



The Challenge

Universal human rights have become widely accepted as the moral and ethical foundation of human co-existence, regardless of race, religion or political beliefs.

Worldwide, human rights organisations defend individuals from the states' human rights violations. In doing this human rights organisations face a number of challenges. They often lack adequate funding and working facilities, and they are often subject to harassment and persecution.

A Human Rights House is a way human rights organisations can meet some of these challenges.



The Concept

A Human Rights House is a working community of human rights organisations. The purpose is to:

- **Enhance co-operation** and joint activities by bringing human rights groups together in one location. Such activities include the provision of free legal aid to victims of human rights violations, human rights schools, and training.
- **Save costs** by sharing facilities such as conference rooms and human rights documentation centres
- Make the member organisations **more visible and accessible** both at the national and international level
- **Improve security** of human rights defenders
- **Host** meetings, seminars and other events



Human Rights House Network

Human Rights Houses have been established in Oslo (1989), Moscow (1992), Warsaw (1993), Sarajevo (1998) and Bergen (1999), with an associated member House in Tirana. Plans are to establish houses in other regions as well. The Human Rights House Network is a forum of co-operation between the Human Rights Houses.

Human Rights House Foundation

The Human Rights House Foundation was established in 1989. The Foundation seeks to promote the concept and assist the establishment of new Human Rights Houses, and acts as secretariat of the Human Rights House Network. It is located in the Norwegian Human Rights House in Oslo.



HUMAN
RIGHTS
HOUSE
NETWORK

