# FCO_UK_PS_BK test

Magna Carta Fund

For Human Rights and Democracy

STRATEGY

Financial Year 2016-17

Human Rights and Democracy Department

# STRATEGY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy (MCFHRD) is the FCO’s dedicated strategic fund supporting our global human rights and democracy work. Through targeted projects, it aims to further British interests overseas by tackling the root causes of human rights violations, strengthening institutions and governance, promoting and protecting human rights, and supporting democracy and the rule of law.

The MCFHRD is a strategic programme; we therefore assess every bid we receive carefully for impact and fit with both the overarching MCFHRD strategy, and the UK objectives for that country.

# THEMES

For 2016, Ministers have agreed a new approach to the FCO’s human rights and democracy work in line with manifesto commitments. The previous approach of eight “thematic priorities”, under the *Human Rights and Democracy Programme,* risked implying a hierarchy of rights, and reduced our flexibility to respond to developments and to capture all the human rights work carried out by our overseas network.

The FCO has therefore reconfigured its human rights and democracy work around three interconnected themes, which will also provide the basis for our funding strategy under the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy:

* **Democratic values and the rule of law** - Uphold universal rights, democracy and the rule of law as key building blocks for more secure and prosperous societies
* **The rules-based international order** - Support an effective rules-based international order that stands up for universal rights
* **Human rights for a stable world** - Promote a more stable world by upholding universal rights in tackling conflict and extremism

Projects that aim to achieve systemic change, strengthen institutions and improve governance based on human rights and the rule of law, are strongly encouraged. The fundamental aim of the strategy is to treat both causes and symptoms.

# WHERE WE WORK

MCFHRD projects will complement the human rights work of individual British Embassies or High Commissions across the globe, so proposals for all countries are eligible. However, please note that 97% of our funding must be allocated to projects in [ODA countries](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm).

Our designated MCFHRD priority countries are those where we will focus most of our project work; we aim to dedicate approximately 65% of funding to those countries. The 2016-17 MCFHRD priority countries are listed in Annex A. These are countries that feature as one of the FCO’s human rights priorities (formerly “countries of concern”), country case studies, or thematic case studies as set out in the 2014 [Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report](http://www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk/), published in March 2015.

Proposals from non-priority countries are also strongly encouraged, but please note there is less funding available.

# ELIGIBILITY

# The MCFHRD accepts project bids from civil society, commercial organisations, governments, think tanks, other UK government departments and international organisations.

# We 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 the UK’s human rights focus for that country.

# MONITORING & EVALUATION

Robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is an integral part of the MCFHRD. Rigorous M&E is required so that impact can be measured and problems during implementation can be addressed.

Quarterly Reports

Project implementers are required by grant contract to submit quarterly progress reports, and quarterly financial reports to the local Embassy or High Commission, or to the relevant Project Manager (for some multi-country projects). Project implementers are required to produce Project Completion Reports.

Quarterly reports inform the fund-wide quarterly review to the MCFHRD Senior Responsible Owner (SRO). The review is intended to provide an overview of the fund and assess potential risks to its delivery.

In-Depth Project Evaluations

London-based members of the MCFHRD team will evaluate approximately 10% of projects annually. This is to ensure that project impact and value for money are assessed, and to gather lessons learned. Previous evaluations of non-sensitive projects under the *Human Rights and Democracy Programme* are available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/project-evaluation-documents).

The MCFHRD team will also consider evaluating any project valued £150,000 or over. Other considerations taken into account when choosing projects to evaluate are:

* projects which the MCFHRD team is keen to replicate elsewhere
* projects on a theme or in an area of particular FCO interest
* projects which had implementation difficulties

# OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

| **OBJECTIVE** | **INDICATOR** | **INDICATIVE TYPES OF ACTIVITY** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Uphold universal rights, democracy, and the rule of law as key building blocks for more secure and prosperous societies**
 | 1. Widen Democratic Space

Increased democratic space and better protection of journalists and civil society space | * Changing laws, policies, or practices which limit civil society space, freedom of expression or assembly
* Promoting and protecting media freedoms, including the safety of journalists and freedom of expression
* Supporting the protection of human rights defenders
 |
| 1. Strengthen Democratic Governance and the Rule of Law

Increased awareness and capability of parliaments, courts, the criminal justice system, and the executive to uphold universal rights*Work under this indicator will also be supported by the* [***Magna Carta Partnerships***](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/magna-carta-partnerships)*fund* | * Strengthening democratic processes in line with international standards, including support for free and fair elections
* Developing transparent and accountable democratic institutions based on the rule of law, and reducing corruption
* Reforming criminal justice systems, tackling impunity, and improving citizens’ access to justice, including capacity building and reform of police, the judicial system, and prisons; and measures to secure abolition of the death penalty, prevent torture, and eradicate extrajudicial killings by law enforcement actors
 |
| 1. Increase Equality and Non-Discrimination

Increased respect for equality and non-discrimination for all members of society | * Improving institutional protection against discrimination, removing or amending discriminatory laws, policies and practices which target particular members of society (e.g. women, LGBT, religious minorities), and providing legal identity for all including protecting the right to a nationality and birth registration
* Reducing hate speech, violence or harassment based on discrimination
* Increasing the participation of women or members of marginalised groups in political and public life, including in positions of leadership and influence
 |
| 1. **Support an effective rules-based international order that stands up for universal rights**
 | 1. Implement International Standards and Principles

Better understanding and implementation of international human rights standards  | * Implementing the outcomes of UN human rights mechanisms (e.g. Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty Bodies, Special Rapporteurs) and international instruments, (e.g. ICCPR, OPCAT, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights), especially supporting relevant institutions to implement UN recommendations
* Supporting UN human rights field presences
 |
| 1. Strengthen Human Rights Institutions and Mechanisms

More effective international, regional and national human rights mechanisms | * Actionable studies or initiatives to strengthen and implement the UN human rights system
* Supporting engagement of human rights defenders with UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council and UPR. Improving states’ capacity to implement UPR recommendations.
* Establishing and strengthening of independent national human rights protection mechanisms, such as Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Institutions that promote human rights and protect human rights defenders
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|  |
| 1. **Promote a more stable world by upholding universal rights in tackling conflict and extremism**
 | 1. Promote Tolerance and Counter Violent Extremism

The roots of violent extremism are addressed by tackling hate speech and promoting equality and non-discrimination, including freedom of religion or belief | * Supporting effective multilateral human rights processes to combat extremism
* Increasing states’ political will and institutional capacity to respect human rights, including freedom of religion or belief and tackling hate speech.
* Supporting increased understanding of universal rights, tolerance and the nature of prejudice, in societies where these are under threat.
* Ensuring that the lessons of history, including from the Holocaust, are not forgotten, but rather used in preventing extremism.
 |
| 1. Uphold Universal Rights in Conflict

Increased prevention and reduction of sexual violence in conflict, and increased participation of women in peace processes and wider peacebuilding | * Countering traditional assumptions about sexual violence in conflict, challenging attitudes that make women and girls particularly vulnerable, and working to end stigmatisation (including of men and boys)
* Tackling impunity and promoting greater accountability through domestic judicial/legal reform, or awareness raising of their rights/redress
* Implementing the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence to improve the capacity of local actors and first responders. Building the evidence base through documentation
* Building the capacity of women and local women’s organisations to contribute to peace/post-conflict processes
 |
| 1. Human rights in Security and Justice Assistance

Increased human rights compliance in the security and justice sector | * Encouraging countries to embed human rights within their security, justice reforms and institutions, including reducing the risk of the use of torture or the death penalty, and extrajudicial killings.
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###### Annex A:

###### 2016-17 Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy Priority Countries

These are countries that feature as one of the FCO’s human rights priority countries (formerly “countries of concern”), country case studies, or are the focus of thematic case studies, as set out in the 2014 [Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report](http://www.hrdreport.fco.gov.uk/), published in March 2015.

Afghanistan

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Brazil

Belarus

Burma

Burundi

Cambodia

Central African Republic

China

Colombia

Cuba

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Democratic Republic of Congo

Egypt

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Fiji

Gambia, The

Honduras

India

Iran

Iraq

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories

Laos

Libya

Mexico

Nigeria

Pakistan

Russia

Rwanda

Saudi Arabia

Somalia

South Sudan

Sri Lanka

Sudan

Swaziland

Syria

Thailand

Tunisia

Turkmenistan

Ukraine

Uzbekistan

Vietnam

Yemen

Zimbabwe