in responding to media inquiries, and therefore greater public access to information.



# Case Studies: how we deliver sustainable change

## BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS - COLOMBIA

### Project to increase the government's ability to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Colombia (2013-14)

#### The Issue

According to civil society data, 80% of human rights violations in Colombia are linked to extractive industries. This is because these companies operate in environments with challenging factors such as: illegal armed groups; illegal economies; weak local institutions; and weak governance.



#### What we did

The implementer worked with the Colombian Presidential Programme for Human Rights to design a Colombian Business and Human Rights National Action Plan, and to develop a monitoring system for business and human rights.

This resulted in the Colombian government making the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles mandatory. The government has plans to incorporate the policy into the next National Development Plan, guaranteeing resources and specific commitments by state agencies to implement the policy for the next government, and thus helping to improve the working conditions for thousands in the extractive industries





## Looking Ahead

In 2014-15, the FCO are supporting over 70 projects in more than 40 countries; looking ahead to 2015-16, we can only anticipate an increase in both those numbers. As the window for new project proposals opens, we are keen to receive bids for innovative projects which address our ongoing human rights concerns and respond to developments across the world. For example, a number of our thematic priorities - Freedom of Religion or Belief, Business and Human Rights and Freedom of Expression - are taking on ever greater significance due to the rise of extremist rhetoric, the increasing role that business plays in human rights, and the shrinking of civil society space respectively.

We will encourage our Embassies and High Commissions to work closely with both local and international implementers, in order to identify potential projects that are of the greatest relevance to each priority country.





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For more information on the Human Rights and Democracy Programme and bidding guidance, visit: [gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme](https://www.gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme)

We're on Twitter: follow [@FCOHumanRights](https://twitter.com/FCOHumanRights) to keep up-to-date with what we're working on.