UNITED NATIONS
VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
2020

REBUILDING LIVES & EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY

Artwork by a torture survivor supported by the Fund
The United Nations Torture Fund

- Established in 1981 by General Assembly resolution 36/151
- Has a global outreach (present in 78 countries in 2020)
- Provides direct assistance to victims of torture and their families
- Assistance can take the form of humanitarian, medical, psychological, legal and social aid
- Funds projects implemented by civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, rehabilitation centres, victims’ associations, private and public hospitals, public interest law firms and legal clinics
- Awards yearly grants of an average of USD 45,000, on a competitive basis (a call for applications is open from 15 January until 1st of March each year)
- Supports emergency grants in human rights and humanitarian crisis requiring immediate response
Securing redress through legal assistance

Justice Centre Hong Kong, China
Victims of torture include:

- Human rights defenders
- Prisoners of conscience
- Detainees
- Ex-detainees
- Undocumented migrants
- Internally displaced persons
- Victims of sexual violence in conflict
- Minors
- Asylum seekers
- Refugees
- Journalists
- Victims of enforced disappearance
- Persons with disabilities
- Minorities
- Indigenous peoples
- LGBTI persons
Empowering women survivors through group counselling
MISSION STATEMENT

- Promotes a victim-centred approach
- Has an impartial, universal mandate
- Is not a substitute for the obligation of States under international law to support victims of torture
- Responds to new and emergency situations wherever they occur
- Forms partnerships with both grass-roots initiatives and well-established rehabilitation centres
- Coordinates with other United Nations anti-torture mechanisms
- Enables the exchange of knowledge in the field of rehabilitation and redress for survivors of torture
Assisting torture survivors to relieve their suffering and rebuild their lives.
MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

• The Fund is subject to United Nations Rules and Regulations

• It is managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General

• Acts on the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five independent experts, representing the five geographical regions

• The United Nations Secretary-General reports annually on the Fund to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly
Rebuilding lives through alternative therapies

Room to Heal, United Kingdom
ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE FUND

• The Fund’s Secretariat applies a right-based approach and thorough monitoring and evaluation methodology to ensure accountability in the use of grants

• As a rule, first-time applicants are visited in order to verify the admissibility and feasibility of the project

• Grantees are required to provide yearly narrative and financial reports on the use of the grants and some projects are selected for audits
For 2020, 171 grants awarded under the Fund’s annual cycle: 164 for direct assistance (US$ 7,059,500) and 7 for capacity building (US$ 244,350)

Approximately 40,000 victims of torture and their families will be assisted in 78 countries in all regions of the world

In 2020, an additional amount of US$ 400,000 has been allocated for emergency projects assisting victims of torture in humanitarian and human rights crises
YEARLY INCOME (IN USD)
2003 - 2019

Voluntary contributions received by the Fund
Restoring human dignity through trauma counselling
APPEAL FOR FUNDING

• Despite its absolute prohibition under international law, the use of torture is widespread worldwide and survivors require redress and rehabilitation services.

• The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture requires a minimum of **US$ 11.5 million** in voluntary contributions per year to fulfil its mandate.

• Like all United Nations Trust Funds, the Torture Fund can only receive earmarked contributions.

• **ANY DONATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
SECRETARIAT OF THE HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations
 CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

E-mail: unvfvt@ohchr.org

https://donatenow.ohchr.org/

Website: http://www.ohchr.org/torturefund
Artwork by a victim of torture supported by the UN Torture Fund (Atelier peinture de Claire Harel, Association Mana, France)