



ДЕТИ

IMPACT REPORT
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH SCANDINAVIA
INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSEN
SEPTEMBER 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2023



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ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH SCANDINAVIA INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSEN

Human Rights Watch Scandinavia Insamlingsstiftelsen (hereinafter HRW Scandinavia) was established in 2015 with the 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 the Nordic countries strong human rights culture to effect lasting improvements for victims of abuses worldwide. HRW Scandinavia collaborates closely with other parts of Human Rights Watch and shares its mission.

To accomplish its aims, HRW Scandinavia fundraises and organizes larger public and smaller private events throughout the year. It promotes publicity for Human Rights Watch research through local media and supports local language websites. HRW Scandinavia regularly engages with decision-makers in government and other sectors as part of the organization's advocacy work.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S WORK

Human Rights Watch Inc. is a non-profit, nongovernmental human rights organization that was established in 1978. Our headquarters in New York closely coordinates with a network of 13 independent sister charities that share its name (hereinafter “Human Rights Watch”), including HRW Scandinavia. This network encompasses some 550 human rights professionals, including country experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.



Stockholm Voices for Justice Dinner 2023

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 1,000 reports, news releases, dispatches, and briefings on human rights conditions in some 100 countries, generating extensive coverage in both 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 Scandinavia participates in these activities whenever effective strategy calls for its involvement.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH METHOD



1. We investigate

Human Rights Watch is 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

Human Rights Watch is a media production and broadcasting powerhouse with the capacity to activate media coverage and mobilise audiences. All researchers in the Human Rights Watch network, including those serving HRW Scandinavia, publish their findings in the form of reports, news releases, 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 and opinion pieces worldwide. Our work is cited in the media some 6,000 times weekly.

3. We bring change

Following the identification and publication of human rights abuses, advocates for HRW Scandinavia and Human Rights Watch work closely with local authorities and organizations 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 advocates in our network is to ensure that human rights are upheld worldwide and to promote justice and positive change.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCANDINAVIA

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

Growing HRW's Presence in Scandinavia

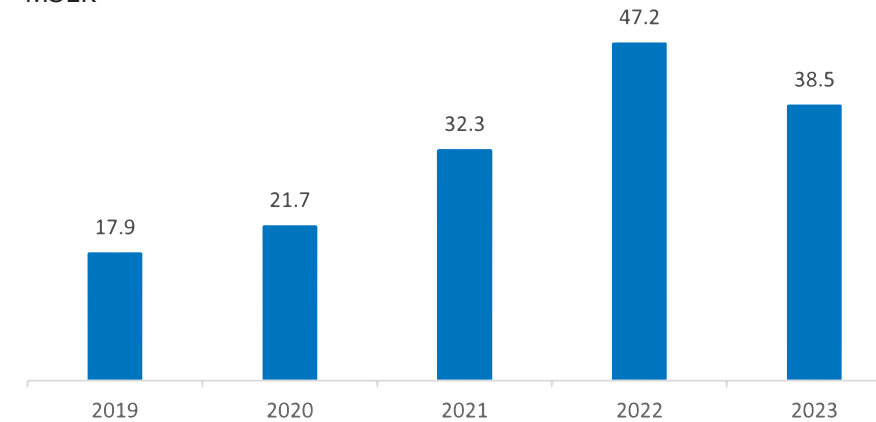
The past year was marked by crisis and conflict advocacy, with fighting and unrest in various parts of the world. Human Rights Watch engaged in securing the rights and lives for civilians at risk in the continuous war in Ukraine, in the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan in April 2023, and during protests and increased violence in Iran, following the death of Mahsa Jina Amini, in September 2022.

Over the year, HRW Scandinavia has intensified strategic advocacy with the Nordic countries. Following government transitions over the year in Sweden, Denmark and Finland, advocacy has aimed at approaching and establishing relations with the new governments to convince them to adopt right-respecting policies.

The dominating foreign policy priority for the Nordic governments has been the war in Ukraine, and HRW Scandinavia has engaged in advocacy and media outreach on key issues such as accountability for war crimes, civilians including children transferred from Ukraine to Russia, migration, sanctions and the increased human rights repression in Russia.

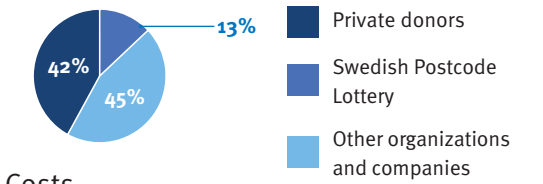
Sweden assumed the Presidency of the European Union the first half of 2023. HRW Scandinavia engaged through meetings, letters and bringing experts to Sweden for private conversation to raise the issue of Rule of Law, to ensure that Sweden made efforts to ensure that EU defend principles of rule of law, human rights and democracy are fully respected by all EU member states.

Funds raised 2019-2023*
MSEK

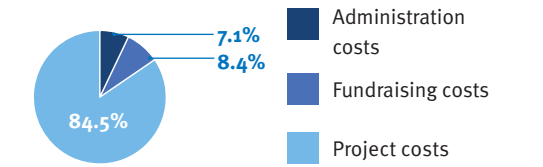


Fiscal Year 23

Donations



Costs



*All figures above have been adjusted to reflect the total revenue reported in the annual accounts

In the running up to FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022, HRW Scandinavia conducted targeted outreach in the Nordics to highlight the abuses against migrant workers, and abuses in Qatar including towards the LGBT community. Together with civil society, football associations, sponsors and the media, HRW led a call to establish a fund for compensation to injured migrant workers, or to families of deceased migrant workers. Despite some limited positive examples of reform in Qatar for migrant workers, many issues remain unresolved and will require continued advocacy.

Over the year, HRW Scandinavia engaged in around 100 advocacy meetings, on a broad range of human rights crises, including Afghanistan, China, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sudan and Syria; 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.

Human Rights Watch experienced a continued strong interest from the public to support the organization’s cause, including a new SEK 19.5M grant from the Postcode Lottery to a joint project together with Civil Rights Defenders on the rights of migrants. HRW

Scandinavia continued to develop the community of supporters in Stockholm and Denmark. The Stockholm and Copenhagen Committees engaged in outreach efforts throughout Sweden and Copenhagen to diversify and broaden the group of supporters.

The HRW Creators Society network, based in Sweden, continued to expand and develop under the leadership of dancer and activist Ina Dowland Herera, by establishing new collaborations with exciting and brilliant artists, including artist LUCIA, actress Sofia Karemyr, and fashion designer Louise Xin. Louise, together with HRW Creators Society, arranged a fashion show and drama appearance with survivors of forced labor, in the European Parliament, on the occasion of the first negotiation on a new EU Regulation aiming at banning trade with goods manufactured by forced labor. The event drew global media attention to the issue of forced labor and was combined with targeted advocacy in key European capitals.

The Next Generation network, gathering supporters between 18-35 years, continued to grow and plan events, run social media communications, and helped spread awareness of human rights issues.

IMPACT AROUND THE GLOBE



Protecting Human Rights During the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, more than 9,614 killed and 17,535 injured as of 10 September, and some 14 million have fled their homes. Russian forces have bombarded the country, terrorizing communities and destroying civilian infrastructure. Both Russia and Ukraine appear to have used indiscriminate weapons, including antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions, the harmful effects of which could far outlast the war. Militarism now dominates Russia's political agenda, and the government has met domestic and international criticism with unprecedented crackdowns, not only on opponents of the conflict but on all dissident and non-conformist voices.

Human Rights Watch responded swiftly to the unfolding crisis by adding essential on-the-ground research capacity and expertise on open-source investigations, spatial research, and 3D modelling. We worked to identify command responsibility for possible war crimes and built a solid evidence base for future justice and accountability. Our researchers have documented war-related abuses on the ground in Ukraine and from afar, conducting remote digital investigations to document, analyze, and reconstruct attacks. We were also able to counter the Kremlin's disinformation campaigns, exposing its lies by publishing our fact-based research and translating and disseminating our materials to Russian audiences.

Since February 2022 we have produced 118 publications on the war: reports, news releases, op-eds, Q&A's, videos, and multimedia features. We have shared them on our website, which garners over 30 million visits a year, and across our social media channels, which have a combined following of 14 million. Media including The Washington Post, Reuters, The New York Times, Der Spiegel, Das

Erste, NZZ Magazine, and CNN have mentioned our work thousands of times. We also shared our findings and recommendations with global media and policymakers, collaborated with Ukrainian civil society partners, and supported various accountability efforts.

Our on-the-ground and digital evidence-gathering and meticulous analysis of war-related abuses are now being used to secure justice, including in the issuance of international arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Children's Rights Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova. Other progress includes the signing of a global declaration to protect civilians from explosive weapons, and a commitment by Ukraine to investigate its use of banned landmines.

In the coming year, with the same vigor and determination, we will document abuses in Ukraine as they occur, promote civilian protection, advance accountability, and support Russian civil society activists under threat.

Education for Children in Emergencies and Crises

Education is a fundamental human right and one of the most powerful tools for enhancing children's lives. Education improves children's health and their standard of living, protects them from exploitation and abuse, and expands their future opportunities and participation in civic life. It lifts children out of poverty, reduces inequality, and helps build strong, sustainable societies.

Human Rights Watch calls on governments to ensure that every child can realize their right to an education, including those most likely to be excluded due to poverty, discrimination, disability, or refugee status. We pursue new areas of research to expand children's rights to meet the needs of today's world. We build strong coalitions with humanitarian groups, global organizations, and activists worldwide to increase the reach and power of our combined message. Together, we successfully push for changes that improve lives:

- As a founding member 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 for military purposes. Since its 2015 launch, 118 countries have endorsed the declaration. Under the commitments of the declaration and accompanying guidelines, we now see countries restricting military use of schools, creating space for children to attend school safely.

- Our report on government-endorsed **education technology (EdTech)** products that have violated children's rights, inspired policymakers and companies in nine countries to institute changes that are protecting millions of children in online classrooms.
- Following our reporting and advocacy in partnership with Tanzanian activists and organizations, **the Tanzanian government lifted a discriminatory ban on schooling for pregnant students and adolescent mothers**, pledged to forbid involuntary pregnancy testing, and committed to directing schools to allow pregnant girls and adolescent mothers to attend.

Despite key advancements, governments are failing to ensure that all children have access to free, quality education. The Covid-19 pandemic and widespread school shutdowns damaged children's education across the globe and exacerbated inequalities that already prevented millions of children from accessing education. In response, we are calling for a **new UN treaty that will expand the right to education**. We are also continuing to address specific barriers at the national level that prevent children from attending school.



Displaced Yemeni children attend class in a school building, in the western province of Hodeidah. © 2021 KHALED ZIAD/AFP via Getty Images



Documenting Human Rights Abuses

The Digital Investigations Lab (DIL) at Human Rights Watch conducts groundbreaking research around the world. DIL enhances investigations across the organization by using open source research, remote sensing, and quantitative analysis. The evidence we collect is crucial for augmenting our traditional fact-finding methods, especially in closed or conflict-affected countries that are difficult to access, such as Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Ukraine. Below we share details on some of our recent investigations and our progress innovating and improving our research methodologies.

Peru

In April 2023, we published report and an accompanying video documenting excessive use of force by security forces, due process violations and abuses against detainees, and failures in criminal investigations, as well as the entrenched political and social crisis that is eroding the rule of law and human rights in Peru. The DIL helped to analyze and verify more than 37 hours of video footage and 600 photographs of the protests, and to review autopsy, ballistics, and medical reports. The report had tremendous impact. It was widely covered both internationally and in Peru, including in regions outside the capital, where most of the killings occurred. The media outlets which covered the report include La República, France24, Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, and CNN en español. The report also attracted the attention of the government. President Dina Boluarte and the Minister of Interior responded to our report trying to minimize it.

The following month, we released *They, the Policemen, Killed My Brother*, a multimedia report which complement the findings of the report. We reconstructed the events that took place in the city of Juliaca on January 9, 2023, the deadliest day of repression of protest. Eighteen protesters and bystanders were killed on that day. We show that the security forces used disproportionate and indiscriminate force in Juliaca and refute the official accounts provided by the Peruvian government. The

Lab analyzed more than 500 photographs and 10 hours of video footage posted to social media, as well as autopsy and ballistics reports and the criminal file of the Prosecutor's Office investigation into killings and injuries there. The report further amplified the Human Rights Watch's overall research documenting the egregious abuses committed in Peru by the security forces during the protests. This was also the first time we used AI image classifiers in our research.

North Korea

In November 2022, we published our geospatial analysis as a 3D model to show how the North Korean government has substantially increased security along its northern border, using Covid-19 as the justification, to restrict travel and trade—leading to increased starvation and a lack of access to basic necessities such as medicine. Our analysis of satellite images of the China and Russia border before and after the pandemic started indicates the nature and extent of the measures that the government has taken. This initial research is part of a larger investigation into North Korea's policies that we aim to publish at end of 2023. The DIL is conducting further data analysis of trade data, open source research, and additional geospatial analysis of six different areas along North Korea's northern border, covering 300 kilometers.

Defending the Environment and Human Rights by Phasing Out Fossil Fuels

The burning of fossil fuels accounts for over 80 percent of human-induced carbon dioxide emissions. Not only does this drive global warming, it negatively affects the health and livelihoods of people living in and around coal, oil, and gas sites. According to the International Energy Agency, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius requires that governments do not approve any new coal, oil, or gas projects. Yet governments and companies around the world are increasing their fossil fuel production.

We leverage our investigative reporting and visual storytelling to capture the human impacts of fossil fuel production and spur regulations that protect rights, reduce emissions, and invest in cleaner energy sources.

In July 2023, we released a report and interview documenting the impact of unrehabilitated coal mines in **South Africa's** coal-rich Mpumalanga province. Our research shows that companies have abandoned these mines without cleaning them up, resulting in polluted soil and water and hazardous conditions that put communities' health and safety at risk. We also published a short report on the health impacts of air pollution from coal-fired power plants in **Bosnia** in August. Together with the Centar za ekologiju i energiju (Center for Ecology and Energy), we documented how authorities have failed to tackle the country's horrific air pollution, which kills thousands of people prematurely each year and takes a particularly heavy toll on the health of children, older people, and other at-risk populations.

In September 2022, we produced our first-ever report on plastics, highlighting how plastics (which are made primarily from fossil fuels) emit toxic chemicals throughout their lifecycle. EU member states ship more than 1,000 metric tons of plastic waste each year to other countries for recycling. More than half of this waste ends up in **Turkey**, where we documented how plastic recycling facilities threaten the health of workers and nearby communities.

Our research shows how the Turkish government routinely fails to enforce laws and regulations that require strict licensing and thorough inspections of recycling facilities—greatly exacerbating the recycling industry's negative impacts on health and the environment. The video we produced to accompany our report garnered impressive media coverage and online views—including nearly 30,000 video views in seven days.



A woman works at a recycling facility, where plastic is sorted, shredded, washed, melted, and turned into pellets in Istanbul, Turkey on December 2, 2021. © 2021 Şebnem Coşkun/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Following the report release, we conducted advocacy urging the EU to stop shipping its plastics waste to Turkey. We met with Turkey's Ministry of the Environment, which was receptive to our messaging, including on the illegal and dangerous practices in recycling workplaces and the unlawful operation of recycling facilities next to housing. We also met with the Ministry of Health to discuss the health impact of locating recycling facilities near schools and residential areas and discussed ways to enforce regulations that would keep them at safe distances. Following years of sustained advocacy alongside our partners, the **European Parliament** voted to ban shipment of plastic waste exports to countries outside the EU. The ban applies to countries in the OECD, including Turkey. We will now work to see that the ban is enforced.

This work feeds into our broader global advocacy aimed at reducing the public financing available for coal and other fossil fuels—with particular attention to ending fossil fuel subsidies provided by governments and financial

institutions. In 2021, for example, we worked with several environmental and human rights organizations on a UK-led initiative to halt international public financing for fossil fuels by the end of 2022. Our joint advocacy helped move 20 countries and institutions to commit to joining the initiative.

Looking ahead, we are exploring new research on the immediate harms to communities in “sacrifice zones” around fossil fuel operations. We are also undertaking new research in **Louisiana's** “Cancer Alley,” a stretch of land encompassing a quarter of the US's petrochemical plants. We will use our findings to show that, to uphold their commitments to human rights, western consumers of fossil fuels—such as the **US** and **Europe**—must become less reliant on abusive, oil-rich autocracies.



Men aboard the Sea-Watch 4, a nongovernmental rescue ship, rejoice on September 1, 2020, as they learn that they have permission to disembark in Palermo, Sicily, the next day. © 2020 Thomas Lohnes/AFP via Getty Images

Addressing Global Migration Challenges

Global migration continues to be one of today's biggest challenges. Human Rights Watch has intensified its investigations, advocacy, and outreach efforts to expose abuses at every step of the asylum seeker and migrant journey: from the conditions that cause people to leave, to the abuses they face along the way, their treatment on arrival, and the circumstances and consequences of return.

In the past year, we documented and exposed conditions for **Afghan, Ethiopian, Sudanese, Syrian, Ukrainian, Venezuelan**, and other displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in **Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Iran, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Qatar, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. We used our findings to engage in advocacy with policymakers at national and global levels. Our work has led to increased awareness and impact:

- We regularly **published on a wide range of refugee and migrant rights issues**, helping raise awareness of global migration challenges among policymakers and the public. Our work was cited by several large media outlets.
- In response to our **#WelcomeToCanada advocacy campaign with partners**, four provinces committed to ending their immigration detention contracts with the federal government, citing the rights concerns we raised. Through these efforts, we are helping to reshape the narrative around immigration detention and shift from punitive to compassionate policies.

- Following our work and that of partners **reaching out to the media and policymakers** to promote rights-respecting treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, Sweden and Denmark announced that they will offer asylum to all women and girls from Afghanistan.
- We often **work to prevent an already unwelcoming environment for refugees and migrants from becoming worse**. We prevented deportations of Afghans and Syrians from European Union countries; the outsourcing of asylum seekers from Europe to the Global South; and the arbitrary detention of some migrants in the US, Spain, and Bulgaria.

Securing the right to seek asylum; the right of refugees not to be forcibly returned; and dignified, respectful treatment for all migrants remain top priorities for Human Rights Watch.

EVALUATION OF HRW SCANDINAVIA'S PROGRESS

HRW Scandinavia and 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. HRW Scandinavia and Human Rights Watch consider input on progress from key interlocutors, local human rights partners, and critics. We gauge how effectively we 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.

Since it often takes a great deal of time to bring entrenched human rights abuses to an end, HRW Scandinavia and Human Rights Watch consider interim criteria for evaluation. These include whether we have succeeded in generating prominent Nordic media coverage about abuses we investigate; whether the Nordic 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 Nordic opposition to abuses; whether and how Nordic 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 progress. Over the course of the last year, more than 3,000 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, as well as researchers and advocates for expert advice with a human rights perspective on current political affairs. Nordic media regularly interview Human Rights Watch staff, including Swedish Radio, SVT, TV4, Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, and TT News Agency, among many other news outlets. As a result, Human Rights Watch is one of the leading commentators in Sweden on global human rights issues. Furthermore, HRW Scandinavia engaged

in more than 100 virtual and physical advocacy meetings with governments and decision-makers in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Sweden.

HRW Scandinavia and Human Rights Watch recognize 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 organization further improve its strategies of project design and implementation of subsequent projects by Human Rights Watch.



Måns Molander, Nordic Director, at the Voices for Justice Dinner 2023.

Back cover: Scenes of the Pindare River, which marks the limit between the mostly deforested areas around the Caru Indigenous Territory, in Maranhão, and the lush rainforest inside, in June 2018. Loggers cross the river into the territory to extract timber illegally, Indigenous people say. © 2018 Brent Stirton/Getty Images for Human Rights Watch



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@Human Rights Watch Sweden



@Human Rights Watch Sverige



@HRWSweden

Address: Human Rights Watch Scandinavia, Birger Jarlsgatan 57 C, 113 56, Stockholm

Email: sweden@hrw.org

Website: hrw.org/sweden