

HuriSearch.org

A specialised multilingual HUMAN RIGHTS SEARCH engine

Why HuriSearch?

- A powerful cost effective medium for informing the world about human rights issues
- An efficient medium for obtaining relevant information about human right issues
- An immediate connection between information creators and information users

General search engines do not adequately highlight the large number of sites of smaller organisations who often provide detailed, on-site information as it happens. Nor do they allow fast and easy access to relevant information strictly on human rights and related topics. **HuriSearch provides even small human rights organisations with a means of disseminating their information widely and effectively; and also provides those who need this information with an efficient means of finding it.**

Developed and managed by HURIDOCS, HuriSearch uses powerful software created by **Fast Search & Transfer ASA** (FAST, Norway), a leading provider of information retrieval solutions and since 2008 a subsidiary of Microsoft. HuriSearch was launched jointly by HURIDOCS and **Human Rights Education Associates** (HREA, United States) in 2003. It was relaunched in 2006.

Users requested the inclusion of other types of human rights information. HURIDOCS responded. By February 2009, HuriSearch full text indexed almost 5,000 sites, including websites of national human rights institutions, inter-governmental organisations, academic institutes and non-governmental organisations.

What does HuriSearch provide?

- effective web access to human rights information
- egalitarian and known ranking and indexing principles without regard to commercial agendas, censorship issues or political pressure
- search capabilities in 77 different languages
- advanced linguistic tools using FAST technology
- nine interface languages
- look-up lists by country and organisation
- enhanced access to sites of smaller organisations
- a dynamic list of most frequently occurring keywords based on each search, allowing users to refine their searches by a simple click
- world wide information dissemination opportunities even for small organisations
- enhanced relevancy of searches on human rights related topics

What languages are searched?

Albanian	Arabic	Armenian	Basque	Bulgarian	Byelorussian
Catalan	Chinese	Croatian	Czech	Danish	Dutch
English	Estonian	Finnish	French	Georgian	German
Greek	Hausa	Hebrew	Hungarian	Icelandic	Indonesian
Irish Gaelic	Italian	Japanese	Korean	Kurdish	Latvian
Lithuanian	Macedonian	Malay	Mongolian	Norwegian	Persian
Polish	Portuguese	Romanian	Russian	Sami	Serbian
Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swahili	Swedish	Tagalog
Thai	Turkish	Ukrainian	Vietnamese	and others	Total = 77

What topics can be searched?

Dynamic full text search on human rights and related topics such as: AIDS, army, capacity building, children, civil society, democracy, development, disabled persons, domestic violence, education, environment, foreign policy, gender, government, hate crimes, health, housing, hunger, water, elections, Immigration, labour, media, peace, public order, landmines, public security, race relations, refugees, reparations, statistics, technology, terrorism, trade unions, trafficking, specific geographical areas, etc.

HuriSearch has been supported by:

- **Fast Search & Transfer ASA**
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE/ODIHR
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)
- Reebok Human Rights Foundation
- Rights & Democracy, Canada
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC), and others

HuriSearch.org

Access to 4500 human rights sites from 168 countries

Who finds HuriSearch useful?

- **Non-governmental organisations** with a focus on human rights or related topics
- **Professional groups** with human rights as part of their core activities
- **Journalists** and media professionals
- **Government** officials (judges, police officers, prison staff, medical professionals) who encounter human rights issues almost daily and need to know what international and regional human rights instruments and bodies state, what information is available to help them deal with difficult issues and what constitutes good practice
- Government officials in ministries of **foreign affairs** who need global information involving national interests, country situations, dictatorial practices, good practices or potential violent conflict
- Officials in **international and intergovernmental organisations**, who either work directly or indirectly on human rights issues and need regular, up-to-date and often elusive human rights information
- **Academics** and students, in politics, law, social sciences in general, environment, development economics
- Private sector **businesses** and corporations. Labour rights, healthy working environments, reasonable pay, discrimination in the work place, best practices and pollution all are issues which can seriously affect profit and loss
- **Corporations** who have human rights policies and programmes
- **Human rights organisations**, particularly those without high levels of resources, who need an avenue to make their valuable information widely and easily available to a broad audience of people

Where is HuriSearch?

<http://www.hurisearch.org>

*One of the biggest problems for the dissemination of information about human rights has been that web sites disappear among the results in the regular search engines. I recommend that everyone interested in human rights remember the name **HuriSearch***
Lars Våge, [PANDIA Search Engine News](#)

HuriSearch was #15 of the Top 50 search engines rated by SOSIG, Dec. 2004

By pooling information the groups hope to do a better job of co-ordinating work to highlight human rights abuse and campaigns to free prisoners of conscience.
Search engine aids rights workers—BBC News Website, 1 December 2006

HuriSearch provides an avenue for even small organisations to make their information available worldwide. A large number of organisations have HuriSearch boxes or links to HuriSearch on their pages - creating needed global connections. Some examples include:

- [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#), USA
- [Antiqone](#), Greece
- [Asian Resources for Librarians](#), Thailand
- [Bahrain Human Rights Watch](#)
- [Brazil Human Rights and Justice](#)
- [Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe](#)
- [Campus Ouvert: Droits, Ethique et Société](#), France
- [Cátedra UNESCO de Educación para la Paz](#), Puerto Rico
- [East Timor & Indonesia Action Network](#), United States
- [EQ Rule of Law Commission](#), Canada
- [German Institute for Human Rights](#)
- [Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission](#), Australia
- [Human Rights in Armenia](#); Civil Society Institute, Armenia
- [IFLA Committee on Free Access to Information](#), United Kingdom
- [Institute for Justice and Democracy](#), Haiti
- [Labris](#), Serbia
- [Perempuan untuk Perdamaian - Women for Peace](#), Indonesia
- [Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#), Sweden
- [Resource Centre for Children's Rights](#), Belarus
- [Rights & Democracy](#), Canada
- [SOVA Center](#), Russian Federation
- [Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System: OSCE ODIHR](#), Poland
- [UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights](#), South Africa
- [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Switzerland
- [University of Copenhagen](#), Denmark
- [University of Portsmouth](#), United Kingdom
- [Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children](#), United States
- and many others