

**Advocates for Change**  
**Civil Society Support for Türkiye 2024-2025**  
**Call for Applications**

The [Norwegian Helsinki Committee](#) (NHC), an Oslo-based human rights organisation, is pleased to invite applications for the **Advocates for Change – Civil Society Support for Türkiye Grant Program**.

The Program, which is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, centers on the protection of human rights for all, democratic principles and rule of law and aims to support civil society's important role in promoting human rights. **The Program aims to support organisations outside of major cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.**

NHC will provide grants ranging between 100,000 – 300,000 NOK.

Disbursement will be made in over three payments with the final 10% made following the approval of the final report.

**The deadline for sending in the application is 6 October 2024, by 24:00 CET using [the MS Office application form](#).** Applications submitted after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be evaluated. For any questions about the application process, please contact us at [turkiyeprojects@nhc.no](mailto:turkiyeprojects@nhc.no).

Projects should be implemented in Türkiye and be completed before 30 July 2025. Projects will be executed over 9 months.

Projects must align with at least one of the thematic priorities. After the full application evaluation, the highest scoring full proposals will be invited for due diligence checks.

All forms must be filled in English.

## **1. Goals of the Program**

**The Advocates for Change – Civil Society Support for Türkiye Grant Program** has two main threads:

- to empower Türkiye's civil society to promote human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law through project funding;
- to strengthen the capacity of grantees through trainings, peer learning and coaching.

It is hoped that as a result of the Program

1. CS actors have increased operational and project capacity to hold authorities accountable domestically and internationally on their human rights obligations and issues.
2. Groups and individuals at risk in relation to grant program priorities gain attention, obtain legal protection and have access to and benefit from services and assistance programmes.
3. Human rights violations are documented, and exposed, international and national mechanisms triggered, to fight impunity and promote accountability.

Participation in the capacity building component of the Program will be mandatory.

## **2. Eligibility: Who can apply?**

- Legally established CSOs registered in Türkiye - including, foundations, associations, bar associations, unions – can apply.
- Applicant CSOs should have a max turnover of 6,500,000 TL in 2023.
- Organizations can make only one application.
- The Program aims to support organisations outside of major cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.
- Funds cannot be sub-granted.

## **3. Grant amount and budget requirements:**

Grant applications must be between the limits specified below:

- Lower limit: 100,000 NOK
- Upper limit: 300,000 NOK

The requested budget must be stated in NOK currency. Grant payments will only be made to NOK, EUR or USD accounts. NHC will not be responsible for fluctuations in exchange rates and conversion losses.

NHC may request reductions or changes to the project budget if deemed necessary during the evaluation process.

#### **4. Priority areas and fields of projects**

The call is open for applications that address the following priority themes:

- human rights defenders
- freedom of expression and the media
- LGBTQIA+ rights
- gender equality
- women's empowerment

Funding can be requested for projects in the field of

- Monitoring and reporting on human rights with a view to engage with local, national and international human rights compliance control mechanisms
- Promoting human rights through public awareness raising
- Alliance building to promote and advocate for human rights
- Facilitation of policy dialogue processes
- Strategic litigation and legal assistance
- Local, national and international advocacy to strengthen the protection of human rights
- Engagement with policy making processes
- Developing and carrying out social media or media campaigns
- Developing and implementing offline and online training material
- Community mobilization
- Capacity building of CSOs and human rights defenders
- Other similar activities related to defending human rights

#### **5. Cross cutting issues**

Applicants should briefly explain how they are planning on addressing relevant cross-cutting issues such as anti-corruption, climate and environment, LGBTQIA+ rights, women's rights and gender equality, and human rights (with a particular focus on participation, accountability and non-discrimination).

## 6. Indicative timetable

Announcement of call for applications	12 September 2024
Deadline for submissions of applications	6 October 2024
Provisionally selected candidates will be contacted	By end of October 2024
Grant letter, disbursement of first payment (50%) and beginning of projects	November 2024
Projects must end by	30 July 2025
Final report	10 August 2025

## 7. Evaluation criteria and process

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee to identify projects based on the priority areas of the grant program and the application's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

Due consideration will also be given to the alignment of the organizations with democratic principles and commitment to the protection of human rights for all.

We encourage applicants to ensure that a gender-based analysis informs the design of their project.

The project aims to support organisations outside of major cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

The thematic diversity of the projects will be considered during the selection process.

Please note that due to the large number of applicants, only provisionally selected candidates will be contacted.

## 8. Reporting

Grantees will be required to prepare a narrative progress report halfway through their project as well as a more detailed final narrative and financial project report. In addition, oral reporting will be in place to understand the progress and support the organization if needed.

## 9. Required documents:

- [MS Forms - application form](#) (To access the application question list prepared for only guidance [please click here.](#))

All of the following documents must be sent to [turkiyeprojects@nhc.no](mailto:turkiyeprojects@nhc.no), please include the name of your organisation in the subject line:

- [Results management, implementation plan and risk mitigation plan form](#)
- [Budget form](#)
- Statute of the organisation
- Signature circular
- Operation certificate from the DERBİS system
- Your organisation's 2023 financial report

## 11. Eligible costs

- Human resources
- Travel and allowances
- Purchase or rental of equipment
- Expenses related to the activity (conference, training, meeting, etc.)
- Visibility and promotion of the project (visibility and promotion expenses, project outputs and publications, translation expenses etc.)
- Expenses for organizational capacity development (legal consultancy, administrative support and capacity building activities, impact assessment etc.)
- Office costs

## 12. Ineligible costs

- Expenses declared within the scope of another project
- Debts and debt service charges (interest)
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities
- Purchases of land or buildings and/or all types of motor vehicles
- Currency conversion costs and foreign exchange rate losses
- Credits or sub-granting to third parties
- In kind contributions, charity works and humanitarian aid
- All kinds of fines imposed on organisations or officials of organisations
- Personal expenses of the employees, volunteers, and managers of the organisation,
- Personnel premiums and bonuses

[Norwegian Helsinki Committee](#) (NHC) is an Oslo-based human rights organisation established in 1977 that works internationally to strengthen the protection of human rights in practice. To this end NHC's activities include monitoring, reporting, human rights education, and supporting civil society and democratic structures. The NHC's work is based on the human rights instruments adopted in the context of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.