



Annual Report 2020 /  
The Right Livelihood Foundation /  
Standing up for human courage since 1980



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**PAUL EKINS**  
Chair of the Board



**OLE VON UEXKULL**  
Executive Director

### Dear Reader,

2020 was a year unlike any in recent memory. The Covid-19 pandemic reminded us of our interconnectedness and vulnerability, and how our assault on natural systems affects global health. The starkly unequal impact of the pandemic on different countries and social groups aggravated and shone a spotlight on the injustices that Right Livelihood Laureates have been fighting for decades.

As a courage-powered community for social change, we were inevitably drawn by the pandemic to reflect on the global threats in stock, which will be more lethal than the Covid-19 virus if not urgently addressed. We need to treat these threats as symptoms of the same underlying systems crisis – a crisis that needs to be solved through integrated, large-scale action.

Right Livelihood Laureates present a mosaic of such solutions, which, taken together, pave the way towards peace, justice and sustainability for all. As a Foundation, we aim to support the Laureates, amplify their voices and make their know-how available to a new generation of change-makers.

In our strategic plan for the next five years, we will redouble our efforts to advance this work. Increased visibility and engagement are key strategic goals for us, guided by the urgency of the problems we face globally. In the coming years, Laureates and their solutions will reach more people: decision-makers, students, activists, engaged citizens and the media.

We believe that presenting the work of these courageous change-makers is our best hope for inspiring people around the world to follow in their footsteps and initiate meaningful and lasting change in all corners of the world.

We thank you for being part of this journey so far and hope that you will continue to support us and the Laureates!





We opened our global call for nominations for the Award.

Read more about our selection process on page 20.



Laureates and academia were brought together in Bangkok to discuss activism and education.

Read more on page 32.



Our Jury convened to select the change-makers to be honoured in 2020.

Read more on page 20.



We launched the #StandUp4Nasrin campaign to free 2020 Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh.

Read more on page 26.



The 41st Award Presentation was held in Stockholm, celebrating the courage and commitment of the 2020 Awardees.

Read more on page 16.

January

## A QUICK LOOK BACK AT 2020

February

2019 Laureate Greta Thunberg announced that she was establishing the Greta Thunberg Foundation, using her 1-million-SEK Right Livelihood Award prize money.



March

2019 Laureates Aminatou Haidar and Davi Kopenawa addressed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Read more on page 24.



September

October

The 2020 Right Livelihood Laureates were announced on October 1.



November

December

As part of the Award Week, 2020 Laureate Ales Bialiatski visited Stockholm and met with the Swedish Foreign Minister.

Read more on page 18.



# Standing up for human courage since 1980

The Right Livelihood Foundation nurtures the human courage needed to achieve peace, justice and sustainability for all. By recognising the actions of brave visionaries and building impactful connections around the world, we boost urgent and long-term social change.

Since 1980, we annually present the Right Livelihood Award to courageous people solving global problems. To date, the Award has been bestowed on a total of 182 Laureates from 72 countries. We see our role as being a megaphone and shield for these change-makers, providing them with long-term support.

The Right Livelihood Foundation is a non-profit organisation registered in Sweden, funded by private donations. Our head office is located in Stockholm, and we have a branch office in Geneva and a support foundation in Zurich. Members of the team also work from Argentina and Germany. The Foundation has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

## OUR VISION

We envision a just, peaceful and sustainable world for all.

## OUR MISSION

We honour and support courageous people solving global problems.

## HOW OUR WORK IS ORGANISED

### HONOUR

The Foundation's principal purpose is to bestow the Right Livelihood Award. Along with the prestige and prize money comes increased visibility for Laureates.

### SUPPORT

The Foundation provides the Award recipients with long-term support. Their work is strengthened through the Foundation's UN-based advocacy, networking activities and protection programme for Laureates under threat.

### EDUCATE

The Foundation connects activism and academia through its global university partnerships, where the next generations of change-makers are trained and the work of the Laureates is expanded upon.

### INFORM

The Foundation helps the Laureates get their messages out to a broader audience, building awareness about urgent problems and their solutions, while also inspiring others to take action.





THE  
RIGHT  
LIVELIHOOD  
AWARD

Standing up for human  
courage since 1980.

Ole von Uexküll

# Introducing the 2020 Laureates

The 2020 Right Livelihood Laureates come from different continents and different walks of life, however, they are united in their fight for a more just, peaceful and sustainable future. They are also united in their courage, which is changing the world for the better. We are honoured to welcome the 2020 Laureates into the Right Livelihood community and join them on their journey.

Right: Human rights lawyer and civil  
society activist **Nasrin Sotoudeh**

Below: Pro-democracy activist **Ales  
Bialiatski**, founder of **Viasna**



Above: Lawyer and racial justice  
advocate **Bryan Stevenson**

Left: Indigenous rights champion  
**Lottie Cunningham Wren**



## IRAN

# Nasrin Sotoudeh

"For her fearless activism, at great personal risk, to promote political freedoms and human rights in Iran."

**Nasrin Sotoudeh** is an Iranian lawyer advocating for the rule of law and the rights of political prisoners, women and children in the face of Iran's repressive regime. She is currently serving a long prison sentence for standing up against the country's draconian legal system. Despite her imprisonment and constant threats to her family, Sotoudeh remains a defiant advocate for the rule of law.

Under Iran's oppressive leadership, human rights and political opposition are heavily restricted. Women face especially harsh oppression and limitations due to the country's strict interpretation of Islamic law. Despite pro-democracy protests in recent years and heavy international criticism for its human rights record, Iran remains one of the most repressive regimes worldwide.

Sotoudeh rose to prominence in the aftermath of the 2009 anti-government protests, the so-called "Green Revolution." She defended several activists arrested during the government's aggressive crackdown on the demonstrations. As a member of the organisation called "Step by Step to Stop the Death Penalty" (LEGAM), Sotoudeh has fought to abolish the death penalty in Iran. Most recently, she defended women who in 2018 protested Iran's draconian law requiring hijabs by taking off their headscarves on the streets.

Because of her unrelenting commitment to justice, Sotoudeh has been frequently imprisoned, including in solitary confinement, since 2010. In March 2019, she was sentenced to a total of 38 years in prison and 148 lashes on made-up charges including stoking "corruption and prostitution." During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Sotoudeh went on hunger strikes to protest the continued arbitrary detention of political prisoners amid abysmal conditions in Iranian prisons.

“While still in prison, in the difficult days of my hunger strike, as my family was also under increased judicial pressures, I learned from my husband Reza Khandan that I had received the "Alternative Nobel" prize along with three distinguished civil society activists from around the globe. Under those difficult conditions, it provided me and my family with renewed energy to carry on my path.

/ NASRIN SOTOUDEH



Currently serving a long prison sentence for standing up against Iran's draconian legal system, Nasrin Sotoudeh keeps advocating for the rule of law.



## BELARUS

# Ales Bialiatski/Viasna

“For their resolute struggle for the realisation of democracy and human rights in Belarus.”

**Ales Bialiatski** is a human rights activist in Belarus, leading an almost 30-year campaign for democracy and freedom. In 1996, he founded the Minsk-based Human Rights Center “Viasna” to provide support for political prisoners. It has since become the country’s leading non-governmental organisation contributing to the development of the civil society in Belarus through documenting human rights abuses and monitoring elections.

Belarus, under the rule of President Alexander Lukashenko, is often referred to as “Europe’s last dictatorship.” This reputation rightly stems from his authoritarian rule in which elections are rigged, opposition voices are silenced, and civil society is severely restricted.

Since the mid-1980s, Bialiatski has led a nonviolent and nonpartisan campaign to ensure that democratic freedoms and a vibrant civil society are established in Belarus. Bialiatski has been arrested and spent several years in prison on trumped-up charges, as Belarusian authorities tried to impede him. The government has also frequently targeted Viasna and its members.

However, Bialiatski and Viasna’s persistent and long-standing efforts to empower the people of Belarus and ensure their democratic rights have rendered them an unstoppable force for freedom. During pro-democracy protests, including the recent large-scale demonstrations in the aftermath of the fraudulent 2020 presidential elections, Viasna has been playing a leading role in advocating for the freedom of assembly, defending the rights of people arrested for protesting and documenting human rights abuses. Bialiatski is also a member of the Coordination Council, which was set up in August 2020 by opposition and civil society figures with the aim of facilitating a peaceful transfer of power in the country.

Bialiatski and Viasna continue to stand for the multitude of courageous people protesting Lukashenko’s dictatorial reign at high personal risk. Through their commitment to democracy and freedom, Bialiatski and Viasna have laid the foundations of a peaceful and democratic society in Belarus.

“In this difficult time, the highly prestigious Right Livelihood Award is a strong signal of moral support to us, human rights defenders of Viasna. We regard this Award not only as a recognition of the quality of our work. We perceive it as a sign of solidarity from the entire democratic world with the people of Belarus.

/ ALES BIALIATSKI



Ales Bialiatski and the Human Rights Center “Viasna” have fought for democracy and freedom in Belarus for almost 30 years. Despite leading peaceful protests, Bialiatski has often been arrested and served several years in prison in the past.



## NICARAGUA

# Lottie Cunningham Wren

"For her ceaseless dedication to the protection of indigenous lands and communities from exploitation and plunder."

**Lottie Cunningham Wren** is a lawyer from the Miskito indigenous group defending the rights of indigenous peoples in Nicaragua to their land and resources. She has been instrumental in ensuring legal protections, including initiating the process of demarcation and titling of indigenous lands in Nicaragua. Cunningham has also fought to uphold the human rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, protecting them and their livelihoods.

Indigenous communities around the world face a multitude of threats, from land grabs and exploitation of their natural resources to violence, endangering their very existence. In Nicaragua, most indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are harassed by armed settlers, who use the land to ranch cattle and harvest wood while pushing indigenous communities off their farmlands and out of their villages. Because of government-backed extractive industries, vital natural resources, such as clean water sources, are often destroyed.

Through the use of international and domestic law, Cunningham has secured indigenous land rights in Nicaragua, pioneering legal strategies that have been successfully used by indigenous communities around the world to demarcate their lands. Cunningham has also shown that the protection of indigenous land is instrumental to the protection of local ecosystems.

A fierce advocate for her people, Cunningham has also advanced the rights of indigenous women, including establishing programmes to reduce domestic violence and pushing to create space for them in decision-making bodies. She also trains youth on how to demand respect for their human rights and report violations.

“The Award will be used to seek social justice for all indigenous and Afro-descendant communities on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

/ LOTTIE CUNNINGHAM WREN



Lottie Cunningham Wren has been instrumental in ensuring legal protection of indigenous lands in Nicaragua and the fight to uphold the rights of indigenous peoples and protect their livelihoods.



USA

# Bryan Stevenson

“For his inspiring endeavour to reform the US criminal justice system and advance racial reconciliation in the face of historic trauma.”

**Bryan Stevenson** is a leading US civil rights lawyer striving to reform the country’s criminal justice system to ensure equal rights for all. As systemic injustice disproportionately affects people of colour, Stevenson has dedicated his life to the pursuit of racial equality and challenging the historical legacy of institutional racism in the United States. Stevenson’s decades-long struggle to stand up for the marginalised has paved the way for a more just society.

Stevenson’s work is rooted in the realisation that society and the justice system are plagued by systemic racism due to the unresolved history of slavery and white supremacy in the US.

In 1989, Stevenson founded the organisation that is today called the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), which has for decades advocated for people on death row. They represent hundreds of individuals in the criminal justice system yearly and have won release, relief or reversal for over 140 wrongfully condemned individuals on death row. Stevenson is an outspoken opponent of the death penalty. He has also won cases before the US Supreme Court that have advanced the rights of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system and those of minors prosecuted as adults. Campaigning to end excessive sentencing practices, which often disproportionately affect the poor and people of colour, has been another important aspect of Stevenson’s work.

Stevenson and EJI have also been deeply engaged in documenting the history of slavery, lynchings and segregation in the US, opening both a museum and memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. Stevenson is advocating for a society-wide process to face the legacy of slavery and white supremacy, paving the way for societal healing from the long and violent history of racial injustice in the US.

Stevenson’s compassion has shined a light on the innate worth of each human being. As he put it in his 2014 bestseller memoir, *Just Mercy*, “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.”

“I work in a country that has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. I work against a system that treats you better if you’re rich and guilty than if you’re poor and innocent.

/ BRYAN STEVENSON



Bryan Stevenson’s pursuit of racial equality is challenging the legacy of institutional racism in the United States.





# 41st Award Presentation

Honouring the new Laureates is always one of the highlights of the year. Despite the pandemic, we decided to organise a celebration for the 2020 Laureates, creating an experience that was out of the ordinary.

We tailored the event to an online audience with most Laureates joining from around the world virtually to accept the Award. Hosted out of Stockholm, the celebration featured artists and international experts presenting the Award, such as Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde. Tens of thousands of people across the globe tuned in to be part of an empowering event honouring the courage and commitment of the Laureates.

## CELEBRATING COURAGE

Under the magnificent dome of Stockholm's Eric Ericssonhallen, Swedish TV-host and artist Gina Dirawi welcomed audiences to an emotional and inspiring evening. The live performances by The Mamas, Sweden's 2020 pick for the Eurovision song contest, and singers Sarah Klang and Amanda Bergman were electrifying and powerful even through television screens.

Connecting live from Montgomery, Alabama, Anthony Ray Hinton, who had been exonerated after spending decades on death row, presented the Award to US civil rights lawyer **Bryan Stevenson** - the man who had saved his life.

"I spent 30 years on Alabama death row for a crime I did not commit," Hinton said. "Hadn't it been for Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative, I wouldn't be here today."

Stevenson accepted the Award while standing inside The Legacy Museum, a memorial site he and his organisation, the Equal Justice Initiative, have set up to remember the victims of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the centuries of racial discrimination and injustice that have ensued since.

"I am thrilled to be part of a new fellowship, a new community of award winners," Stevenson said. "Mr Hinton and I still live in a nation where there is a presumption of dangerousness and guilt that burdens black and brown people. We are not yet free. Thank you for recognising our struggle!"

The next Laureate to connect live from a remote location was **Lottie Cunningham Wren** who has for decades fought for indigenous rights in Nicaragua. She reflected on the long path she had taken in this struggle.

"I have walked a long time with my people, with those who are hungry and thirsty for justice,

who suffer the violence, the destruction of the environment or the violation of their basic rights. It is for them that I am here," she said.

Following a severe deterioration of her health, Iranian lawyer **Nasrin Sotoudeh** was released from prison for a temporary medical leave in early November. However, one day before the Award Presentation, she was ordered back to jail by Iranian authorities, preventing her from joining the celebration of her fearless human rights activism.

"No one should be imprisoned for standing up for human rights," said Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde as she presented the Award to Sotoudeh, calling for her release.

In an audio message sent to the Foundation a few days before her return to prison, Sotoudeh highlighted the unjust suffering of all political prisoners in Iran.

"While I am deeply grateful for the honour of joining the company of the many distinguished Laureates who have received this Award, I would like to draw your attention to the plight of all the political prisoners in Iran and ask that you join us in calling for their health and freedom," Sotoudeh said. "I hope that our mutual efforts towards creating a better world bear fruit."

**Ales Bialiatki**, who received the Award together with the organisation he had founded, Human Rights Center "Viasna," was the only Laureate able to travel to Stockholm and participate in person in the Award Presentation. He used the opportunity to

highlight state terror under Alexander Lukashenko's reign targeting peaceful protesters and Viasna's staff members, as they struggled for democracy in Belarus.

"It is impossible to eradicate the natural striving of Belarusians for human rights, freedom and independence," Bialiatki said.

In one of the most iconic moments of the night, he raised the Award sculpture above his head in a show of solidarity with all those fighting for freedom in Belarus.

## EVERYDAY ACTIONS MATTER

Answering questions from a global audience during the event, Ole von Uexkull, Executive Director of the Right Livelihood Foundation, highlighted the importance of turning inspiration from the Laureates into everyday action.

"The future is in our hands," he said. "We need to use that power urgently, and that's why we stress courage so much. The courage to take us from words to actions. The thing that you think that someone ought to be doing for a better world might be what you should be doing tomorrow."

The large-scale production from three locations across continents could not have happened without our generous partners: advertising agency Momentum, media agency Tre Kronor, and our media partners Dagens Nyheter and Expressen. Additionally, around 50 professionals working behind the scenes helped realise this event.





## A different Award Week

Due to the pandemic, the traditional programme of introducing new Laureates at events in Stockholm, Geneva, Zurich and Berlin was replaced by online lectures and webinars organised in cooperation with The Right Livelihood Centre in Zurich, The University of Geneva and Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in Stockholm.

**Ales Bialiatski** arrived in Stockholm a few days before the Award Presentation. During his stay, he met with representatives of Swedish partner organisations and Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde. He did several media interviews with major news outlets such as ZDF, SVT and Reuters. We also launched an urgent appeal demanding an end to the persecution and harassment of peaceful protesters and human rights defenders in Belarus during Bialiatski's visit to the Swedish capital. The appeal was supported by German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and 29 German and Swedish lawmakers. Thirty-one Right Livelihood Laureates also joined the calls in a separate petition.



## New award sculpture by Eva Hild

In 2020, renowned Swedish sculptor Eva Hild agreed to create the new Right Livelihood Award Sculpture using recycled metal collected from gun destruction programmes in Central America.

**Hild is hailed** as one of Sweden's foremost sculptors and has exhibited her works in Hong Kong, New York and Paris.

"The weight of the hard, metallic material with its history of violence and destruction creates a big contrast to the thin, soft and organic forms in my work," said Eva Hild, who created the new Award Sculpture pro bono.

As the artist was standing in her studio in the small town Parsör on the Swedish west coast, surrounded by beautiful sculptures in white clay with their harmonic shapes, openings and looped lines, gun violence felt rather distant.

However, every day, around 2,000 people are injured by gun violence in non-conflict areas around the world. To tackle this, the organisation IM Swedish Development Partner launched an initiative to decrease gun violence and build more inclusive and peaceful societies.

The metal from seized firearms is melted and moulded into units called Humanium Metal, which are then made available for commercial production. The revenues go back to communities affected by gun violence. Humanium Metal is sometimes referred to as "the most valuable metal in the world"

as the initiative contributes to removing weapons from the streets and saving lives.

"It is incredibly symbolic, almost a bit magical, to reuse material and transform it into something that represents the opposite," Hild said. "I am thrilled that the Right Livelihood Foundation asked me if I wanted to create the new Award Sculpture."



The Award Sculpture created by Hild will be used to honour leading change-makers for many years to come.



# Selecting the Laureates

It's not an easy task to identify the most deserving change-makers on the planet to receive the Right Livelihood Award. Our Research Team works year-round on this extensive process with the involvement of engaged citizens around the world.

## Learn and prepare

Evaluations of the selection process began as soon as the 2020 Laureates were announced at a press conference in Stockholm. Based on learnings from the past year, the Research Team started to plan and prepare the process to identify the 2021 Laureates.

## Jury meeting

The international Jury selecting the Laureates consists of Foundation Board members, previous Laureates and Laureate legacy holders. The jury members bring a wealth of knowledge from various fields of expertise and regions of the world, allowing for a rigorous debate and evaluation of the nominees. This year, some of the Jury convened in Köln, Germany, for three days while others joined online to select the 2020 Laureates.

## Catching last-minute activities

Things can develop fast. While one nominee began a hunger strike in August, another was leading mass protests against a corrupt regime. As the jury report was mailed to jury members in five continents our team engaged in final research covering recent developments relating to nominees.

## Writing the Jury report

July is an intense month for the Research Team as they compile a thorough jury report detailing the information gathered on all nominees for the Award. This year, the report totalled 573 pages.



“Anyone can submit a nomination, and we do not have fixed categories. This approach ensures a wide variety of nominees to consider and helps us to discover and better understand under-reported issues that need to be brought to the forefront of public and political discourse.”

/ADAM MCBETH, RESEARCH MANAGER

## Call for nominations

Everyone is welcome to nominate candidates for the Right Livelihood Award. Activists, students, civil society organisations, previous Laureates and many others are our eyes and ears on the ground. To find leading change-makers advancing justice, peace, and sustainability worldwide, we encourage people from all walks of life to submit nominations.

## Deadline day

Nominations are made via an online form and can be submitted in French, English, or Spanish. 182 persons and organisations from 71 countries were considered for the Award following the deadline of March 4 in 2020.

## Desk research

The process of evaluating the nominees is exhaustive. The Research Team analyses reports and other materials provided by the nominators and the nominees, while confidentially reaching out to independent sources to gather insights on the quality of the nominees and their work. Due to the pandemic, our team couldn't carry out field visits to view any projects and gauge their impact on the ground. Instead, they increased online research and interviews.



# Our promise: long-term support

A feature that sets the Right Livelihood Award apart from many other international prizes is that Laureates are provided with life-long support by the Foundation.

**We strive to** work alongside these courageous change-makers to amplify their voices, providing them with the network and protection they need to realise their visions for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

The Foundation is deeply committed to strengthening the network of Laureates, linking these leading experts from different parts of the world with each other for greater impact. Our advocacy activities aim to make the Laureates' voices heard and advance their causes. Additionally, when a Laureate's life and liberty are at risk, the Foundation puts in place a range of safeguards to enhance that Laureate's protection.

The long-term support provided by the Foundation is developed in close dialogue with Laureates and tailored to meet their specific needs. Activities include initiating advocacy campaigns, funding security measures and establishing contact with UN agencies.

“A wonderful and unexpected boon in becoming a Right Livelihood Laureate was meeting and working with other Laureates, advancing our collective work.

/ MAUDE BARLOW, 2005 LAUREATE FROM CANADA



## Protection

From India to Guatemala, Right Livelihood Laureates oppose powerful political and corporate interests. The Foundation's Protection programme plays a vital role in enhancing the safety of some 20 Laureates who live under threat.

**We adopt a holistic strategy** and develop a preventive and proactive protection plan based on risk assessments conducted with the Laureate in danger. Activities - including advocacy work - aim to build more solid and long-term protection for the Laureate.

In case of imminent and acute danger to the Laureate's life, health and liberty, the Foundation activates measures identified beforehand together with the Laureate and trusted partners. These so-called Emergency Protocols are essential in case of a crisis.

Surveillance and censorship are increasing across continents, putting many activists in danger. Together with the US-based Freedom of the Press Foundation, chaired by 2014 Laureate Edward Snowden, we launched a Digital Security Pilot during August, involving three Laureates. After extensive needs and risk assessment, they were trained by leading experts on data protection, account security and digital resilience. Building on lessons learned and excellent feedback from participating Laureates, digital security training will become an integral part of the Foundation's protection work.



# Advocacy

The pandemic brought drastic changes to the world of diplomacy, especially affecting the participation of civil society organisations in the work of the United Nations. However, despite hardships and limitations, the Foundation regularly highlighted the causes of Laureates at the UN and beyond in 2020. Thanks to the Foundation's consultative status at the UN, we were able to advocate and engage with different UN mechanisms to enhance the protection of Laureates working in repressive environments and raise awareness about threats to civil society.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

We participated in the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, which take place three times each year in Geneva to discuss human rights issues around the world. We were able to raise attention to and denounce a number of issues affecting Right Livelihood Laureates. These included the social and environmental catastrophe facing indigenous peoples in Brazil, human rights violations in Western Sahara and Saudi Arabia, discrimination against the LGBTI community in Uganda and reprisals against women human rights defenders in Egypt.

Throughout the year, we submitted reports and provided a wide range of information to the UN human rights mechanisms. We also alerted relevant international actors when specific emergencies occurred, including by facilitating advocacy meetings between Laureates and UN officials. Together with our partners, we raised international attention to grave human rights violations in Belarus, Iran, Brazil and Western Sahara through both public and private communications.

## LAUREATES IN GENEVA

In February, Sahrawi activist Aminatou Haidar, who received the Award in 2019, visited Geneva. We

facilitated a meeting between her and Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other high-level UN contacts. Haidar brought to their attention the grave human rights situation in Western Sahara. She also addressed the systematic violation of human rights in Western Sahara before the UN Human Rights Council.

"I wish to express my deep concern at the suffering of my people, the Sahrawi people, who have been militarily occupied by Morocco since 1975," Haidar told the Council.

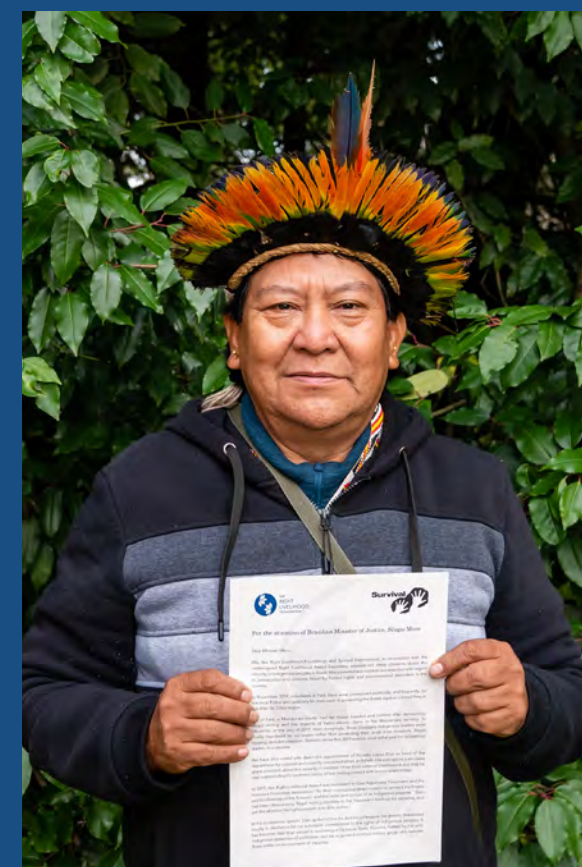
Indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa, who received the Award in 2019, was also able to use the Foundation's access to the UN to address the Council in person in February, denouncing the violent attacks, destruction of property and the presence of illegal miners in Yanomami territory in the Brazilian Amazon.

"There are already around 20,000 illegal miners invading our territory, contaminating our water and bringing diseases such as mercury poisoning and malaria," he told the Council.

"We will not give up our land. We do not wish to be like non-indigenous people. The Federal Government [of Brazil] must comply with its constitutional obligations and guarantee our rights."



2019 Laureate Aminatou Haidar had a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.



2019 Laureate Davi Kopenawa with a joint letter signed by 36 Laureates and sent to Brazilian Minister of Justice Sergio Moro.



2019 Laureates Aminatou Haidar (above) and Davi Kopenawa (below) delivered oral statements at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.





# #StandUp4Nasrin

Awarding our prize to human rights defenders who are behind bars for their work is becoming increasingly common, as pressure builds on civil society activists around the world.

In 2020, Iranian lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh received the Right Livelihood Award for defending human and women's rights under Iran's repressive regime – for which she was serving a lengthy prison sentence at the time of accepting the Award.

The global attention around the Right Livelihood Award was an opportunity to garner further international attention to her situation and pressure the Iranian authorities to release her.

In light of the unjust sentence imposed on her and the dramatic deterioration of her health in prison, we launched an online campaign under the hashtag #StandUp4Nasrin to demand her permanent release.

As part of the viral social media campaign, 38 members of the German Bundestag demanded her unconditional and permanent release. Several German lawmakers also appeared in a video message, produced by the Foundation, echoing the same call.

"Nasrin is a human rights lawyer currently imprisoned in Iran," said Michael Brand (CDU) in the video.

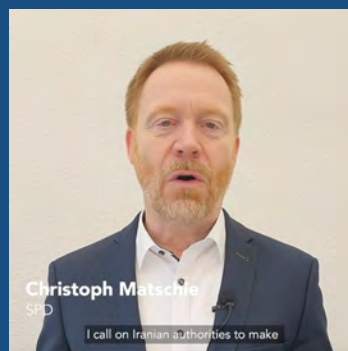
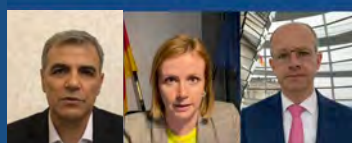
"Her crime? Standing up for fundamental freedoms and demanding fair trials for opposition activists," said Bärbel Kofler (SPD)

"I stand up for Nasrin Sotoudeh," said Claudia Roth (Die Grünen), Vice-President of the German Bundestag, imploring others to do so as well.

The campaign received global media attention and the hashtag garnered 1.7 million reach on Twitter.



#StandUp4Nasrin



# Digital engagement



With the onset of the pandemic, our digital channels have become more important for engaging with our community, especially when we moved our physical events online.

Together with Right Livelihood College Santa Cruz, we co-hosted the "Conversations that Matter" webinar series, inviting Right Livelihood Laureates to share their insights on social transformation, water justice, solidarity economics, democracy, as well as women and global health. Fourteen Laureates participated, including Frances Moore Lappé, Vesna Teršelič and Bill McKibben.

The International Poetry Festival of Medellín, which received the Award in 2006, turned its annual festival into an all-digital event in response to the pandemic. As part of the festival, we co-hosted online conversations about disarmament, environmentalism and the role culture can play in transforming societies. The three sessions generated a total of 11,500 views within one month.

Besides online events, we provided more digital engagement opportunities during 2020. For example, in April we launched "A Dose of Inspiration," a collection of resources for our readers to stay active and positive as the pandemic forced more and more people around the world into isolation. We also enabled means to engage with us in digital events so as to offer a more interactive experience for the audience.

## ANNOUNCEMENT WEEK

17,700,000 impressions  
10,300,000 reach

## AWARD PRESENTATION

4,500,000 impressions  
10,300,000 reach

## FOR THE #RIGHTLIVELIHOOD HASHTAG







# Media impact

The Right Livelihood Foundation serves as a megaphone for the Laureates, building awareness about the Laureates' causes through communications. The Foundation's Communications Team, with members based in Argentina, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, is working year-round to increase the visibility of the Laureates and the Foundation.

By promoting Laureates' solutions to the most burning challenges of our time, we raise their profiles, increase their influence on decision-makers and inspire change.

In 2020, our work generated a high amount of visibility in the media, despite the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic dominated much of the news coverage during the year. About 8,600 media reports mentioning the Right Livelihood Award or the Foundation were published globally.

The press team was active around the premiere of the Hollywood film Dark Waters in Sweden and Germany, a movie based on the work of environmental lawyer Robert Bilott from the US, who received the Award in 2017. In April, the Foundation drew attention to and became a main source of information for the media on the unlawful imprisonment and inhumane treatment that led to the death of 2018 Laureate Abdullah al-Hamid from Saudi Arabia.

News coverage of the press conference in Stockholm announcing the new Laureates was extensive. In-depth reports about the new Laureates' pioneering work were featured in Tagesschau, El Tiempo, The Washington Post, Deutsche Welle, Spiegel Online, Dagens Nyheter, and la Repubblica, to name a few.

Expressen.se broadcasted the Award Presentation, reaching more than 100,000 viewers in Sweden alone. NHK, Japan's public broadcaster, the daily US news show Democracy Now!, and opposition TV channels in Belarus and Iran were among the many international media companies that covered the event celebrating the new Laureates.

LA PRENSA



Lottie Cunningham: «Estoy trabajando por personas que tienen hambre y sed de justicia»

sverigesradio



Människorättskampen Bryan Stevenson. Foto: Rog Walker / RIGHT LIVELIHOOD/TT.

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD-PRISER

Han prisas för insatser mot strukturell rasism

DW Made for minds.



AMERICAS

Bryan Stevenson: 'We're still compromised by the legacy of slavery'

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Die Wahl fällt diesmal auf weniger bekannte Aktivisten



Im Fokus des Alternativen Nobelpreises stehen in diesem Jahr Menschenrechtler und Aktivisten, die weltweit weniger bekannt sind. Die Auszeichnungen gehen nach Iran und Belarus, Nicaragua und Amerika.

NHK WORLD-JAPAN



皆さんにイランの刑務所に収監されている「政治犯」の状況に目を向けてほしいです

tagesschau.de



Quelle: Right Livelihood Award

Süddeutsche Zeitung



3. Dezember 2020, 22:23 Uhr Auszeichnungen

Alternative Nobelpreise in Stockholm vergeben

Le Monde

Bryan Stevenson, lauréat du « prix Nobel alternatif » : « Il faut un changement radical du récit national sur la suprématie blanche »





“The challenging year 2020 sprouted the creativity and vibrancy of the Right Livelihood Colleges like never before - they brilliantly leaped forward into the digital era, creating greater connectivity, conviviality and interactive participation between academics and activists and the student community.

/ ANWAR FAZAL, CHAIRPERSON, INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE RIGHT LIVELIHOOD COLLEGE, AND 1982 LAUREATE

# Education for Right Livelihood

## RIGHT LIVELIHOOD COLLEGE

In 2020, the Right Livelihood College (RLC), which is the Foundation's global capacity-building initiative, brought activists and academia together for numerous online discussions. The new online formats came in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, yet they opened up new and exciting avenues to bring participants together from around the world.

Initiated in 2009 by Malaysian Laureate Anwar Fazal, the College operates as a network of campuses at ten universities and academic institutions across five continents. By linking young academics and civil society organisations with Award recipients, the College spreads awareness about - and further

expands - the pioneering work of the Laureates, who become Fellows of the College upon receiving the Award.

Throughout the year, over a dozen digital events organised by the RLC network allowed exploring new ways of cross-continental participation and strengthened the collaboration across borders, generations and academic disciplines.

In 2020, the Right Livelihood Centre of the University of Zurich was also launched with the aim of contributing to teaching, continuing education and public relations to make the Laureates' knowledge and solutions accessible to even wider audiences.

“My form of activism is giving the change-makers a voice within university. The solution to global problems is to bring together activism with academia.

/ ALINE STEINBRECHER FREI, PD DR., MANAGING DIRECTOR, RIGHT LIVELIHOOD CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

## GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

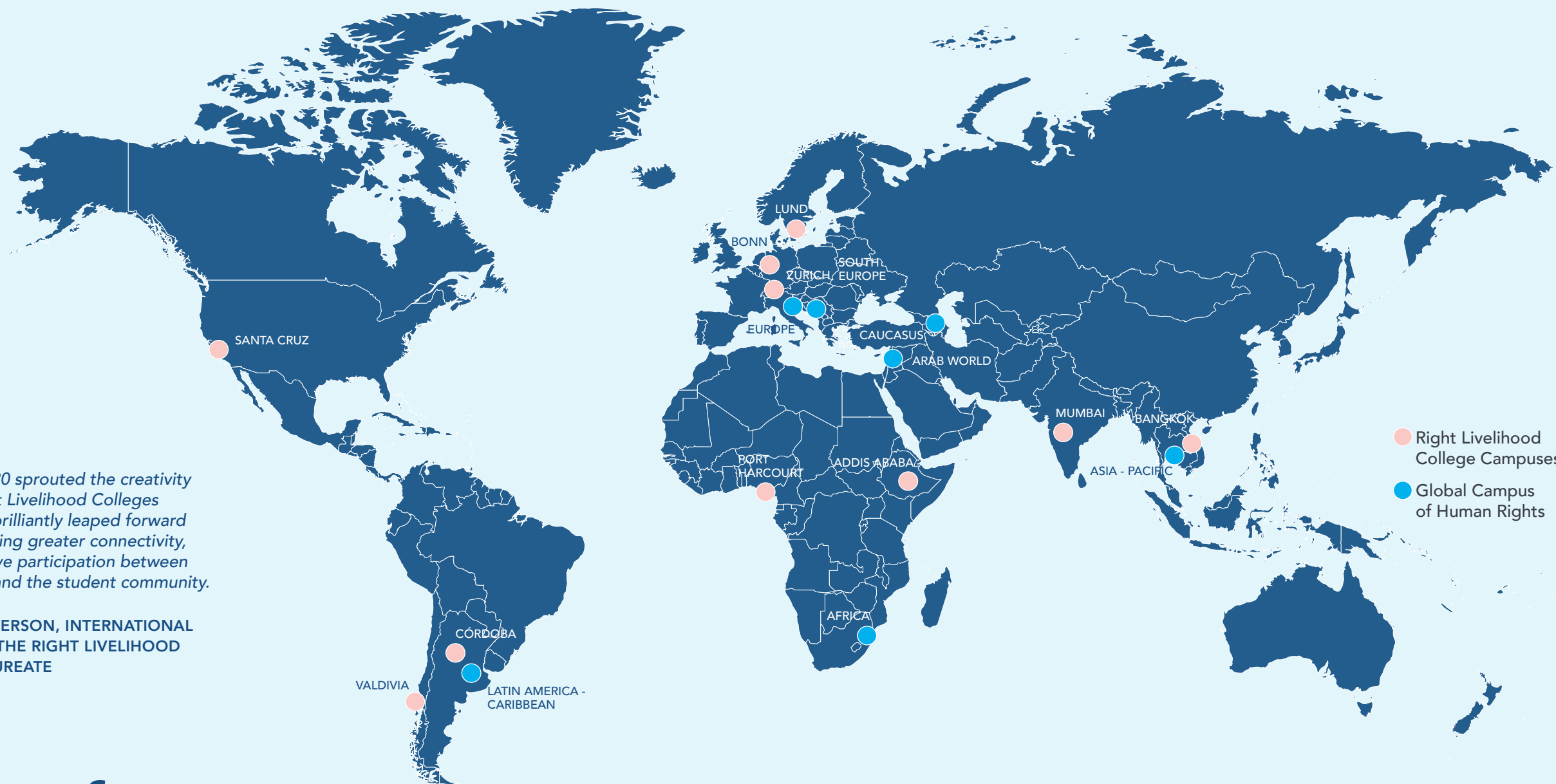
Within the long-term cooperation with the Global Campus of Human Rights, which began in 2019, several new projects were started to strengthen education, research, training, network-building and advocacy for the rights of children. Over 30 projects with a focus on child rights and youth participation were launched in August 2020. Those include a Youth Leadership Programme hosted by the organisation Navdanya of 1993 Laureate Vandana Shiva and the Gulliver Project of 2006 Laureate the International Poetry Festival of Medellin offering poetry projects in schools.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEW INSTITUTE

In September, we began a partnership with The New Institute (TNI), which is an Institute of Advanced Study and platform for change. Based in Hamburg, Germany, TNI aims to bring together academics and practitioners from different disciplines to promote action based on thorough academic analysis. TNI will host events with Laureates to highlight their solutions for pressing global challenges.

To kick off the partnership, TNI published an interview with 2020 Laureate Lottie Cunningham Wren in December. She talked about the struggles faced by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in Nicaragua and the region.

“My people are devastated,” Cunningham told TNI. “That is why we need to let the international community know what is happening, let them know that Nicaraguans are suffering from human rights violations. Especially indigenous people have been suffering.”







# 40th Anniversary Conference in Bangkok

In February, the Right Livelihood Foundation organised a conference in Bangkok to discuss how education and activism can be linked closer together to inspire holistic change. The participants made it clear that such change was needed to tackle the world's most pressing problems.

**More than a dozen Laureates** took part in the event, which turned out to be one of the last ones to be held in person before the pandemic.

The Laureates, who gathered in Thailand from all over the world, discussed the ways academia can be used to educate activists on proven solutions and how activists, in turn, can bring their experience in grassroots-organising to academia.

Representatives from four Right Livelihood College campuses and a group from our partner organisation the Global Campus of Human Rights also took part in the meeting.

The conference culminated in a public forum on February 22, bringing Right Livelihood Laureates, students, academics and the interested public together.

In his keynote speech, 1995 Laureate Sulak Sivaraksa called for a radical re-imagining of education to put humanity and not knowledge at its heart.

"Learn to bring your heart and your thoughts together," he said. "You must learn not to exploit yourself and others."

Indian Laureate Vandana Shiva, who received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, said that young people must learn that human flourishing was tied to the preservation of nature and respect for all life forms.

"Human rights flow from the rights of the Earth," Shiva said. "Earth comes first because we are a part of her."

She said that the narrative of an ongoing battle between nature and humanity, which has resulted in greed and exploitation, must be dismantled, including through education.

"You are our hope," Shiva told the students present.

Reflecting on the then-ongoing pro-democracy protests in his home country India, 2017 Laureate

**“** It is time in the next 10 years for our community, both for the Laureates as well as for the Right Livelihood College, to do the work that shows that human rights flow from the right of the Earth.

/ VANDANA SHIVA, 1993 LAUREATE FROM INDIA

Colin Gonsalves encouraged students to stand firm and fight for human rights even in the face of intimidation.

"The path of human rights and the struggle for human rights is not an easy path," he said. "But if you surmount the initial fear, the initial beatings, the initial interrogations by the police, and you stand firm, the enemy is ultimately a very weak enemy."

He urged students not to let themselves be frightened by repressive authorities.

"We are stronger than they are, we are more numerous than they are, we have greater grit than the state," Gonsalves said.

Other Laureates present at the conference participated in panel discussions during the public event, sharing their insights on the importance of education concerning various topics such as sustainable food production, eliminating nuclear power and indigenous rights.

At the end of the conference, participating Laureates visited Wongsanit Ashram, a spiritual activist community and alternative learning centre founded by Sivaraksa in the 1980s.



Enjoying the beauty of this secluded natural reserve devoted to developing and promoting a sustainable lifestyle, the participants reflected on the many new ideas they would take home with them from the conference.



# Financial report

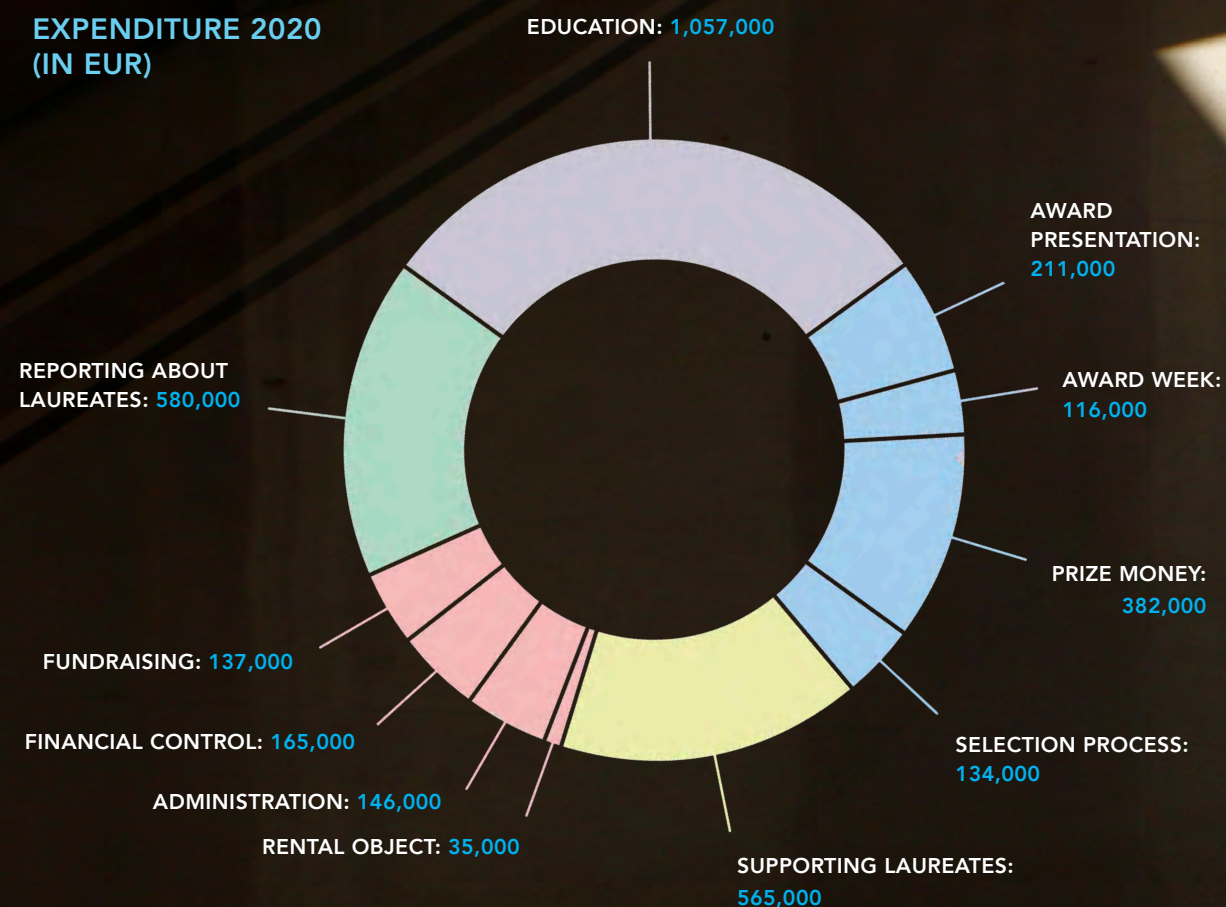
The Right Livelihood Foundation is financed mainly by donations from private individuals. The Foundation has also received important contributions from the Sima Foundation for our educational work and from Swiss Development Cooperation for our operations in Geneva.

The Foundation is a charitable organisation that is tax-exempt under the Swedish Income Tax Act. The Foundation is under the supervision of the Stockholm County Administrative Board and the Swedish Fundraising Control and is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Council (Giva Sverige). Our audits are done by Grant Thornton.

The Foundation has a support account within the German charity GLS Treuhand, and donations are also channeled through our support foundation in Switzerland. GLS Treuhand invests a large part of the Foundation's capital according to social and ecological criteria.

The Foundation's reporting currency is Swedish kronor (SEK). For ease of reference, the figures on the adjacent page are also presented in Euros (EUR) and Swiss francs (CHF). As only one exchange rate is used per year, there are apparent discrepancies, in EUR and CHF, between the amount of equity at the closing of the year and at the opening of the following year.

## EXPENDITURE 2020 (IN EUR)



TOTAL: EUR 3,527,000

SEK	2020	2019	2018
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
Gifts	19,550,000	38,935,000	10,710,000
Grants	14,591,000	11,086,000	7,613,000
Finance Result	5,294,000	2,863,000	1,467,000
Expenditure	-36,991,000	-32,669,000	-19,787,000
Result of the Year	2,444,000	20,215,000*	2,000
<b>Equity</b>			
At Opening of the Year	77,056,000	57,670,000	57,617,000
Result of the Year	2,444,000	20,215,000*	2,000
Capital Donations	330,000	0	543,000
Change in Earmarked Reserves	0	-829,000	-492,000
At Closing of the Year	79,830,000	77,056,000	57,670,000

EUR	2020	2019	2018
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
Gifts	1,864,000	3,688,000	1,045,000
Grants	1,391,000	1,050,000	743,000
Finance Result	505,000	271,000	143,000
Expenditure	-3,527,000	-3,095,000	-1,931,000
Result of the Year	233,000	1,915,000	0
<b>Equity</b>			
At Opening of the Year	7,348,000	5,463,000	5,621,000
Result of the Year	233,000	1,915,000	0
Capital Donations	31,000	0	53,000
Change in Earmarked Reserves	0	-79,000	-48,000
At Closing of the Year	7,612,000	7,299,000	5,626,000

CHF	2020	2019	2018
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
Gifts	1,995,000	4,102,000	1,178,000
Grants	1,489,000	1,168,000	837,000
Finance Result	540,000	302,000	161,000
Expenditure	-3,775,000	-3,442,000	-2,176,000
Result of the Year	249,000	2,130,000	0
<b>Equity</b>			
At Opening of the Year	7,865,000	6,075,000	6,337,000
Result of the Year	249,000	2,130,000	0
Capital Donations	34,000	0	60,000
Change in Earmarked Reserves	0	-87,000	-54,000
At Closing of the Year	8,148,000	8,117,000	6,343,000

\* The positive result was caused by a larger bequest, which will be used over the course of five years



# Governance

The Right Livelihood Foundation's course is decided by its Board of Trustees, which convened seven times in 2020, both online and in person. During the year, the Board adopted a new strategy for 2020-2025. Trustees also make up part of the Jury deciding over the recipients of the Award.



**PAUL EKINS**  
Chair of the Board



**MONIKA GRIEFAHN**  
Vice-chair of the Board



**AMELIE VON ZWIEGBERGK**  
Vice-chair of the Board



**JULIANE KRONEN**  
Board Member



**PAUL WALKER**  
Board Member



**GUNILLA HALLONSTEN**  
Board Member

The Foundation also has an Advisory Council with 11 members based in Sweden and Switzerland. Among them are leading experts on issues such as corporate social responsibility, branding, law and culture. Advisory Council members are consulted on an ad-hoc basis, and their commitment strengthens the Foundation's impact.

# Swiss Support Foundation

Founded in 2007, the Zurich-based Right Livelihood Foundation Switzerland aims to increase the impact of Right Livelihood Laureates by raising their profile and bringing visibility to the Right Livelihood Award. The Swiss foundation also supports the Swedish Right Livelihood Foundation with donations from Switzerland.

**In recent years**, the Swiss Support Foundation has been instrumental in establishing the Right Livelihood Centre at the University of Zurich, described on page 30. This commitment has been made possible by the continuing support of dedicated private donors and foundations, as well as by several generous bequests the Right Livelihood Foundation Switzerland has received in recent years.

The close relationship between the University of Zurich and Right Livelihood Laureates goes back to 2008. Since then, the University has annually co-hosted a lecture with one of the new recipients in connection with the Award Presentation in Stockholm.

"The wide network of Right Livelihood Laureates provides us with the possibility to include first hand experiences into our teaching classes," said Prof. Dr. Lorenz Hilty, Sustainability Delegate of the University of Zurich.

In October, Swiss partners and supporters of Right Livelihood Laureates gathered at Kulturpark, Zurich, for the fifth year in a row for a conversation about the work of the new Laureates. This year, Research Manager Adam McBeth also presented the extensive selection process leading up to the Announcement of the 2020 Awardees.



**“** *The Right Livelihood Centre of the University of Zurich fosters dialogue between academia and Right Livelihood Laureates to create long-term change. It further interacts with the general public on relevant and global topics.*

**/PROF. DR. MICHAEL SCHAEPMAN,**  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ZURICH

## CONTACT THE SWISS SUPPORT FOUNDATION

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8008 Zurich, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 (0)44 381 77 30



# Support our work

It is thanks to the generosity of private donors that the Right Livelihood Foundation has been able to continue bestowing the Award and supporting the Laureates for the past four decades. The Foundation is sustained by committed donors who see the Laureates' work as essential to ensuring a peaceful, just and sustainable future for all.

**Ulrich Bosch**, a long-time supporter, shared his experiences with the Foundation:

## How did you start the relationship with the Right Livelihood Foundation?

I knew about its existence. Fifteen years ago, I took part in a meeting where I first met Ole von Uexkull. The Bewegungstiftung tried to bring together people with money and people with projects. I was enthusiastic about Ole and the work of the Foundation that he presented.

By then, I was already working at the environment department of Heidehof Stiftung, the Bosch family foundation. I remember very well my thought when Ole presented the Foundation's annual budget: "What this man can do with this money is brilliant." A few years later, I became a supporter.

## What about the Right Livelihood Foundation encourages you to continue your support?

The Foundation gives voice to people who would not have had a voice had it not been for the Award, and that is thanks to the fact that anyone can nominate. The selection process is extraordinary, and so is the support Laureates receive over the years.

Another positive aspect is that the prize is for those offering solutions, highlighting that things can be done. That's what the Award recipients show, and that gives courage. It is what inspires me the most to support them.

## What Right Livelihood experiences do you treasure?

I have been to the Award Presentation in Stockholm about three times, always very impressed by the Laureates. But something that has changed my life was meeting 2018 Laureate Tony Rinaudo.

I attended a lecture by Tony Rinaudo and Yacouba Sawadogo in Geneva. Both are dedicated to forests, a topic that touches my heart. After the excellent talks, I spoke with Tony and his wife, Liz.

They inspired me so much! They mentioned the Global EverGreening Alliance, an organisation connecting NGOs with land restoration programmes involving different countries and vast lands.

I later met with the Global EverGreening Alliance and got convinced to support the initiative in multiple ways: I give money, but I also participate in several conferences, providing counselling and looking for new donors.

I find this work fascinating as there are many new things for me there. I think it is the best I have done in my public life, and that is thanks to Tony and the Right Livelihood Foundation.



Executive Director Ole von Uexkull speaking at the donor dinner before the 2019 Award Presentation at Cirkus in Stockholm.

By **honouring** and supporting courageous change-makers, we boost urgent and long-term social change. This work is made possible by our donors.

Please consider donating to the Right Livelihood Foundation.

**Thank you for your support!**

## SWEDEN

**PlusGirokonto:** 90 02 49-4

*Approved by the Swedish  
Fundraising Control*

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**Right Livelihood Award  
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**BIC (Swift):** NDEASESS

Nordea Bank AB, 105 71 Stockholm

## SWITZERLAND

**Right Livelihood Award**

**Foundation Switzerland, IBAN:**

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**BIC (Swift):** ZKBKCHZZ80A

**Bank clearing:** 700

Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zürich

## GERMANY

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