

Highlights from Right Livelihood: 2025 in Review

STANDING
UP FOR
HUMAN
COURAGE
SINCE 1980

We work towards our vision of a just, peaceful and sustainable world for all by organising our work in four interconnected dimensions:

Honour

Each year, we honour courageous changemakers and their transformative work with the Right Livelihood Award.

This year, our global nomination process, rigorous research, and Jury deliberations led to a selection of Laureates who tackle systemic challenges with practical and effective solutions. From 203 Laureates across 81 countries, our growing community continues to reflect a rich diversity of geographies and fields, including emerging frontiers like Artificial Intelligence.

In 2025, we considered **159 nominations** from **67 countries**.

43 per cent of nominees were women (with additional nominations for men, organisations, and non-binary nominees).

Besides desk research, nominees were visited in **five countries across two continents**.

Support

Support strengthens Laureates' impact and safety through advocacy, solidarity, networking, and holistic protection, especially for those at risk, in exile, or facing reprisals.

In 2025, Support work covered a wide range of initiatives, from holistic security assessments and targeted wellbeing support to the facilitation of peer networks and strategic collaboration amongst Laureates. We also participated and amplified Laureates' voices in many high-level advocacy events and global fora.

Regularly engaged with 40+ Laureates.

Organised five in-person Laureate initiatives for **advocacy and relationship building**, including at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, and Human Rights Week at the University of Geneva.

Participated in three sessions of the **UN Human Rights Council**. Delivered **oral statements** drawing attention to the situation of political prisoners in Belarus, human rights activists in Cambodia, and the rights of Indigenous people in Nicaragua.

Educate

Educate spreads Laureates' expertise and methods by bridging activism and academia through partnerships and learning programmes.

Throughout 2025, educational work helped translate frontline solutions into learning that can be shared through university partnerships, public lectures, and sustained collaboration with the Global Campus of Human Rights and Right Livelihood College campuses.

The Zurich lecture series **Sustainability Now!** featured Laureates and highlighted cooperative models during the UN International Year of Cooperatives.

The **Global Campus** cooperation supported child rights work and new thematic focus areas, including the impact of AI on human rights.

The **Climate Justice Fellowship** advanced strategic nonviolent action learning, including a final cohort with participants from Asia and Laureate organisations.

The **Laureate Activity Fund** strengthened Laureate involvement through peer review, mentorship, and practical learning opportunities such as internships.

Inform

Inform amplifies Laureates' voices and grows public awareness through media outreach and high-quality storytelling across multiple channels.

In 2025, communications work centred on the announcement of new Laureates and the Award Presentation, while continuing to publish visual stories, press releases, and digital content that help wide audiences understand both urgent problems and viable solutions.

5,659 media items mentioning Right Livelihood / the Award during the year.

On our website: **50+ news items** about Laureates.

3.3 million impressions on social media platforms.

The Award Presentation generated at least **11.4 million views** of short clips on social media, TV news coverage (including on BBC News), and **200+ articles** mentioning the event.

Right Livelihood

More
highlights

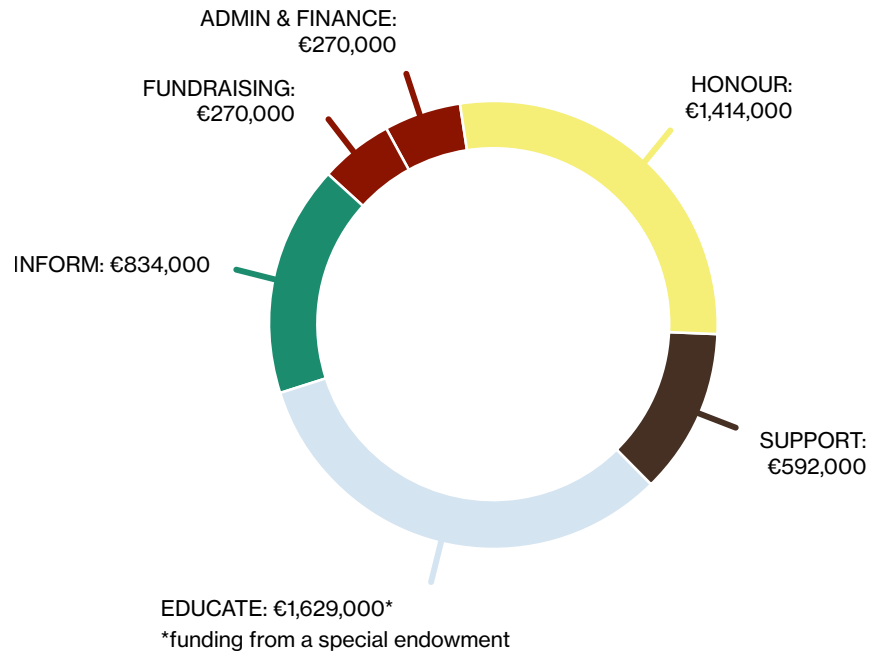


Fundraising, admin & finance

Fundraising, administration, and finance enable Right Livelihood to deliver its mission with transparency, strong governance, and reliable operational systems, ensuring programmatic work is effective and sustainable.

In 2025, our operational expenses constituted 11 per cent of our total costs. This expenditure included fundraising campaigns, financial management and audit, board meetings, and the management of our own property in Stockholm, which saves us a considerable amount of rent each year. Right Livelihood is audited by Grant Thornton and regulated by Swedish Fundraising Control to ensure transparency and good governance.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN 2025: €5,009,000



Detailed annual report 2025, see: rightlivelihood.org/publications/



On December 2, the Right Livelihood Laureates gathered in Stockholm for the Award Presentation: Emergency Response Rooms from Sudan, Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, Julian Aguon from Guam, Audrey Tang from Taiwan. Not present for security reasons: Justice For Myanmar. Together, they are charting a different course: one rooted in collective action, resilience and democracy to create a liveable future for all.



Many Laureates face exile from their home countries due to the security risks of their work. In 2025, Laureates and fellows of the "Reconceptualising Exile" project gathered in-person to strengthen their network and plan a research report about human rights defenders in exile.



The Women Laureates Hub brought together Laureates in New York in order to participate directly in the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2025. We co-hosted a side event with the Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, where Laureates spoke about translating the Beijing+30 agenda into reality and addressed the global backlash against human rights, emphasising the urgent need to protect the rights of women and girls.