

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FROM PAKISTAN

STRENGTHENING LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

- Goal of the grant:** Support to strengthen local human rights organisations and networks in their work to protect and promote human rights in Pakistan.
- Geographical area:** **Pakistan.** Applications from Sindh and Punjab will be given priority consideration. However, projects from other provinces will not be excluded and will be assessed based on their individual merit and strategic alignment.
- Amount:** **We aim to grant up to 4 grants between 15 000 to 50 000 USD per year.**
- Please note that the proposed project budget must be **proportionate to the applicant's current annual budget** and **should not exceed an amount that is more than double the current annual budget.**
- Project timeline:** From 1 October 2026 up to 31 December 2028
- Deadline:** **Monday 10 August 2026 12 noon CET**
- Link to register concept note** <https://nhrf.induct.no/pages/submit.aspx?type=Proposal&it=5656>
(Templates are available in the platform once your proposal is registered)



NHRF invites organisations and networks in Pakistan to apply for projects addressing one or more of the following priority **THEMATIC AREAS:**

1. Inclusive societies free of discrimination and inequality:

Initiatives that challenge discrimination, marginalisation and inequality, and that promote more inclusive societies by advancing the rights of groups facing discrimination in their specific context. In Pakistan, special priority is given to work on:

- Gender equality and diversity
- Rights of ethnic and religious minorities

2. Protection of human rights defenders and the right to defend human rights:

This thematic area covers two priorities:

- **Building resilience and safety for human rights defenders (including media professionals).**
This includes protection measures adapted to the social and cultural context in which defenders and communities operate, applied at the individual and/or collective level. It covers both proactive measures to reduce risk and reactive measures to respond to threats or violence.
- **Protecting the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association and expression.**

You can read more about our work and overall thematic focus areas in our global strategy for 2026-2030 [here](#).

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be based in Pakistan.
- Have a minimum of 3 years proven experience working with the thematic area(s) the project falls under.
- Not have any other funding from Norway
- Demonstrate how the proposed initiative will contribute to at least one or more of the thematic areas above
- Have an annual budget *under* 250,000 USD.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS THAT:

- are women led and/or foster women and gender-diversity in leadership.
- are community-led/grassroots-based
- have representation of the group members/community members the project reaches in the organisation, including in decision-making positions.



- aim to ensure intergenerational approaches in leadership and foster the sustainability of the human rights movements through a focus on succession planning in the organisation.

The NHRF aims to grant 4 grants at the end of this open call process. We will strive for good synergies between the projects in this portfolio (thematically and geographically). The applicant's role in the larger ecosystem of actors working on protecting and promoting human rights in Pakistan will also be key to its selection.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, [click here to register in our grant portal, Induct.](#)

Following this link you will be asked to:

- register your organisation and provide a tentative project title (may be changed later)
- fill in **our eligibility quiz and concept note**: A format with brief information about your organisation/network and a short description of your project (available in our grants portal)
- upload a **simplified project budget** (please use your own template)

The deadline for applying is **Monday 10 August 2026, 12:00 CET**.

- After submission, the NHRF will review the **concept note** and aim to invite selected applicants to submit a full application by **3 September 2026**
- Organisations that are invited to submit a full application will be given **3 weeks** to submit the full application (narrative, workplan and budget).
- All applicants will hear back from us on their applications before **December 2026** at the latest.

Please see [the main page](#) of our grants portal to find **frequently asked questions (FAQs)**. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the FAQ, they can be directed to info@nhrf.no. Emails should be marked "Call for Concept Notes Pakistan 2026" in the subject line.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applications that do not meet all the listed criteria will not be considered.

Read more about the NHRF [here](#).