



The Human Rights Recognition Awards –HRRRA 2024

“HRRRA 2024: Expanding Horizons from Individuals to Institutions”

Concept Note

Why the Human Rights Recognitions Awards was initiated?

Every year on December 10th, [International Human Rights Day](#) is observed in remembrance of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This declaration was a landmark achievement in the history of human rights as it established the fundamental rights that should be enjoyed by all individuals irrespective of their race, gender, religion, or nationality.

In 2021, the Geneva Centre established the [Human Rights Recognition Awards \(HRRRA\)](#) to mark the occasion of International Human Rights Day.

Evolution of the HRRRA & Rationale for Expansion

In 2024, the Geneva Centre's Human Rights Recognition Awards embarks on a transformative path. For the first time, the HRRRA will extend its recognition to include not just individuals but also Human Rights institutions, organizations, and NGOs. This strategic expansion aims to acknowledge and celebrate the significant contributions these entities make towards the advancement and protection of human rights globally.

Objectives

1. **Institutional Impact and Sustainability:** To acknowledge and honor the collaborative efforts of Human Rights institutions and NGOs in achieving sustainable human rights advancements.
2. **Strengthening Human Rights Infrastructure:** To highlight the important role of these entities in Human Rights advocacy, education, and supporting vulnerable populations, thus fostering a strong and healthy human rights ecosystem.
3. **Diverse Contributions:** To showcase the varied and innovative efforts and approaches undertaken by different entities in the field of human rights.

Key Perspectives of the Transition to Institutional Recognition

1. **Institutional Impact and Sustainability:**
The HRRRA 2024 aims to recognize the enduring impact of Human Rights institutions and NGOs. This award category will evaluate the effectiveness, reach, and sustainability of the initiatives undertaken by these entities, highlighting their role in driving systematic change.



2. **Strengthening Human Rights Infrastructure:**

By honoring these entities, the HRRRA 2024 seeks to underline their role in the human rights framework. The award will emphasize contributions to Human Rights advocacy, education, and direct support initiatives for the communities they are serving, encouraging further development of the human rights infrastructure.

3. **Diverse Contributions:**

Recognizing the varied approaches to human rights, from legal work to public awareness and direct community support, the HRRRA 2024 intends to spotlight the effective work by these institutions and NGOs. This diversity in contributions showcases the multifaceted nature of human rights work and the multiple pathways to achieving meaningful change.

 **Awards Criteria**

The HRRRA 2024 will evaluate nominees based on the following criteria:

1. **Impact:**

Demonstrated significant and sustainable impact on human rights advancement. These could be recognized under the HRRRA's criteria for impact:

- A. Education and Awareness: Campaigns or programs that have effectively raised awareness about human rights issues in general, such as the rights of indigenous peoples, or the impact of climate change on human rights, leading to increased public support and policy change.
- B. Access to Justice: Initiatives that have significantly improved access to legal assistance for marginalized or underserved communities.
- C. Healthcare Access: Efforts that have resulted in improved access to healthcare services, including campaigns for affordable medicines, healthcare services for refugees and migrants, or mental health support.
- D. Protection of Children's Rights: Initiatives that have led to enhanced protection and advocacy for children, including efforts to end child labor, promote education for all children, and protect children in conflict zones.
- E. Gender Equality and Women's Rights: Successful advocacy for women's rights, including efforts to combat gender-based violence, promote reproductive rights, and support women's participation in political and economic spheres.
- F. Socio-economic Empowerment of Women and Youth: Programs targeting economically disadvantaged groups, especially women and youth, through education and skills training. Aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing living



standards by providing access to education, skill acquisition, and economic participation.

- G. Promotion of environmental rights: Initiatives demonstrating significant and sustainable impact in advocating for environmental rights. These include efforts to protect natural resources, combat climate change, promote environmental justice, and support affected communities.

2. **Collaboration:**

Evidence of effective collaboration and partnerships to further human rights goals.

3. **Transparency and Accountability:**

Maintained good standards of governance, transparency, and accountability.

Nomination Process

1. Eligibility Criteria:

- A. Organizations, institutions, and NGOs engaged in human rights advocacy are eligible to apply.
- B. Nominees should have a proven track record of impact in their respective areas of human rights within the last five years.
- C. Nominees must demonstrate how their initiatives align with the HRRRA's focus on sustainability, collaboration, and diversity in contributions.

2. Call for Nominations:

- A. Nominations for the HRRRA 2024 can be submitted through public calls and direct invitations.
- B. The Geneva Centre will also accept recommendations from international human rights bodies and partner organizations.

3. Submission Requirements:

- A. A completed official nomination form available on the Geneva Centre's website.
- B. Supporting documentation that substantiates the nominee's impact, including reports, case studies, testimonials, and media articles.
- C. A statement outlining the nominee's vision for future human rights work and how the award could help achieve it.

4. Review and Shortlisting:

- A. A review of nominations will be conducted by a selection committee comprising Geneva Centre (GC) staff.
- B. The GC's committee will shortlist candidates based on adherence to the nomination criteria and the depth of their impact and innovation.
- C. The GC's committee will evaluate the shortlisted nominations based on the detailed criteria of impact, collaboration, transparency and accountability.



5. Selection and Notification

- A. The GC's committee will select the awardees, will notify the winners and provide feedback to all shortlisted nominees.
- B. Public announcements of the awardees will be made on the Geneva Centre's website and social media platforms.

6. Awards Presentation

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, to celebrate the achievements of our awardees on International Human Rights Day. More information about the ceremony will be provided soon.

Conclusion

The HRA 2024 is a significant step forward in recognizing the collective and diverse efforts necessary for the advancement of human rights globally. By honoring Human Rights institutions, organizations, and NGOs, the Geneva Centre aims to inspire further collaboration and innovation in the field, contributing to a stronger, more resilient human rights ecosystem. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ensuring freedom, equality, and justice for all.

About the Geneva Centre

Established in Geneva in 2013, the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement & Global Dialogue (GCHRAGD) is an independent think-tank and advocacy institution committed to promoting a universal human rights system based on values of non-discrimination, equity, inclusivity and solidarity. In 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted the Centre special consultative status. The Geneva Centre's mission is to identify and actively promote human rights and contribute to efforts to address the main challenges, as well as encourage those who work in this field.