



**Call for Proposals:
Promoting Racial Justice and Dismantling Racism/
Building Interdisciplinary Capacity to Defend Human Rights in Challenging Times**

Human Rights Lab Projects (\$10,000)

Proposals due: October 26, 2020

Implementation period: project to be completed by December 2021

This note offers background on the Human Rights Lab, details about what participation in a Faculty-Led Lab Project would entail, and instructions for submitting a proposal.

In 2020-21, we will fund four new Lab projects: two projects with a specific focus on promoting racial justice and dismantling racism, and two projects -- without any designated focus -- that propose to build capacity and promote human rights in challenging times.

These projects are supported by: Human Rights Initiative (CLA & Humphrey School), Human Rights Program (CLA), Human Rights Center (Law School)

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University of Minnesota faculty and P&A staff are invited to submit proposals for grants of up to \$10,000 to support interdisciplinary projects aimed at advancing scholarly insights into and promoting the practice of dismantling systemic racism and/or building capacity to defend human rights in challenging times. The goal of the Human Rights Lab is to support projects that recognize “the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,” as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Lab supports academic researchers who are interested in producing knowledge that simultaneously advances human rights and protects advocates and defenders.

To qualify for funding, the proposed project should further the goals of the Human Rights Lab: (1) to engage with a partner organization or institution working to promote human rights and to eliminate inequality, (2) to support student researchers as integral partners in the Lab, and to encourage an examination of their own roles and the role of the academy in human rights research, and (3) to advance the Lab process, a collaborative research forum characterized by its interdisciplinary methodology and its insistence that substantive human rights issues be addressed in their local contexts.

About the Human Rights Lab

The [Human Rights Lab](#) is an interdisciplinary space for faculty and students at the University of Minnesota to investigate and model ways that cutting-edge research can be used more effectively with NGOs, communities, institutions, and policymakers to reduce inequalities in the enjoyment of human rights. Faculty from several colleges and degree programs worked together to design

Call for Proposals: Faculty-led Lab Projects

the Lab process, building on the University's foundation for excellence in human rights research, teaching, and outreach. Since 2016, the Human Rights Lab has supported 18 faculty-led projects, described [here](#). Interdisciplinary approaches are essential to the Lab's success and faculty participants in Labs have come from at least fifteen disciplinary fields. Each project team involves a faculty investigator and graduate student researcher(s), working in close collaboration with a partner organization in the field.

The Human Rights Lab was developed with the support of University's Grand Challenges Research Grant, to develop faculty expertise in partnership with human rights defenders around the world to address a spectrum of violations, such as incursions on human security, deprivation of basic needs and the denial of justice. The collective work of these partnerships is reflected in [The Minnesota Human Rights Model](#).

Funding from the [Human Rights Initiative](#) will support three of the 2020-21 Human Rights Labs. The Human Rights Initiative is a joint initiative of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (HSPA) which receive funds from the Provost's office to support interdisciplinary human rights research.

About Participating with a Faculty-led Human Rights Lab Project

Benefits. Each 2020-21 Faculty-led Human Rights Lab Project will receive the following:

- A slot in the 2020-21 Lab calendar for a closed, 2-hour, interdisciplinary workshop session to receive input from diverse experts regarding the human rights problem, research methodology, and practical application.
- Funding of up to \$10,000 to support your research idea, through expenses such as a stipend for a graduate student to do field research or other relevant activities with a partner organization, an honorarium for a human rights organization to work with the faculty and graduate student team on the research project, funding for material support or travel costs for the project (compliant with the University's COVID-19 travel policies).
- Dissemination of your work through Lab platforms.

Expectations: The faculty or P&A staff member organizing the Human Rights Lab project are required to:

- Mentor a graduate student in their work with the Lab project.
- Contribute to the collective learnings on best practices for scholar-practitioner-student engagement.
- Participate in an online Lab workshop with interdisciplinary faculty to discuss and receive feedback on the research project.
- Secure a letter or email from the human rights organization or institution regarding its assessment of the value and impact of the academic partnership for their work and objectives.
- Actively contribute to the Lab workshop sessions for other projects.
- Produce preliminary academic and policy/practice outputs from research.
- Submit a final report on academic and human rights outcomes of the project.

Submitting a Proposal

Please submit by **Monday, October 26** a proposal up to three pages (single spaced, 12-point font) outlining the project you would like to run through the Lab to Rochelle Hammer (Human Rights Program) at hamm0229@umn.edu.

Maximum amount: \$10,000. Permissible expenses include personnel, (e.g. students, research associates), travel, materials and supplies, space rental, consultants, computer services (beyond those already provided).

Implementation period: The project should be completed by December 2021.

In your proposal, please indicate:

- For the open category grants (2): how your proposed Lab project advances human rights and/or protects advocates and defenders.
- For the racial justice grants (2): how your proposed Lab project address structural racism and the link to human rights.
- How you expect the interdisciplinary faculty input to benefit your project and how you might run the workshop.
- How you intend to recruit the student(s) or if you already have a student identified, and the training you would provide or enable to prepare your student researcher(s) to work on the project.
- Affirmation from a reliable organization or institution you will place your student with and how that placement will be overseen (attach a letter or email from the partner).
- Your preferred timeline for a Human Rights Lab workshop session on your project (spring 2021 or fall 2021).
- The outcomes you anticipate in line with the overall project objectives, including positive contributions in the academic, teaching, policy, and other arenas.
- Your proposed budget for the project.
- Your commitment to attend the Lab sessions that will be held in 2020-2021 and contribute from your expertise to the projects of others.