

# Resilience Fellowship 2023

## Human Rights and Organized Crime

### Call for applications

**Deadline:** 15 November 2022

**Description:**

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) is pleased to announce the fourth edition of the Resilience Fellowship (henceforth, 'the Fellowship'), which for 2023 will have human rights and organized crime as its theme. The Fellowship builds a platform for cross-sectoral, global and interdisciplinary collaboration between civil society actors, human rights activists, journalists, artists, scholars, policymakers, grassroots community leaders and others working to counter the effects of organized crime.

The Fellowship is part of the GI-TOC's flagship Resilience Fund, which provides grants and support to civil society individuals and organizations working to counter the impacts of criminal governance and violence across the world. Established with a grant from the government of Norway, the Resilience Fund is also supported by the governments of Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand and works in partnership with international organizations and NGOs worldwide (more information may be found [here](#)).

The first edition of the Fellowship in 2020 provided support and networking opportunities to a cohort of 10 individuals from around the world on the chosen theme of disappearances related to organized crime. These Fellows collaborated with each other and attended workshops while working on projects in their communities. The virtual exchanges resulted in new projects, narratives and knowledge about disappearances related to organized crime around the world, culminating in a final collaborative project: [Disappeared is a place: The landscapes and stories of those who are #StillMissing](#).

In 2021, the chosen theme was extortion. The Fellows in this cohort worked against different practices of extortion carried out in vastly diverse contexts and cultures, identifying the numerous dynamics and expressions of this criminal method. Aside from their projects and workshops, the

Fellows collaborated on a statement against extortion and produced a video to amplify their message: [End Extortion Now](#).

The ongoing Fellowship in 2022 has environmental crime as its theme, focusing on areas like illegal logging, IUUF, and environmental affectation to indigenous protected areas. The Fellows are currently participating in the Resilience Dialogues, a conversation between all participants on ways to collaborate across geographical and linguistic barriers. Many Fellows have already started working on regionally focused joint initiatives.

The Resilience Fellowship is based on a three-pronged approach:

- **Sponsorship:** Providing financial support so that Fellows will have the time and resources to carry out their individual work and a collaborative project. Grants of US\$15 000 per Fellow will be awarded for one year.
- **Networking:** Offering mentorship opportunities with experts from the GI-TOC, as well as bringing Fellows together to begin a collaborative project to be undertaken during their Fellowship year.
- **Dissemination:** Creating opportunities for Fellows to publicly share their work and ideas – through platforms such as conferences, civil society forums and national and international platforms, which will expand public discourse, deepen engagement with society, and invite the support and participation from the general public and, ultimately, policymakers.

### **Theme for 2023: Human Rights and Organized Crime**

In 2023, the Resilience Fellowship theme will focus on human rights and organized crime. Fellows will use their diverse perspectives to collaborate on a range of outputs based around this theme. As Resilience Fund Ambassadors, Fellows will also raise awareness on how organized crime contributes to human rights violations and advocate for better responses to these violations.

Human rights around the world are under threat due to the presence of organized crime and criminal governance. In parallel to human rights violations at the hands of state actors, due to the violence and intimidation associated with it, organized crime is increasingly threatening the safety and security of citizens, and furthering the perpetration of human rights violations.

Either when acting alone or in collaboration with corrupt state actors, organized criminal groups constantly use violence and intimidation to fulfil their interests, violating the right to life, liberty, security of person, property, freedom of movement, and freedom of speech, among many other fundamental rights. In this context, civil society organizations and individuals have often shifted or

adapted their mandates, initiatives, and purposes after facing threats from organized crime, having however limited tools and resources to do so.

The Resilience Fund will support the Fellows in exploring this theme with a multicultural cohort and will provide a range of capacity-building opportunities to work on sustainable solutions. Local action is integral in the fight against organized crime and its effects on the realization of human rights. Encouraging resilient communities through the Fellowship will further the Resilience Fund's objective of incubating resilience in communities affected by organized crime.

Here are a few examples of issues and projects that can be helpful in guiding your application. Human rights and organized crime can include a broad range of specific topics and issues and the following list is non-exhaustive. However, a successful application must clearly elaborate on the direct correlation between both topics.

Human rights and organized crime:

- Youth and children's rights as threatened by forced labor, modern slavery, or human trafficking.
- Youth and children rights as threatened by the activities of criminal groups including recruitment by gangs, or their involvement in criminal activity like extortion, micro-trafficking, or murder-for-hire.
- Women's rights as violated by manifestations of criminal governance and exploitation, including sexual exploitation, human smuggling and trafficking, forced labor in mining, manufacturing or agricultural sectors.
- Indigenous rights endangered by the presence of criminal markets, including land grabbing, illegal logging, illegal mining, or illegal crop plantations in protected territories.
- Gender rights including the harassment or systematic attacks to LGTBQIA+ communities by criminal actors.
- Migrant rights jeopardized by criminal organizations controlling routes or mobility.
- Protection of freedom of speech, especially regarding independent media houses and journalists, from harassment or attacks by criminal actors.
- Protection of digital rights, including where organized criminal groups exploit vulnerable communities through digital threats, or where anti-cybercrime legislation is used by authorities to crack down on protest, freedom of speech or information sharing.

Potential projects:

- Creation or strengthening of safe spaces for children and youth.
- Assistance through trauma management, legal support, or protection to women, LGTBQIA+ community members, and/or migrants affected by organized crime.

- Community-based monitoring mechanisms of human rights violations facilitated by criminal actors.
- Community mobilization through capacity-building programmes that improve local agency against crimes (stakeholder training, data collection, creating handbooks, toolkits, or guidelines).
- Building capacities to investigate and report on human rights violations facilitated by criminal actors.
- Community support or social fabric strengthening against the presence of criminal governance.
- Protection programmes to journalists or free media from security threats posed by organized crime.
- State-focused advocacy to recognize human rights violations in the presence of organized crime.
- Advocacy for inter-institutional coordination (national, regional, or global) to respond effectively to human rights violations facilitated by organized crime.

### Eligibility criteria

For the year 2023, a total of 10 Fellows will be selected.

Applicants should have a background in any of the following fields: journalism and media; activism; advocacy and community mobilization; the creative arts (artists, writers, filmmakers, and others); community leaders (religious, cultural, youth leaders); academia (researchers, consultants, and scholars), human rights practitioners working directly with affected communities, and the public sector (policymakers). Individuals from other disciplines will be considered if their work is relevant to the Fellowship's objectives and the annual theme.

The Fellowship welcomes applications from people of any gender, ethnicity, age, religion or any other defining factor, who work in communities affected by organized crime. The overall make-up of the 10 Fellows will be diverse and will reflect an equitable geographic and gender balance.

Selection criteria:

- Participants should be from countries disproportionately affected by organized crime and/or from least developed countries.
- Participants should ideally work closely within communities severely affected by organized crime, or have strong ties within them, and should have ongoing or established projects or engagement. The cross-border nature of issues related to organized crime allows

applicants working within a wider, non-geographic community to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Participants should have knowledge or work towards protecting human rights that are being violated or threatened due to the prevalence of organized crime and criminal governance.
- Participants should be able to demonstrate how the funding and support will be used.
- Participants who have direct experience in their communities' issues, related to the annual theme, are particularly encouraged to apply.
- Participants must be fluent in at least one of these three languages: Spanish, English or French.
- Participants' prior work should demonstrate a commitment to the ethics and values of the Resilience Fund.

### **Grant information**

Each fellow will receive US\$15 000 (divided in three payments of US\$5 000) to be executed with no other limitation than the principles of professionalism, integrity and transparency; the proposal presented in the application form; the terms and conditions of the Fellowship agreement, and the implementation of collaborative actions with other fellows.

The Fellowship is not designed to be a standalone grant-application procedure to develop individual projects, but a support mechanism for collaborative processes with other committed individuals who are already developing creative perspectives on community resilience and organized crime through dialogue, commitment and action. Thus, it will give preference to those applicants with the incentives and means to collaborate on sustainable projects that benefit their communities.

Expectations:

- To participate in at least 80% of the e-learning sessions or virtual meetings. The Fellows are also expected to attend any in person meeting related to the Fellowship which will likely involve international traveling.
- To serve, to the best of their abilities, as a Resilience Fund Ambassador, advocating for the shared principles and objectives of the Resilience Fund, the Fellowship and the fight against organized crime.
- To implement an individual project and use the Resilience Fund's in-house communication tool to post updates following a reporting calendar previously established.
- To implement a collaborative project with other Fellows.

- To provide 50% of expenses proofs of the total budget allocated, during the mid-term and the final report.

The grant will be formalized by the signing of a Fellowship Agreement between the GI-TOC and the Fellow.

### **Pre-scheduled activities:**

The Fellowship will start on 1 February 2023 and end on 31 December 2023.

Depending on the pandemic's ongoing trajectory, the Fellowship will assess the possibility of in-person events besides the virtual trainings, workshops and meetings already planned in the calendar.

Fellows are expected to participate in the following activities to fulfil the Fellowship:

#### **Fellowship induction meetings**

The Fellowship will begin with a one week in-person induction meeting. Based on the Fellows' geographic area, focus and discipline, the GI-TOC will provide a list of mentors for the Fellows to choose from. The mentorship will provide additional support to the Fellows with their projects and skills. The relationship and expectations of the mentor, including mode of communication, will be decided by both parties at the beginning.

#### **Attend capacity-building self-paced e-learning sessions**

Fellows will be invited to participate in online self-paced capacity-building sessions. The sessions will be on a variety of topics, like cyber and physical security, criminal economies linked to the annual topic, advocacy, and communication strategies. The Fellow is expected to attend at least 6 sessions.

#### **Individualized support on communications and advocacy**

During the course of the Fellowship, each participant will receive training and support to develop their own communication strategies and materials. The GI-TOC's communications team will advise and provide technical expertise to increase the Fellow's outreach and advocacy capacities.

#### **Resilience Dialogues**

During the course of the Fellowship, all Fellows will come together to share their ideas, work and experiences and identify ways to collaborate on the annual theme. The Resilience Fund will facilitate collaborations through specialized workshops and will encourage joint projects among fellows.

## **How to apply (ONLINE FORM)**

Interested parties must submit an application through the online form provided in the Resilience Fund webpage (link also available at the end of this section). This form contains a set of questions where the applicant should highlight her/his/their background, how he/she/they worked to address organized crime and human rights in communities, and a proposed project for the Fellowship.

Please make sure that your responses are clear, succinct and do not exceed the maximum of words established.

You will not be able to attach any documents to your application. Please make sure that you have included all relevant information in the online form. It will not be possible to edit it once it has been submitted.

Applications will not be received by email. They must all be submitted via the online form.

<https://forms.gle/uF7NgCgTiMUJA4Da7>

If you have technical issues uploading your application or if you have any questions, please contact: [fellowship@globalinitiative.net](mailto:fellowship@globalinitiative.net)

## **Key dates**

**10 October 2022:** Call for applications opens.

**15 November 2022:** End of the call for applications. The Resilience Fund Grants Committee will start reviewing applications.

**15 December 2022:** Decisions on the status of applications will be communicated to applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to request further information and/or be interviewed.

**15 January 2023:** Accepted candidates will be contacted directly about their successful application, with further information about next steps.

**1 February 2023:** Upon confirmation from all candidates, the cohort of 10 Fellows will be announced publicly. The Fellowship will begin with a virtual introductory event for all fellows.