



ILC INFONOTE

A background photograph of two women, likely of African descent, looking down with somber expressions. The woman on the left has a headwrap. The woman on the right has her hand near her face. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.

ILC'S COMMITMENT TO LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

UNITED
FOR LAND
RIGHTS

Every day, land and environmental rights defenders (LEDs) face criminalisation, illegal persecution, physical injuries, threats against their families, forced displacement and even threats to their lives. In a world where competition for access to natural resources is intensifying, together with an increase in extreme global inequality, protecting land and environmental rights is particularly important.

Through **ILC's ten commitments to people-centred land governance**, ILC members express solidarity and have vowed to work together to ensure that the civil and political rights of Land and Environmental Defenders are respected and protected. Ordinary people are increasingly finding themselves on the frontlines of the battle to defend their territories from corporate or state abuse and unsustainable exploitation.

Following a pilot project to provide **ad hoc support to land and environmental defenders in need**, ILC is now looking to develop a more strategic approach, which includes awareness raising, advocacy, capacity building and financial support to LEDs and their organisations.

WHAT CAN ILC DO FOR MEMBERS?

LAND DEFENDERS FUND

For issues concerning threats and violations of human rights, please contact **ILC's Regional Coordination Units**

www.landcoalition.org/en/regional-coordination-units

Please copy Elisabetta Cangelosi from the ILC Global Secretariat at land.defenders@landcoalition.info

As part of ILC's commitment to protect and support land and environmental rights defenders, a fund has been made available to the full spectrum of land and environmental defenders within ILC's membership.

Purpose of the fund

Beneficiaries of the fund are ILC members and the fund is intended to respond to emergency situations.

Response rate

ILC aims at responding to grant requests **within 72 hours**. Steering Committees and a dedicated reference group are in charge of taking decisions on applications.

Amount

The amount of the fund is 10.000 USD per region. It can be used to cover costs such as:

- » Temporary relocation
- » Urgent legal assistance
- » Financial support (lump sum) to the family in case of a land rights defender's death
- » Urgent medical support

It cannot be used for:

- » Maintenance and office running related expenses
- » Human rights related programmes not related to a contingent situation of LED rights violation
- » Armed security and private security forces
- » Emergency related to natural disasters

How to apply

Complete the attached form and send it to your Regional Coordination Unit and ILC Secretariat. They will forward it to the Steering Committee and Reference Group for further consideration and action.

WHAT ELSE CAN ILC DO FOR MEMBERS?

- » Support in **orienting members to the most suitable funding** or grant opportunity for a specific case
- » **Facilitate connections** with other organisations supporting LEDs, including funders and their country offices(e.g. EU Delegations)
- » Provide support/**recommendation letters** for applications for funding and training
- » Provide updates on upcoming **training opportunities**

Please contact the Regional Coordination Units with copy to ILC's Global Secretariat for more information.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORT

PROTECT THE DEFENDERS [HTTPS://WWW.PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU/](https://www.protectdefenders.eu/)

Protect the Defenders is a new project funded by the European Union and is managed by 12 human rights organisations (Frontline Defenders, Reporters Without Borders, OMCT, FIDH, ESCR-Net, ILGA, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders, Protection International, PBI, Forum-Asia, East and the Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project). It covers a variety of topics including land and environmental rights and provides the following forms of support:

- » Multilingual **24/7 urgent support**: through a *hotline* (+353 (0) 1 21 00 489), via *Skype* as well as *online* (managed by Frontline Defenders).
- » **Temporary relocation**: small grants specifically dedicated to the relocation of defenders in danger.
- » **Ad-hoc grants**: by clicking on the top right you can access a *defender at risk* page which directs you to an *emergency grant browser*.

This is a list of available funds, managed by different organisations and focused on a variety of topics and defenders (journalists, environmental activist, LGBT activists, women's rights).

The new granting system corresponds to previous granting opportunities provided by each of the organisations involved. Through the platform, the granting organisations can coordinate their efforts and easily exchange information. The main advantage is that if you are ineligible for the grant provided by one organisations, you can simply be re-directed to another organisation in the platform.

How to apply

Application forms are available for each grant through the emergency grant browser found here: <https://www.protectdefenders.eu/supporting-defenders.html#emergency-support>

Direct links to the websites of involved organisations:

- » Frontline Defenders: www.frontlinedefenders.org
- » Reporters Without Borders: www.rsf.org/en
- » Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT): www.omct.org
- » Federation International des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH): www.fidh.org
- » International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ESCR-NET): www.escr-net.org
- » Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders: www.emhrf.org
- » International lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex association (ILGA): www.ilga.org
- » Urgent Action Fund for women's human right: www.urgentactionfund.org
- » Protection International: www.protectioninternational.org
- » Peace Brigade International: www.peacebrigades.org
- » Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia): www.forum-asia.org
- » East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project: www.defenddefenders.org

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Operates through the EU Delegations and provides different forms of support, including:

- » **Grants to finance projects** submitted by civil society and/or international and intergovernmental organisations.
- » **Small grants to human rights defenders:** up to 10.000 euros to cover fees for legal representation and medical expenses, to purchase security material, to pay for the evacuation of an HRD to another country, to support the operations of a human rights organisation in a difficult financial situation.

How to apply

There is no official form to submit. Please contact the EU Delegation or the DG DEVCO to present the case. ILC Secretariat is available to support and guide you in this procedure: land.defenders@landcoalition.info

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEARNING

TRAININGS

International Service for Human Rights (www.ishr.ch) offers a training programme for human rights defenders.

How to apply: 2016 Programme: www.ishr.ch/news/ishr-2016-training-human-rights-defenders-now-open-applicants . For more information, write to hrdap2016@ishr.ch

JASS (Just Associates) (www.justassociates.org) offers workshops through the Feminist Alchemy School (Escuela de Alquimia Feminista) for women's rights activists in Meso America, with a specific focus on feminist trainers, indigenous and rural women, and women defending the right to land, territory and natural resources.

How to apply:
www.justassociates.org/es/mesoamerica-escuela-alquimia-feminista

ONLINE COURSES

Protection International (www.protectioninternational.org) offers on-line learning courses (in Spanish, English and French) to defenders.

How to apply: <https://e-learning.protectioninternational.org/>

FELLOWSHIPS

Frontline Defenders offers a Rest & Respite Programme.

Its aim is to *enable human rights defenders to take some time out and recharge their batteries in a safe environment while at the same time enhancing their skills so that they can work more effectively when they return home.*

How to apply: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/programme/rest-respite-and-fellowships>

University of York Centre for Applied Human Rights offers a Protective Fellowship Scheme for Human Rights Defenders at Risk. The aim of the programme is to *allow HRDs to rest, build their capacities and provide them with tools which they can use upon their return.*

How to apply: HRDs cannot apply directly to the Centre. They must be nominated by one of around 30 designated civil society organizations. For more information click here:

www.york.ac.uk/cahr/defenders/protective-fellowship/

Continuously updated pages where you can find capacity building opportunities:

» www.landcoalition.org/en/opportunities

» <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/opportunities-hrds>

USEFUL RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

» www.herramientadefensorasderechostierra.org/en/security-protection

» Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme: www.aedh.org/new_en

» Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network: www.redhac.org

» FIAN: www.fian.org

» Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights www.globalinitiative-escr.org

» Global Witness www.globalwitness.org

» Human Rights First: www.humanrightsfirst.org/our-work/human-rights-defenders

» Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org

» International Service for Human Rights: www.ishr.ch/human-rights-defenders

» MADRE: www.madre.org

» Protection International: www.protectioninternational.org

» The Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Trust: www.sahrdt.org

» West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network: www.westafricadefenders



International Land Coalition Secretariat Via Paolo di Dono 44 , 00142 - Rome, Italy
tel. +39 06 5459 2445 fax +39 06 5459 3445 info@landcoalition.org www.landcoalition.org