



## HSC policy 2022 – 2024

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### Background

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Human Security Collective (HSC), founded in the Hague in 2013, works on issues of development, security and the involvement of citizens in their communities and societies.

Initially created by three colleagues from Cordaid, the Netherlands's foremost value-based emergency relief and development organisation, we facilitate conversations between civil society, policy shapers and other actors to promote alternative approaches to current security practices at the national, regional and global levels.

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### Context

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The attacks of September 11, 2001 were a turning point in history. The ensuing policy and political choices made by governments and international organisations in the name of security marked a watershed for the work of civil society organisations across the world and their missions to provide humanitarian relief, contribute to development goals, take part in peacebuilding efforts and protect human rights.

Incremental changes in the way counterterrorism rules and regulations were interpreted and applied by governments, international organisations, and private institutions like banks affected the operational space of non-profit organisations (NPOs) across the world, especially those working in and around violent conflicts. These measures also gradually affected those working in relatively peaceful and democratic countries; peacebuilders and human rights organisations were suddenly labelled terrorists by their governments, sometimes erroneously, oftentimes deliberately, because they

spoke truth to power. Additionally, governments and international organisations began to perceive young people living in high risk areas where terrorist groups are active as potential recruits rather than as valuable partners to address the root causes of violence and help build peaceful societies.

HSC was founded to counter these tendencies. We are focused on including a diversity of young people—especially those who are marginalized—in decision-making on security; broadening the understanding of what it means to feel “secure” in one’s community; and addressing the structural barriers civil society faces in operating and carrying out its missions, including holding those in power accountable.

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### Vision

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Our mission is to bridge the gap between people and security by involving citizens and communities in decision-making in the security domain, and protecting and expanding the operational and political space of civil society.

Our vision is creating a just and secure world in which people are able to speak, connect, associate and assemble freely and fearlessly.

Our organisation is based on the values of trust-creation, local ownership, empowerment and collective action. We believe that the idea of Human Security—with its focus on people, relationships and human rights—provides an organising framework.

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### Goals & Objectives/ Engagement & Impact

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The overall goal is to enable communities, people and their organisations to meaningfully take part in decisionmaking about security issues that impact their daily lives and livelihoods.

Objectives:

To contribute to a proportionate and adequate implementation of counter terrorism and countering the financing of terrorism measures that safeguard civic space and the fundamental rights of civil society organizations.

To enable an inclusive approach to ensure that evolving security agendas place human security, human rights and conflict transformation at their core.

To lead on multi stakeholder approaches for tangible and policy solutions to address security related issues that impact communities, people and civil society organizations.

HSC's work involves advocacy, awareness-raising, coalition-building, and capacity-building at the national, regional, and global levels.

We organise our activities around three main pillars: Inclusive Leadership; the Development / Security Nexus and the Impact of the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Agenda on Civic Space.

### **Pillar I: Inclusive Leadership**

The four building blocks of HSC's Inclusive Leadership programme:

- Envisioning a better future from a citizens' perspective, designing and implementing community initiatives based on collective analysis
- Empowering in order to enhance inclusive communication skills
- Engaging with a diversity of key stakeholders in society and government to strengthen trust and shift power relations towards more inclusion in decision-making on conflict transformation
- Exchange with civil society actors from other regions and countries to enhance knowledge, skills and behaviour.

### **Key outcomes:**

We have directly reached over 1,000 young people in the process of our intensive years-long programming.

1. We have created a diverse and thriving network of young people from across the Far North Region of Cameroon, Philippines, Libya, Tunisia and the Netherlands who learn from each other, support each other, and cooperate together locally around the topic of Human Security

2. We have created space for these change makers to link and learn from each other at a regional (MENA) and global level and connected them to the UN Security agenda.
3. HSC was one of the actors - as part of a large network of civil society actors- who advocated in many fora for a separate UN resolution on Youth, Peace & Security. This United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250) was Adopted by the UN Security Council in 2015, emphasising the importance of youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.
4. The Human Security initiatives which we launched have made a real difference in strengthening peaceful coexistence, reconciliation, and livelihoods in communities across the region
5. Participants in our inclusive leadership programme have used the skills and knowledge acquired to gain further opportunities, e.g. participating in peace building events, employment with local government or civil society organizations, researchers, or paid work as community organizers

### **Pillar II: Development / Security Nexus**

- We seek to understand questions around security from a holistic human security perspective. In our work we take a conflict transformation approach, this approach gives the necessary attention to addressing the underlying conditions that give rise to conflict. This is a long-term effort, allowing us to understand the root causes and drivers of phenomena such as VE and to address them through developmental interventions.
- Development can enable communities to build resilience against VE, and governments to respond better to the needs of citizens.
- Ownership by local communities is key, as well as the strengthening of the social contract between the State and its citizens, creating inclusive governance and decision making and building leadership at both community and governance level. We see

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developing and implementing action plans for the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) itself as a process of conflict transformation, shifting power relations, and leading to transitional justice and reconciliation. Building trust among stakeholders and being more inclusive are prerequisites for the breadth of our interventions towards effective PVE.

### **Pillar III: Impact of the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Agenda on Civic Space**

#### **Key activities:**

1. Successful advocacy as part of the Global NPO Coalition on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) [1]. Formalisation of a risk-based approach, which means a more proportionate and context-specific implementation of the FATF Standards.

#### Outcomes:

- Successful revision of FATF Recommendation 8 and its Interpretive Note<sup>2</sup> (June 2016), including retracting the claim that the NPO sector is “particularly vulnerable” to terrorist abuse.
  - Production of the Best Practices Paper (June 2015), a policy guidance document that countries use to help implement the FATF Standards.
  - Establishment of regular engagement between the FATF Secretariat and NPOs, enhancing NPO participation. In 2017, successfully for the ongoing addition of four NPO seats at the annual Private Sector Consultative Forum.
2. Sustained advocacy leading to the setting up of the Unintended Consequences workstream by the FATF, which looks at financial exclusion, de-risking, NPO suppression and the impact of the FATF Standards on human rights and due process.

#### Outcomes:

- Appointment of HSC as co-chair of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF. Substantial policy-level change have been enacted, including, amongst others, contribution to guidance on terrorism financing risks of NPOs, and providing input on a risk-based approach and methodology to mitigate terrorism financing vulnerabilities of NPOs.
- Fruitful ongoing engagement with diverse stakeholders, ranging from the FATF Secretariat, the FATF-Style Regional Bodies to governments, banks, Financial Intelligence Units, and regulators and supervisors to prioritise a human security approach.

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### Unique Positioning

HSC is recognised as a trusted independent facilitator and leader in the domain of security and civic space. We bring together the human rights, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding communities to craft shared solutions to the dilemmas that the securitisation agenda poses.

In our inclusive leadership work, we train young people globally on how to engage with decision-makers and facilitate some of those conversations. In our Security/Development work, we bring together those in the security domain with local civil society to foster a more robust human security approach. In our work on the Impact of the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Agenda on Civic Space with the FATF, we have gained the trust of all involved to ensure a continued commitment to solving the financial access problems of NPOs.

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### Strategy Moving Forward/ Monitoring for Success

HSC is currently revisiting its strategy with the aim to

1. Review and update the policy upon which the

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<sup>1</sup> See : <https://fatfplatform.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> See : <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/fr/publications/gafiengeneral/documents/plenary-outcomes-june-2016.html#:~:text=FATF%20Recommendation%208%20requires%20countries,it%20operates%20in%20have%20evolved.>

pillars were founded and the strategic direction it has taken the foundation. 2. Make an informed decision about a more effective integration of the three pillars stemming from our human security practices. 3. Strengthen existing and explore new partnerships with public and private stakeholders in support of policy choices that will come out of the strategic review and in support of financing opportunities which enable the execution of future projects and the organisation's institutional development. 4. Develop a trajectory for future leadership of the organisation which takes into account the organisation's core principles of diversity and inclusion.

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### Governance and Leadership

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Based in the Netherlands, the HSC has ANBI (public benefit) status. It functions in accordance Dutch law. The day-to-day work of the the organisation is led by the Executive Director, Lia van Broekhoven, in close collaboration with Fulco van Deventer, Deputy Director and Jeanne Abdulla, Director of Programmes. The Chairman of its Board is Lex Oostendorp.

The HSC has multiple Dutch quality control certifications which enable expedited applications for public funds, including: ANBI, KvK, ED - Equivalency Determination, ISO 9001-2015, SAM, DUNS, and PIC.

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### Foundation Support

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At its founding, HSC received institutional financial support from Cordaid. As of 2022, it is supported by the following donors:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- OSF
- Funders Initiative for Civic Space
- GIZ
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Ford Foundation
- UNDP
- European Commission
- ZonMW
- The US State department

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