

home page *(This site is best viewed on Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher and at a

resolution of 800x600)

application
guidelines

Second Call for Proposals for 2005 announced. Please click on Call for Proposals button to access application criteria.

focus areas

Workplan and Guidelines to the Call for Proposals 2005

call for
proposals

Be a part of the process: If you would like to assess proposals for the Foundation, please click here.

notice board

The Foundation has launched its first newsletter. We hope to keep in contact with you through this quarterly newsletter.

[Click here to Download it](#)

donors

Foundation for Human Rightsboard
of directors

The Foundation for Human Rights is a grant making institution. It is the main South African grant maker focused on strengthening people's rights.

newsletter
and reports

We accept applications from South African non-governmental and community groups as well as public institutions.

We have a board of directors made up of prominent South Africans drawn from the ranks of civil society, supported by a team of Project officers

The Foundation was established in 1996 and we have completed our first work programme.

Today, we plan our priorities annually in response to the needs expressed throughout South African society and we issue [calls for proposals](#) based on these priorities.

In response to our calls, we accept applications for funding throughout the year.

Our primary funder is the European Union , and we also receive support from other [donors](#). Our [offices](#) are in central Pretoria and we can be [contacted](#) there.

What Is Our Vision?

We aim to make a key contribution to ensuring that the majority of South Africans have access to the rights and quality of life guaranteed in our constitution, and are able to live with dignity.

Ten years into our new democracy the legacy of apartheid still hangs over the majority of black South Africans: economic inequality, poor living conditions, lack of access to services and great difficulty in accessing the justice system.

We believe that our constitution is a powerful tool to effect redress, but that this will only happen when civil society and the majority of our people are empowered to work for the realisation of their own human rights.

This is where the Foundation comes in: to help close the gap between the promises of our constitution and the reality of life of many in our society.

The Foundation works with government but maintains its independence, and where necessary will continue to support interventions which challenge government to deliver.

How do We Expect to Achieve Our Vision?

We make contributions to those who are working directly with our targets groups to improve their lives using a rights-based approach.

In addition, we have as an objective to strengthen civil society over the long term and to build a human rights culture throughout our society.

Hence we support initiatives focused on human rights education, training and capacity building and on awareness-raising through information sharing and media initiatives.

The Foundation also supports human rights advocacy, lobbying and monitoring programmes.

A major of feature of the Foundation's work is its access to justice programme, which supports a network of advice offices, specialist legal centres and public interest law organisations.

We have pioneered the use of public interest litigation to advance the rights of poor and vulnerable groups.

Focus Areas

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Our Focus Areas

We continue to prioritise the poorest and most vulnerable groups, starting with rural women and children, the urban poor and people affected by HIV-AIDS, especially children who are infected or who head households as a result of death of adult care-givers. Our Advice Office Programme continues to be the central component of our focus on Access to Justice. Litigation will continue to be a major tool of the Foundation to set new legal precedents to advance the Bill of Rights and the promises of the constitution. The objectives which will continue to guide our funding decisions are as follows:

- Human Rights Awareness and Education
- Human Rights Services including Access to Justice and transformation of the Justice System
- Strengthening of Civil Society through Capacity Building and Networking
- Strengthening Public Institutions which Support Constitutional Democracy
- Southern African Regional Human Rights Initiatives

[Click to View the Call for Proposals](#)