



*Fight for
Humanity*

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Fight for Humanity's Mission

Fight for Humanity is a non-partisan, impartial and independent NGO that works for the fulfilment of the human rights of individuals affected by armed conflict or violence. The organization relies on International Human Rights Law to actively promote, through dialogue, training, and awareness-raising campaigns, the basic rules that guarantee the respect for human dignity.

Fight for Humanity believes that a strong respect for human rights is a condition to build sustainable peace and has prioritized several human rights areas that it estimates essential to support peace efforts: cultural rights, including the protection of cultural heritage; freedom from discrimination and the promotion of the rights of women and girls; child rights; and the right to a healthy environment.

Fight for Humanity

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Fight for Humanity is a non-profit
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Our Main Achievements in 2023

COLOMBIA: TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CONFLICT TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR LASTING PEACE

Fight for Humanity and its partner Gestos de Paz conducted a campaign through events, online campaigns, and advocacy to raise awareness on the final report of the truth commission notably its chapters on the protection of women and children and its recommendations, in two municipalities of the Cauca department.

YEMEN: PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION

Fight for Humanity in partnership with Berghof Foundation contributed to improve the situation of women in Yemen through a participatory research project on Women, Peace and Security involving three main armed movements in the country.

SYRIA: PROTECTING MOSAICS AND ARTEFACTS AS A WAY TO REBUILD SOCIAL COHESION

Fight for Humanity and its local partner Orient Association secured, organized and documented more than 1000 artefacts in Manbij North East Syria and took conservation measures for 217 unique mosaics, and trained 500 members of the security forces on the protection of cultural heritage.

SYRIA: PREVENTING THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

Fight for Humanity raised awareness on the prohibition to recruit underage children among more than 500 members of the Syrian Democratic Forces and their recruitment centres, the Internal Security Forces, and the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria in North East Syria.



Telling the truth about the conflict to create the conditions for a lasting peace in Colombia

Context

The weak presence of the State, the activities of the armed groups and the existence of a collective frame of reference that still legitimizes violence are hampering actions aimed at establishing a context of peace in many regions of Colombia. The Truth Commission, established as part of the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and FARC-EP, released its final report in 2022. This report provides a historical overview of the conflict, details the human impact, and offers recommendations to prevent future violence. However, the findings of this report are not widely known in Colombia, especially in regions that were heavily affected by the conflict.

Action

Fight for Humanity and its partner Gestos de Paz with the support of the Canton of Geneva initiated a project to raise awareness and foster ownership of four key chapters of the Truth Commission report, which they deem essential: the historical account of the conflict, women's rights, children's rights, and the recommendations of the Truth Commission. The dissemination occurred in two municipalities in the Cauca department of Colombia, which have been severely affected by the conflict. This initiative reached political leaders, victims, civil servants, social leaders, women, children/youth, internally displaced persons, community representatives, ethnic groups, and ex-combatants.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity and its partner Gestos de Paz:

- Raised awareness on the four chapters of the final report of the Truth Commission among 130 key local actors from two municipalities in Cauca
- Participated in [the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, at the Palais des Nations](#), where a round table was organized to reflect on the concrete challenges of implementing the Truth Commission's recommendations in Colombia
- Put the themes of peace and truth at the heart of the electoral campaign by organizing a [forum with the main candidates for the position of Governor](#) of the Cauca department.
- Raised awareness on social media and offline on the four chapters of the Truth Commission final report with [8 video clips](#), 10 sound capsules and [10 posters](#)



Protecting Women and Promoting Their Participation in Peace-Building Processes in Yemen and Myanmar

Context

In 2000, the United Nations adopted [Resolution 1325](#) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), that notably seeks to better protect women and girls during armed conflict and to promote their participation in building peace. This resolution was initially designed to be implemented by UN Member States. If it was more widely applied, it could improve the lives of around 100 million women currently living in areas controlled or influenced by armed and political movements. Following a [first phase in Myanmar in 2022](#), Berghof Foundation and Fight for Humanity, with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, extended the project to Yemen and deepened their engagement in Myanmar.

Action

After a first participatory action research project led in Myanmar in 2022, the two organizations facilitated dialogues with two ethnic resistance organizations in Myanmar on their policies and practices related to the protection of women in the conflict and their participation in peacebuilding. In Yemen, a new participatory action research with three key armed and political movements or entities from northern and southern Yemen – Ansar Allah, the Southern Transitional Council and Al-Islah – was undertaken to understand the factors that can encourage them to promote the protection and participation rights of women and girls.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity and its partner Berghof Foundation:

- Produced a [policy brief](#) and a [research report](#) with recommendations for the international community, policy makers and the movements' leadership in Yemen.
- Produced [one video in English and Arabic](#) on the situation of women in Yemen and the current challenges and disseminated it locally and internationally with more than **22'191 views**.
- Presented the research report in English and Arabic and its recommendations to the three Yemeni movements leadership, civil society organizations and women academics during three dissemination events.
- Conducted dialogue discussions with two ethnic resistance organizations in Myanmar, which led to concrete commitments by these organizations notably the development of gender policies.



Promoting cultural heritage as a vessel for social cohesion

Context

The ongoing Syrian conflict and the economic crisis is continuing to have dramatic implications on the country's cultural heritage. Syrian artefacts and historical sites have been exposed to vandalism, destruction, looting, natural disasters, and smuggling. In North East Syria alone, several hundred historical sites in need of protection have been identified. The revalorization of the region's common past is meant to facilitate peacebuilding efforts and further inspire similar initiatives. In 2023, Fight for Humanity, with the support of the [ALIPH Foundation](#), continued its project with its local partner to protect this invaluable heritage.

Action

The project, initiated in 2021, continued in 2023 with an extension to new sites. In partnership with Orient Association, Fight for Humanity worked to protect more than 200 mosaics in a warehouse near Raqqa and started to document hundreds of artefacts confiscated by the local security forces in the Manbij area. The team of trainers trained in the previous phase continues to train members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) on how to protect cultural heritage.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity and its partner Orient Association

- Cleaned and documented 1'200 artefacts from the Manbij area using the same methodology developed in previous phases of the project including metal artefacts such as bracelets, tools, coins, ceramics and stone artefacts such as statues.
- Renovated the warehouse hosting mosaics near Raqqa, cleaned, protected, and documented 217 ancient mosaics tablets and placed them in wooden frames.
- Trained 500 members of the security and military forces on the legal framework related to the protection of cultural heritage, the prevention of illicit trafficking including the Syria International Council of Museums (ICOM) Red Lists mechanism, and the detection and handling of artefacts captured from smugglers.
- Conducted an external evaluation to assess the impact of the project since its start in 2021, which highlighted the results achieved in sometimes very difficult conditions. The evaluation may be shared on request.



Working Towards Preventing and Ending Child Recruitment in North East Syria

Context

The SDF and the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) signed an Action Plan on 29 June 2019 with the UN. Through this Action Plan, the SDF, with the support of the DAANES, committed to ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children under the age of 18, and further identifying and separating boys and girls currently within its ranks. Since December 2019, Fight for Humanity has been supporting the implementation of this Action Plan.

Action

Fight for Humanity conducted awareness-raising sessions for members of the SDF, the ISF, and the DAANES on the provisions of the Action Plan and the prohibition to recruit children under 18 years old. Fight for Humanity also conducted advocacy initiatives at different levels to reinforce the impact of this Action Plan. In addition, it has worked in previous years to improve the life of children in detention.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity:

- Raised awareness on the prohibition to recruit underage children among more than 500 members (including 269 women) of the SDF, their recruitment centres, the ISF, and the DAANES in North East Syria
- Developed a training kit for detention staff on the international standards related to the children rights in detention and their safeguarding in partnership with the Children and Armed Conflict Task Force and Save the Children. This kit was made available to the NGOs working on children protection in detention centres in North East Syria
- Contributed to the improvement of children's detention conditions through the training of 154 detention staff from several detention centres on how to treat detained children and the related international standards



Promoting environment and gender in the peace process in Colombia

Context

Following the 2016 Peace Agreement with the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army) an additional opportunity for peace in Colombia opened in 2022 with a new government elected on a 'Total Peace' agenda, promoting dialogue with all active armed groups. After three years of deadlock, peace talks with the ELN (National Liberation Army - the largest guerrilla group in the country) resumed with a 6-point agenda. In partnership with the Berghof Foundation, Fight for Humanity implemented a project to help create the conditions for a fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable peace process in Colombia.

Action

In partnership with Berghof Foundation, Fight for Humanity implemented activities to reinforce the peace process on two topics, gender and environment. It conducted several actions to promote women's participation and environmental considerations in the peace process and reinforces the technical capacity of the ELN technical team to negotiate on these topics.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity and Berghof Foundation:

- Delivered training sessions on environment, women's participation and shared experience from other peace processes to a team supporting the ELN peace negotiation team.
- Advocated for a more gender-inclusive peace process and to include environmental considerations
- Supported several actions to include civil society in the definition of the participation process notably on women's participation and environmental issues



Promoting Social Cohesion in Territories Affected by the Conflict with ISIS in Northern Iraq

Context

Sunnis, Yazidis, Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Shabaks, Kakais, Shias, Christians – the Ninewah and Kirkouk governorates are home to a number of ethnoreligious groups. Following the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the level of distrust between communities has increased, and therefore it is essential to “rebuild the social fabric” in areas that were hit hard by the conflict.

Action

In 2023, Fight for Humanity finalized a project started in 2022 and supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of the Netherlands, a consortium of three partner organizations, led by Public Aid Organization (PAO) and composed of the Alliance of Iraqi Minorities (AIM), and Fight for Humanity worked together to empower and engage local authorities and communities to promote social cohesion between different ethno-religious communities. Twelve locations in the Ninewah and Kirkouk governorates in Northern Iraq were identified for the project including the city of Mosul.

Achievements

Fight for Humanity and its partners PAO and AIM:

- Secured the signing of 10 local peace agreements in 10 different locations by the local authorities, security forces, community leaders and the federal government on topics such as violent extremism, the return of families associated with ISIS on the improvement of social cohesion following 48 Focus Group Discussions (4 in each location) and 36 mediation sessions.
- Produced and disseminated on social media [one video to promote social cohesion between communities.](#)



Consultancies

Fight for Humanity also brings its unique expertise to other organizations. In 2023, it supported two organizations in their projects to promote human rights: a research project with InterAction in partnership with the Center on Armed Groups and an assessment in Senegal with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

Fight for Humanity:

- Led two case studies in Syria and Colombia to support the elaboration of the Practical Measures for armed actors developed by InterAction for States, non-State armed groups (NSAGs), and de facto authorities to prevent and mitigate conflict-induced hunger.
- Conducted Peace and Conflict Analysis in Senegal to ensure that MAG's Humanitarian Mine Action programme is sensitive to the context of the conflict.





Outreach

Events

Geneva Peace Week: Engaging Armed Groups on Environmental Protection and Climate Change

On 31 October, Fight for Humanity intervened on a panel on “Engaging Armed Groups on Environmental Protection and Climate Change” during the Geneva Peace Week. A group of experts explored ways for involving armed groups in tackling climate change and environmental issues. [=>> Read more](#)

Telling the Truth: Creating lasting conditions for a lasting peace in Colombia







On 10 October, Fight for Humanity organized a side event to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva. The event, “Telling the truth: Creating the conditions for a lasting peace in Colombia” was attended by around 55 people on site and online and was organized with the support of Colombia and Ireland. [=>>Read more](#)

Civil-Military Coordination, Gender and the Women Peace and Security Agenda: Why does it matter?

On 25th April, Anki Sjöberg, Co-Director participated in a panel discussion on the Women Peace and Security Agenda at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships week.

Online community

Fight for Humanity communicated regularly online, using social media to report on the progress of its projects, participate in advocacy efforts, and highlight news related to human rights in areas controlled by non-state armed actors.

Platform	Link	Number of Posts	Number of Reactions/ Views	Total Followers	Number of New Followers
	FFH.Geneva	12	Reach 237'900	1000	49
	FfH_Geneva	44		760	20
	Fight for Humanity	2	607 views	63	3
	Fight for Humanity	21	5973 impressions	1026	242
	Fight for Humanity Newsletter	3			
	Fight for Humanity Website	7 articles	5758 visitors		

Financial Statements

For its fourth year of existence, the organization's income amounted to CHF 680'308 versus CHF 834'234 in 2022 (-18%). This support came from 5 different donors and partners. One new service contract was also signed and implemented for a partner non-government organization. This third accounting period ended up with a surplus of CHF 2'245. Despite a decrease in the revenue, mainly due to the end of a large project in 2022, Fight for Humanity has managed to consolidate its financial stability. In 2024 it intends to pursue its collaboration with its different donors and partners and to continue exploring the possibility of establishing new partnerships. The financial statements were audited by Mazar SA and the audit report is [available here](#).

Balance sheet

Balance sheet as of 31 December	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	25 538	63 045
Other short-term receivables	4 022	4 908
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	59 178	77 797
Total Current assets	88 738	145 750
Total Assets	88 738	145 750
LIABILITIES AND FUND CAPITAL		
Liabilities		
Trade Payables	-	1 469
Accrued expenses	6 031	6 290
Other short-term liabilities	13 688	41 114
Projects' deferred income	1 518	31 621
Total liabilities	21 237	80 494
Fund capital		
Unrestricted fund	67 501	65 256
Total Fund capital	67 501	65 256
Total Liabilities and Fund capital	88 738	145 750

Statement of Operations

Statement of Operations for the year ended 31 December	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted CHF	Project Funds CHF	Total CHF	Unrestricted CHF	Project Funds CHF	Total CHF
Income						
Private donations	-	-	-	500	-	500
Public donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions	59 057	566 932	625 989	46 678	750 245	796 923
Other revenues	16 233	-	16 233	4 419	-	4 419
Overhead expenditures billed to the projects	38 087	-	38 087	32 392	-	32 392
Total operating income	113 377	566 932	680 308	83 989	750 245	834 234
Direct and administrative expenses						
Staff costs	53 020	423 191	476 210	639	642 654	643 293
Travel costs	6 091	29 301	35 392	7 572	25 426	32 998
Equipment, vehicle and rentals	-	9 244	9 244	1 794	3 391	5 185
Operational consumables	360	39 115	39 475	20	36 538	36 558
General and office expenses	7 914	6 184	14 099	9 394	20 449	29 843
Professional fees	32 865	45 227	78 091	21 627	27 922	49 549
Bank charges	(317)	1 101	784	2 696	-	2 696
Insurance charges	332	-	332	-	-	-
Telecommunication costs	28	1 408	1 436	216	4 837	5 053
Visibility	40	2 458	2 498	-	5 665	5 665
Overhead expenditures billed to the projects	-	38 087	38 087	-	39 815	39 815
Total direct and administrative expenses	100 333	595 315	695 648	43 958	806 697	850 655
Net Operating income	13 043	(28 383)	(15 340)	40 031	(56 452)	(16 421)
Financial result						
Foreign exchange gain	13 868	-	13 868	57 195	-	57 195
Foreign exchange loss	(24 667)	(1 719)	(26 386)	(44 109)	(23 090)	(67 199)
Net financial result	(10 799)	(1 719)	(12 518)	13 086	(23 090)	(10 004)
Net ordinary result before closed projects	2 245	(30 103)	(27 858)	53 117	(79 542)	(26 425)
Net result from closed projects transferred from (to) unrestricted fund		-	-		-	-
Project's deferred income variation		30 103	30 103		79 542	79 542
Result of the year or period after allocations	2 245	-	2 245	53 117	-	53 117

Our Team

Committee

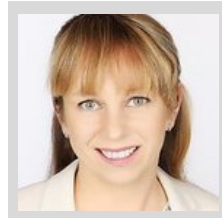
The Fight for Humanity Committee is the leading body of the organization. Every year, it organizes the General Assembly and participates in decision-making processes. We would like to welcome Inna Cruz who joined our Committee in 2023, as well as Julie Ward and Nathalie Prouvez who joined our Advisory Council.



Ruxandra Stoicescu
President



Marc Bonnet
Secretary

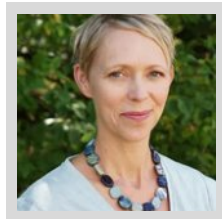


Inna Cruz
Treasurer

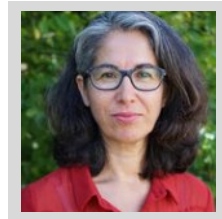
Operational Team



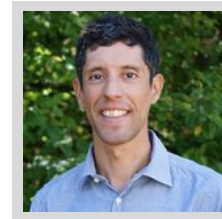
Mehmet Balci
Co-Director



Anki Sjöberg
Co-Director



Beytul Gorkem
Head of Operations

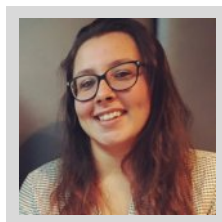


Nicolas Sion
Head of Development

Interns

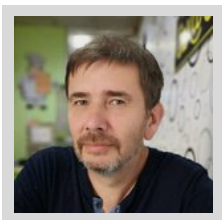


Enora Szegeren
Project Research assistant



Zeyna Erdemoglu
Communications assistant

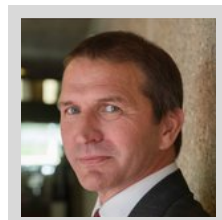
Associate Experts



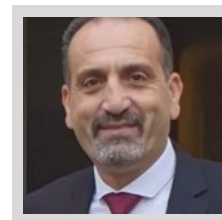
Chris Rush
Protection and human rights expert



Carolin Nehmé
Humanitarian norms expert



Mark Knight
Expert on Security & Human Rights in complex environments

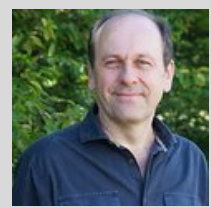


Iyad Nasar
International humanitarian law and law of armed conflict expert



Yousef Wehbe

International human rights and humanitarian law expert



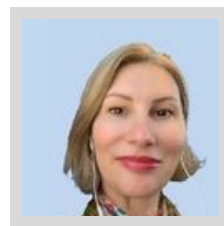
Pascal Bongard

International expert in humanitarian protection and policy



Vicken Cheterian

Professor at the University of Geneva



Maja Petrovic

Humanitarian expert

Advisory Council

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide strategic and technical advice on the operational direction of Fight for Humanity. The Advisory Committee has a consultative role and its members serve in their individual capacity.



Deborah Berlinck

Journalist and co-Founder of HEADLINES



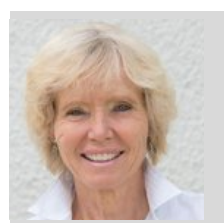
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Arianna Calza Bini

Head of the Gender and Mine Action Programme at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining



Elisabeth Decrey Warner

Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, member of "Leaders pour la Paix" and founder of the NGO Geneva Call



Aymar Durant de Saint André

International Consultant



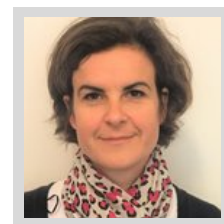
Jan Fermon

Secretary General of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers



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Executive Coordinator of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform



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Senior Humanitarian Advocacy Advisor at Save the Children



Katharine Fortin

Assistant Professor in International Law at Utrecht University



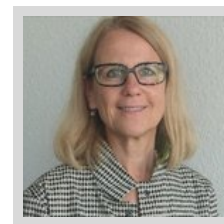
Alejandra Miller Restrepo

Member of the Truth Commission, Colombia



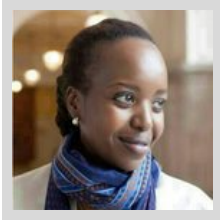
James Munn

Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies



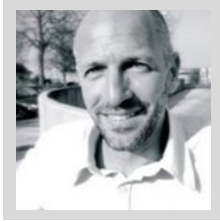
Lorenza Rossi

International Consultant



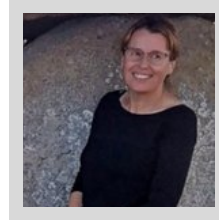
Angela Muvumba Sällström

Senior Researcher at the Nordia Africa Institute



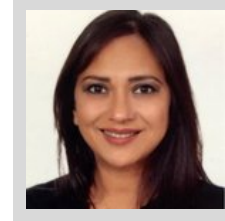
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Legal Adviser in International Humanitarian Law with the Danish Red Cross



Tara Steimer

Archaeologist and lecturer at the Laboratory of Prehistoric Archeology and Anthropology at the University of Geneva



Amberin Zaman

Senior Correspondent reporting from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe for Al-Monitor



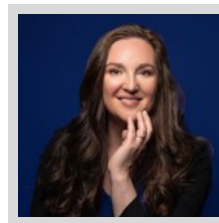
Julie Ward

Education and child rights consultant



Nathalie Prouvez

Former UN Senior Human Rights Officer



Fleur Ravensbergen

Independent conflict advisor

Acknowledgements

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- **Contributors:** ALIPH Foundation, the United Nations, the Republic and State of Geneva, Berghof Foundation
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- **Financial partner:** the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action and its team in Manila
- **Supporters:** The members of its Committee and Advisory Council and all the people who brought their support to the organization
- **Staff:** Its staff members, consultants, interns, and volunteers



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