

OUR ENDURING IMPACT OVER

30 YEARS



1984

- ISHR is established in Geneva in December '84, starting with a small secretariat based in the home of Adrien-Claude Zoller
- ISHR starts advocating for a draft international declaration on human rights defenders

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- The secretariat of ISHR moves to 37 rue de Vermont, Geneva
- With the UN in financial crisis, ISHR organises an alternative meeting of the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights

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- The first ISHR Geneva training course is launched
- The Human Rights Monitor is launched, connecting national-level human rights defenders with the UN
- The secretariat moves to 1 rue de Varembe, Geneva

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- The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is established and ISHR begins its engagement with the regional mechanism



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- The organisation's focus broadens to encompass human rights defenders working in the regions and to following up the Geneva training course
- ISHR establishes its Human Rights Prize



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- ISHR obtains consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- ISHR coordinates civil society engagement with the Second World Conference on Human Rights, leading to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action



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- ISHR is part of the civil society push for an international human rights chief. The post of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is finally created in 1994

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- ISHR campaigns to enable national level organisations to be granted ECOSOC consultative status, enabling them to participate in and contribute to key international human rights discussions
- Working with Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists, ISHR initiates the development of the UN Convention on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances



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- After 14 years of ISHR lobbying, advocacy and negotiation, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders is finally adopted



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- ISHR convenes an international seminar and undertakes intensive advocacy, leading to the establishment of the position of UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders. Hina Jilani is appointed as the first mandate holder



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- ISHR opens its New York office at 777 UN Plaza, supporting human rights defenders in their engagement at UN headquarters

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- ISHR leads a successful campaign for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights



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- A range of international and regional human rights coalitions are co-founded by ISHR, including the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, and the West African Human Rights Defenders Network

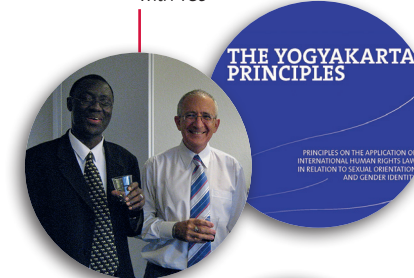
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- HRCNet, a network of leading NGOs active at the Human Rights Council, is formed through the leadership of ISHR, Human Rights Watch and Democracy Coalition Project
- ISHR contributes to the establishment and institution building of the UN Human Rights Council



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- ISHR leads and coordinates the development of the Yogyakarta Principles on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, together with ICJ



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- ISHR launches the Human Rights Monitor Quarterly and a new Simple Guide to the UN Treaty Bodies
- ISHR's sustained advocacy on the issue of reprisals and intimidation faced by human rights defenders leads to the adoption of a landmark Human Rights Council resolution condemning and strengthening protections against reprisals

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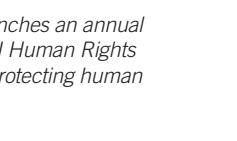
- Together with Amnesty International, ISHR launches an annual pledging event calling on candidates to the UN Human Rights Council to publicly commit to promoting and protecting human rights

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- ISHR launches the digital, monthly Human Rights Monitor

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- Working with supportive states and NGOs, ISHR advocacy leads to adoption of a historic Human Rights Council resolution calling on all States to review and amend national laws to respect and protect the work of human rights defenders



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- Working with key NGO partners, ISHR leads civil society efforts to strengthen UN human rights treaty bodies and better connect their work with those on the ground



2014

- ISHR staff and interns bid farewell to outgoing UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay
- ISHR works with civil society and government officials to develop and secure the passage of a national law on the protection of human rights defenders in Côte d'Ivoire, the first in Africa

