

Right Livelihood

Stockholm, September 2025

Impact Report 2025

With a focus on events during the calendar year 2024

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Vision & relevant target group

Right Livelihood exists to honour and support courageous change-makers who are building just, peaceful, and sustainable societies. Since our founding in 1980, we have sought to create a world where visionary individuals and organisations are not only recognised for their contributions but also equipped to thrive, despite the enormous challenges they face.

Our primary target group and the main focus of our activities are our Laureates. In 2024, we have awarded Joan Carling from the Philippines, who has defended the rights of Indigenous Peoples for more than 30 years; Palestinian activist Issa Amro, who continues to promote non-violent resistance despite constant harassment; Anabela Lemos of Mozambique, who has mobilised communities against destructive fossil fuel projects; and the UK-based investigative group Forensic Architecture, which pioneers new methods of seeking accountability through digital reconstruction. Each of these Laureates exemplifies the power of grassroots courage to inspire systemic change. They join the extensive network of 198 Laureates from 78 countries who we continue to support in their struggles.

But the Laureates do not work in isolation. Our target groups also include decision-makers who can implement the solutions Laureates propose, students and educators who carry knowledge forward into new contexts, and the general public, whose awareness and solidarity strengthen the conditions for change.

Implementation

We believe that lasting change requires concerted action based on diverse solutions. We do our part by nurturing a growing community of courageous change-makers, connecting them and their solutions worldwide.

In 2024, Right Livelihood advanced its mission through four interconnected areas: We **honour** changemakers, **support** them in their struggles, reach out and **communicate** about their ideas and solutions, and give others a deeper insight through our **education** initiatives.

HONOUR

The award process is the central aspect of our work. We received a total of 176 nominations from 72 countries, with a strong representation of women among the candidates. The thorough research work of our team and the deliberations of our international jury of experts led to the selections of four new Laureates. Research included both desk studies and fieldwork across three continents. Our team paid particular attention to ensuring the highest quality of research before presenting it to the jury.

The 2024 Award presentation, hosted in Stockholm, gathered 600 guests in the audience and was broadcast via the European Broadcasting Union and YouTube, reaching

thousands worldwide. Amid the chaos of violence, greed and injustice affecting so many people around the world, we celebrated the 2024 Right Livelihood Laureates, whose brave actions reignite hope. The ceremony was open to the public and was mostly attended by Laureates and their closest network, civil society and student groups, as well as supporters of the Award.

SUPPORT

Our support activities included regular liaison with 45 Laureates, ensuring tailored assistance in contexts of repression. We engaged more actively with seven Laureates in specific initiatives and projects, such as solidarity visits, security trainings and other protection work. Two solidarity visits to Cambodia and Kenya highlighted local challenges of Laureates while demonstrating international backing and support from the Right Livelihood network.

Together with 10 female Laureates, we held a three-day retreat to establish the Women Laureates Hub, a platform dedicated to fostering solidarity and support among women Laureates working in fields such as climate justice and peacebuilding. The Hub continues meeting digitally every month and provides space for Laureates to exchange knowledge and share experiences.

In 2024, the Exile Project supported 15 experienced human rights fellows, six of them Laureates, who are living in exile. Through online capacity-building activities and three in-person meetings in Geneva, Venice and Brussels, the project aims to strengthen their ability to continue their work, foster a transnational support structure, and gather key learnings to help disarm exile as a weapon against human rights experts and defenders. In 2024, the initiative entered its second of three cycles. Key focuses of the in-person meetings included individual well-being, participation in the Global State of Human Rights Conference organised by the Global Campus of Human Rights, and advocacy meetings with multiple EU institutions.

At the policy level, we facilitated over 150 advocacy meetings, delivered 16 oral statements, and organised two side events at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, ensuring the perspectives of eight Laureates directly shaped international discourse.

EDUCATE

The Right Livelihood College network, our global capacity-building initiative in partnership with universities, hosted numerous academic events, from conferences in Santa Cruz to lectures at the University of Zurich, where Laureate Joan Carling spoke about indigenous leadership in climate and rights movements.

Our cooperation with the Global Campus of Human Rights on advancing children's rights entered a new five-year cycle with renewed focus. The themes of AI, climate justice and deprivation of liberty were selected as priorities to ensure greater collaboration and impact across different components of our network. While the Global Campus generally works extensively with massive open online courses (MOOCs), no Right Livelihood Laureates were involved in these in 2024.

The Climate Justice Fellowship gathered 15 fellows in Malaysia, creating a new cohort of young leaders advancing climate solutions within four Laureate organisations. This is the third and final cohort in the programme, focusing on the Asian region. The 15-month Climate Justice Fellowship Africa cohort, which began in 2023, concluded in August.

The collection of books and publications by Right Livelihood Laureates at the Graduate Institute's library in Geneva remains available, now comprising over 350 titles.

INFORM

Through communication and outreach, we amplified Laureates' visibility. In 2024, our media monitoring recorded 5,438 press clippings referring to Laureates as Right livelihood Laureates, while digital campaigns generated over 850,000 impressions.

Our communications work focused on creating 12 visual stories on our website, making topics such as climate justice in Cambodia or democracy in the 2024 election year more accessible to our target audiences by combining images, film, text, infographics and maps.

Stories such as the launch of the Women Laureates Hub – bringing together Laureates to strengthen solidarity and advocacy – were widely shared, showcasing the breadth and resilience of the Laureate community.

Outcomes

It all begins with the quality of our selection process – the higher the confidence in our Jury's choices of Laureates, the more relevant outcomes we can achieve in our efforts for our target groups. We have improved the thoroughness of our research to ensure well-informed jury discussions. The annual selection of Laureates must be relevant both overall to fit the profile of Right Livelihood as an Award and make sense in this particular moment in time.

The 2024 Laureates made a profound impact on their communities and on the global stage. Their unwavering commitment to speaking out against oppression and exploitation, while strictly adhering to non-violent methods, resonates far beyond their communities and immediate contexts. With violence raging across the world, these Laureates show that the way forward lies in empowering communities, peace-making, and a steadfast commitment to truth. Their work serves as a beacon of hope in these challenging times.

Overall, our activities in 2024 produced tangible and relevant changes for Laureates and their communities. Our ambition has been to track if Laureates and partners express how meetings and projects we arranged gave them support or helped them become more efficient.

Laureates reported greater visibility and credibility thanks to media coverage and the Award's spotlight. For instance, when Forensic Architecture received the Award, it not only

reinforced their legitimacy but also helped broaden global awareness of their cutting-edge methods for pursuing accountability.

Protection and solidarity initiatives also had immediate outcomes. Visits to Laureates under pressure offered reassurance and drew international attention to their struggles. In contexts like Palestine and Mozambique, where Laureates face systemic repression, the presence of Right Livelihood increased both their safety and global profile.

Education outcomes were also significant. After students participated in the Santa Cruz International Conference and spent a full week learning directly from four participating Laureates, an International Student and Alumni Network was launched. For the first time, this network unites students from across the eight different Right Livelihood Colleges.

The Climate Justice Fellowship entered its third and final cohort. Greater emphasis was placed on strengthening movements with existing structures but faltering momentum. This approach to educating a new generation of changemakers prioritised the impact and reach of movement-building and advocacy over administrative aspects.

Equally important was the formation of new collaborative structures, such as the Women Laureates Hub. Crucially, the topics and actions of the Hub were driven entirely by the Laureates themselves; our role was to provide and nurture the platform, open doors to specific forums and help streamline efforts. In 2025, the Hub intends to engage in joint advocacy addressing the global backlash against gender equality.

Impact of our work

The cumulative effect of our initiatives demonstrates the impact of Right Livelihood's approach. By honouring Laureates, we grant them legitimacy that often translates into long-term opportunities. Laureates such as Issa Amro and Anabela Lemos reported that recognition helped amplify their voices in international forums and increased attention to the grassroots struggles they represent.

Through our support activities, we not only try and strengthen Laureates' resilience but also deepen our own understanding and practice. The solidarity visits and advocacy engagement of 2024 form part of a consistent pattern: when Laureates receive protection and international visibility, they can sustain their activism even in hostile environments. In turn, we gain critical insight and inspiration from their experience. By visiting Laureates, we learn first-hand about the contexts in which they work, their partners, and their victories and challenges. This exchange helps us co-create more effective strategies and ensures our support responds to real needs.

In our education work, the embedding of Laureates' perspectives into university curricula ensures that their knowledge does not remain confined to activism but becomes part of broader intellectual and professional traditions. The Zurich spring lecture series and the international conference in Santa Cruz as an example illustrated how Laureates are

shaping the thinking of future generations and have led to networking opportunities for students linked to Right Livelihood.

The communication dimension extends Laureates' influence well beyond the Award. With thousands of media mentions and digital impressions, their voices continue to resonate globally. This visibility contributes to shifting public discourse, which in turn pressures policymakers to act.

Recognition itself is a durable asset; once a Laureate, always a Laureate – and many Laureates use this status in their own communications. The initiatives we enable and support, such as the Climate Justice Fellows and the Women Laureates Hub, are designed to create structures of solidarity and relationships between Laureates that last. In this way, Right Livelihood not only delivers short-term outputs but also contributes to long-term systemic transformation.

Follow up & Learnings

We assess our progress through systematic monitoring, qualitative feedback, and continuous dialogue with the Laureates. Quantitative data presented in this report – such as the number of nominations, advocacy engagements, academic events, and media reach – provides a clear picture of the scope of our activities, while stories captured in news articles, visual stories and Laureate testimonies add depth and nuance to these figures. It is part of our regular work to evaluate projects and activities and to improve our internal processes year on year. Long-standing practices are scrutinized as thoroughly as new projects.

2024 reinforced several lessons. First, protection needs are intensifying, as Laureates continue to face escalating threats in their contexts. Second, academic partnerships are among our most powerful levers for long-term impact, embedding Laureates' experiences into institutional frameworks. Third, narratives matter: telling Laureates' stories through media and advocacy not only protects them but also inspires global audiences.

These lessons are informing the development of our new organisational strategy in 2025. Building on insights from recent years, and inviting global experts including Laureates from our network, the strategy will strengthen our approach and refine how we measure impact. We are moving away from separated initiatives from different workstreams (Honour, Support, Inform, Educate) and instead focusing our shared mission and how we can collaborate both internally and externally.

In 2024, new initiatives such as the Women Laureates Hub, stronger advocacy at the UN and wider media attention highlighted Right Livelihood's growing reach. By staying committed to learning and building on these efforts, we are strengthening our ability to support courageous change-makers working for a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

APPENDIX

In 2024, we continued to follow the 2020–2025 organisational strategy, which set out our goals alongside a defined set of indicators. We present these indicators below to enable comparability across our impact reports. However, in some cases we have already stopped tracking these indicators, as we are preparing for the next organisational strategy, which will adopt a different logic for measuring impact.

HONOUR

Diversity of new nominations

Target for 2025: 40% women / 40% men / 20% organisations

2024: 38 % women / 41% men / 21% organisations)

(2023: 47% women / 35% men / 17% organisations / 1% other)

Percentage of nomination reports to the Jury with a high confidence level

Target for 2025: 40% or more are considered to be at high confidence

2024: 44%

(2023: 41%)

Number of TV channels that show the entire Award Presentation and interviews with the Laureates, or who report on this, as well as how many we potentially reach through these channels, as well as the specific number who watch these programmes (when such data is accessible).

Target for 2025: Having the Award Presentation and interviews shown to a substantially larger audience compared to the base year 2020 with 160 000 viewers*.

**Metrics for counting online reach have been changing over the last couple of years and we have not prioritised to pay for accurate figures.*

2024: Snippets of the Award Presentation were picked up by four TV channels in three countries, according to EBU's media tracking as of December 12, 2024. Interviews with Laureates filmed at Kulturhuset were shown on SVT Forum.

(2023: Snippets of the Award Presentation were picked up by 13 channels in eight countries, according to the European Broadcasting Union's media tracking as of February 9, 2024. The media hits included stations such as BBC News and France 24 Arabic, with large audiences. Potential reach of 40 million US citizens through the TV Channel Free Speech TV (who cannot afford tracking the number of viewers).)

SUPPORT

The Foundation's level of contacts and cooperation with Laureates are tracked and we evaluate the connections with numbers, where level 0 = Laureates we lacked contact with during the year (both non-reciprocal and non-existent); 1 = regular liaison; 2 = strategic temporary intervention (meetings, linking Laureates with each other and partners etc.); 3 = proactive planning with Laureates to increase the impact of their work.

Target for 2025: level 0: 5 / level 1: 150 / level 2: 40 / level 3: 5

2024: We changed the metrics to assess our engagement with Laureates:

- 2 solidarity visits (Laureate in Kenya and Laureate in Cambodia)
- Engagements at the United Nations Human Rights Council with 8 Laureates
- Active engagement in initiatives and projects with 7 Laureates
- Regular liaison with 45 Laureates

(2023: level 0: 52 (18 non-existent contact due to for example jail sentence; and 34 non-reciprocal) / level 1: 52 / level 2: 42 / level 3: 12; deceased with no legacy-holder: 36)

Laureates and partners express how meetings we arrange help them become more efficient and we can provide concrete examples of this.

Goal for 2025: To have a good tool in place to measure this and to be able to show at least one concrete such example for each meeting.

2024: Together with 10 female Laureates, we met for a 3-day retreat to establish the Women Laureates Hub, a platform dedicated to fostering solidarity and support among female Laureates working in fields like climate justice and peacebuilding.

(2023: no concrete example to share)

EDUCATE

Providing existing and new educational material in cooperation with the Right Livelihood College and the Global Campus of Human Rights and the use by academics and activists.

Target for 2025: a) complete collection of books/ publications by Right Livelihood Laureates in the Graduate Institute's library (Geneva) + online catalogue of books, publications and films, b) three MOOCs/year with a total 10.000 participants.

2024: 350+ books and publications collected to date b) no MOOC

(2023: a) 350+ books and publications collected until now; b) one MOOC with 1551 participants)

Creating a hub for transformative learning:

Target for 2025: one fellowship programme for activists with 15 participants; one comprehensive training programme with Laureates for activists + students, one Summer School per year for 50+ participants.

2024: In May, we launched the 3rd cohort of the Climate Justice Fellowship, focusing on Asia and Laureate organizations. This cohort brought together 15 new fellows from 4 organizations. In August, we concluded the 15-month Climate Justice Fellowship Africa cohort. In June 2024, we established the Women Laureates Hub, a brave space for women Laureates to exchange knowledge and share experiences.

(2023: one fellowship programme for climate activists with 15 fellows from Africa, one comprehensive training with Laureates for activists and students.)

INFORM

Number of press releases and unique articles published on our website as well as number of published op-eds.

Target for 2025: 25 press releases and unique articles on our website of high quality and five op-eds.

2024: Seven press releases, 46 news items, 12 visual stories and one op-ed on our website (2023: 11 press releases, 78 articles on our website and one op-ed)

Number of followers and engagement on social media and website.

Target for 2025: + 300% (from 2020 level: Twitter 7 300, Facebook 15 500, Instagram 2 100; YouTube 1 000; LinkedIn 1 100) and 300 000 unique visits to the website (2020: 134 000).

2024 (compared to the baseline in 2020): Twitter/ X: +33,9%; Facebook +17,3%; Instagram +163%; YouTube +177%; LinkedIn +344%; 121 025 website users in 2024

(2023 (compared to the baseline in 2020): Twitter/X +33%; Facebook +15%; Instagram +121%; YouTube +134%; LinkedIn +262%. 155 039 website users* in 2023 (*Google Analytics (GA4) has removed the “unique pageviews” metric.))

Articles in the media where Laureates are referred to as Right Livelihood Laureates.

Target for 2025: 10,000 articles.

2024: 5,438 articles
(2023: 6,144 articles)