



# Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative

## A Protection programme for Human Rights Defenders at risk

Founded by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative (ESI) supports actors from all over the world who are committed to human rights. The initiative is implemented by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and offers temporary relocation grants and on-site assistance for those who, because of their peaceful commitment to human rights, are threatened by physical and psychological violence, arrest, occupational bans and even murder. These include for example members of ethnic minorities who support land rights; women who defend themselves against discrimination and violence; LGBTIQ activists who stand up for their right to sexual identity or journalists who reveal cases of corruption. The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative is designed as a protection programme for human rights defenders at risk from all parts of the world and is open to activists from all professional groups. In implementing the programme, ifa works together with civil society. The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative implements temporary relocation with host organisations that receive and accompany the human rights defenders. The initiative is financed by the German Federal Foreign Office.

### Programme lines of Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative:

PL1: Four to six-month relocation grants for human rights defenders at risk at host organisations in Germany (**first temporary relocation begin in 2020**)

PL 2: Four to six-month relocation grants for human rights defenders at risk at safe places within their home countries or regions (**beginning in 2021**)

PL 3: On-site assistance to protect human rights defenders (**expected to begin in 2021**)

### What is covered during temporary relocation in Germany?

- Monthly scholarship and rent
- Health insurance
- Travel expenses
- Accompanying activities such as trainings, language skills, psychosocial support, networking, legal and security advice
- Compensation for the host organisation for support and assistance expenses

### What are the requirements for protection stays in Germany?

#### For human rights defenders:

- ✓ The human rights defender is verifiably committed to human rights and is threatened by governmental and/or nongovernmental actors because of his/her activities.
- ✓ The human rights defender is still active in his/her country of origin or has only recently left the country to escape danger.
- ✓ The human rights defender has the intention to return to his/her country of origin after the protection stay.
- ✓ A host organisation is already available or can be found by the ESI team. Existing contacts between the human rights defender and the host organisation can accelerate the procedure.

### For host organisations:

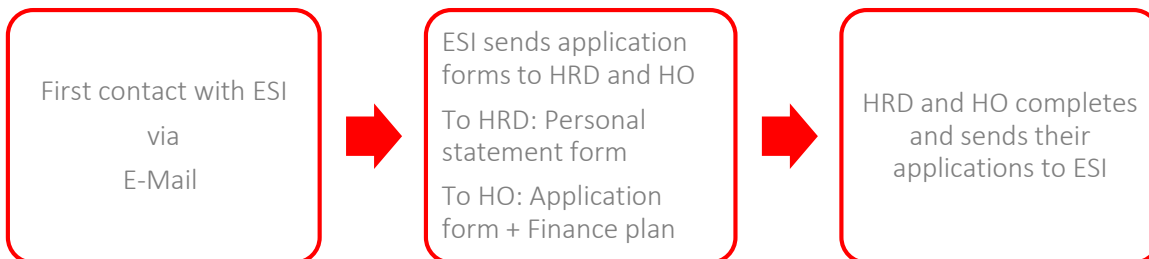
- ✓ Has legal status (registered association, Ltd., Inc., etc.)
- ✓ Active in a field relevant to the human rights defender
- ✓ Willing to implement the temporary relocation in organisational and administrative terms
- ✓ Sensitive to psychosocial and security aspects
- ✓ Engages a person to coordinate the temporary relocation and be available for daily needs of the human rights defender

### What application documents are required?

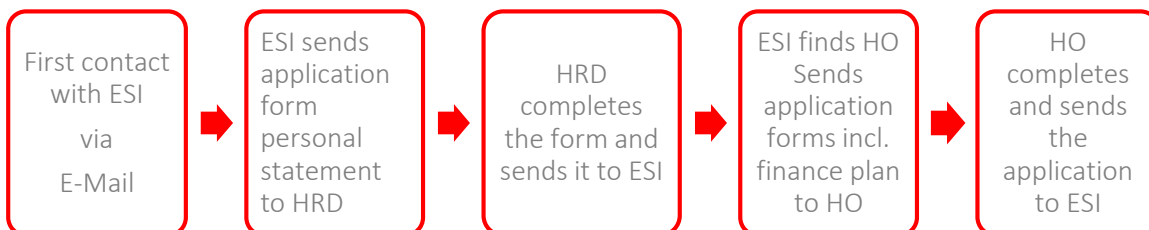
- ✓ Personal statement by the human rights defender (HRD)
- ✓ Completed application form by the host organisation
- ✓ The host organisation's financial plan

### What are application procedures?

#### For human rights defenders with contact to a host organisation



#### For human rights defenders without contact to a host organisation



### What happens after applying?

The ESI project team reviews the application documents and the personal statement of the human rights defender, contacts the reference persons and, if necessary, asks the applicant and the host organisation for further information. If all requirements are met, the ESI team prepares a draft resolution and informs the committee.

### Who makes the decision about the funding?

The decision about funding is made by an independent committee. It consists of four to six people proposed by the German Federal Foreign Office, ifa, the German Institute for Human Rights and the Forum Menschenrechte (FMR). If the committee chooses the applicant, a contract is concluded between the host organisation and ifa.

**Contact: E-Mail:** [ESI-contact@protonmail.com](mailto:ESI-contact@protonmail.com)

**Website:** [Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative](http://Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative)

**A note about digital security:** We recommend the use of encrypted emails such as Proton. We use the free messenger app Signal.