As Denmark’s national human rights institution, we are mandated to protect and promote human rights nationally and internationally, which gives us legitimacy. Through our international mandate, we have cooperated with human rights actors from around the world and together generated a proven track record spurring sustainable change for more than 25 years.

We see human rights as fundamental drivers of change. They induce accountability for the good of all of us. And they entail a range of opportunities: Opportunity for people to thrive, for business to prosper, for society to flourish and for the greater good of the planet.

In order to spur sustainable change driven by human rights, our international work is sharply focused at two levels.

Firstly, we concentrate our efforts on enabling state actors to protect and fulfil human rights. This is a natural extension of the role we play at home.

Secondly, we strive to ensure that key international actors, including companies, integrate human rights standards in their policies, priorities, and regulatory frameworks, as it provides crucial support to states in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Our working methods relates academic research with practical experience gained in the implementation of human rights projects in Denmark and abroad. We combine this human rights expertise with local knowledge of the political and economic contexts in which we work.

It is our ongoing ambition to use our mandate and expertise in ways that maximise our contribution to human rights, and thereby keep sharpening our added value. We look forward to making this journey with partners seeking the same goal.

Eva Grambye
Head of International Division

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
We have identified four strategic priorities for our international work:
1. Human rights institutions
2. Global human rights issues
3. Human rights expertise as an instrument for change
4. Effectiveness of our work
WHAT WE WANT:
As Denmark’s national human rights institution and, thus, an independent public body, we are well-placed to cooperate internationally with public authorities and bodies that play a role in the protection and promotion of human rights in their respective countries.

We focus our partnerships and interventions on:
• National human rights institutions;
• State agencies with a cross-cutting human rights mandate;
• Justice system actors.

HOW WE WORK:
• With our support, the human rights commission in Mali should become more conform with international standards in 2015; and in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the oversight bodies will work on strengthening their legislative bases and institutional capacities to carry out their respective mandates.

• In Tunisia, we supported the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice in its efforts to set up a ministry that complies with rule of law standards following the uprising in 2011. In December 2014, the ministry launched its first strategic plan on human rights.

• In Niger, our work with police forces is an example of how we work with justice system actors. According to surveys, Nigerien police forces used to regard human rights as a hindrance for effective policing. Today, after years of cooperation and training, the police forces see themselves as protecting citizens’ rights.
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

WHAT WE WANT:
We focus on three themes within global human rights issues:

• Human rights and sustainable development – where we strive for the development agenda to reflect human rights principles and recognise the role of national human rights institutions, nationally and internationally;

• Human rights and business – where we work to have the UN Guiding Principles implemented into policy and regulation as well as cooperating with states and private business;

• Human rights and universality – where we through our research efforts are striving to find common ground on globally contested issues.

HOW WE WORK:

• We further human rights and sustainability on the national level with our work measuring economic and social rights in Zambia and Zimbabwe, where we have operationalised the core human right to water working with both state and business actors.

• We contribute to the human rights and business agenda in our work on the development of national action plans corresponding with the UN Guiding Principles. The United States, Chile and Germany work on national action plans guided by a toolkit developed by us.

• Our research department is focusing on increasing political challenges to human rights such as religion, sexual orientation and gender. Two studies on the role of religion with respect to human rights have been anchored in the department, together with a book on human rights and universality through history. In addition, the department is continuously providing scientific support to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on ongoing UN negotiations on human rights.
WHAT WE WANT:
Our working methods combine academic research with practical experience gained in the implementation of human rights projects in Denmark and internationally. We combine this human rights expertise with knowledge of the geographic, political, and economic contexts in which we work.

We focus on strengthening three types of expertise:
• Legal expertise on human rights norms and standards;
• Contextual expertise on the stakeholders, priorities, and institutions where we work;
• Methodological expertise on technical, organisational, and political processes.

HOW WE WORK:
• In China, the Criminal Procedure Law was revised after we – among others – made legal recommendations. Today, defence attorneys have been granted better access to suspects and evidence, as well as the right to bring forward their own evidence and challenge the evidence put forward by the prosecution. Until 2013, the common practice was that the prosecutor would read written testimonies, in effect preventing cross-examination.

• Our contextual expertise from working with police in Africa has furthered our work with the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, where a focal point for policing and human rights is now anchored. With our support, the commission adopted common guidelines for conditions of arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention in 2014.

• Our methodological expertise helps us in our work conducting sector wide impact assessments on, for instance, the impacts of rapidly expanding oil and gas investment on human rights in Myanmar.
WHAT WE WANT:
To secure and maximise our impact and to remain relevant in a context of sharp competition, we are constantly focusing on improving the effectiveness of our work. We have identified three components to achieve this task:
• Focus on select countries and increasing presence;
• Emphasise strategic collaboration;
• Measure and document the impact of our work.

HOW WE WORK:
• We have staff based in Burkina Faso, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, strengthening our engagement in order to secure, among other things, more consistent and smooth cooperation and better context understanding. It is an important principle for us to build up human resources locally in order to achieve sustainable results.

• We have assumed the chairmanship of AHRI, the Association of Human Rights Institutes, consisting of 50 member institutions, in order to strengthen the membership platform in partner countries and activities related to our thematic priorities.

• We will systematically increase the use of baseline studies in order to measure the progress of our work. We will produce more evidence-based research to critically review our work and core assumptions in the field of human rights and development.
FACTS AND FINANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

FINANCES
Our largest single income stems from the cooperation agreement with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other donors include, among others, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the German GIZ and the EU. We generate income by working as consultants with companies eg, Nestlé, TeliaSonera and Total to improve their human rights impact.

INCOME (IN MILLION DKK)

- MFA Cooperation Agreement: 10
- Research: 25
- Other donor financing: 5
- Income-generating activities: 52
- Total: 92

STAFF
50 full time academics splitting working time between HQ in Copenhagen and field work. 14 local staff members on the ground in Africa, Asia, MENA and Eurasia. 11 researchers work on our international programmes.

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WE CREATE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE BECAUSE OF OUR

LEGITIMACY

LOCAL APPROACH

RESEARCH CAPACITY

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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