

Geneva-based organisations & networks working on environmental justice

This document aims to briefly present organisations based in Geneva, Switzerland, who are specifically working on the right to a healthy environment, land rights and sometimes supporting environmental human rights defenders. They follow also the work at the Human Rights Council closely and use others UN human rights mechanisms.

Thematic organisations

[Center for International Environmental Law \(CIEL\)](#)

CIEL works particularly on 4 thematics: **Climate & Energy, Environmental Health, Fossil Economy, and People, Land & Resources**. They provide legal counsel, advocacy, policy research, and capacity building. For environmental defenders, CIEL is a key ally: it works with partners to support UN Special Procedures' evidence-based reports, defends the independence of mandate holders on the right to a healthy environment and human rights defenders, and builds the capacity of communities adversely affected by climate impacts to participate in decisions that affect their lives. It also develops **legal strategies** to hold corporations accountable and **accelerate the transition** away from fossil fuels.

[Food International Action Network \(FIAN-International\)](#)

Their goal is to strengthen people's struggle for the right to food and nutrition and related human rights, working towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, in which every person fully enjoys all human rights in dignity and self-determination. FIAN calls for urgent transformation of food systems through agroecology as part of a just, sustainable transition.

[Franciscans International \(FI\)](#)

Franciscans International is a bridge between the grassroots and decision makers at the United Nations, bringing the **concerns of Franciscans** and the people they work with to the attention of the **international community**, translating international decisions back into **concrete strategies** on the ground. On the environment, FI co-launched a series of activities with others to advocate for a UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, with a focus on **protecting environmental human rights defenders** and affected communities from **reprisals**, ensuring participation in climate decision-making, and addressing the **just transition** away from fossil fuels.

[Geneva Environment Network \(GEN\)](#)

GEN is a cooperative partnership of more than 100 environmental and sustainable development organisations based at the International Environment House in Geneva, administered by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. It organizes meetings, roundtables, briefings, and workshops in preparation for major environmental negotiations. For defenders, GEN is particularly relevant through its [Geneva Roadmap 40/11](#), a framework seeking to ensure the effective implementation of the right to act for the protection of the environment and to promote free and safe spaces for information and discussion on environmental matters, as well as its annual Geneva Rights and Environment Talks co-organized with Earthjustice and other partners.

[Global initiative for Economic Social and Cultural Rights \(GI-ESCR\)](#)

On climate it advocates for states and economic actors to swiftly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation measures, and ensure the transition to low-carbon societies is guided by human rights principle and gender equality. It also supports the work on the Committee of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESR.

[Indigenous People center for documentation research and information \(DOCIP\)](#)

DOCIP is a Swiss non-profit foundation whose primary objective is to **support Indigenous Peoples in defence of their rights**, mainly within the framework of the UN and European institutions. It acts at their request, consults them regularly, and provides impartial support. For indigenous environmental defenders, DOCIP is especially valuable: it provides technical secretariats, translation and interpretation services, and strategic support during key UN meetings, including the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous People (EMRIP) and maintains an online database with thousands of documents on indigenous issues, including historical records and statements from international conferences.

International organisations in Geneva with a program on environment or active on environmental issues

[Amnesty International \(AI\)](#)

Amnesty International frames climate change as a core human rights issue, holding that governments and corporations have a legal obligation to stop destroying the environment. It advocates for a full fossil fuel phase-out, defends environmental human rights defenders facing persecution, and engages with UN climate processes.

[Child Rights Connect \(CRC\)](#)

CRC provide knowledge, advice and connections to children's rights defenders, including children, on how to influence and use the UN human rights system for sustainable change at national level. Child Rights Connect provides awareness-raising and technical assistance to its members and mobilises the network for joint advocacy at the Human Rights Council.

[Dominicans for Justice and Peace](#)

Dominicans for Justice and Peace is a faith-based organisation and plays a role in consistently denouncing human rights violations and environmental degradation at numerous UN bodies. They have been an observer to the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) since 2018 and advocate on issues such as land grabbing, pollution, indigenous rights, and climate-induced displacement.

[Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\)](#)

The FES Geneva office's priorities include sustainable development (2030 Agenda) and climate change as cross-cutting issues, and it co-organizes the annual Geneva Dialogues on Human Rights and Climate Change, contributing to debates on how human rights mechanisms can advance rights-based climate action.

[Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#)

In 2016, Human Rights Watch launched its program on the environment and publishes useful research and data for defenders and civil society. The director of HRW's Environment and Human Rights Division oversees work on environmental defenders, toxic substances, and climate change.

[International Commission of Jurists \(ICJ\)](#)

The ICJ has intervened in key climate change cases, providing expert observations on access to justice and the right to an effective remedy in the context of the effects of climate change on human rights such as the right to life. It also works to develop Council of Europe standards recognizing the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

[International Service for Human Rights \(ISHR\)](#)

Through its Environmental Justice and Sustainability programme, ISHR provides solidarity and support to defenders working on environmental justice, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development, and seeks to ensure that businesses and non-State actors are effectively regulated with respect to human rights defenders protecting forests, oceans, and communities.

[Quakers United Nations Office \(QUNO\)](#)

QUNO works for effective, fair, and ambitious climate action and environmental protection, and is concerned about the impacts of climate change on people's lives, working to ensure that the rights and dignity of all are upheld in the face of a changing climate. Its dedicated Human Impacts of Climate Change (HICC) programme engages actively with the Human Rights Council and the UNFCCC. Notably, QUNO is the only faith-based organization that is an active, accredited observer at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), giving it a unique position to link climate science with human rights advocacy and support defenders working at this intersection.

[The Lutheran World Federation \(LWF\)](#)

The LWF actively amplifies frontline voices at Geneva's UN mechanisms, including the UPR, creating spaces for human rights defenders working on environmental and climate justice from countries like the Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, and Namibia to engage directly with diplomatic missions.

[Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\)](#)

SGI's Geneva-based Programme Coordinator focuses on UN processes related to the environment, climate change, and biodiversity, advocating from the perspective of human rights, public participation, and environmental and social justice. SGI promotes the SDGs, supports reforestation projects in Africa, and participates actively in UNFCCC climate COPs.