



International Panel of
Parliamentarians
for Freedom of Religion
or Belief

Evaluation of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief

Terms of Reference

2024



Background

The NHC has received support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) since the 1980s and has undergone frequent evaluations of its projects and work.

In 2016 the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) and the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) entered into a partnership covering the work and activities of the IPPFoRB. As part of this agreement, the NHC provides networking, technical support, capacity building and administrative functions for the IPPFoRB.

The NHC currently has a three and a half-year's project agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) which is earmarked support for the work of the IPPFoRB. The overall budget for the whole period is NOK 24 672 323. In accordance with the two agreements, the NHC shall undertake a project evaluation by the first half of 2024.

The main beneficiaries for the evaluation will be the NHC donors (MFA), the NHC board and leadership, the IPPFoRB Steering Group and Secretariat, and potential new IPPFoRB donors. The purpose is to strengthen the work through documenting results, providing recommendations on adjustments needed for the further implementation of the project, and offering insights and recommendations to support the development of a new strategy for the IPPFoRB and its work beyond 2024.

The NHC and IPPFoRB are seeking an evaluation that can assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, outcomes, potential long-term impact, and sustainability of the activities of the project in the period since the IPPFoRB inception in 2014, until the beginning of 2024. In addition, this evaluation will assess the effects experienced by the project's main target group, i.e. members of parliament from around the globe, who are members of the IPPFoRB network.

The NHC and IPPFoRB are seeking an inclusive and participatory process that involves engagement and interaction with both the NHC and IPPFoRB, as well as partners and target groups in the project.

About the NHC

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) is a non-governmental organisation registered in Norway working to ensure that human rights are respected in practice. The NHC does this by documenting human rights violations and reporting and informing both the Norwegian and the international community about vital human rights concerns. Furthermore, the NHC has more than 20 years of experience in human rights education and provides support to



individuals, organisations and projects working to promote human rights in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The NHC was established by activists from across the political spectrum in 1977, during the Cold War. Its name refers to the security and human rights agreement signed in Helsinki in 1975, which became the origin of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe. The NHC's aim was to support persecuted human rights defenders in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the Helsinki Movement contributed to the democratic revolutions that swept through Europe in 1989.

About the IPPFoRB

The International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) is an informal network of more than 350 current and former parliamentarians and legislators from around 97 countries committed to combatting religious persecution and advancing freedom of religion or belief, as defined by Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR).

The IPPFoRB is centred around the Oslo Charter for Freedom of Religion or Belief, which reaffirms UDHR Article 18. The Oslo Charter was signed in November 2014 by over 30 parliamentarians from around the world at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. The IPPFoRB is committed to geographic, political, religious and gender diversity. Its main target group is members of parliament from around the globe.

The IPPFoRB engages in four main areas of activities. These are capacity building through workshops and trainings; high-level conferences and regional events; research and fact-finding in cooperation with other partners; and advocacy work.

The IPPFoRB is led by an Informal Steering Group (SG) and a full-time Secretariat with the support of other volunteer Secretariat members. The full-time Secretariat is located within the NHC.

Purpose, objectives and scope of evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation is threefold.

Firstly, we aim to assess the implementation of IPPFoRB activities and outcomes during the current project period spanning from July 2021 to May 2024, building further on an existing evaluation report for the project period 2018-2020.

Secondly, we seek to evaluate the results or effects of the project, as both designed and implemented, on the target groups since the inception of IPPFoRB in 2014



Lastly, we intend to analyse and understand the added value of IPPFoRB over its entire history since 2014.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

1. To gather evidence on the results and impact of the project.
2. To produce useful lessons learned and good practices that illustrate successful and unsuccessful strategies in the achievement of results. The evaluation should assess and provide recommendations for improvement on the following:
3. Relevance: Assess to what extent is the project, as designed and implemented, suited to the global, regional and national contexts, target group and needs?
4. Assess the IPPFoRB structure, Secretariat and steering model, in particular, its efficiency and sustainability.
5. Effectiveness: Assess the degree to which the project has contributed to the achievement of the expected results and targets in advancing freedom of religion or belief at outcome and output levels.
6. Outcomes: Assess to what extent the network has supported the role of parliamentarians in contributing to defend or directly promote the right to freedom of religion or belief.
7. Impact: Assess the extent to which the strategic orientation of IPPFoRB's support to parliamentarians' points toward making a significant contribution to broader, sustainable and long-term changes on freedom of religion and belief issues
8. Sustainability: Assess the degree to which changes achieved with the project last in time and can be sustained.
9. Innovation and adaptability: How has the project embraced innovation in its approaches, methodologies, or technologies to address challenges and enhance effectiveness? To what extent has the project demonstrated adaptability to changing circumstances or emerging challenges throughout its implementation?
10. Advocacy, Communication and Outreach: Assess the impact of IPPFoRB's advocacy efforts on policy changes, legal frameworks, or public awareness related to freedom of religion or belief. Assess the effectiveness of IPPFoRB's communication and outreach strategies in disseminating information and engaging stakeholders.
11. Assess the sustainability of the current financial model of IPPFoRB.
12. Assess gender equality in the IPPFoRB member composition.
13. Assess the NHC's added value to the IPPFoRB project.

The findings will provide inputs to the development of the IPPFoRB's strategy and work beyond 2024, including new applications for funding.

Methodology



The methodological framework should combine desk review and field study and should consist of, but need not be limited to, the following elements:

1. Review of project documents (strategic work plan, results framework, the theory of change, implementation plans and mid-term reports);
2. Interviews with selected members of the Secretariat and the Steering Group, representatives of regional networks (including parliamentarians and legislators), partner organisations, MFA, independent experts and academics (including UN mandate holders) and other IPPFoRB contacts;
3. Surveys among target groups, experts and other stakeholders can be conducted based on pre-determined questionnaires agreed with IPPFoRB;
4. Possible participation in 1 – 2 IPPFoRB event(s).

An overview of soft copies of documents to be reviewed and a list of key parliamentarians/persons/organisations to be interviewed will be provided by the IPPFoRB secretariat at the inception stage. The evaluator (or evaluation team) may suggest additional evaluation methods and/or approaches, as a part of the proposal, that would enhance the assessment process.

Expected deliverables

1. *Inception report* in English, which contains the description of the assessment methodology, data analysis method, key informants, issues to be evaluated and work plan/timeframe. The inception report shall outline the proposed division of labour between the evaluators, ensuring that it reflects the scope of the ToR and be available in both printed and electronic formats;
2. *Draft evaluation report* in English not exceeding 30 pages, excluding annexes. The report should compile all relevant data and capture the preliminary findings and recommendations. It should include an executive summary, evaluation methodology, evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The draft report should be available in both printed and electronic formats;
3. *Final evaluation report* in English not exceeding 30 pages, excluding annexes. The report should be finalised after the evaluation team has received comments on the draft report from the IPPFoRB and NHC;
4. *Presentation* of the report to the IPPFoRB and NHC (digital or in person in Oslo).

Team

The evaluation should be conducted by a minimum of two people. The team may be international. Gender diversity is a necessary requirement. A contact person for the evaluation should be appointed.



Qualifications required:

- Demonstrated strong knowledge of human rights work and network development
- Extensive experience with evaluation and monitoring, including human rights projects, and proven capacity to produce assessment or evaluation reports
- Experience with grant management
- Excellent communication, coordination and facilitation skills. Good interpersonal skills and decorum, especially in interviewing parliamentarians
- Familiarity with parliamentary work is preferable
- Knowledge of freedom of religion or belief is preferable
- Consistently ensures timeliness and quality of work
- Fluency in English

Time frame

The evaluation process should ideally start at the beginning of June 2024, and the inception report should be submitted two weeks later. The draft report should be submitted to the IPPFoRB and NHC by the end of July 2024. The NHC and IPPFoRB should be allowed to provide comments and input by mid-August. If necessary, the IPPFoRB and NHC may request an updated draft report for final comments. The final report should be concluded Aug 31, 2024.

Applications

Applications should be sent to Fernanda San Martin, Director, IPPFoRB at fsc@nhc.no by May 15, 2024.

The application should include a budget (incl. all related cost, such as travel, accommodation, per diem, telephone etc.), timeframe, a brief statement of qualifications and motivation. In addition, the CV of each team member should be included. If the application is submitted by an agency, general information of relevant competence and experience of the evaluating agency should be included. The evaluation team will need to confirm in writing that they are not in breach of the procurement rules for eligible tenders.