

Mission Statement

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
March 2014

The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture:

1. Promotes a victim-centred approach aimed at making a difference at the individual level;
2. Is cognisant of the fact that the provision of reparation and effective remedies for victims of torture is the obligation of States under international law, with special emphasis on Article 14 of the UN Convention Against Torture and General Comment Number 3 thereon;
3. Supports projects implemented by civil society actors and other channels of assistance aimed at providing rehabilitation, redress and empowerment of, as well as access to remedies to victims of torture and their family members through direct assistance. Assistance may include psychological, medical, legal, humanitarian, social, vocational assistance or other support to their independent livelihood;
4. Is a tool to promote and address accountability as a crucial element in the healing process for victims of torture;
5. Has an impartial, universal mandate;
6. Is mandated by General Assembly resolution 36/151 to give “priority to aid to victims of violations by States in which the human rights situation has been the subject of resolutions or decisions adopted by the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and the (former) Commission on Human Rights”;
7. Ensures time-bound and strategic support to grantees on a competitive basis, while responding to new and emergency situations, wherever they occur;
8. Forms partnerships with both grass-roots initiatives and well-established rehabilitation centres in the field of torture;
9. Allocates resources to the evaluation of the activities of grantees and their impact on victims;
10. Strives towards complementarity and synergies with OHCHR Programmes and other UN torture-related programmes and mechanisms in order to enhance the collective response to the plight of victims worldwide; and
11. Enables the collection and dissemination of expertise and best practices, with the aim of building capacity at the national level.