

# Right insight

*ICTs can enhance human rights advocacy by augmenting the virtual presence and networking capacities of human rights organisations. There are many human rights organisations which provides useful information and also provides a platform to discuss on human rights through their websites. Some of such organisations are highlighted here:*

**AAAS Human Rights Action Network (AAASHRAN):** Initiated in 1993, the AAAS Human Rights Action Network (AAASHRAN) utilises electronic mail to inform AAAS members and other subscribers of cases and developments deserving special attention, and to coordinate scientists' efforts to appeal to governments on behalf of their colleagues whose human rights are being violated. (<http://shr.aaas.org/aaashran/about.htm>)

**Amnesty International:** Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognised human rights. AI's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. (<http://www.amnesty.org/>)

**Canada-US Human Rights Informaiton and Documentation Network (CUSHRID Net):** CUSHRID Net facilitates the exchange of ideas and information between human rights organisations; establishment of uniform standards for human rights documentation, information management and exchange; development of co-operative projects in the areas of documentation and information management to avoid duplication; training in various aspects of documentation and information management; and contacts and exchanges with information and documentation networks in other parts of the world. (<http://shr.aaas.org/cushrid/>)

**Committee to Protect Journalists:** The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organisation founded in 1981. We promote press freedom worldwide by defending the right of journalists. (<http://www.cpj.org/>)

**Globalvision** is an independent film and television production company specialising in information, entertainment and educational programming. Some of the programmes focus on human rights. (<http://www.globalvision.org/>)

**Human Rights First:** Human Rights First works in the United States and abroad to create a secure and humane world by advancing justice, human dignity and respect for the rule of law. (<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/index.html>)

**Human Rights Interactive Network** is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to insuring respect for human rights worldwide. It monitors local and indigenous human rights. (<http://www.webcom.com/hrin/welcome.html>)

**Human Rights Internet (HRI):** Founded in the United States in 1976, HRI is a leader in the exchange of information within the worldwide human rights community. (<http://www.hri.ca/index.aspx>)

**Human Right Watch:** Founded in 1976, HRI is a leader in the exchange of information within the worldwide human rights community. Launched in the United States, HRI has its headquarters in Ottawa, Canada. From Ottawa, HRI communicates by phone, fax, mail and the Internet with more than 5,000 organisations and individuals around the world. ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org))

**Institute for Global Communications (IGC)** offers to host web pages and e-mail addresses for human rights activists. Its mission is to advance and inform movements for peace, economic and social justice, human rights and environmental sustainability around the world by promoting the strategic use of appropriate computer networking technology. (<http://www.igc.org/>)

**Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights:** Founded in 1983, Minnesota Advocates is one of the largest Midwest-based non-governmental organisations engaged in international human rights work. It is dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognised human rights. (<http://www.mnadvocates.org/>)

**NetAction:** NetAction was founded in July, 1996, to educate the public, policy makers, and the media about technology-based social and political issues, and to promote access to and use of information technology as a tool for community organising, outreach, and advocacy. (<http://www.netaction.org>)

**Peace Brigades International (PBI)** is a non-governmental organisation which protects human rights and promotes nonviolent transformation of conflicts. (<http://www.peacebrigades.org>)

**The Carter Centre:** Founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, this Atlanta-based Centre has helped to improve the quality of life for people in more than 65 countries. (<http://www.cartercenter.org/>)

**The Global Internet Liberty Campaign (GILC):** It was formed at the annual meeting of the Internet Society in Montreal. Members of the coalition include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Human Rights Watch, the Internet Society, Privacy International, the Association des Utilisateurs d'Internet, and other organisations. (<http://www.gilc.org>)

**The International Rescue Committee:** Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is a world leader in relief, rehabilitation, protection, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression. (<http://www.theirc.org/>)

**The Video Project:** It provides educational Videos on the Environment, Violence Protection and Human Rights. (<http://www.videoproject.com/index.html>)

**WITNESS:** WITNESS was founded in 1992 by musician and activist Peter Gabriel and the Reebok Foundation for Human Rights as a project of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. (<http://www.witness.org/>) ■

Source: <http://www.undp.org/info21/hr/hr-act.html>