

**Information**  
**(for applicants)**

**Measures to promote human rights**  
**(Funding policy and project promotion)**

**Focuses of the promotion**

(a) Strengthening civil society, in particular supporting human rights defenders, human rights institutions and media.

Strengthening civil society, in particular protecting and supporting human rights defenders, is a priority in German and European human rights policy. Human rights defenders are key mediators committed to ensuring respect for and protection of human rights in their country. The aim is to translate this political goal into practical measures through concrete support for projects organized by human rights defenders on the ground and through the promotion of networks. Furthermore, the objective is to promote projects which help protect journalists and foster freedom of opinion and of the press.

(b) Protecting and promoting the rights of women

Projects promoting women's rights and the protection of women can focus on a wide range of issues: the elimination of gender discrimination; the fight against trafficking in women; projects to combat so-called honour killings of women and girls; projects targeted at outlawing discriminating customs and inhumane traditional practices, such as genital mutilation; prevention, protection and aftercare in connection with violence against women, especially in armed conflicts.

(c) Protecting and promoting children's rights

Projects aimed at protecting and promoting children's rights can, for example, deal with the fight against trafficking in children, child labour and the sexual exploitation of children or help for children in armed conflicts or, for example, promotion of the right to education.

(d) Projects campaigning for a moratorium on the death penalty or its abolition

Projects aimed at raising awareness of this issue or at highlighting possible practical alternatives to the death penalty have proven to be effective. In the long term, these efforts are aimed at bringing about the abolition of the death penalty, but in the short term a moratorium can also be the aim. Concrete projects can, for example, take the form of seminars with German or European experts or work with the judicial system. Projects in this sphere should also focus on any necessary reforms to the judicial or prison systems in the wake of a moratorium/abolition of the death penalty.

(e) Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR)

The – political – promotion of ESCR is another priority of Germany's human rights policy. ESCR include the right to a decent standard of living, which encompasses the right to food and housing, the right to health as well as the right to education.

The aforementioned spheres are priorities for which project proposals are particularly welcome. However, promotion of human rights projects in other spheres, especially where local conditions demand different priorities, is also welcome. In particular, these include projects which foster human rights education and training, training for groups particularly affected, promotion of legislative measures or targeted public relations work.

Other key issues:

- Combating torture and abuse
- Combating human trafficking and migration
- Combating racism and discrimination
- Combating impunity
- Improving prison conditions
- Supporting truth and reconciliation processes

**The Embassies and Consulates of the Federal Republic of Germany around the world are happy to answer any questions on application or project promotion procedures.**

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(Name of Mission)

As of February 2009