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**THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION IN  
SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH**  
SEPTEMBER 2020-2021

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HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

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# ABOUT THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S WORK

Name: Insamlingsstiftelsen The Swedish Foundation in Support of Human Rights Watch  
Organisation number: 802478-1885

Human Rights Watch Scandinavia Insamlingsstiftelsen (hereinafter HRW Sweden) was established in 2015 with a purpose to support high-level research and advocacy on human rights; bring Human Rights Watch's work to the attention of the Swedish public, the private sector, and the government; and intensify advocacy to these stakeholders on key human rights issues both in Sweden and around the world. Establishing the first formal presence of Human Rights Watch in Scandinavia has been a critical step in enlisting Sweden's strong human rights culture to effect lasting improvements for victims of abuses worldwide. HRW Sweden collaborates closely with other parts of Human Rights Watch and shares its mission.

To accomplish its aims, HRW Sweden fundraises and organises larger public and smaller private events throughout the year. It promotes publicity for Human Rights Watch's research through Swedish media, social media accounts and supports a Swedish language website [www.hrw.org/sverige](http://www.hrw.org/sverige). HRW Sweden regularly engages with Swedish decision-makers in government and other sectors as part of the organisation's advocacy work.

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With strong support from committed donors, HRW Sweden has seen a significant increase in funding over the years and this report is a testament to achievements made possible by a willingness among donors and staff to stand up for our human rights. Thank you!

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Måns Molander, Nordic Director of Human Rights Watch.

# HRW SWEDEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S WORK

Human Rights Watch Inc. is a nonprofit, nongovernmental human rights organisation that was established in 1978. Its headquarters in New York closely coordinates with a network of 13 independent sister charities that share its name (hereinafter “Human Rights Watch”), including HRW Sweden. This network encompasses 496 human rights professionals, including country experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.



HRW's Jonathan Pednault conducting research on a mission in Africa.

Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, effective use of media, and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local civil society groups. Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 1000 reports, dispatches, and briefings on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media. With the leverage this brings, Human Rights Watch meets with governments, the United Nations, regional groups like the African

Union and the European Union, financial institutions, and corporations to press for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world. HRW Sweden participates in these activities whenever effective strategy calls for its involvement. For additional information about Human Rights Watch research on Sweden, please go to the Sweden country research page at: [www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/sweden](http://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/sweden).



This is Next Generation demonstrating for a clean environment.



## 1. We investigate

**Meticulous, on-the-ground investigation**

Human Rights Watch are committed to systematically researching and analysing human rights conditions worldwide to uncover abuses. Researchers interview victims, witnesses, alleged perpetrators, local rights activists, and government officials to form an accurate and impartial picture of what happened. They also review media and academic reports, and domestic and international law and policy papers to gain a further understanding of the situation. In closed or conflict countries, we also draw on investigative tools such as remote sensing, geospatial techniques, and verified open source material.

## 2. We expose

**Document and share our findings**

Human Rights Watch is a media production and broadcasting powerhouse with the capacity to activate media coverage and mobilize audiences. All researchers in the Human Rights Watch network publish their findings in the form of reports, articles, and multimedia. These are then made accessible to the public as well as local authorities to raise awareness of the abuses. The publications are available in multiple languages and formats and are often referenced in news articles worldwide. Our work is cited in the media some 6,000 times weekly.

## 3. We bring change

**Long-term progress through strategic pressure**

Following the identification and publication of human rights abuses, advocates for Human Rights Watch work closely with local authorities and organisations to advance credible policy solutions and apply pressure on those who abuse, profit from, or neglect human rights. We create spaces for partners and members of affected communities to speak directly to those in power. The ultimate goal of all advocates in the Human Rights Watch network is to ensure that human rights are upheld worldwide and to promote justice and change.

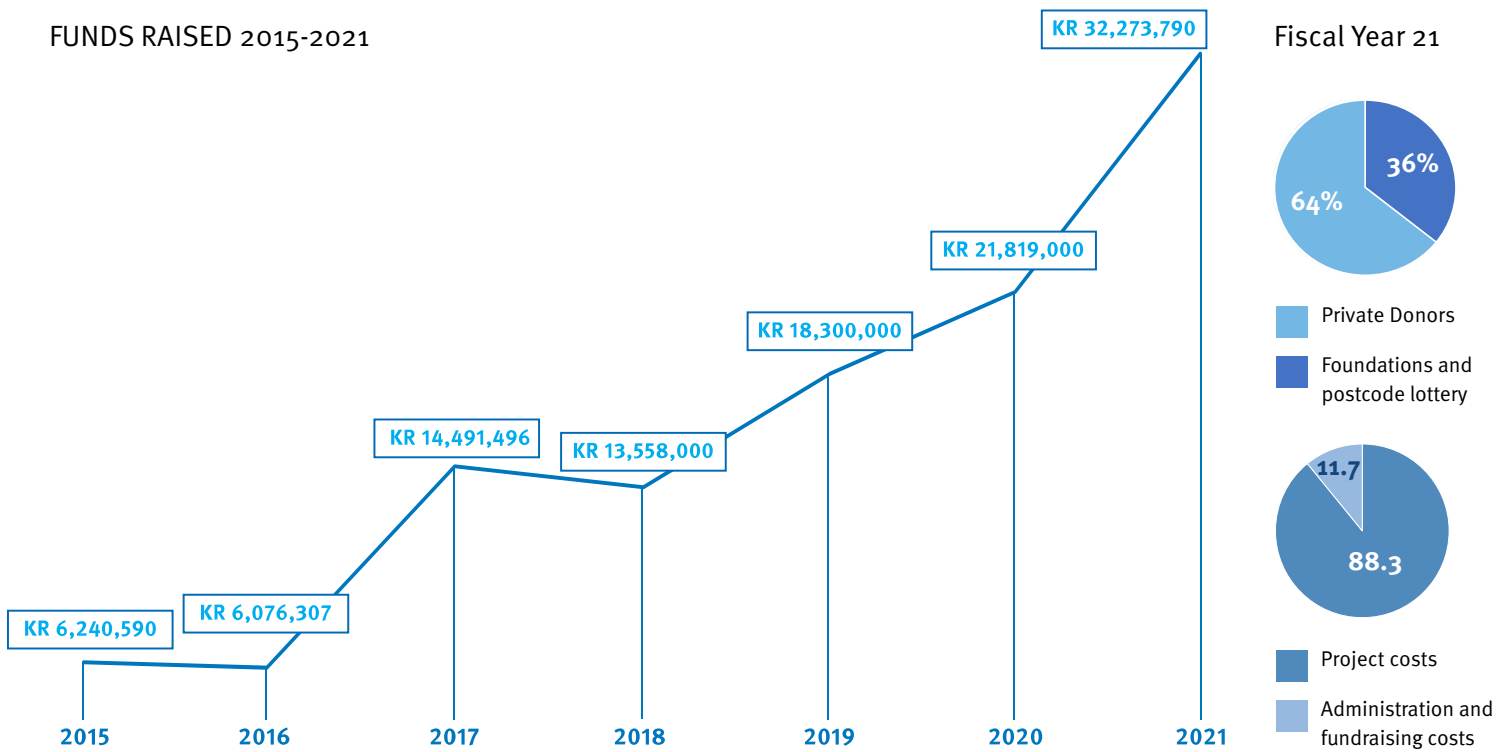
# ACHIEVEMENTS IN SWEDEN

Since opening the Stockholm office in September 2015, HRW has hosted numerous events to grow its local community and further deepen its relationships with existing and potential supporters in Sweden. HRW engages with key advocacy targets and media on a regular basis. Starting in 2016, HRW was selected as a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery. Using funds raised in Sweden, HRW has supported and implemented several projects this past year, as described below. This report outlines impact from these projects.

## Growing HRW's Presence in Sweden

The past year was marked by the global Covid-19 pandemic. When restrictions were introduced across the globe, Human Rights Watch's operations adapted. The offices closed and our staff worked from home. We cancelled traveling, event planning, and physical meetings. We developed new working methods and virtual meeting formats, and acquired insights on how we can effectively create impactful online spaces. Virtual events were often more effective at gathering a diverse, global pool of voices that reach new audiences.

## FUNDS RAISED 2015-2021



Throughout the year, HRW conducted advocacy with all the Nordic countries. This involved calling, emailing, and virtually meeting politicians and government officers on a wide range of issues. Among our top priorities, we sought to ensure a rights-respecting response to Covid-19 by championing the right to health and the equal distribution of vaccines. HRW also engaged on issues such as human rights in China, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia and Brazil; business and human rights, LGBT rights, gender equality, fully autonomous weapons (also known as “killer robots”), children’s rights, migration, access to education, and the environment and climate change. In cooperation with civil society organizations, Human Rights Watch launched a new series of digital seminars to increase understanding of human rights issues, reaching tens of thousands of viewers in Sweden.

HRW helped address the health needs of our staff, including how to increase resilience and manage stress. During the pandemic lockdowns, we instated emergency relief measures, such as dependent care benefits and flexible hours, to promote a compassionate work environment. The organization globally also made progress strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion in recruitment and retention. Among our efforts, we revised our recruiting guidelines to support hiring managers in leading inclusive hiring processes; held

workshops on privilege, bias, and blind spots; and built out our team architecture to better address workplace conduct, including training ombudspersons, staff advisors, and peer supporters.

Human Rights Watch experienced growing support from the donor community, seeing an increased number of supporters and overall income. Strategic shifts in fundraising improved the organization’s ability to attract and maintain funding for larger projects. In April, we launched a successful multilevel fundraising campaign called “Voices for Justice.” The campaign benefited from a collaboration with renowned photographer Paul Hansen.

Human Rights Watch’s most devoted community of supporters, the Stockholm Committee, grew stronger. The Committee’s 18 members helped fundraising, advocacy, and outreach efforts throughout Sweden. Together, we worked toward the goal of diversifying our supporter base. We implemented a monthly giving program for recurring donations, as well as strengthened our young professionals network in Stockholm for people aged 18-35. Today this group is called Next Generation, and in the past year, they organized online events, run social media communications, and helped spread awareness of human rights issues among young people.

# IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE



# Building the Foundations for Post-Pandemic Equal Rights

Over the last year, Human Rights Watch produced more than 400 publications and media products documenting the far-reaching consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**400**

Publications and media products documenting the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic

**6,000**

Weekly mentions in media outlets around the world

**60%**

Increase in traffic to the website compared to last year

We exposed how the Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare systemic frailties in the protection of basic rights and spurred a range of human rights abuses. In the early months of the pandemic, this body of work led to record-breaking months for traffic to our website—up to 60 percent more the previous year—and up to

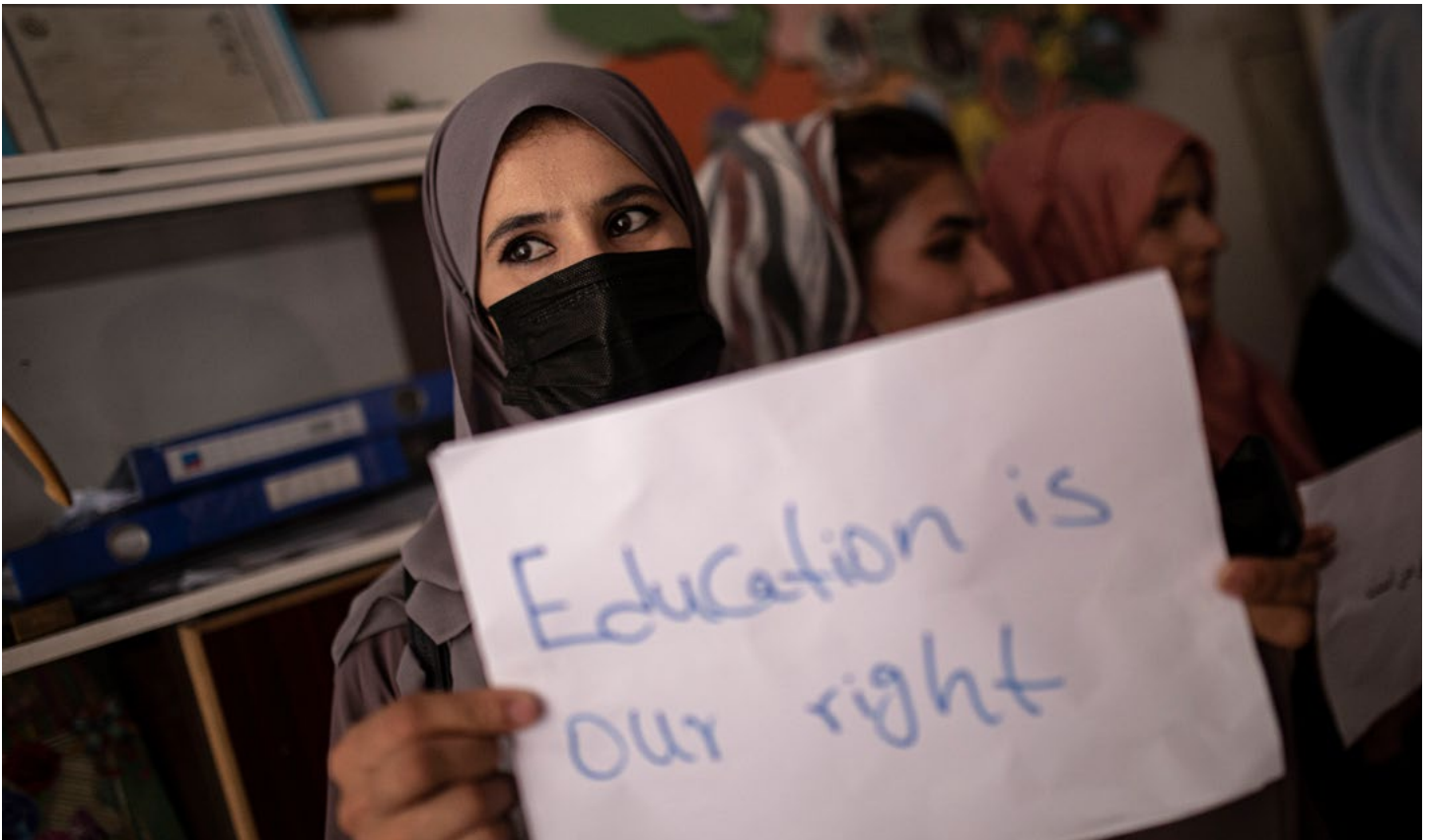
6,000 weekly mentions in media outlets around the world. This growth signaled significant demand for information related to rights and demonstrates how Human Rights Watch has served as a go-to source on the human rights dimensions of the pandemic.



© Marizilda Cruppé for Human Rights Watch.



A Chinese police officer guards the road near a “reeducation” camp in Yining, Xinjiang, September 4, 2018.  
© 2018 Thomas Peter/Reuters.



© 2021 AP Photo/Ahmad Halabisaz.

# Ending child detention in Greece

Last spring, in response to the initial Covid-19 surge, Human Rights Watch launched an initiative calling on the Greek government to free hundreds of unaccompanied migrant children held in overcrowded and unhygienic jail cells, where they face increased risk of coronavirus infection.

Our #FreetheKids campaign urged the government to transfer the kids into child-friendly housing, where they can access medical treatment, counseling, education and legal aid. Weeks after the campaign launch, the Greek parliament amended a law to reduce the time that unaccompanied children can be detained, from 45 days to 25. As of November 18, Greece's migration minister stated that no

unaccompanied migrant children remained in police custody and, in a major win in December, the parliament voted to abolish the practice altogether. Since March, our joint pressure with NGO partners spurred EU states to form a coalition and accept over 500 unaccompanied children and 1,180 other vulnerable people from Greece.

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## Championing universal access to coronavirus vaccines

In May 2021, the United States government announced it would support a waiver on patent protections for coronavirus vaccines.

If adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO), such a waiver would bolster global production of vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, potentially saving lives on a global scale.

Human Rights Watch has advocated for this move since our foundational report on vaccine access in October 2020 and made our case in multiple meetings with US government representatives. We also signed on to several joint statements, contributing rigorous human

rights analysis to the efforts of a powerful coalition of partners. While our work is not done, securing US support for a waiver could be transformative for negotiations in Geneva. We are continuing to conduct similar advocacy with other influential governments and have helped persuade all African countries to formally sponsor the WTO proposal to waive patent protections.



A Syrian child looks through fences set up at the Greek-Macedonian border after the Macedonian government closed the border. ©2016 Zalmai for Human Rights Watch.



A child washing hands with anti-bacterial soap as a preventive measure against COVID-19, at Sadarghat Launch Terminal, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on March 27, 2020. © 2020 Zayed Hasnain Chowdhury/ SipaUSA via AP Images.

# Advocating for a Rights-Respecting Response to Migration

We continued to respond to urgent migration challenges and defend the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants around the world. We reported conditions on the ground in Greece and Lebanon; conducted remote research in Bulgaria, Cameroon, Jordan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, and the United States; and engaged in advocacy with policymakers at local, national, and global levels.



Members of the Greek coast rescue migrants and asylum seekers from an overcrowded rubber dinghy found drifting in the sea off the coast of Lesbos island in Greece. October 4, 2015. © 2015 Zalmai for Human Rights Watch.



85

We helped raise awareness of global migration challenges to policymakers and the general public. In the first six months of 2021, we released 85 publications—reports, videos, news releases, and more—on refugee and migrant rights issues, which you can view here. Human Rights Watch was mentioned in connection to refugee and migrant rights by the Telegraph, Al Jazeera, the Guardian, Der Spiegel, and other global outlets.

60

In response to urgent advocacy by Human Rights Watch and others, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement cancelled a scheduled deportation flight of 60 asylum seekers to Cameroon where their lives and safety would be at risk.

1,000

A month after our reporting on awful detention conditions in Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia agreed to repatriate 1,000 Ethiopian migrants per week.

323,000

In March the US granted temporary protected status for about 323,000 Venezuelans, citing our research as a key basis for designating Venezuela unsafe.

In December 2020, we published a news release and video about migrants from Ethiopia and South Asia being held in horrific conditions without any Covid-19 protocols in a deportation center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In January 2021, just one month after the publication, and following sustained advocacy including a resolution from the European Parliament on the situation of Ethiopian migrants in Saudi detention, the governments of Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia agreed to repatriate 1,000 Ethiopian migrants per week from migrant detention centers in Saudi Arabia. In February, a migrant who had been detained sent Nadia a voice note saying, “they are truly thankful for [her] and all of [her] work.”

In January, through a news release and video, we highlighted dire living conditions of Syrian refugees in Aرسال, Lebanon. We exposed that around 15,000 refugees were forced to dismantle their shelters and live without adequate roofs and insulation in harsh winter conditions, including sub-zero temperatures and flooding. Facing inadequate shelter, Covid-19 restrictions, and rampant inflation, Lebanon’s Syrian

refugees urgently need assistance, especially during harsh winter months. We immediately called on the Lebanese government and donor organizations to ensure that everyone’s right to adequate housing is fully protected. This should include increased support for winterizing the homes of Syrian refugees to protect vulnerable families from harsh weather and enable them to live in safety and dignity.

In early March, we received word of a fire at an immigration detention center in Sanaa, Yemen after Houthi forces launched projectiles into a locked hanger of Ethiopian migrants, killing at least 45 people. Using footage shared with us by witnesses, we published a video and a news release and called on the UN to investigate Houthi abuses. In response, the UN Special Envoy to Yemen called for an inquiry into the circumstances of the fire and the European Union Heads of Mission called for an independent investigation. After previously denying involvement in the fire, Houthi forces admitted that teargas caused the fire in the migrant center.

# Ending the Shackling and Institutionalisation of People with Disabilities

We produced a ground-breaking report based on field research in 16 countries and over 800 interviews, which documented for the very first time that hundreds of thousands of people with psychosocial disabilities have been shackled across 60 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America—much of which is linked to a lack of government services and widespread stigma.

The data compiled in the report has been an invaluable resource for our local partners and serves as a catalyst for changing laws, policies and mindsets on the ground.

Since releasing our report, we have sustained pressure on governments to end this harmful practice. Our direct advocacy with governments has already yielded significant results. For example, in the past year:

- The Nigerian government committed to ban shackling in new mental health legislation.
- The Kenyan National Human Rights Commission used our research to file a case in the High Court which resulted in a landmark ruling that found that the detention and chaining of people with psychosocial disabilities by a religious institution is a breach of their rights and fundamental freedoms. This case can now be used as a legal precedent to end the practice of chaining in Kenya and across the region.

- As a result of our joint advocacy with the Indonesian Mental Health Association, the Indonesian government Exposing the extent of the practice on a global scale also enabled us to garner extensive media attention and build pressure for systemic change.

Exposing the extent of the practice on a global scale also enabled us to garner extensive media attention and build pressure for systemic change. The global report received prominent media coverage in 16 languages across 50 countries, giving greater visibility to a hidden practice. We engaged influential media outlets including CNN, The Economist, The Guardian, Al-Jazeera, AllAfrica and France24, among many others, to reach and move a broad international audience with the personal stories of people subjected to shackling. The video on digital news channel AJ+ French, for example, received over 500,000 views.





A woman's leg tied tightly together in a Christian rehabilitation center for in Ibadan City, Oyo State, Nigeria, September 2019. Women and men are chained and tied for perceived or actual mental health condition or intellectual disability. © 2019 Robin Hammond for Human Rights.

# Supporting the Implementation of Universal Jurisdiction in Europe

At present, universal jurisdiction is in many ways the most dynamic and growing component of the overall international justice architecture.

Our work with Syrian survivors, refugees, activists and others, combined with our efforts to promote prosecutions of grave crimes committed abroad, helped build momentum for investigations and prosecutions of alleged perpetrators of grave crimes in Syria—including the first trial involving state-sponsored torture in Syria, which opened last April in Germany.

In a very significant development, the court issued its first verdict against one of two former Syrian

intelligence officials currently on trial, sentencing him to 4.5 years in prison for serious crimes in Syria.

The verdict marked a historic moment for Syrians everywhere, and for the incredible Syrian survivors that spearheaded these efforts and the prosecutors who supported them, which we worked to promote with a presence in Koblenz and social media promotion throughout the day including with quick videos.

# Ending Workplace Violence and Harassment and Protecting Women at Work

In 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) passed C190—a landmark treaty which created legal standards to prevent violence and harassment in the workplace. While this treaty is ground-breaking and stands to offer vital protection to workers around the world, it can only be effective if it is ratified by ILO member countries.

We have made great strides in pushing ILO member countries to ratify C190 and to pass supplemental national protections to prevent violence and harassment at work during the reporting period. On December 15, 2020 we launched our global digital campaign to support ILO ratification in France. Using a targeted blend of digital public actions and direct advocacy with government officials, we have placed significant pressure on France's government and private sector, pushing for the immediate ratification of C190 and the drafting of supplemental legislation to protect workers from violence and harassment. In May, due in part to our efforts, a C190 ratification bill will be presented to France's Council of Ministers and then placed on the agenda of the Parliament.

In early 2021 we selected an additional two campaign priority countries for year one of this effort, selecting Lebanon and Uganda due to their regional influence and opportunities to push for reforms. In Lebanon, we are working with civil society partners and social media influencers to prepare for a social media campaign that will aim to engage a broad, national audience in the push for better, more comprehensive protections against violence and harassment at work. In Uganda, we are working closely with national and regional women's rights organizations to promote ratification of C190 and national reforms, with an emphasis of ensuring that the needs and demands of marginalized workers like domestic workers are integrated into these changes.



© 2021 Eduardo Soteras/AFP via Getty Images.

We have also taken advantage of an opportunity to promote C190 in Colombia. We submitted a legal brief emphasizing C190s standards in support of a sexual harassment case being heard by the country's constitutional court. We are working with partners to develop a communications strategy around the constitutional court's hearing on the case to highlight Colombia's obligation to ratify C190 and to expand anti-harassment laws protections for those reporting abuse.

# Increasing Access to Education for Refugee Children

School closures during the pandemic have impacted all children, but they are proving to be particularly devastating for marginalized children around the world who face higher risks of exclusion, including refugees and migrants. Emergency responses to refugee crises often prioritize necessities like food, shelter, and health care. As crises protract, short-term planning and bad policy can result in children not having access to education for years.

Our work has contributed to concrete progress toward increasing access to school for Syrian refugees. In one recent success, following a news release we published with the Centre for Lebanese Studies, the Lebanese government agreed to waive documentation requirements for mandatory exams for this year. These documents are so difficult for Syrian refugee students to obtain that it prevents many from completing their education.

Other barriers include a lack of money for transportation, limited space in programs that provide accelerated learning for students who have been out of school, and few spaces at public schools. Distance learning has been minimal during the pandemic, especially for refugees, who often have poor internet access, cannot afford the cost of data, and often have no devices except a parent's smartphone.

We are advocating with the Education Ministry and international donors to ensure access to education for Syrian children left out in distance learning and continue to monitor other aspects of Syrian children's access to education in Lebanon. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education recently wrote to us with their detailed plans for school re-opening, which we are analyzing and will comment on in line with our global recommendations that governments must be inclusive in their school reopening plans and target previously marginalized students. As a research and advocacy organization that does not receive funding from humanitarian donor governments, we have been uniquely positioned to press governments to live up to their aid promises, and to demand better results for the hundreds of millions of dollars that has been invested in refugee education in Lebanon.



A boy flies a homemade kite in the foreigners' section of al-Hol camp northeast Syria on March 5, 2021 © 2021 Sam Tarling.

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Other barriers include a lack of money for transportation, limited space in programs that provide accelerated learning for students who have been out of school, and few spaces at public schools

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Girls study outdoors at their primary school in Migori county, western Kenya. © 2018 Smita Sharma for Human Rights Watch.

# Protecting Girls' Right to Education in Africa

Our 2018 report and related products on access to education for pregnant girls and young mothers across Africa have become a crucial resource, frequently referred to by the media and academic reports. We continued to update our materials to highlight countries that have adopted policies that protect students' right to education, and we used these materials to advocate with countries and the African Union (AU).

We have been monitoring developments in Kenya, where reports show a sharp increase in the number of teenage pregnancies connected to the Covid-19 lockdown and school closures. Kenya has a re-entry policy that allows pregnant girls to stay in school, but prevents them from resuming studies until six months after delivery. We found that the government has weak implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of this policy. Pregnant girls and young mothers also face multiple barriers to staying in school, such as lack of accommodation for breastfeeding, childcare needs, stigma in schools and communities, and lack of finances. We urged the government to provide comprehensive sexual education to all students to help them make informed choices about their bodies, and we called on the government to allow all students, including pregnant girls and mothers, to continue their studies.

This is a message we continue to encourage across the

continent. As we raised in a June news release, Africa has the world's highest adolescent pregnancy rates, and teenage pregnancies increased during lockdowns in some countries. Many countries do not have re-entry policies. We called on the AU to press governments to adopt laws and policies that encourage girls to stay in school.

As part of our advocacy, we submitted evidence and recommendations to United Nations expert bodies to ensure that they raise the treatment of pregnant students and adolescent mothers during reviews of countries' human rights record. We specifically raised this issue for Niger, which has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and lacks protection for pregnant girls' education, and for Sierra Leone, which ended the ban on pregnant girls in schools, but still needs to ensure they are supported in continuing their education.

# Keeping Students and Schools Safe During Conflict

As leader of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, we helped spur a movement to launch the Safe Schools Declaration, which makes schools off-limits to militaries. Since its 2015 launch, 110 countries have endorsed the declaration. Part of our contribution to the movement has been publishing research on the military use of schools and universities in 22 countries.

Under the commitments of the Safe Schools Declaration and accompanying guidelines, we now see countries restricting military use of schools, creating space for children to attend school safely.

In a recent example of how countries are using these commitments to protect schools, Mali's education minister in August reminded the armed forces to avoid using any school for military purposes, even when

they are closed due to Covid-19, and referenced the Safe Schools Declaration. In June, the Central African Republic became the first African country known to criminalize the military use of schools. And in July, Syrian Democratic Forces vacated 10 schools after officials ordered all commanders to stop using schools for military purposes except when the schools are under attack and need protection.





Syrian refugees on their way to school in Monte Libano. © 2015 Bassam Khawaja for Human Rights Watch.

# Investigating the Human Rights Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)



We published a report on the United Kingdom’s new digital benefits system, known as “Universal Credit” (UC).

This is our first project assessing how the automation of social protection programs interferes with the right to social security and related rights, such as the right to food.

We documented how a series of design flaws—from the process by which claimants apply for and manage the benefit online to the way payments are calculated—stifled access to social security support among disadvantaged people before and during the pandemic. These flaws disadvantage people struggling to access or use the internet, older people, people with mental health problems, and people with unstable or short-term jobs. For example, the program’s means testing algorithm is causing people with irregular pay and working hours (an increasingly common experience in the gig economy) to suffer unpredictable cuts and

fluctuations in their benefit. This forces many people with low-income budgets into debt.

A UK appeals court has ordered the government to remedy the effects of the flawed algorithm on people who draw a regular monthly salary—a small but significant cohort of UC claimants. But a more comprehensive redesign of how the government calculates the benefit is urgently needed to restore people’s rights to a decent standard of living, particularly as they face income loss and other economic shocks caused by the pandemic. We are advocating multiple ways to fix the flawed algorithm, such as moving to shorter periods of income assessment or using average earnings over longer periods to smooth out fluctuations.

# Protecting Uyghurs and Other Turkic Muslims in China



Chinese security personnel patrol near the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in China's Xinjiang region, November 4, 2017. © 2017 Ng Han Guan/AP Images.

The Chinese government is committing crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang.

The oppression of Turkic Muslims in China is not a new phenomenon, but in recent years it has reached unprecedented levels, including mass detention, torture, cultural and religious erasure, and separation of families.

In March 2021 our research and advocacy helped move the US, EU, United Kingdom, and Canada to impose coordinated sanctions on Chinese officials over Xinjiang abuses. We have also seen a growing number of governments willing to condemn China at the UN, with a record 40 governments speaking out in 2020. Our advocacy has been critical to building this response. Most recently, 50 governments attended

a UN briefing we arranged in May on crimes against humanity in Xinjiang. The Chinese mission wrote to all UN member states to discourage their attendance, and then itself showed up to the event, where it was the only government defending its policies.

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We have also seen a growing number of governments willing to condemn China at the UN, with a record 40 governments speaking out in 2020.

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# Defending the Environment and Human Rights

Human Rights Watch has addressed the climate crisis in three core areas: preserving forests, phasing out fossil fuels, and protecting vulnerable populations from the impacts of climate change. We also promote regulations that will encourage companies to reduce their carbon footprints and eliminate environmental and human rights harms from their supply chains.

In Brazil, we have drawn upon our reporting on violence against Amazon forest defenders and deforestation-related fires to generate international pressure on President Jair Bolsonaro to reverse his disastrous environmental policies. We have done this by linking Bolsonaro's egregious mishandling of the Amazon crisis to issues that are top foreign policy and economic priorities for his administration—including a pending trade deal with the EU and Brazil's bid to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Building on our success in blocking Brazil's "greenwashing" effort to join the OECD's environmental committee, we got 15 US senators to send a public letter to President Joe Biden. In it, they urged him to condition support for Brazil's OECD membership—and potentially billions of dollars in financial assistance—on Brazil first making concrete changes to address the issues we document.

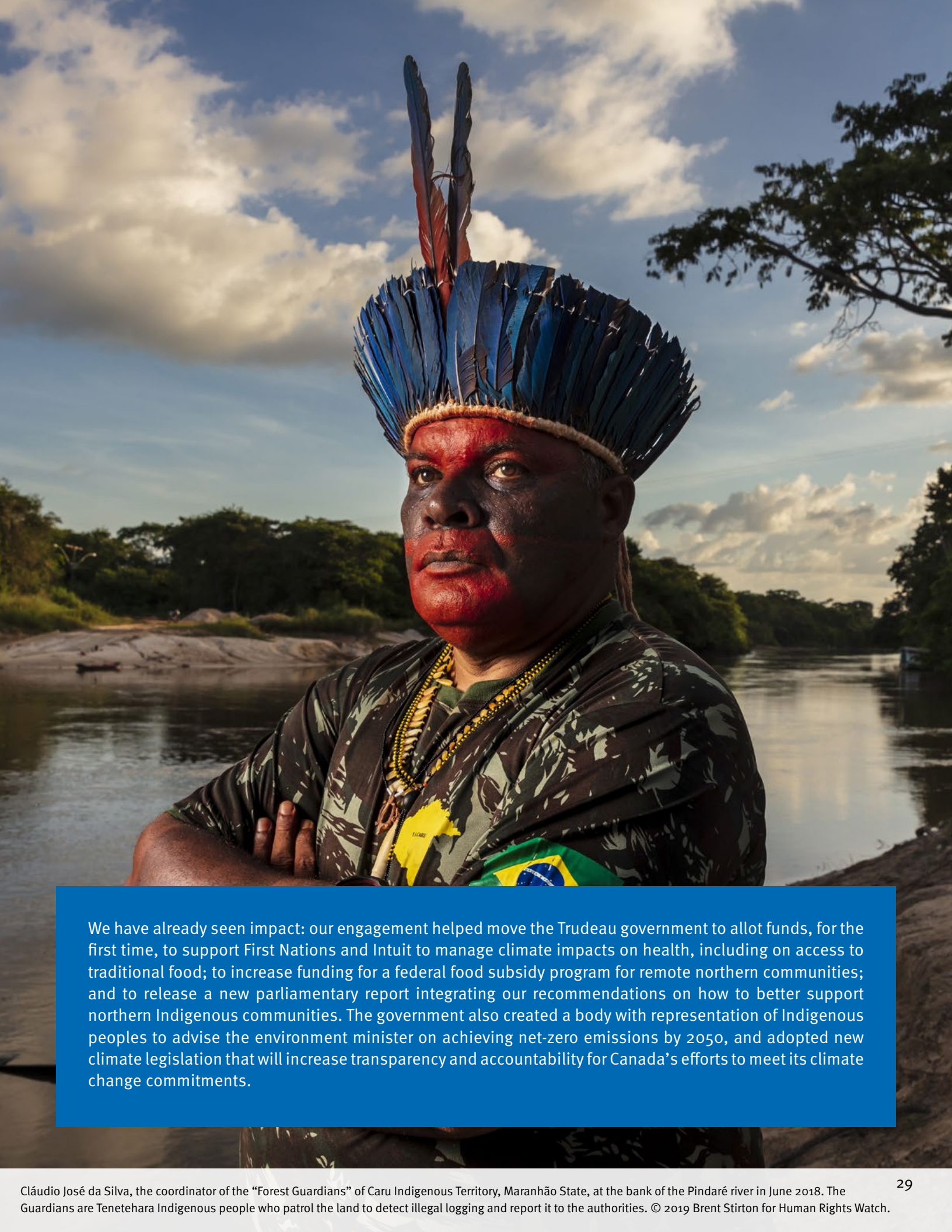
Our efforts have repeatedly made headlines in Brazil, and we have leveraged this media attention—along with our advocacy access in Western capitals—to support the work of our local civil society and Indigenous partners. We have also engaged the governors of Brazilian Amazon states to urge them to take measures to curb illegal deforestation. After we sent them a public letter, the Amazon Governors Consortium announced a

"Green Recovery Plan" that incorporates some of our recommendations. We have also provided advice to senior officials in the Biden administration who have reached out to the governors.

Following the release of our 2020 report revealing how Canada is failing to protect Indigenous peoples from climate impacts that are depleting their traditional food sources, we launched an advocacy campaign aimed at pressing Canada to take more ambitious climate action, including by setting more ambitious emission targets and phasing out its significant financial support for fossil fuels.



Smoke billows during a fire in an area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho, Rondonia State, Brazil. © REUTERS/Bruno Kelly 2019.



We have already seen impact: our engagement helped move the Trudeau government to allot funds, for the first time, to support First Nations and Inuit to manage climate impacts on health, including on access to traditional food; to increase funding for a federal food subsidy program for remote northern communities; and to release a new parliamentary report integrating our recommendations on how to better support northern Indigenous communities. The government also created a body with representation of Indigenous peoples to advise the environment minister on achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, and adopted new climate legislation that will increase transparency and accountability for Canada's efforts to meet its climate change commitments.

# EVALUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S PROGRESS IN SWEDEN

Human Rights Watch are committed to rigorous, transparent, and consistent monitoring and self-evaluation. When looking at impact, Human Rights Watch determines whether it has met its goals to bring about positive change for those facing human rights violations. Human Rights Watch consider input on progress from key interlocutors, local human rights partners, and critics. They gauge how effectively they have allocated resources. To ensure that Human Rights Watch reaches the highest standards of accuracy and objectivity in its research and achieves the greatest impact from its advocacy, it engages in self-evaluation throughout the year.

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Over the course of the last year, more than 2,500 Swedish articles referred to Human Rights Watch's work. Key radio and news outlets regularly interview, and often seek out, the Nordic Director Måns Molander, researchers, and advocates for expert advice with a human rights perspective on current political affairs.

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Often, since it takes a great deal of time to bring entrenched human rights abuses to an end, Human Rights Watch consider interim criteria for evaluation. These include whether they have succeeded in generating prominent Swedish media coverage about abuses they investigate; whether the Swedish or other governments act on our findings by protesting the abuses or exerting diplomatic or economic pressure on the abusive government; whether we succeeded in building or protecting Swedish opposition to abuses; whether and how Swedish and other governments engage with Human Rights Watch or adopt and implement new policies to address the abuses it identifies and documents; and whether efforts are reflected in support from public media and Swedish donors.

Measured against these criteria, we have seen considerable accomplishments. Over the course of the last year, more than 2,500 Swedish articles referred to Human Rights Watch's work. Key radio and news outlets regularly interview, and often seek out, the Nordic Director Måns Molander, researchers, and advocates for expert advice with a human rights perspective on current political affairs. Swedish media including Swedish Radio, SVT, TV4, Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, and TT News Agency, among many other

news outlets, regularly interview HRW staff. As a result, Human Rights Watch is one of the leading commentators in Sweden on global human rights issues. Furthermore, Human Rights Watch engaged in more than 150 virtual advocacy meetings with governments and decision-makers in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Sweden.

Since pandemic-related restrictions prevented any physical events, Human Rights Watch replaced the traditional annual dinner with a fundraising campaign. The campaign ran for two months and proved to be successful, securing increased support from the Swedish public. We also increased the number of monthly donors and followers on the Swedish Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as noted a strong interest for Human Rights Watch's Facebook Live seminars.

Human Rights Watch recognise the critical role of partnerships and beneficiaries in all our work, including the planning and evaluation process. When Human Rights Watch evaluates its work it regularly speaks to victims, partner groups, advocacy targets, media, and others. Their feedback is invaluable in helping the organisation further improve its strategies on a project basis and design and implement subsequent projects to be undertaken by Human Rights Watch.

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Human Rights Watch Sverige



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