

PROTEST SUPPORT PHONEBOOK



This Vuka! Protest Support Phonebook is a support directory for protesters. Through the Phonebook, protesters (and their allies) can find various types of support from over 30 international and regional civil society organisations to protect themselves and elevate the impact of their protests including:

- Urgent support for protesters (e.g. legal aid, medical aid, trauma healing, relocation, family support, etc)
- Urgent support for journalists covering protests (e.g. legal aid, medical aid, trauma healing, relocation, family support, etc)
- Amplifying your movement's messaging through global campaigns networks
- Strategic litigation support
- Digital and physical security support
- Human rights monitoring, reporting, and outreach to the United Nations and other international governance forums
- Funding, training, and strategizing for creative actions, campaigning, and frontline protesting

Use this phonebook as you would any other. Find the services you need, read more about your options, and get in touch with those organizations that look like they may be able to help you.

Each organization listed below is a member of the [Vuka! Coalition](#), a civil society network that strives to reclaim civic space and incubate new forms of resistance and organizing. This includes fighting for the rights of protesters, amplifying their struggles, and working in solidarity with them.



Urgent support for protesters

(e.g. legal aid, medical aid, trauma healing, relocation, family support, etc.)

ActionAid

Support provided: Support may include, but is not limited to, legal representation, bail, and survival items for those held in detention. In situations where ActionAid cannot provide support, referrals are sometimes made to partner organizations.

Who can apply: At-risk protesters in places where ActionAid has a national office: Arab Region, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Thailand, Vietnam, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, USA, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Australia.



Region: Global



Contact Action Aid through signal at +256 779 201 692, +256 392 220 002 or +256 392 220 003

Amnesty International

Support provided: Amnesty supports those who suffer or are at risk of human rights abuses by documenting and campaigning against these abuses. The organization issues reports and recommendations to governments and others in power, including urgent actions during emergencies. In addition, Amnesty International also provides emergency financial assistance to those it campaigns for if they are in need of legal aid, medical expenses, or if in danger of human rights violations.

Who can apply: Anyone can apply to most services, even if Amnesty doesn't have an office in their country.



Region: Global



Contact Amnesty's nearest office to the country the enquiry is about. All offices are listed [here](#)

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales

Support provided: Support includes training for protesters and/or their key allies (such as lawyers and journalists), strategic litigation, monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, as well as access to an emergency fund for legal and humanitarian assistance.

Who can apply: People in Latin America and the Caribbean who belong to social movements, unions, youth movements, women movements, LGBT+ movements, and land reclaiming movements.



Region: Latin America and the Caribbean



Contact: Complete [this form](#)

DefendDefenders

Support provided: Protesters at risk or subjected to repression may contact DefendDefenders to share more information about their situation and receive tailored support which may include legal support, medical support, relocation, or other forms of emergency assistance. The organization can also provide guidance on security mitigation strategies.

Who can apply: Any protester (or other person falling under the UN definition of Human Rights Defender) facing risks or threats as a result of their protesting.



Region: East and Horn of Africa



Contact DefendDefenders through their 24/7 emergency phone line via call, text, WhatsApp, Signal, or Telegram at +256 783 027 611. You can also complete the encrypted form [here](#)

Freedom House

Support provided: The organization provides emergency financial support to at-risk protesters in the form of grants up to \$10,000 USD for an individual applicant and \$20,000 for a group applicant to respond to a recent threat or harassment which may include, but is not limited to, temporary relocation, legal support, medical care, prison visits, trial monitoring, equipment replacement, and physical security support. Freedom House also manages the Lifeline Fund consortium and the Dignity for All consortium. Consortium partners can provide short-term rapid response grants to enable CSOs, networks, or movements engaged in protest to advocate for the right to protest peacefully and enhance their physical, digital, and holistic security to ensure continued activism.

Who can apply: Protesters with at least six months or more of prior demonstrated history of activism can apply if the threat has occurred within the last three months. Groups of people working together can apply; the fund is not restricted to individuals.



Region: Global



Contact: Write to info@csolifeline.org to inquire about submitting an application for assistance

Front line Defenders

Support provided: Grants are offered for holistic security support, according to the needs of the applicant. Such support is usually offered in the form of small grants which may include, but is not limited to, medical aid, psychological support, security technology, legal representation, and relocation. FLD can also give security advice to increase visibility of emblematic instances of human rights abuses.

Who can apply: Any protester with a proven track of human rights work.



Region: Global



Contact: Complete [this form](#)





People in Need

Support provided: Support is dependent on the particular needs of the at-risk or threatened protester, and may include, but is not limited to, direct aid for emergencies arising from repression, relocation, and psychological support. Applicants can also seek support in the form of project-based microgrants.

Who can apply: Any protester human rights defender, activist, journalist, or CSO member.



Region: Middle East and North Africa, Eurasia, Latin America



Contact: Complete the contact form at the bottom of [this link](#)



West African Human Rights Defenders (ROADDH/WAHRDN)

Support provided: The organization provides funding for a wide range of emergency needs of human rights defenders at risk, including, but not limited to, legal support, medical support, and trauma healing. In the most dire situations, this can include relocation. They serve as a regional hub for national human rights coalitions that provides technical and financial support in West Africa.

Who can apply: Any protester who falls under the broad UN definition of “human rights defender” whose life is at risk



Region: West Africa



Contact: Download [this form](#) and submit it with any required attachments to hubcities@defenddefenders.org

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

Support provided: OMCT—a consortium of over 200 organizations working against torture—provides direct support to human rights defenders affected by torture. General categories of emergency support include medical, social, and legal support. OMCT also carries out advocacy to the UN through the Committee Against Torture and has developed a handbook for monitoring protests and other resources on its website that may be useful to protesters.

Who can apply: Any nonviolent protester affected by torture who fits a broad definition of a human rights defender can apply. Precise information on the particular threat or incident will assist OMCT in making a decision about the application.



Region: Global



Contact: Download and complete [this form](#) and send it to victims@omct.org





URGENT SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS COVERING PROTESTS

(e.g. legal aid, medical aid, trauma healing, relocation, family support, etc.)

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

Support provided: CPJ offers its solidarity to journalists in emergency situations in the form of grants for emergency assistance which include legal fees, basic needs in jail, trauma healing, or relocation. The organization can provide sessions with experts on physical and digital security, as well as statements of support and other advocacy for journalists facing repression.

Who can apply: Any journalist persecuted for their work covering protests or related events may apply. A “journalist” is defined as anyone persecuted for an act of journalism, which can include acts like making a news-like social media post.



Region: Global



Contact: Write to emergencies@cpj.org or contact your regional focal person whose information is available [here](#)

Media Defence

Support provided: Small grants are given to journalists or their lawyers to facilitate legal defense of journalists facing judicial harassment. Media Defence also provides consultations on legal strategies and training on media rights to lawyers.

Who can apply: Journalists (broadly defined to include bloggers, citizen media, cartoonists, broadcasters, photojournalists, fact-checkers, etc.) or their lawyers.



Region: Global



Contact: Complete [this form](#)



AMPLIFY YOUR MOVEMENT'S MESSAGING THROUGH GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS NETWORKS

Greenpeace

Support provided: Campaign strategy support and amplification of public messaging are available to environmental rights and climate justice protesters. Greenpeace will also express solidarity and issue statements condemning opponents of climate justice protesters. Occasionally, legal support to climate justice allies can be provided, depending on the local Greenpeace office.

Who can seek support: Any climate justice protester.



Region: Global



Contact your national or regional office through [this link](#)

Solidarity Center

Support provided: Solidarity Center provides various forms of support to workers, unionists, and labor rights groups. This includes, but is not limited to, campaign support and solidarity for strikes and other worker actions, coordinating lawyers and organizations working on labor law and labor rights, and technical support to those forming or strengthening unions.

Who can seek support: Unionists, unions, and other organized labor groups.



Region: Global



Contact: Complete [this form](#)

International Centre For Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL)

Support Provided: ICNL develops analysis of proposed and enacted provisions affecting the legal environment for civil society in countries around the world and works with partners to advance enabling reforms to the legal environment. This includes measures affecting the right to protest. ICNL may be able to provide research on legal measures affecting the right to protest for use by those advocating for enabling legal reforms or considering strategic litigation to expand the right to protest. ICNL can also provide advice on how to access and make use of UN human rights mechanisms and other relevant international institutions. The organization also issues calls for proposals for projects addressing legal restrictions on civil society, and through the Lifeline program, provides small short-term grants to support advocacy to push back against civic space restrictions, or to support civil society in navigating these restrictions.

Who can seek support: ICNL primarily works with partner CSOs working to advance enabling reforms to the legal environment for civil society.



Region: Global



Contact: For more information regarding legal analyses of provisions affecting protest rights, please contact the relevant ICNL staff person listed on [this page](#). For more information about ICNL calls for proposals, visit [this website](#). For more information about the Lifeline program, visit [this website](#) or contact lifeline@icnl.org

CIVICUS

Support Provided: Documentation of trends in protests and internationalization of protests, advocacy with protest movements and support provided to protesters to enhance their communications, procure basic materials/paraphernalia used for protesters, publication of protest materials and other basic support as needed.

Who can seek support: Anyone leading peaceful protests who subscribes to the UN Declaration of Human Rights.



Region: Global



Contact: For more information contact info@civicus.org



STRATEGIC LITIGATION SUPPORT

International Network of Civil Liberties Organisation (INCLO)

Support provided: Working mainly through its member organisations, INCLO promotes human rights and freedoms. One of the key areas of the network's focus is protest rights. Plenty of information on protest rights, including weapons commonly used by state actors, is available on the network's website.

Who can seek support: Members of INCLO can seek support. Any protester can access publicly available information from the website.



Region: INLCO operates primarily in countries with member organisations. All members are listed [here](#)



Contact: Write to info@inclo.net

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Support provided: Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights works primarily through strategic litigation to defend protester rights. The organization also builds advocacy campaigns around such litigation and protester trials.

Who can seek support: Any protester.



Region: Global



Contact: Write to advocacy@rfkhumanrights.org



DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL SECURITY SUPPORT

Access Now

Support provided: Access Now offers a 24/7 hotline with a maximum response time of two hours. Digital security advice is available in nine languages to anyone who inquires. Access Now's policy and advocacy team also amplifies protester causes online. The organization occasionally provides grants to grassroots and frontline organizations at the intersection of human rights and digital campaigning.

Who can apply: Any protester.



Region: Global



Contact: Visit [the link here](#) or write to help@accessnow.org

Peace Brigades International

Support provided: The organization provides international nonviolent protective accompaniment for protesters and communities at risk in any country where they might face repression. Trained international allies will spend weeks, months, or years with at-risk protesters as a way of disincentivising repression. In moments of crisis, PBI also raises international alerts on abuses.

Who can apply: Any protesters can seek accompaniment support.



Region: PBI has offices in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Kenya, Indonesia, Nepal, and Columbia. Protesters anywhere can make contact with PBI.



Those from countries where PBI has no field project can contact the international secretariat at admin@peacebrigades.org. Field project country websites are [found here](#)

Urgent Action Fund

Support provided: Urgent Action Fund's Rapid Response Grants resource the resilience of human rights and gender justice movements by supporting the security and advocacy interventions of activists when a swift response is needed. Specifically, Rapid Response Grants (RRG) offer quick, flexible funding to respond to security threats or unexpected advocacy opportunities experienced by women, transgender, or gender non-conforming, activists and human rights defenders up to US\$8,000.

Who can apply:

- Security RRG: The safety and security of women or trans human rights defenders/activists/organizations are threatened as a result of their human rights work (3 months).
- Opportunity RRG: An unexpected moment or opportunity for advocacy or mobilization that may result in advancements for women and LGBTQI's rights, such as changes in legal decisions, policy, and laws, or a shift in public attitudes and practices (up to 6 months).



Region: Canada, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Russia, The South Caucasus, Turkey, United States, and Western Europe. Applicants from other parts of the world should apply to one of our [Sister Urgent Action Funds](#)



Contact: Visit UAF's [website](#) or send an email to proposals@urgentactionfund.org

Open Briefing

Support provided: Open Briefing provides protest groups, human rights defenders, and other civic actors under threat with rapid access to advice, training, and tools to address specific safety and security, digital security, and wellbeing and resilience concerns. Remote support is variously available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Arabic. Free multilingual security resources are available [here](#).

Who can apply: Any organisation or collective (individual protesters must be referred by one of Open Briefing's partners).



Region: Global



Contact: Submit a request or referral for support [here](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING, REPORTING, AND OUTREACH TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FORUMS

ARTICLE 19

Support provided: ARTICLE 19 monitors protests, trains activists, journalists and protesters on their right to protest, campaigns for the right to protest, and works toward a legal and policy environment in many countries around to meet international law standards on the right to protest. The organization works within national, regional, and international contexts, including advocacy at the UN to bring the local realities on the ground to influence progressive standards on the right to protest. Often activists collaborate with ARTICLE 19 on shared strategies to expand protest rights and source protest lawyers.

Who can seek support: There is not a traditional application or inquiry process. ARTICLE 19 is eager to work with those who are value-aligned through their regional offices covering the entire world.



Region: Global



Contact: Request a regional contact through info@article19.org

Article 20 Network

Support provided: The Article 20 Network defends and advances freedom of peaceful assembly worldwide, encouraging the proliferation of public demonstrations. Protesters are welcome to get in touch with the organization for opinions on how local and national laws align—or not—with Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Who can seek support: Any protester.



Region: Global



Contact: Write to myrights@a20n.org



Asia Democracy Network (ADN)

Support provided: ADN is a “network of networks” that brings together stakeholders across Asia working on issues pertaining to democracy, democratic rights, and themes that fall under these rights. The network bridges governmental, institutional, and other actors and sometimes carries out advocacy in various high-level fora.

Who can seek support: Any protester in Asia.



Region: Asia



Contact: Write to
adn@adnasia.org

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

Support provided: CHRI organizes international advocacy with organisations across the Commonwealth of Nations, including to the Human Rights Council and other United Nations fora. The organization also conducts workshops, trainings, and other capacity building processes and links people to human rights information that may be useful to them.

Who can seek support: Any protester.



Region: Commonwealth
countries



Contact: Use [this contact form](#)

European Civic Forum

Support provided: The European Civic Forum shares resources regarding policy advocacy and helps in mobilizing allies during political crises or attempts to suppress protests in Europe, often by convening stakeholders working on similar issues.

Who can seek support: Anyone in the European Union or the Balkans who is aligned with ECF's values.



Region: Europe



Contact: Write to alert@civic-forum.eu

Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia

Support provided: REDLAD reports on and brings attention to human rights violations. Support from the organization may include monitoring and elevating certain cases to the Inter-American system. Protesters can connect with REDLAD to amplify their pushback on violations of protest rights.

Who can seek support: Any protester in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Region: Latin America and the Caribbean



Contact: Write to comunicaciones@redlad.org or contact through one of the national-level member organizations listed [here](#)



FUNDING, TRAINING, AND STRATEGIZING FOR CREATIVE ACTIONS, CAMPAIGNING, AND FRONTLINE PROTESTING

Beautiful Trouble

Support provided: Light funding and strategy consultation for creative direct actions are available. Training on action design and frontline protesting can be requested by protesters. A toolbox with hundreds of tactical tools for protesters is also free in several languages on the website and in the form of books and games.

Who can apply: Any protester.



Region: Global



Contact: Complete the application through [this link](#) for direct action's financial support. Other services can be requested [here](#)

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Support Provided: In situations where there are violations by private sector actors, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre is able to connect protesters to companies and help obtain information about specific businesses. The organization can also help raise the alarm on corporate abuses, link to lawyers, write to human resource commissions, and engage the media.

Who can apply: Any protester.



Region: Global



Contact: Write to contact@business-humanrights.org

HURIDOCS

Support provided: The organization helps protesters work with the information that they have to build stronger campaigns. HURIDOCS provides tools and mentoring in many languages to increase protesters' impact in advocacy, litigation, and information-based campaigning.

Who can apply: Any protester who falls under the broad UN definition of a "human rights defender."



Region: Global



Contact: Complete the contact form through [this link](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VUKA! COALITION

What is the Vuka! mission? Vuka! has come together to help secure crucial short and long terms victories to regain civic space and incubate new forms of resistance and organization.

How do we achieve our mission? To fulfill its mission, Vuka! seeks to coordinate civil society responses to reclaim civic space and mobilize diverse civil society sectors through:

- 1) Increasing the effectiveness of citizen and civil society responses to the global crackdown on civic space through information sharing, coordination and joint action.
- 2) Increasing civil society's resilience to attacks and threats by building solidarity across the sector.
- 3) Identifying, developing, and incubating creative approaches to human rights advocacy, new forms of resistance and organization.

How is Vuka! structured? The governing structure of the coalition consists of an 18-Member Civil Society Steering Group which provides strategic guidance and oversight to Vuka! Six Action Teams - (1) Thematic Initiatives; 2) Rapid Response; 3) Counter narratives; 4) Technology and Security; 5) Research and; 6) Strategic Litigation.

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation - an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world - currently serves as the Vuka! Secretariat.

Who are Vuka!'s Allies? Vuka! consists of over 225 organizations and networks spanning a broad spectrum of civil society sectors.

[More information about the Vuka! Coalition can be found on our website here](#)