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MAN RIGHTS WATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Afghan journalists, artists, and activists are speaking out against the Taliban's ban on girls' education. Clockwise from top left: Zahra Joya, journalist; Elaha Soroor, musician and artist; Heela Yoon, founder of Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace; Sahar Fetrat, assistant researcher, Human Rights Watch; Yalda Hakim, international correspondent, BBC World News; and Tamana Ayazi, filmmaker. © 2022 Human Rights Watch

> "Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, it is a radical act to be hopeful. But I am sure that tyranny cannot last forever."

### Sahar Fetrat

Assistant Researcher, Women's Rights Division

### DEAR FRIENDS,

These are challenging times. The Covid-19 pandemic, falling heaviest on the poor, exacerbates inequality. Extreme weather and climate change contribute to global displacement and food insecurity. The war in Ukraine is triggering crises of food, fuel, and finance. In every region of the world, protest movements oppose corruption, abuse of power, and structural racism. Yet, many governments respond by clamping down on freedom of speech and assembly.

Working with partners throughout the past year, we continued to find new ways to promote justice and defend rights. We helped prompt a United Nations safe-passage operation for civilians trapped in Mariupol, advocated quietly to get Russia suspended from the UN Human Rights Council, and convinced Twitter to remove prisoner-of-war images. Our work helped get aid flowing to Venezuela's people in need and led Tanzania to allow pregnant girls and young mothers to return to school. We called for and obtained greater protections for marginalized groups, including transgender people in Kuwait, migrants seeking asylum in Poland, children poisoned by lead in Zambia, and people with disabilities facing heatwaves in Canada.

As we move into our second term as chairs, we are proud of the role Human Rights Watch plays in confronting humanity's direst challenges. We are grateful to Ken Roth, who, as executive director for 30 years, built this organization into the global force it is today. As we embark on the search for Ken's successor, we are confident that more than 550 passionate, committed staff—spanning the globe—will continue to make a difference.

We accept no funding from governments, leaning entirely on the support of generous partners like you. In the following pages, we outline the work that you made possible. Thank you for being a part of our movement toward equality, justice, and dignity—for all people, everywhere.

Umy / Rao.

**Amy Rao** Board Co-Chair



1.4

**Neil Rimer** Board Co-Chair



A boy from Mariupol, Ukraine, looks out the window of his family's car, marked with the word "children," after arriving at an evacuation point for people fleeing areas under Russian control, May 2, 2022. © 2022 Chris McGrath/Getty Images

# THE **POWER** OF HUMAN **RIGHTS**

As we reflect on the hard-won human rights victories of the past year, we take stock of today's most urgent challenges and the collaborative solutions required to address them.

Whether climate change, digital repression, assaults on democracy, or the global food crisis, every challenge to our security and future is grounded in threats to our common humanity. In turn, any successful response will rely on a collective approach anchored in human rights principles, laws, and standards.

To ensure a more just and equitable future, our staff across 17 thematic and regional divisions—in partnership with survivors, activists, and others-address human rights abuses in some 100 countries. Key strategic areas in the year ahead include:

### • Addressing the structural causes of poverty and inequality

Amid a global food crisis fueled by the war in Ukraine, climate change, and Covid-19, we will defend everyone's right to sufficient and adequate food.

#### • Centering human rights in the climate response

As governments address environmental degradation, we will ensure that they uphold human rights. A clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is intrinsically linked to realization of the rights to life, food, health, water, and housing.

### • Supporting democracies to protect rights

We will promote the safeguarding of the international rights protection system, which is essential to ensuring that people are safe and treated fairly, and that democracies at risk of backsliding into autocracy gain resilience.

• Protecting privacy and access to the truth We will counter autocratic governments' increasing use of technology to surveil, coerce, and manipulate people, and we will defend and promote access to information and the rights to free speech and privacy. Young people protest at a climate march in Brussels, Belgium, February 21, 2019. © 2019 Maja Hitij/Getty Images

I am deeply inspired by the passion and commitment of colleagues and partners working together to ensure that human rights are not only defended but promoted as essential to tackling some of the worst forms of injustice and inequality. Thank you for your commitment to our cause.



PATRITASAA

Tirana Hassan Acting Executive Director **₩**@TiranaHassan



Human Rights Watch employs a powerful methodology to defend human rights. We **INVESTIGATE** rights violations in some 100 countries, often in partnership with local groups. We interview victims and witnesses and use satellite data, drone imagery, and open-source material to compile accounts that will stand the test of time and the scrutiny of judges. We **EXPOSE** our findings to the broadest possible audience, sharing publications and powerful visual content with global media outlets and 13 million social media followers. To ensure concrete, lasting **CHANGE**, we mobilize the public through campaigns, offer policymakers realistic solutions, and monitor implementation of reforms.

Anita, 19, in Tanzania, was forced by her father to leave school and marry when she was 16 years old.  $\odot$  2014 Marcus Bleasdale for Human Rights Watch

## Our Approach in Action: Championing Equal Access to Education in Tanzania

Around the world, the rights of millions of children are undermined because they are poor and female. For decades, Tanzania completely banned pregnant girls and young mothers from school. Education authorities and teachers tested girls for pregnancy, expelling them sometimes on the day of their final exam. The result was humiliation, stigmatization, and an implosion of opportunities. Change took time, but we stayed with the issue until Tanzania reversed course.

### INVESTIGATE

We started investigating the impact of child marriage and early pregnancy on girls' access to education in Tanzania in 2014. We spoke with children, parents, students, teachers, education experts, Tanzanian activists, and government officials, and we meticulously documented the barriers to education that adolescent girls, particularly young mothers and pregnant students, faced.

### **EXPOSE**

We released **three reports** on discriminatory policies and practices that expelled pregnant or married girls from schools. We followed up with more than **40 publications** on the right to education in Tanzania, including news releases, commentaries, videos of girls describing their personal experiences, and letters to policymakers and African Union officials calling for equal access to education. In addition, we reached the Tanzanian and East African public through **social media**, including Twitter Spaces with activists.

### CHANGE

Along with civil society partners, we engaged in strategic advocacy. We brought our findings to the Tanzanian government and called for an end to the ban on schooling for pregnant girls and young mothers. We urged the World Bank to make sure its significant loan to Tanzania would promote access to education for all girls. It took years, but change is finally here. As of November 2021, adolescent mothers in Tanzania **are allowed to return to school—a major victory for girls' rights.**  "Educating girls changes their lives. Educated and empowered girls will lift their families, communities, and countries out of poverty."

### Mausi Segun

Executive Director, Africa Division

Then-senior researcher Mausi Segun (right), Human Rights Watch Africa executive director, interviews women in a camp for internally displaced persons Maiduguri, Nigeria. © 2015 Human Rights Watch





Firefighters work to put out flames in the aftermath of a massive explosion at the port in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4, 2020. © Lorenzo Tugnoli/The Washington Post/Contrasto

# **TURNING DARK DAYS INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE**

Personal Story by Lama Fakih

On August 4, 2020, one of the biggest non-nuclear blasts in history tore through Beirut and shattered my living room windows. My husband, 3-year-old daughter, and 4-month-old son, who were with me, survived. But the explosion destroyed our sense of safety and the sacredness of our home. Others lost lives or limbs, their houses and businesses reduced to rubble.

By some miracle, my two colleagues who lived at the epicenter happened to be out of town. In the following days and weeks, we were determined to seek justice. We monitored police violence against protestors who were demanding accountability for the more than 200 dead and 300,000 displaced.

So-through electricity cuts, hours-long lines at gas stations, and a dwindling sense of order—we traced responsibility ourselves. By the first anniversary of the blast, we released "They Killed Us from the Inside"—the most comprehensive accounting yet of official responsibility for the explosion.

Soon after, I learned that, during our investigation, an unidentified government had used Pegasus surveillance software to infect **my phone.** For months, they had watched me, recorded my conversations, and snatched my personal photos and data. They were using me—through the phone I carried everywhere—to spy on the people who were speaking with us, to intimidate all of us, and to undermine our work. I felt powerless.

As a researcher, and later a director, at Human Rights Watch, I've spent years asking survivors to turn the darkest days of their lives into opportunities for truth, justice, and change. That's how we work.

Now, it was my turn to expose my vulnerability. In the weeks and months that followed, I shared my story repeatedly with the media. It boosted our advocacy not only for better regulation of surveillance technologies but for accountability for the Beirut explosion.



By February, when the Lebanese judge appointed to investigate the cause of the blast was dismissed, we feared nobody would pay a price for letting 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a ticking time bomb, sit at the heart of Beirut for nearly 6 years.

As we press onward toward an international investigation of Beirut's tragedy, I have a new perspective on the chorus of victims who are raising their voices for human rights.

Lama Fakih Middle East and North Africa Director **1**@lamamfakih

# THREE DECADES OF FEARLESS AND COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP



Ken Roth holds up the Human Rights Watch World Report at the United Nations in New York City, United States, January 2020. © 2020 Reuters/Carlo Allegri

When Ken Roth cared about something, he would not take no for an answer. He was told, early in his tenure as executive director of Human Rights Watch, that a goal of doubling the budget was impossible. He achieved it in two years. He was told that wartime abuses were beyond the purview of human rights defenders. He pursued them vigorously, helping to expand the set of rules that limits harm to civilians. He was told that simultaneously growing thematically and geographically would weaken our clout. Nonetheless, he pioneered the creation of divisions on women's rights, LGBT rights, and disability rights. In doing so, he broadened the scope of the human rights movement.

Ken excelled at scanning the globe, spotting trends, and facing down despots who violated human rights. Under his leadership, Human Rights Watch became the world's go-to organization for journalists, policymakers, and citizens looking for reliable, unbiased, and legally grounded information about human rights.

Human Rights Watch grew tenfold—to more than 550 staff covering 100 countries—as Ken refined his vision to expand the organization's reach and impact. During his three decades as executive director, Human Rights Watch staff helped forge a declaration protecting schools and education from military attack, as well as treaties creating the International Criminal Court, safeguarding domestic workers, and banning cluster munitions, child soldiers, and landmines. As a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Human Rights Watch shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.

Perhaps Ken's most precious legacy is the team of exceptional people that he assembled. Inspired by his intellect, charisma, and determination, Human Rights Watch staff continue to break boundaries. Their commitment and compassion will enable us to keep achieving meaningful human rights progress.

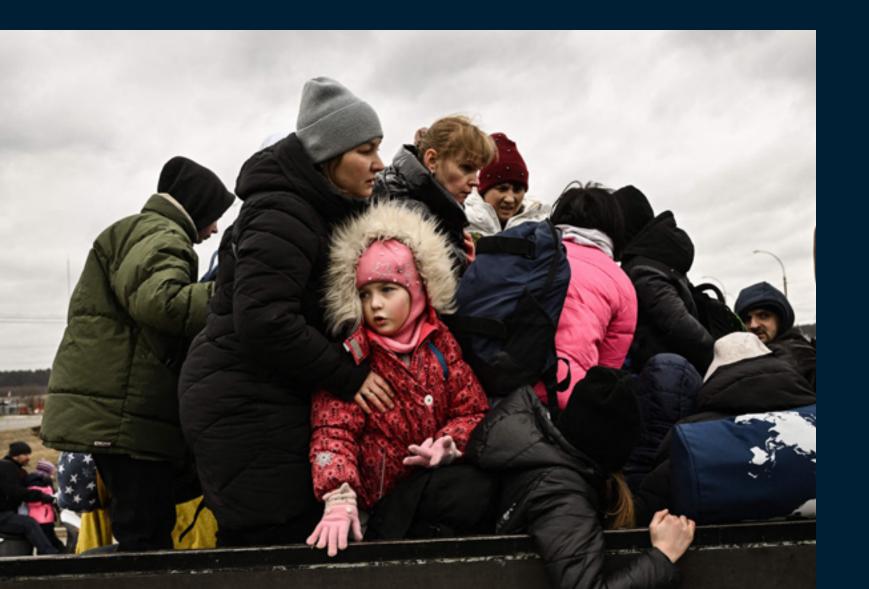
In recognition of Ken's enormous contributions to the human rights movement, we are establishing the Ken Roth Global Fellowship for Human Rights-open to activists from around the world. Fellows will spend two years working with our staff on projects to address urgent challenges facing the movement.

With tremendous appreciation and admiration,

Umy / Rav.

Amy Rao Board Co-Chair

**Neil Rimer** Board Co-Chair



# ADDRESSING **GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

The war in Ukraine has resulted in thousands of civilian deaths and injuries, forced 13 million people from their homes, and damaged countless hospitals, schools, and other infrastructure. The consequences are reverberating around the world, fueling market disruptions, food shortages, and a cost-of-living crisis of unprecedented proportion.

People flee the city of Irpin, Ukraine, northwest of Kyiv, during heavy shelling and bombing on March 5, 2022. © 2022 Aris Messinis/AFP via Getty Images

### **PROTECTING CIVILIANS**

With a presence in Kyiv, and until recently Moscow, Human Rights Watch has long been a leading voice on human rights in the region. When Russia launched a full-scale military invasion in February, we deployed staff from across the organization to document potential war crimes and rights abuses. Our regional experts and emergency-response researchers conducted interviews with victims and witnesses in Ukraine and neighboring countries. A team of remote researchers, including weaponry and technology experts, examined munition remnants, satellite data, drone imagery, and open-source material. Our global media, advocacy, and legal experts worked around the clock to tell the world what was happening and to demand accountability.

We released 83 publications on torture, summary executions, indiscriminate attacks, enforced disappearances, prisoner-of-war abuses, forced civilian transfers to Russia, and use of banned weaponry. We investigated food shortages and risks of refugee trafficking abroad. Our steady stream of in-depth reporting and visual storytelling generated massive media coverage, and our work in partnership with Ukrainian activists and international groups helped shift policies.

- Our first report on apparent Russian war crimes in occupied areas resulted in **700,000 web visits**, hundreds of press interviews, and some 4,000 media citations across 81 countries.
- We helped lead the United Nations Human Rights • Council (HRC) to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.
- With partners, we convinced officials to release **migrants** from a Ukrainian detention facility, days before a Russian attack.

### **PURSUING JUSTICE**

Russia's history of conducting indiscriminate attacks—in Chechnya, Syria, and Ukraine—portends a persistent heavy toll on civilians. Our staff, in partnership, will continue to complete investigations, influence policies, and promote justice. We will work to:

- Ensure protection for civilians.
- End laws-of-war violations and other serious human rights abuses.
- Promote justice and meaningful accountability for war crimes.

Addressing the human rights challenges of war and securing reparations and accountability for grave crimes is a long, arduous endeavor. Yet when we join together with compassion and resolve, we can help protect civilians and bring justice to victims of war.

- We helped prompt civilian evacuations from the besieged city of Mariupol.
- Our behind-the-scenes advocacy was key to Russia's suspension from the HRC.
- A Bulgarian telecommunications provider implemented our proposal to give children who have fled Ukraine free access to online textbooks.
- We met with Twitter, convincing the company to change its policy and remove abusive prisoner-ofwar images from its platform.

- Counter Russian disinformation about alleged war crimes.
- Support freedom of speech and press—and civil society activism—in Russia.

# **IMPACT** Securing Justice for the Worst Crimes

The war in Syria has dragged on for more than a decade, killing at least 350,000 people, forcing half of the country's population—some 13 million people—to abandon their homes, and leaving 12 million in desperate need of food and aid. The Assad government has regularly committed war crimes, including indiscriminate bombing, as a central part of its strategy. While progress toward justice is rarely quick, a decade on, our sustained efforts in partnership with local activists and international lawyers led to a landmark victory for victims and survivors.

### Leveraging the Enduring Power of Facts

- Since the conflict in Syria erupted in 2012, we have meticulously **documented various actors' callous disregard for civilian life**. We seek to document wartime abuses swiftly—marshalling media attention, urging rights protections, and laying the groundwork for justice.
- As prospects for fair trials in Syria proved unlikely, we **promoted alternative avenues to justice**, including through the legal principle of universal jurisdiction— which allows countries to prosecute grave abuses in their national courts, regardless of where the crimes were committed.
- Partnering with survivors, lawyers, and activists, we helped build momentum for the use of universal jurisdiction laws across Europe. We examined and reported on German and Swedish efforts to tackle crimes in Syria as early as 2017 and urged more and better cases.

Outside a courthouse in Koblenz, Germany, Syrian activist Wafa Mustafa holds a photograph of her father, who was forcibly disappeared in Syria. © 2020 Thomas Lohnes/AFP via Getty Images

- In 2020 a court in Koblenz, Germany, took up a case of state-sponsored torture by Syrian authorities, putting two former intelligence officials on trial. The arrival of large numbers of Syrian refugees in Germany gave authorities access to victims, witnesses, and material evidence. They could also turn to more than a decade of documentation by Human Rights Watch and others.
- To popularize, contextualize, and personalize the struggle for justice in Syria, we promoted the voices of those most affected and the significance of the trial beyond the courtroom. Our publications, including a question-and-answer document, numerous articles, and an interactive feature, helped shape media coverage to include the perspectives of survivors and raised new hope for justice.
- During the ground-breaking Koblenz trial, **prosecutors** relied on two of our Syria reports. The court convicted both former Syrian officials—the first for aiding and abetting crimes against humanity and the second for crimes against humanity.

The Koblenz case stands as a beacon of hope that, through perseverance, justice can prevail—whether in Syria, Ukraine, or elsewhere.

Venezuela is in crisis, with millions unable to access basic healthcare and adequate nutrition. The government has cracked down on dissent, repressing protests with brute force. Its initial denial of the crisis and continuing harassment of Venezuelan aid groups and service providers have constrained their capacity to respond. More than 6.8 million Venezuelans have fled, generating one of the largest migration crises globally.

### **Securing International Action on Venezuela**

- We helped get aid flowing. For years, we documented the barriers the government was creating to delivery of assistance. Visiting hospitals and food lines—and collaborating with healthcare workers and relief agencies—we compiled evidence of malnutrition and medical shortages. Teaming up with public health experts from Johns Hopkins University, we published repeatedly on malnutrition, communicable diseases, and mortality rates.
- On the day we presented findings of our second • We helped prompt international scrutiny of grave report with Johns Hopkins to the United Nations violations. We shared our findings on abuses by Security Council, Secretary-General António Venezuelan security forces with the International Guterres—who had long prioritized silent diplomacy on the matter-publicly acknowledged that opened an investigation. Our intensive advocacy millions of Venezuelans urgently needed aid. We helped bring about the UN Fact-Finding Mission on kept encouraging the UN to step up with a strong, Venezuela, with which we now work closely. Both bodies have documented evidence of possible crimes apolitical humanitarian response, and by July of 2022, the World Food Program was serving meals, against humanity. at schools, to 203,000 people in Venezuela's interior, where malnutrition is most dire. Their goal Restoring rights protections—and securing justice is to reach 1.5 million by the end of the 2022-2023 takes time. But our relentless investigations and academic year. sustained advocacy are raising the cost of abuses and boosting efforts to improve the humanitarian situation.

Members of the Bolivarian National Police detain a demonstrator at an anti-government protest in Caracas, Venezuela, March 22, 2014. © 2014 Juan Hernandez/NurPhoto/Corbis via Getty Images

# **IMPACT**

Exposing Venezuela's Repression and Humanitarian Crisis

- We helped get legal status abroad for Venezuelans. The United States and Brazil both repeatedly cited our research when adopting measures giving Venezuelans authorization to work: Brazil recognized Venezuelan asylum seekers as refugees without a need for interviews, and the US granted Venezuelans temporary protected status, eventually extending it to 2024. As of May 2022, some 76,000 Venezuelans had received protection in the US.
- Criminal Court prosecutor, who, in November 2021,



While responding to crises in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and beyond, we continue to promote the rights of the most marginalized people around the world. We speak to those affected, document evidence of abuse, call out discriminatory policies and practices, and urge governments to protect vulnerable groups.

### **Promoting Equal Rights for All**

- In 2021, British Columbia, Canada, endured a recordbreaking heatwave that killed 619 people—mostly older people and people with disabilities. Our report showed that lack of government support for at-risk populations contributed to unnecessary suffering and possibly deaths. Media coverage of it, and our continuing advocacy, prompted officials, in 2022, to investigate the deaths, consult with affected communities, and dedicate funding for heat planning.
- In **Kuwait**, our researchers found that a law criminalizing An estimated 200,000 people in Kabwe, Zambia, "imitating the opposite sex" green-lighted authorities' live in lead-contaminated townships—blanketed for physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of transgender decades by dust from an old mine. Half the children women. Lawyers for transgender people used our have such high lead levels in their blood that they documentation in a complaint, and Kuwait's Supreme require urgent medical intervention. We found children, Court, in February 2022, ruled the law unconstitutional. in 2019, suffering memory loss and headaches. Authorities attacked our research as an attempt to discredit the government, but we kept urging action, traditional communities' livelihoods. It is often and in March 2022, the new government of President the role of **women** to ensure that a household has Hakainde Hichilema committed to setting up a enough to eat, and as palm-oil producers drain land committee to guide a mine cleanup.
- The draining of wetlands in **Indonesia** is undermining and absorb resources, the task gets harder. Our documentation helped move authorities to launch an Step by step, we are working toward a world in which investigation of palm plantations that had illegally no one is left behind because of who they are-a world acquired and held land. in which governments serve the needs of their people.

Women hold hands during the Tokyo Rainbow Pride parade in Japan in April 2019. © 2019 Alessandro Di Ciommo/NurPhoto via Getty Images

• In **Poland**, we documented border guards' routine practice of pushing back **asylum seekers** crossing from Belarus. The Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights filed suit in a Warsaw court, asserting that a 2021 law allowing returns without assessment of people's claims violated their right to seek asylum. The court cited Human Rights Watch research on unlawful pushbacks when it ruled, in June 2022, in favor of the plaintiffs.

# **PROMOTING DIVERSITY**, **EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

At Human Rights Watch, we believe that embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)—both in our internal culture and our global human rights work—is critical to our ability to defend human rights and promote justice. This year, we welcomed Minjon Tholen as our inaugural Global Head of DEI and launched a strategy to translate our commitment into concrete, meaningful change. Our overarching goal is to cultivate DEI as a core value and competency, and operationalize it in everything we do.

### **DEI PRINCIPLES**

#### Integrity

As a global human rights organization, we have a responsibility to ensure values-alignment in all that we do. DEI is core to our ability to deliver on our mission with integrity, credibility, innovation, and sustainability.

#### Self-reflection

We are acutely aware that the legacies of colonialism, enslavement, global-north dominance, white supremacy, and other international and local systemic forces have shaped the world we work in as well as the human rights space, including organizations such as ours. We embrace our role in dismantling harmful traditions and forging a new path forward.

#### Tenacity

We are dedicated to addressing challenges, learning, and growing with honesty, and to adapting and innovating with courage and determination.

Rohingya children play football at a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, host to nearly a million Rohingya Muslims forced out of Myanmar, © 2018 Munir Uz Zaman/AFP via Getty Image

#### Transformation

DEI is integral to broader organizational transformation and cultural change. In addition to embedding DEI in our staff trainings, policies, and talent management processes, we seek to ensure that DEI values shape our research, advocacy, and partnerships, as well as our fundraising and engagement with external audiences, and our participation in the wider movement.

#### Accountability

DEI requires collaboration, shared ownership, and accountability. It is a team effort. To identify goals, develop initiatives, and monitor progress, our DEI Office works closely with a DEI staff taskforce, departmentlevel DEI working groups, senior leadership, supporter networks, external experts, and our Board of Directors.

Embedding DEI as a principle and practice in all tangible progress.

\*\* Partnerships are key to defending human rights. Georgian partners take the lead in providing local expertise and knowledge, while Human Rights Watch brings its advocacy network and institutional knowledge. The result has been a strong, sustainable, and equitable alliance. Together, we moved the Georgian parliament to strengthen the country's Labor Inspectorate and expand critical protections for workers."

### Eto Gvritishvili

Coordinator, Georgia Fair Labor Platform ✔@et00o

# SYNERGIES FOR CHANGE

In all our work, partnerships with groups operating at the national or community level are vital. Our partners typically have deep knowledge of human rights abuses and strong ties to affected communities. When we pool our skills, expertise, and resources, we boost our capacity to realize sustainable human rights progress.

Building the trust essential to effective partnerships In emergency situations, we complement the work of takes time. Human Rights Watch is committed to humanitarian groups and support their efforts to save collaborating respectfully and transparently. We train lives and meet urgent needs. Humanitarian partners our staff to respond intentionally to power imbalances, often refrain from publicly criticizing governments and we create space, in partnerships, for dialog, to avoid jeopardizing their ability to deliver critical strategic planning, and rigorous self-assessment. assistance. We work with them to understand the obstacles to aid delivery and, where appropriate, To ensure genuine collaborations, we actively listen and use our media presence and advocacy leverage to outline the steps authorities should take to facilitate

humanitarian work.

To ensure genuine collaborations, we actively listen and learn, deferring to the knowledge and experience of our partners as we determine our role. We may provide guidance and support completely under the radar. Or we may use our global media contacts, advocacy networks, and proximity to decision makers to amplify our partners' voices.

Coal miners work in the Mindeli mine in Tkibuli, Georgia, in 2010. Years of deregulation have left Georgian workers without adequate protection. © 2010 Reuters/David Mdzinarishvili



Protesters oppose a government-proposed tax reform on International Workers' Day, in Bogota, Colombia, May 1, 2021. © 2021 AP Photo/Fernando Vergara

### **THANK YOU**

I joined Human Rights Watch on May 2 and am enjoying every moment! I am energized by the passion and commitment of colleagues, partners, and supporters, and feel so grateful to be part of this extraordinary community.

Coming from a humanitarian aid background, I am convinced that human rights values are critical to protecting everyone, now and in future generations. I have always had the greatest respect and admiration for what Human Rights Watch achieves in addressing abuses.

Recently, with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, I was particularly inspired by the role the organization played in documenting and explaining violations of women's rights and their relationship to the country's humanitarian crisis. The work fundamentally shaped the media narrative about the plight of women and girls, and it encouraged governments and international institutions to prioritize safe passage for people at extreme risk and to innovate ways to deliver essential aid.

As humanity faces the problems of conflict, poverty, and environmental decline, it is easy to despair. Yet in working with many of you over the past few months, I am confident in the strength and power of our movement.

Human Rights Watch accepts no government funding and could not exist without people like you; you enable us to protect human rights for all!

I thank you wholeheartedly for your engagement and support, and look forward to continuing our work together.



Valentin lose\_

Valentina Rosa Chief Development Officer

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The Legacies for Justice Society is a special group of supporters who have made estate plans or established life-income gifts to benefit Human Rights Watch. Membership in the Society is bestowed without regard to gift level, as each commitment represents a lifetime pledge to Human Rights Watch that expresses both the desire for a world that is just and the future of what is possible through philanthropy. We are pleased to welcome the following supporters who have pledged a legacy commitment to Human Rights Watch this past year. (For a full list of our over 1,300 Legacies for Justice members, please visit <u>legacy.hrw.org</u>).

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Jennifer Coluccio Terry Cosgrove Sharon Crumpton Tristan Curry Melissa Dane **Misty Daniels** Miltiadhis Deli Harvey Dessel Laurie Dobbs lavde Edmonds Travis Edmonds Matthew Eller William Ellis Jeanne Elmhorst Micaela Enderle Eric Epstein Melissa Eustace David M. Finkel John Finley Shani Friedman Samantha Fritts Jeffrey Galli Clyde Gasser Holly Gosselink Howard P. Greisler, M.D. **Rachel Griffith** Jeremy Groth Patrick Guiney Andrew Hampton Amanda Hapke Cyrus Hardy Linda Hardy Raini Heap Larry Hedrick Harold Hjalmarson Ida Hjalmarson Cvnthia Hunt Sharron Hunter Daniel Hurworth Michael Hynes-Adkins John Ihrke Hannah Ingle Kenton Ireland Leslie Jablonski Angela Jacobs Amy Jahnke Peter James Samuel Jennings Nora Johnson

### LEGACIES FOR JUSTICE

Kaitlin Jones Albert Kalnay Dmitriy Kinnard Amber Krause Aahd Kubbara Donald & Sherry Lafler Rosina Lardieri Kay Ellis Lida Lewis Anne Lihau-N'Kanza Richard Linsenberg Kristina Loew Stephanie Lynch **Raven Mackins** Corv Mccollett Linda Mccoy Therese Mcintyre Kelsi Means Travis Means Clayton Miller Taraneh Moll Miranda Monet Ana Montero Jose Montero Bryant Moore Michael Moore Carla Berg Ronald Nickel Andre Nieuwendam Cheryl Nieuwendam Jeremy Paget Adrienne Palm Pavan Pamidimarri Linda Passmore **Benjamin Peterson** David Peterson Kenneth Pickel Thomas Pileggi David Posado Lauren Powell Carl Prather Brandon Price Christopher Reed Louisa Lee-Reizes and Justin Reizes James Reynolds Susan Roads Mary Ann Robbat Phillip Rock

Susan Rock Howard Rogers Xandria Rusiana-Tran Christina Salguero Ivar Sanders Delfin Santiago Sussanna Santiago Marshall Saul Terri Saul Wayne Schexnayder, Jr. Carole Schilling Jeanne Schlesinger Lisa Sebastian James Seeman Garahetta Sell leff Sherman Randall Sherman (Ranen Omer-Sherman) Jennifer Shippee Paul Shippee Nancy Shivers Kenneth Simon Caitlin Slaughter Laura Slusarczyk Cynthia Sumer Jeffrey Surratt Iohn Swanev Nancy Swaney Nancy Sympson Paul Thuring-Anderson Hannah Toups Angel Trathen Horace Tuggle, Sr. Mattie Tuggle Meredith Van De Velde **James Vanells Brandy Vera** Kaylen Ward Jasmine Watt Ariel Weatherly Lynne Louise Weborg Nora White Maria Williams James Wood Sonya Wood Takescha Wright Jessica Wrigley Ransom Wvdner Brooke Yuskanich

# **FINANCIALS**

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Human Rights Watch's financial health remains stable. In the financial year ending June 30, 2022, we raised USD 95.5 million in revenue. Roughly 82 percent of this funding goes directly to our programmatic work to defend and promote human rights around the world. Our total organizational expenses grew by 9 percent, to USD 100 million, as we phased out pandemic-era cost-saving measures, such as vacancy and travel freezes, to expand both our programmatic and fundraising efforts. We were able to manage the deficit thanks to our reserve and endowment fund, which help to ensure our financial sustainability as we navigate through these uncertain economic times. We are immensely grateful to our strong community of supporters for their generosity and partnership in our movement for change.

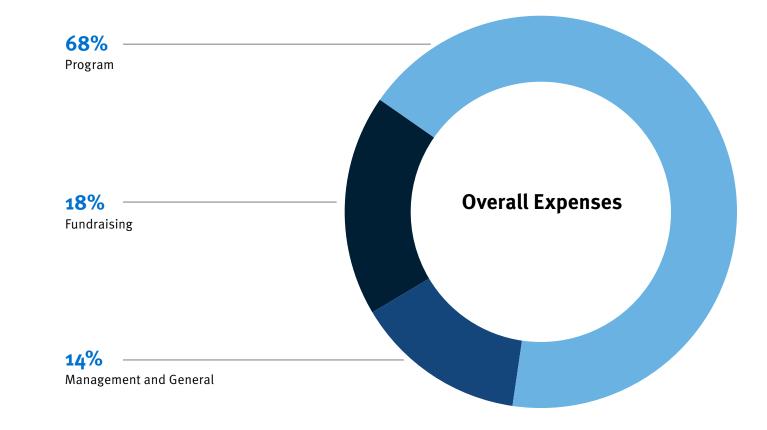
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

38,413,291	(7,305,646)
425,490	120,376
26,722	25,080
7,675	9,557
37,953,404	(7,460,659)
91,239,352	90,472,975
(672,125)	(1,930,730)
5,635,857	11,862,090
82,805,833 3,469,787	79,427,408 1,114,207
2021 FY	2022 FY
USD	USD
_	<b>2021 FY</b> 82,805,833 3,469,787 5,635,857 (672,125) <b>91,239,352</b> 37,953,404 7,675 26,722 425,490

#### **EXPENSES**

Program Services		
Africa	7,859,596	7,452,748
Americas	2,807,396	3,695,560
Asia	7,710,675	9,858,667
Europe and Central Asia	5,548,426	6,938,375
Middle East and North Africa	5,215,318	6,632,390
United States	2,889,748	3,738,641
Children's Rights	3,632,213	4,451,528
Women's Rights	3,190,977	3,924,955
Disability Rights	2,638,243	3,042,688
LGBT Rights	1,989,871	2,602,772
Other programs	20,230,143	15,147,522
Total Program Services	63,712,606	67,485,846
Supporting Services		
Management and general	10,561,606	14,097,337
Fundraising	16,948,239	18,211,177
Total Supporting Services	27,509,845	32,308,514
Total Expenses	91,222,451	99,794,360
Change in Net Assets before foreign currency translation (loss) gain	38,430,192	(16,627,031)
Cummulative Translation Adjustment	2,263,662	(2,139,487)
Change in Net Assets	40,693,854	(18,766,518)
Net Assets:		
Beginning of Year	205,522,881	246,216,735
End of Year	246,216,735	227,450,217

### **EFFICIENCY**



### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

#### **ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents Investments Contributions receivable, net Prepaid expenses and other assets Fixed assets, net

#### **Total Assets**

Liabilities and Net Assets Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued expenses Deferred rent

#### **Total Liabilities**

Commitments and contingencies Net Assets: Without Donor Restrictions With Donor Restrictions

#### **Total Net Assets**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** 

A complete version of the Human Rights Watch financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 is available at: HRW.org/financials

USD	
2021 FY	
38,327,353	
189,446,174	
18,020,488	
3,601,894	
7,209,018	
256,604,927	
6,997,105	
3,391,087	
10,388,192	
28,233,741	
217,982,994	
246,216,735	
256,604,927	
	2021 FY 38,327,353 189,446,174 18,020,488 3,601,894 7,209,018 256,604,927 6,997,105 3,391,087 10,388,192 28,233,741 217,982,994 246,216,735

# **2022 IN NUMBERS**

### OUR ORGANIZATION

STAFF 550+ staff **79** nationalities **33** registered offices worldwide

FINANCES 47K donors globally **105M** annual budget (USD) **ZERO** government funding

### **OUR WORK**

INVESTIGATE Research covering **100** countries **5K** publications

EXPOSE

**33M** website visits **13M** social media followers 412K media mentions in 92 languages across 198 countries

### CHANGE

**35** advocates covering **17** regional and thematic divisions 20 campaigns and initiatives reaching 29M people and mobilizing **160K** actions

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Tirana Hassan, Acting Executive Director Sari Bashi, Program Director Wisla Heneghan, Deputy Executive Director / Chief Operating Officer Colin Mincy, Chief People Officer Valentina Rosa, Chief Development Officer For additional senior management and expert staff, please visit: HRW.org/about/people

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Creative Direction: Malena Seldin Design: Martin Bell, Mika Okada, Aziz Zakhia Donor Recognition: Jennifer Cho, Sofia Mateu-Gelabert, Lesley Washington Photo Editing: Remy Arthur, Veronica Matushaj Project Management: Ashley Pria Persaud Translation: Sarah Leblois, Aya Watanabe Translation Coordination: Sophie Hilal, Manon Ngadi, Sakiko Senda Writing and Copy Editing: Margaret Knox, Nicole Vloeimans

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Human Rights Watch Annual Report 2022 is inclusive of the organization's work and reflective of its supporters from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. © 2022 Human Rights Watch. All rights reserved.

Cover image: Afghan girls leave Zarghona High School in Kabul, Afghanistan, in September 2021. After the Taliban returned to power, they ordered boys' secondary schools-but not girls'-to reopen, creating a de facto ban that has blocked most adolescent girls from attending school. As of November 2022, the ban remained in place. © 2021 Paula Bronstein/Getty Images



Human Rights Watch neets all standards of the tter Business Bureau