

## Who can apply?

As a rule, only non-governmental entities may apply to the Fund. Public health and rehabilitation centres may also submit an application. Grants are awarded to entities and organizations that can demonstrate at least two years of experience in projects providing redress and assistance to victims of torture.

## When to apply?

Applications for grants can be submitted by 1 March every year for consideration by the Board at its autumn session. The grants awarded are disbursed at the beginning of the following year.

Grants requested from the Fund can cover an implementation period of up to 12 months during the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December. Grants may be renewed if conditions are met.

## How to apply?

Online applications are to be submitted from 15 January to 1 March of every year at:  
<https://grants.ohchr.org/Default.aspx>

## Contribute to the Fund

Like all UN trust funds, the Torture Fund depends entirely on earmarked contributions. The Fund accepts donations from States, nongovernmental organizations, business companies and other private entities including individuals.

Donors and potential donors are encouraged to increase their support to the Fund so that it can expand its crucial assistance to victims of torture. Donors are invited to contribute to the Fund before the grant-making session of the Board, which is held in autumn.

**For more information, please visit our website at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).  
Search: Torture Fund**

## Contact us

Secretariat of the Humanitarian Funds  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
CH1211 Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)  
E-mail: [unvft@ohchr.org](mailto:unvft@ohchr.org)

# UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

*“Let us work together to end torture throughout the world and ensure that countries provide reparation for victims.”*

*Ban Ki-moon  
UN Secretary-General*

## What is the Fund?

The Fund assists individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture, with the aim of rebuilding their lives and restoring their dignity.

The Fund provides direct assistance to victims of torture and their family members through grants awarded to non-governmental channels of assistance, including NGOs, rehabilitation centres, associations of victims and family members, private and public hospitals, legal clinics, public interest law firms and individual lawyers.

Direct assistance to victims may take the form of humanitarian, medical, psychological, legal and financial aid. Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1981 (resolution 36/151), the Fund has awarded grants to more than 600 organizations, providing rehabilitation to more than 50,000 victims worldwide every year.

The Fund supports projects with a clear victim-centered focus, through annual grants of between US\$20,000 and US\$80,000, awarded on a competitive basis. Grants may be renewed if conditions are met. A call for applications is issued every year in January.

The Fund is managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of independent experts from the five world regions. The Board meets twice a year to determine priorities, to review policies and to adopt recommendations on grants.

## What is torture under international law?

The legal definition of torture is provided in article 1 of the United Nations Convention against Torture, which is the most comprehensive international treaty dealing with torture.

This definition contains three core elements:

- The intentional infliction of severe mental or physical suffering
- By a public official, who is directly or indirectly involved
- For a specific purpose

The Fund continues to keep abreast of new forms of torture and practices amounting to torture.

## Which type of projects does the Fund support?

The Fund aims to support projects providing direct assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. Eligible projects are those that provide direct assistance through a holistic approach or through specific types of assistance such as medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian and educational aid.