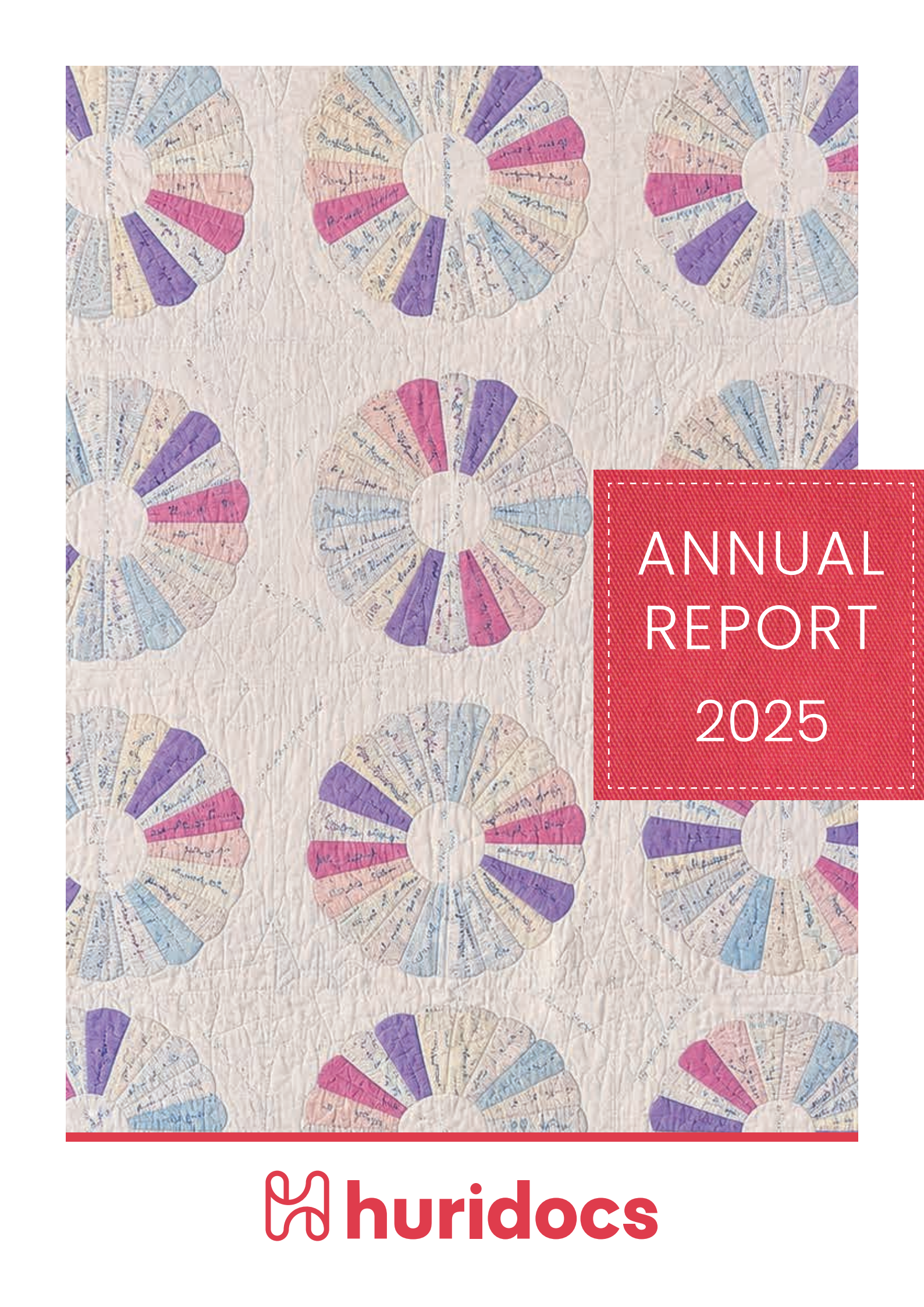




ANNUAL REPORT 2025

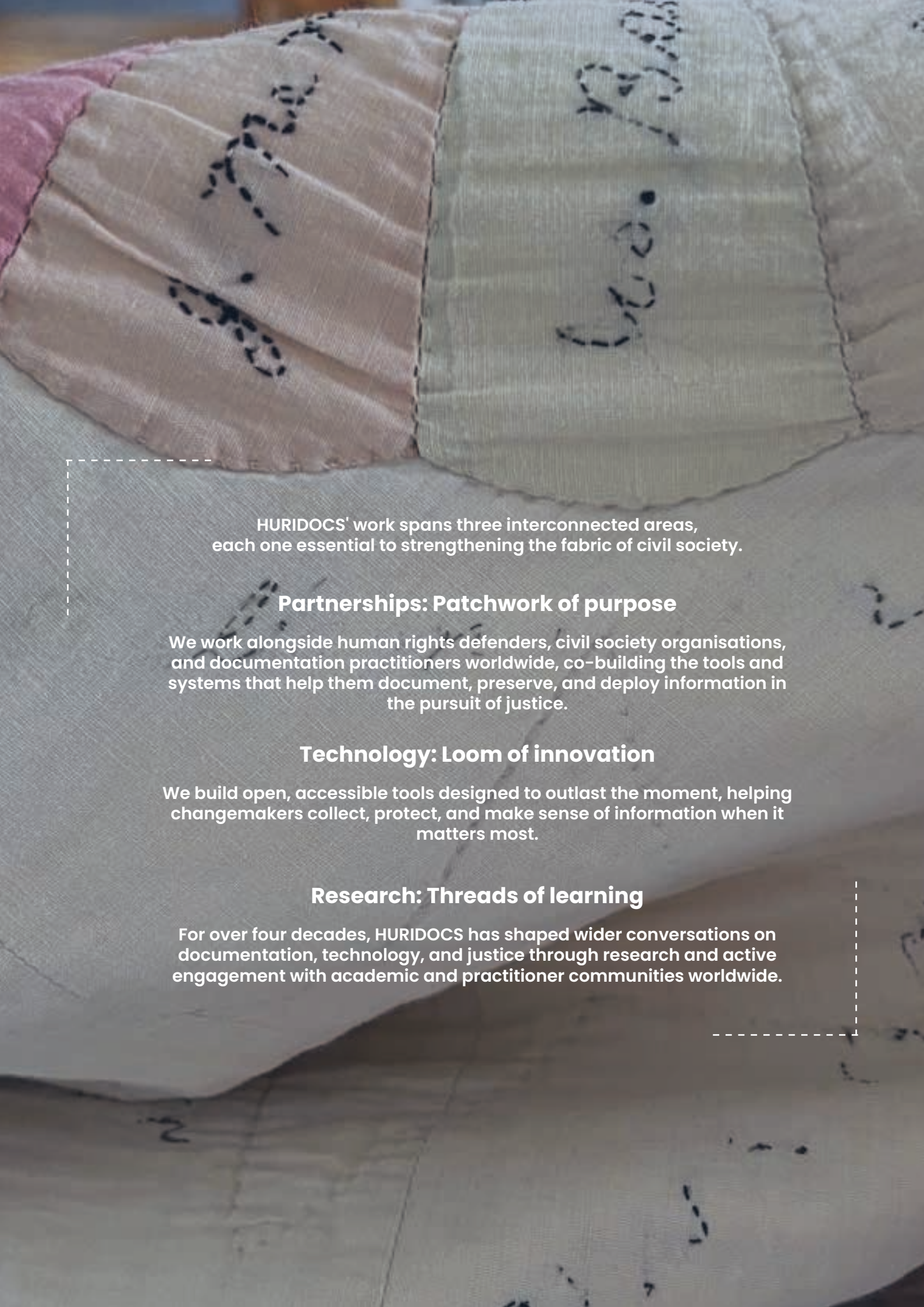




“

Documentation is its own kind of quilting.
It preserves memory, carries knowledge across
generations, and creates a record of communities
that refuse to let their stories disappear.

—Danna Ingleton, HURIDOCs Executive Director



HURIDOCS' work spans three interconnected areas,
each one essential to strengthening the fabric of civil society.

Partnerships: Patchwork of purpose

We work alongside human rights defenders, civil society organisations, and documentation practitioners worldwide, co-building the tools and systems that help them document, preserve, and deploy information in the pursuit of justice.

Technology: Loom of innovation

We build open, accessible tools designed to outlast the moment, helping changemakers collect, protect, and make sense of information when it matters most.

Research: Threads of learning

For over four decades, HURIDOCS has shaped wider conversations on documentation, technology, and justice through research and active engagement with academic and practitioner communities worldwide.

Inside this report

HURIDOCS in 2025	6
Holding the thread	8
Letter from the board	10
Partnerships: Patchwork of purpose	12
Projects: Fabric of impact	14
Technology: Loom of innovation	24
Research: Threads of learning	34
Events: Stitches in time	34
Finances: Weaves of support	50



HURIDOCS in 2025:

A year of holding ground



2025 was a year of holding ground. People, organisations and movements chose to stay together, reinforce what matters, and keep the threads of accountability intact.

HURIDOCS stood at the vital intersection of information, technology, and human rights. We remained committed to strengthening those who defend human rights with the tools, strategies, and support they need, so that documentation work could continue, evidence could be preserved, and the pursuit of justice and accountability would not be interrupted.

Project development

HURIDOCS' team worked alongside organisations across the world, offering technical expertise, training, and strategic support to strengthen documentation work where it mattered most.



47

partners & projects



38

countries & territories



127

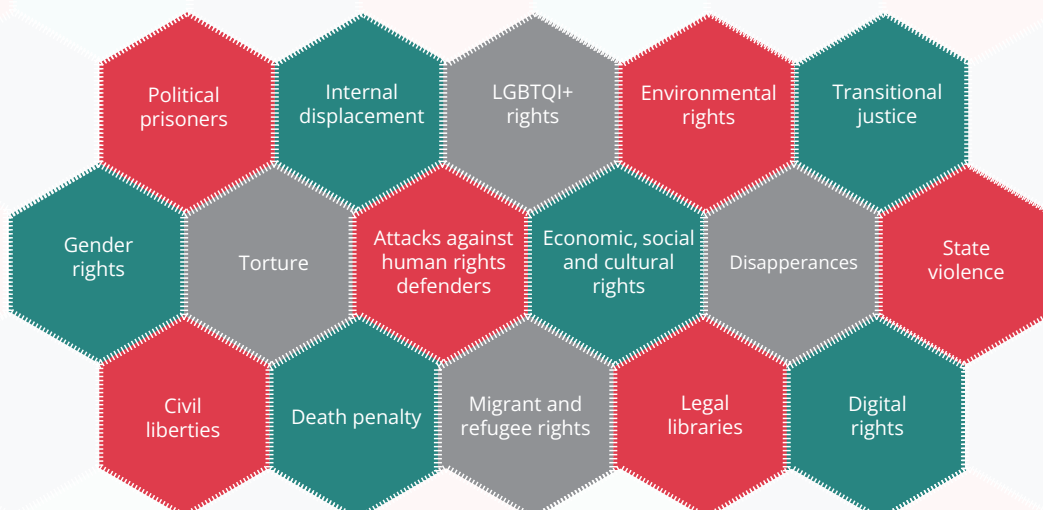
people trained



46

training sessions

We supported projects focused on:



Tech development

HURIDOCS made significant advances in Uwazi's core infrastructure and machine learning capabilities, reinforcing the platform's role as a reliable, long-term resource for human rights defenders worldwide.



546

Databases

4,406

Users

550k+

Files

2.9M+

Records

New machine learning capabilities



PDF-to-HTML conversion



Paragraph & information extraction



Named entity recognition



Text references revamp



Long document translation

HURIDOCS at key global human rights events

HURIDOCS continued to be well-positioned as a thought leader on human rights documentation in global events such as:

📍 **RightsCon 2025 Taipei**

📍 **AI for Global Good Summit**

📍 **Oxford Institute for Technology & Justice launch**

📍 **Martin Ennals Award**

Looking ahead

A letter from our Executive Director Danna Ingleton, on what lies ahead for HURIDOCS.

Thank you for reading the 2025 HURIDOCS Annual Report.

As you will see throughout these pages, 2025 was a year of extraordinary work and impact. It was also a year of holding many things at once: holding space for our partners and communities, holding onto hope through uncertainty, and holding the line on the importance of evidence and justice. Rather than revisit the many achievements captured in this report, I want to reflect on something that has been on my mind a great deal this year: the fabric of civil society.

I come from a farming family and, although I didn't grow up on the family farm, I grew up hearing about it. My grandmother taught me to quilt, and through quilting, she taught me about the communities that shaped her life. What stayed with me was never simply the craft itself, but what quilting made possible.



One dollar a name

More than 300 people paid \$1 to have their name embroidered in Elmvale's Wycliffe Anglican Church's centennial quilt, a celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The names of all of the church's ministers are also embroidered in the

1984

Photo by Katy Austin

quilt. Morley Marchant won the quilt in a draw held during the church's bazaar, last Saturday. Above, Dorothy Freeman, front left, Beulah Bell, back left, and Bertha Spring, front right, and Rachel Robinson, back right, work on the quilt.



Piano quilt cover helpers: Back Row - Elizabeth Hill, Madeline Ritchie, Janice Terry, Marlene Lambie, Around the Quilt - Mary Fleming, Edith Reynolds, Patsy Graham, Evelyn Fleming, Barb Spence, Lila Beardsall

“

*The strength of civil society has never
come from any one institution.
It comes from the fabric
we create together.*



She taught me that quilts were never just blankets.

In many rural communities, quilting circles gave women a place to gather, share knowledge, support one another through hardship, and quietly discuss things that could not easily be spoken about in public. What looked like a household craft was also a space of trust, mutual aid, and collective care.

The quilts themselves told stories. Old quilts are studied almost like historical records. A single quilt can carry the marks of many people, places, and generations: fabric from distant places, a piece sewn by a mother and finished by a daughter, a worn corner repaired years later with new cloth. Every stitch leaves evidence behind.

A quilt is, in its own way, an archive.

I often think that human rights documentation works much the same way. The stories that change the world are rarely found in one testimony or one document. They emerge by gathering fragments and stitching them together until a larger truth becomes visible. Documentation is its own kind of quilting. It preserves memory, carries knowledge across generations, and creates a record of communities that refuse to let their stories disappear.

Civil society is a quilt as well. Organisations are not isolated pieces. People move between them, ideas travel, partnerships form, and when one part of the fabric wears thin, others help mend it. The strength of civil society has never come from any one institution. It comes from the fabric we create together.

At HURIDOCs, our work is to help strengthen that fabric: to help create safe spaces for knowledge to be shared, to preserve the artefacts that communities create in their search for justice, and to ensure that evidence can be carried forward to the next generation.

Another story my grandmother told me was of the tradition of fundraising quilts. People would each contribute a small amount of money for a piece of fabric, stitch their names into the design, and then auction it off; together creating something that could support a family or a neighbour in need. The finished quilt was a record of a community choosing to care for itself.

At a time when civil society is under increasing pressure, that tradition feels more important than ever. The future will require us to find new ways of gathering, sharing, and supporting one another. And it will require all of us.

Every partner, every activist, every researcher, every technologist, every philanthropist, every donor, and every supporter leaves a piece of themselves in this larger work. Like those old fundraising quilts, the fabric of civil society is strengthened not by a single thread, but by many hands working together.

To everyone who has added their own stitch to this shared project, thank you.

Danna Ingleton



Letter from the board

A letter from the Chair of HURIDOCS' board,
Grace Kwak Danciu



2025 was a year that demanded both deep resilience and strategic clarity. The global landscape has grown increasingly complex: democratic norms, civic freedoms, and public trust face mounting challenges worldwide.

Against this backdrop, the necessity of HURIDOCS's mission becomes clearer than ever. As board member Jose Grau reflected, *"The uncertainties and disruptions of today's world have only reinforced the importance of reliable information, transparency, and accountability. HURIDOCS continues to strive to be a vital platform for human rights defenders, providing the tools and knowledge needed to preserve evidence, strengthen civic space, and promote openness in societies where these values are increasingly under pressure."*

As we witness the continued rise of artificial intelligence, protecting the integrity of information is paramount. As board member Nighat Dad shared, *"I deeply believe in the power of information as a tool for justice. In a time when truth is under threat, from disinformation to digital surveillance, HURIDOCS's work in helping human rights defenders harness technology ethically and securely has never been more critical."*

“

HURIDOCS will continue to deepen collaboration across the sector, advance the responsible deployment of emerging technologies, and ensure that human rights defenders have the tools they need to hold power to account.

To guide HURIDOCS through this evolving landscape, we are thrilled to have expanded our board this past year. In 2025, we welcomed three outstanding new board members: Louis Bickford, Nighat Dad, and Jose Grau. Their collective expertise adds immense value to our governance and strategic vision.

HURIDOCS remains committed to its mission to stand as a dedicated partner to those on the front lines of justice. We will continue to deepen collaboration across the sector, advance the responsible deployment of emerging technologies, and ensure that human rights defenders have the tools they need to hold power to account.

We are profoundly grateful for the unwavering dedication of the HURIDOCS staff, our partners, funders, and supporters. Your trust and collaboration are what keep the fabric of civil society strong and resilient.

Sincerely,

Grace Kwak Danciu



▲ Grace Kwak Danciu, chair of the Board, guides a brainstorming session.



Partnerships: Patchwork of purpose

Interlacing communities for a resilient tapestry

We work alongside human rights defenders, civil society organisations, and documentation practitioners across the world, co-building the tools and systems that help them document, preserve, and deploy information in the pursuit of justice.

Our work ranges from long-term partnerships grounded in the needs and expertise the partners bring, to short-term interventions that respond to urgent and crisis documentation needs, always with a shared commitment to the communities they serve.



During 2025, HURIDOCs supported **47 projects** across **38 countries and territories**.

This year, civil society operated under extraordinary pressure. For HURIDOCs and our partners, this meant doubling down on what mattered most: staying connected, protecting vital information, and ensuring that documentation work could continue no matter the circumstances.

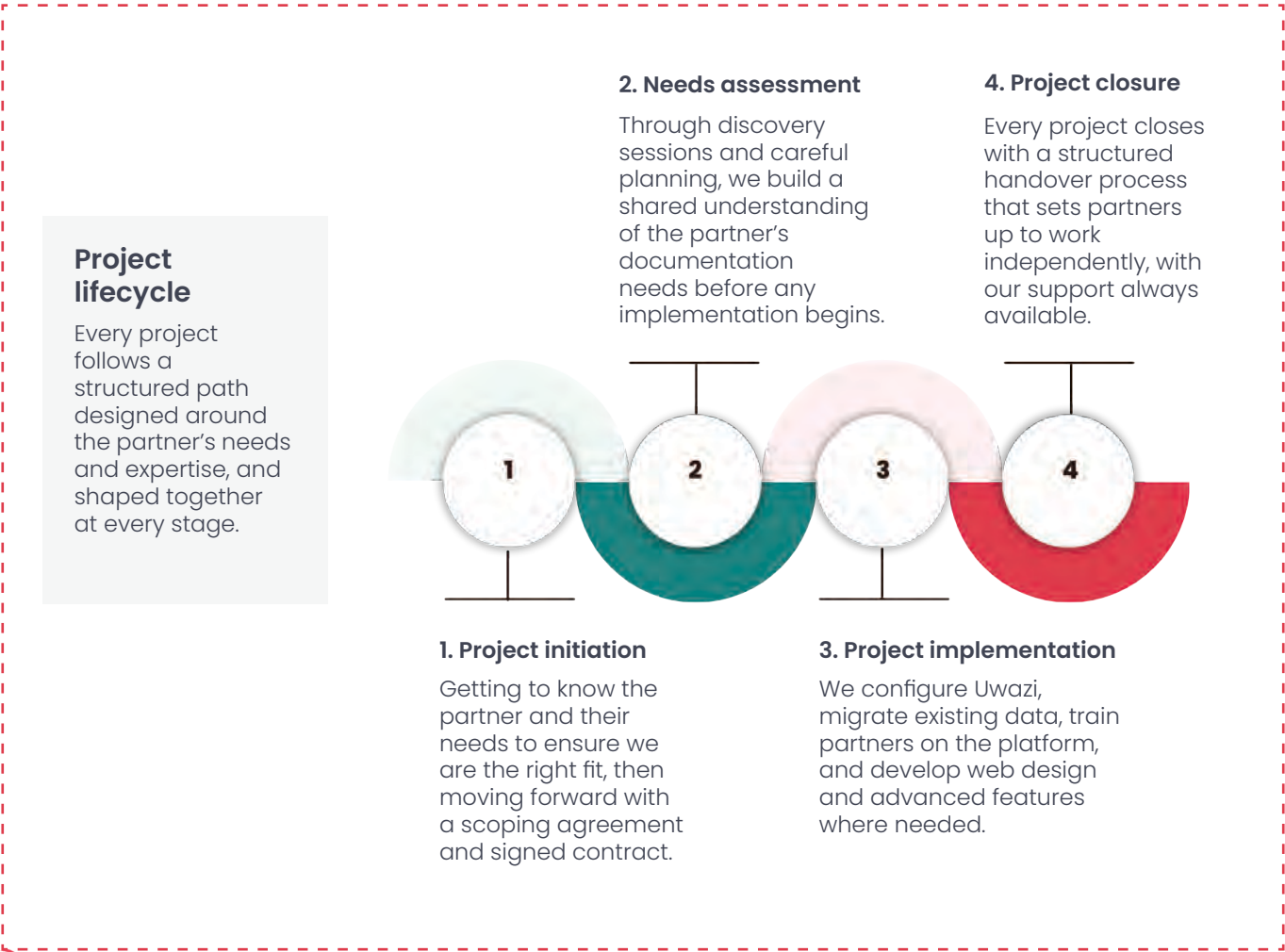
The HURIDOCs team worked closely with partners across six regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Europe, and North Africa and the

Middle East, while also working on international projects. In a year marked by instability, our team offered more than just technical expertise. They offered continuity, stitching together regional threads into a resilient collective that helped hold the fabric of civil society together across borders

From scoping to closure, our support was akin to cutting the pattern, stitching the seams, and reinforcing the hems, ensuring our partners could strengthen their work on justice and

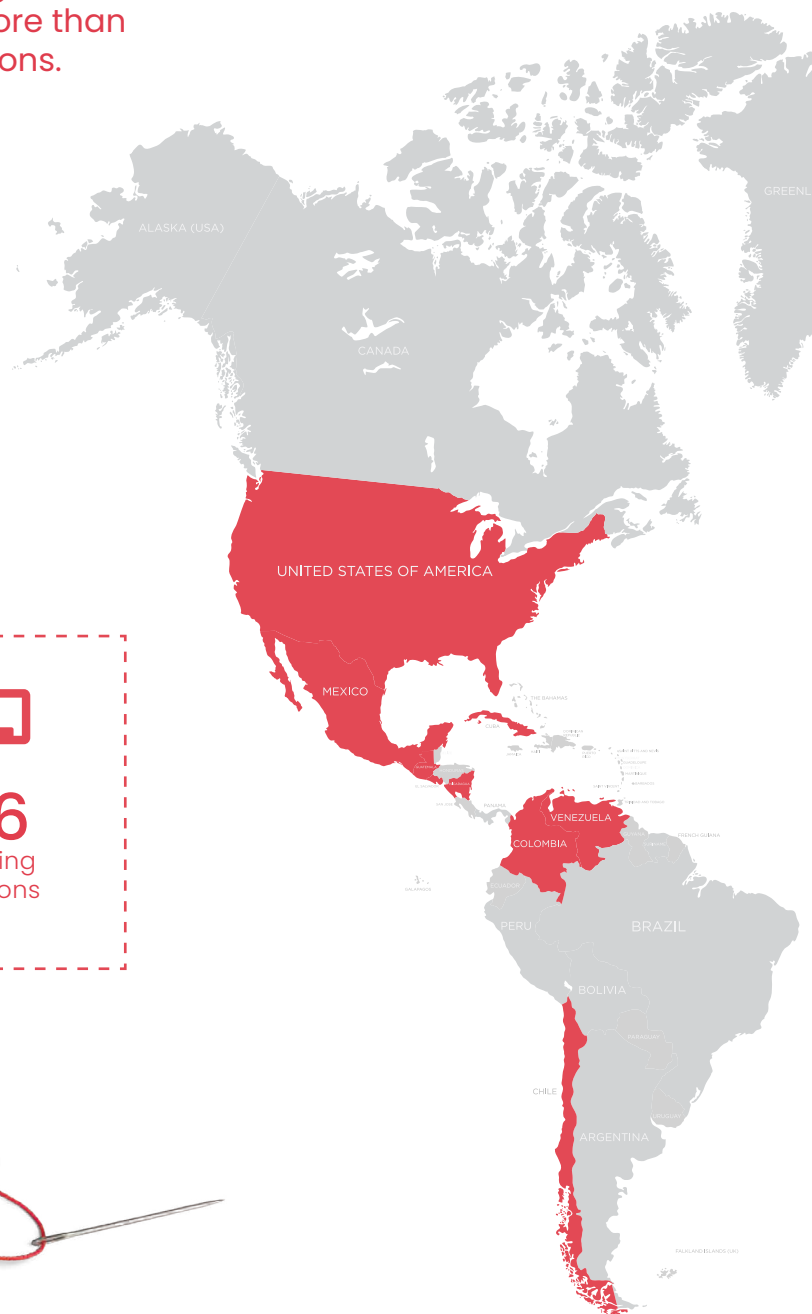
memory. We supported organisations at every stage of the project lifecycle: needs assessment and planning, implementation and monitoring, and final evaluation and knowledge sharing.

From database design and Uwazi training to capacity building and strategic advice on data use, our tailored approach ensured that our partners were not only equipped with the right tools but with the confidence and skills to use them when it mattered most.



Projects: Fabric of impact

In a year defined by pressure on civil society, HURIDOCs continued to show up, across regions, contexts, and causes. From transitional justice in the Horn of Africa to death penalty defence in Asia, from civil liberties monitoring in Indonesia to educational rights advocacy in Türkiye, our work reached more than 50 partners in 38 countries across six regions.



HURIDOCS supported 47 projects in 38 countries.



Central case management repository for civil rights monitoring

Partner: KontraS

Indonesia | Asia-Pacific

HURIDOCS worked with **KontraS**, Indonesia's leading human rights monitoring organisation, to build a centralised Uwazi database for documenting civil liberties violations across the country.

The project was delivered in six weeks, during a period of nationwide anti-government demonstrations, with KontraS team members often participating in project meetings from the streets while actively documenting incidents.

The work covered database design, technical setup, and training. The data model was simplified and fully translated into Indonesian to ensure fast, reliable data entry under urgent conditions.

By early 2026, KontraS had documented approximately 200 cases from 34 provinces across Indonesia, giving their network a structured foundation to demand accountability from the state.



We are working on developing a well-structured dataset that can be understood by the public in relation to human rights violations. The victims and families continue to demand accountability, some of whom are now able to advocate for themselves, showing an increased capacity of the victims to pursue justice

—KontraS team member





Database on the impact of United Nations human rights treaties at the domestic level

Partner: Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

South Africa | International

HURIDOCS worked with the **Centre for Human Rights (CHR)** at the University of Pretoria in South Africa to migrate and rebuild their research database on the domestic impact of the UN human rights treaty system in Uwazi. Conceived by the late Professor Christof Heyns, the project involved data migration, database design, webpage design, custom filter configuration, and training, building on a discovery phase completed the previous year.

The transition centralised CHR's research and document collection on the impact of the UN treaty system in a single platform, replacing separate spreadsheet tools and enabling more accurate, pattern-based analysis. Designed to grow into a global resource covering all UN member states, the database offers scholars, advocates, and policymakers concrete evidence of how international human rights treaties shape lives locally.

For the first time, two decades of research on the domestic impact of UN human rights treaties are accessible in one place, providing advocates and policymakers with the evidence they need to hold governments accountable.

Research & Collaboration

“

In a world in which human rights are increasingly being questioned, eroded and minimised, it is more important than ever to counter these narratives by demonstrating the real and far-reaching impact that human rights has had and continues to have on the lives of people in countries across the world. This database aims to achieve exactly that.

—Prof Frans Viljoen,
Professor of International
Human Rights Law,
University of Pretoria

Economic,
social and
cultural rights

Türkiye | Asia

Economic, social and cultural rights for disadvantaged groups in Türkiye

Partner: Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER)

In a context where publicly available data on economic, social and cultural rights (ESC rights) is scarce, six clusters of civil society organisations in Türkiye are equipped with Uwazi databases and research tools to document violations, build data-based advocacy campaigns and present their findings directly to policymakers at the Turkish Parliament.

Between 2023 and 2026, HURIDOCs partnered with the **Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER)** on a European Commission-funded project focused on the economic, social, and cultural rights of disadvantaged groups in Türkiye. Delivered in two consecutive cycles, the project supported six civil society clusters with capacity building, Uwazi databases, training, and ongoing technical support, enabling them to conduct data-driven research and advocate for their findings. Each cycle concluded with a Policy Dialogue Forum in Ankara, where subgrantees presented their research to policymakers, academics, and the broader civil society on issues ranging from children's access to education in detention to discrimination in public institutions.

The following project from the second cycle illustrates the depth and impact of this work on the ground.

▲ Rumeysa Bozdemir, from Hayat Sende, at the 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum in Ankara.





Incarcerated children: The violation of the right to formal education of child prisoners in Türkiye

Partners: Youth Re-Autonomy Foundation, FISA Child Rights Center and researcher Emrah Kirimsoy

During the second cycle of the project, HURIDOCS supported the **Youth Re-Autonomy Foundation, FISA Child Rights Center** and researcher Emrah Kirimsoy in building the first systematic database documenting the educational rights of children aged 12 to 18 in detention centres across Türkiye. The project involved database design, technical setup, training, and ongoing support, with additional tailored sessions provided

to address early capacity gaps. The resulting public Uwazi database is already informing legislative reform, with the cluster using its findings to contribute to a working group at the Turkish Parliament on conditions of imprisonment for children. Bar associations have since expressed interest in adapting the database for broader data collection in prison environments, pointing to its potential to grow into an open-access juvenile justice library.

Research on incarcerated children's educational rights in Türkiye has directly informed monitoring processes and generated evidence-based recommendations, advancing measures to safeguard this right both inside and beyond detention settings.

“

Since we started using Uwazi, our monitoring work has become more structured. We are building a centralised archive and linking findings to concrete indicators based on the right to education framework.

—Emrah Kirimsoy,
Project team member



Legal defence
and litigation
support

For the first time, lawyers
across six Asian jurisdictions
can access a shared,
secure knowledge base to
strengthen death penalty
defence work.

Death Penalty Defence – Asia

Partner: The Rights Practice

Asia | International

Since 2022, HURIDOCs has worked alongside **The Rights Practice** and a network of seven partner organisations across Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and China to build a shared Uwazi database supporting death penalty defence work in the region.

Developed across four phases, the project involved extensive discovery, data model design, the creation of a controlled vocabulary spanning six jurisdictions and languages, training, and the design of a public-facing website.

A dedicated metadata exercise ensured that case information could be meaningfully shared across different legal systems and contexts, while access levels were carefully configured to protect sensitive and ongoing casework, including the anonymisation of one partner organisation operating under high security risk.

The result is a first-of-its-kind regional resource hub, designed specifically for lawyers working on capital cases.

“

By showing what other lawyers have done, including examples of effective strategies as well as practices that have raised concerns, the database offers a practical reference point for understanding how to approach and prepare a death penalty defence.

—The Rights Practice
team member



Unmasking Russian Propagandists

Partner: Crimean Human Rights Group

Ukraine | Central Asia and Eastern Europe



“

A public, bilingual database on Russian propaganda, now used in legal processes and advocacy efforts to support accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

HURIDOCS worked alongside the Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG) to develop a public Uwazi database capturing and analysing hate speech and incitement to violence in Russian-language media in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war. Available in Ukrainian and English, the database documents propaganda content that contributes to human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

HURIDOCS and CHRG co-presented the database at a side event during the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council, bringing together civil society, legal experts, and diplomatic delegations to examine how state-driven disinformation campaigns obstruct accountability.

“The evidence collected in the war crimes database and the analytical information that the database produces based on this evidence, are used to transfer to the Ukrainian National Police and the Prosecutor General's Office. We also transfer analytics to the UN based on the information collected in the database.

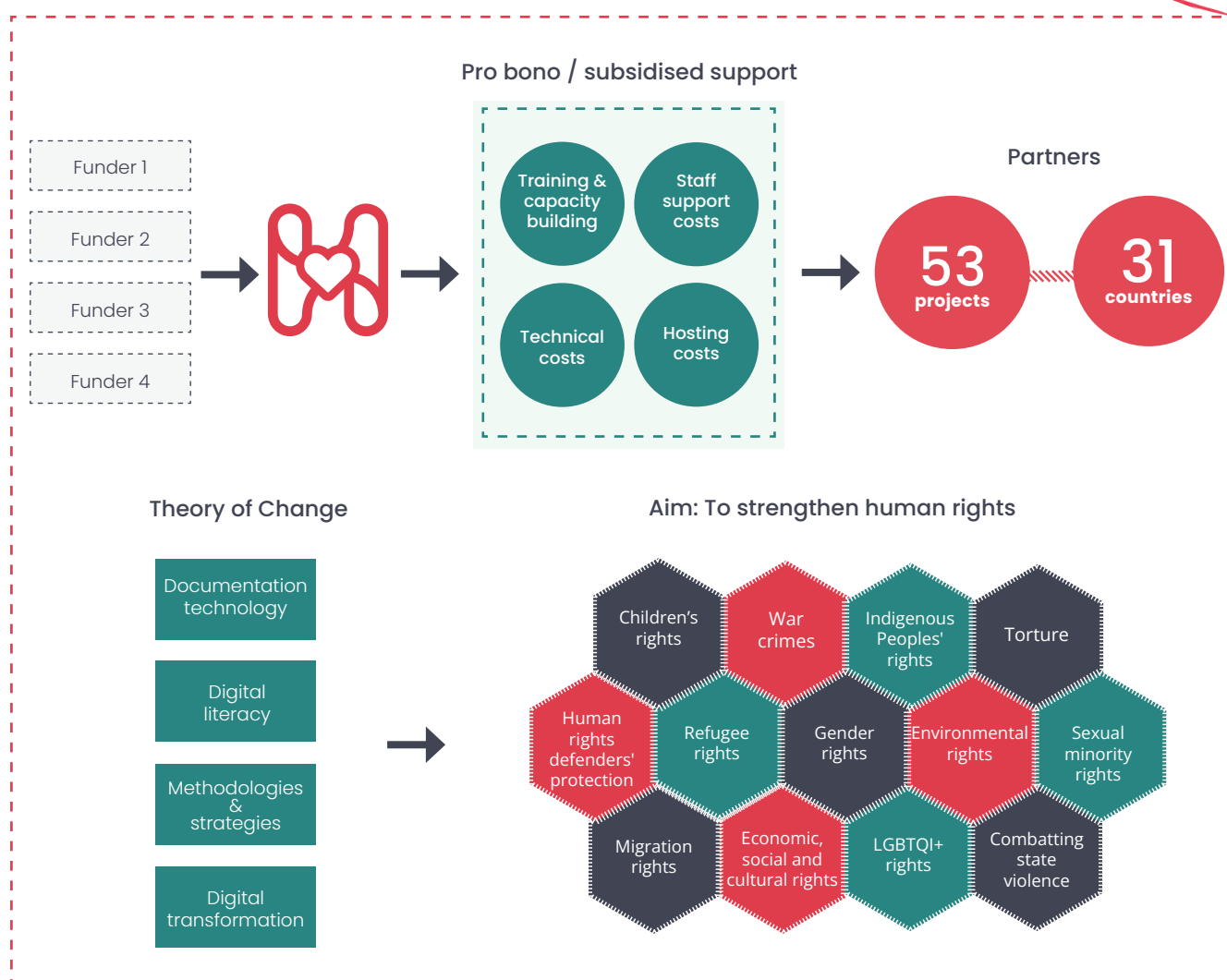
—Crimean Human Rights Group team member



huridocs documentation fund

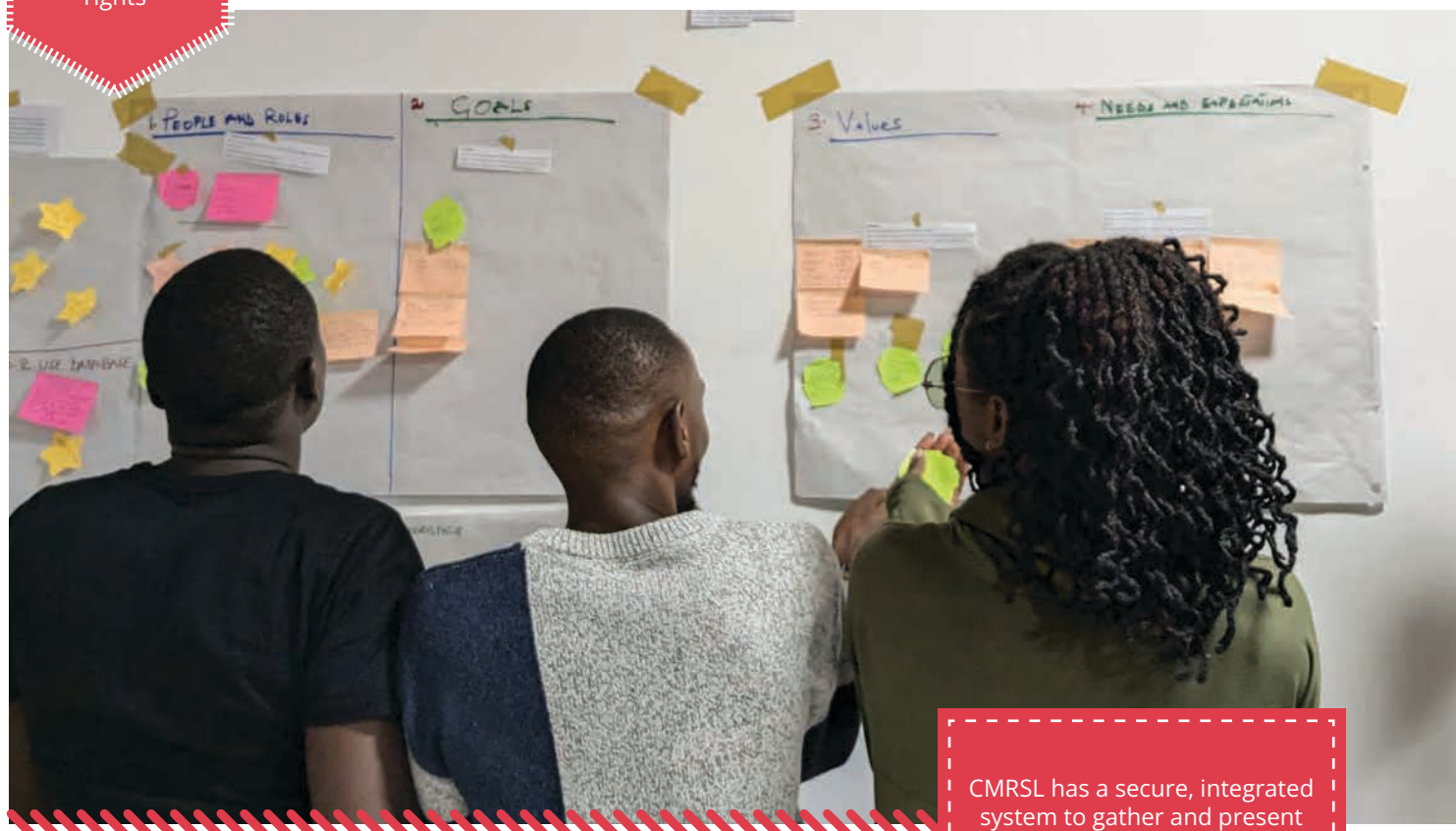
Despite the growing demand for documentation support, funding for methodology and technology work in the human rights sector remains deeply insufficient. Many civil society groups and human rights defenders operating in volatile contexts lack the financial means to access the tools and expertise they need to securely collect, store, analyse and share critical information and evidence.

The HURIDOCs Documentation Fund is our answer to this serious issue; we aim to bridge that gap. Now in its third year, the Fund provides pro bono or subsidised access to Uwazi databases, training, technical setup, hosting, and ongoing support to under-resourced organisations and defenders around the world.



The Documentation Fund is made possible by the generous support of the Irene M. Staehelin Foundation, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Däster-Schild Stiftung, the Canton of Geneva, and the Swiss Mission in Ukraine.

Sexual
minority
rights



CMRSL has a secure, integrated system to gather and present evidence in legal proceedings for minority communities in Kenya.

Legal advocacy and documentation for minority rights

Partner: Centre for Minority Rights and Strategic Litigation

Kenya | Africa

HURIDOCs supported the **Centre for Minority Rights and Strategic Litigation (CMRSL)** in strengthening their documentation practices through an integrated Uwazi and Tella workflow.

Building on a previous phase of collaboration, the project focused on onboarding new team members, reinforcing digital security practices, and integrating Tella for secure mobile data collection in the field.

Training was delivered in person in Mombasa in June 2025, bringing together lawyers, paralegals, monitors, and volunteers for the first time. Beyond technical skills, the workshop created a shared understanding of the organisation's documentation goals across the team, fostering collective ownership and laying the groundwork for more coordinated, evidence-based legal work.

“

Through this practical experience, I have developed a more systematised and secure approach to handling evidence, while also deepening my appreciation of the role technology plays in advancing access to justice.

—CMRSL team member

A photograph of a textile factory interior, featuring large spools of red thread on a loom. The spools are arranged in rows, and the threads are taut, creating a sense of depth and repetition. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the threads and the metallic components of the machinery.

Technology: Loom of innovation

Weaving digital strands
for civic strength

Technology sits at the heart of how HURIDOCs supports human rights defenders. We build open, accessible tools designed to outlast the moment, helping changemakers collect, protect, and make sense of information when it matters most.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

“

Uwazi is more capable, more secure, and more accessible than it has ever been, ready to serve all changemakers who need reliable digital infrastructure to turn information into impact.

This year, HURIDOCS made significant advances in Uwazi's core infrastructure and machine learning capabilities, reinforcing the platform's role as a reliable, long-term resource for human rights defenders worldwide.

A series of sophisticated distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks temporarily disrupted traffic to a number of public Uwazi instances. The team responded swiftly and came out stronger, with improved monitoring systems and analysis infrastructure.

As a result, Uwazi's servers became considerably more resilient, better equipped to detect, absorb, and respond to future attacks while maintaining the integrity of all stored data throughout.

The team advanced work on a new pricing model designed to make Uwazi more accessible as a Software-as-a-Service offering, with a tiered structure that simplifies both the user experience and payment process.

Work also continued on two major architectural improvements: a comprehensive redesign of the user interface and a foundational data layer upgrade, making Uwazi not only more powerful but more intuitive for the people who rely on it every day.

The result is a platform that is more capable, more secure, and more accessible than it has ever been, ready to serve all changemakers who need reliable digital infrastructure to turn information into impact



Collect. Manage. Analyse. Publish.

Uwazi is HURIDOCS' flagship, open-source information management system that offers changemakers a flexible and human rights-friendly solution for documentation. Hundreds of organisations are already using Uwazi to shape their data in a flexible and secure way.

Who uses Uwazi?

- Human rights defenders and journalists
- Academics and researchers
- Lawyers and legal teams
- Environmental researchers and activists
- Librarians and archivists
- Think tanks and policy institutes

Launched in 2017, Uwazi has grown steadily:



New machine learning capabilities

HURIDOCS developed five new machine learning capabilities for Uwazi, each designed to reduce the time human rights defenders spend on manual data processing, so they can focus on what matters most: evidence gathering, advocacy, and the pursuit of accountability and justice.



Paragraph & information extraction

Automatically identifies and pulls relevant sections from large documents, reducing hours of manual review.

Status: Developed with partner feedback; complete integration into Uwazi



Named entity recognition

Detects and categorises key information such as names, locations, and organisations within documents, making data easier to search and analyse.

Status: Completed, awaiting integration



Long document translation

Enables the translation of lengthy documents, making critical human rights information accessible across language barriers.

Status: Completed, awaiting integration



Text references revamp

Improves how Uwazi links and cross-references information across documents, strengthening the connections between related records.

Status: In progress



PDF-to-HTML conversion

Transforms PDF documents into accessible, structured web content, improving usability and enabling better data processing.

Status: Completed, awaiting integration

What's next for Uwazi

The scale and complexity of human rights documentation continue to grow. Defenders and investigators are expected not only to preserve evidence but to defend its veracity, analyse it, connect patterns across datasets, collaborate across borders, and prepare information for advocacy, litigation, and international accountability mechanisms.

Uwazi is being built to meet that challenge. In the coming years, HURIDOCs will continue strengthening Uwazi as critical digital infrastructure for human rights defence, already investing in the following enhancements:

New pricing plans:

A milestone in Uwazi's sustainability plan, with transparent pricing that reflects the diverse realities of the organisations that rely on it.

Data Layer V2:

For improved performance, scalability, and long-term reliability.

User interface redesign:

A more intuitive experience that lowers technical barriers across organisations of different sizes and capacities.

ML features integration:

A faster, smarter processing of complex, large-scale documentation.

Design customisation:

Customisable design themes that makes it easier to create a unique, professional presence.

New Uwazi identity and website:

Reflects Uwazi's maturity as a platform and its readiness to reach a wider range of changemakers beyond the human rights sector.

New Uwazi technical documentation platform:

An online platform with tutorials, guides and references for Uwazi users to make the best out of the tool.



▲ Alex Philopoulos, HURIDOCs Product Manager, during the Tech Team retreat in 2024.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Research: Threads of learning

Threading knowledge for collaborative insight

For over four decades, HURIDOCs has accompanied the human rights sector through periods of profound change. That experience fuels our thought leadership, shaping wider conversations on documentation, technology, and justice through research, collaboration, and active engagement with academic and practitioner communities worldwide.



▲ The HURIDOCs team at
RightsCon 2025 in Taipei.



HURIDOCs' research and collaboration work continue to shape wider conversations on the changing landscape of human rights documentation, the responsible use of AI, and the use of digital security tools in precarious contexts.

HURIDOCs' research and collaboration work continue to shape wider conversations on **the changing landscape of human rights documentation, the responsible use of AI in human rights practice, and the use of digital security tools in precarious contexts.**

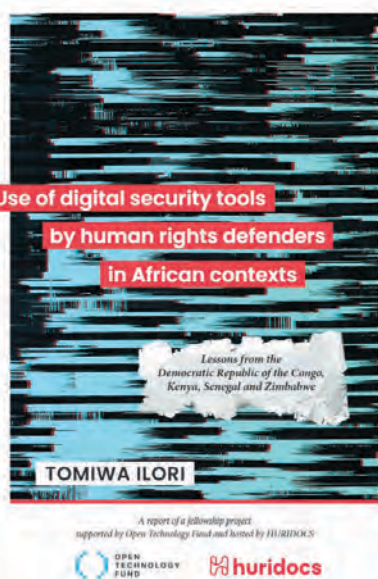
We engaged in and articulated conversations around how human rights documentation is being reshaped by shrinking civic space, shifting donor priorities, mobile media, open-source investigation, and more participatory approaches to evidence, memory, and accountability.

Alongside this, HURIDOCs deepened its work on AI governance through research and internal reflections that informed the organisation's Internal AI Policy and Framework, a practical and values-based effort to guide the thoughtful use of AI in ways grounded in staff experience, differentiated risk, and institutional responsibility, and a commitment to human rights values.

HURIDOCs hosted Dr Tomiwa Ilori as part of the OTF Information Controls Fellowship Program, which marked a significant milestone in advancing the organisation's thought leadership and knowledge outputs. The research focused on the enhancement of digital security tools for human rights defenders in Sub-Saharan African contexts, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. The one-year long research project culminated in the launch of a **joint report** that emphasises the critical role of digital security tools in keeping human rights defenders, especially those who work in politically repressive and underserved communities, safe. The report has become a valuable resource for practitioners, advocates and tool developers to bridge the gap between insight and impact to shape effective, adaptable and sustainable systems for human rights work across diverse and challenging contexts.

This work was enriched by collaboration, teaching, and exchange across academic and practitioner communities. HURIDOCs contributed to the Justice Visions GroundDoc Research Initiative at Ghent University on documentation and transitional justice, responded to research inquiries from scholars studying human rights documentation and technology, and delivered guest lectures at UC Berkeley and Binghamton University, to name a few. Team members also participated in gatherings and events such as the FORGE Gathering, DRAPAC 25, the Latsis Symposium, the ASEM Seminar on Human Rights and AI, and other.

Together, these engagements strengthened relationships, surfaced new questions, and reinforced our role not only as a thoughtful contributor, but as a thought leader and field shaper in global discussions on documentation, technology, and human rights.



Behind the shared knowledge: Development and Communications

This work doesn't happen in isolation. Research and collaboration are part of a broader, cross-cutting effort at HURIDOCs that spans research, communications, fundraising, and organisational security.

This year, field voices were amplified, compelling impact stories shared, and trust was built with partners, growing the visibility of our work and reinforcing our field leadership within the human rights sector. Strategic communications supported networking and

knowledge exchange, ensuring human rights documentation, technology and strategies remain relevant and complementary to the wider ecosystem. A clear case was made to donors about how collaboration drives meaningful change, while strengthened security policies and practices equipped staff and partners to navigate risk in the sensitive contexts where human rights work takes place. Throughout, our documentalist roots remained central to the organisational mission.



Events: Stitches in time

Across this year, HURIDOCS showed up where the conversations were happening, from international conferences and academic forums to webinars and community gatherings, contributing to the debates that shape the future of human rights documentation, technology, and justice.



February

- RightsCon Taipei



March

- HURIDOCS at side event of HRC58



June

- Crimean Human Rights Group and HURIDOCS at side event of HRC59



September

- Global Knowledge Hub Peer Learning Webinar
- Workshop on the economies of expulsion
- 2025 Latsis Symposium in Zurich
- Coherent AI for Kenya
- European Festival of Civic Education



August

- Digital Rights in Asia-Pacific (DRAPAC 25)
- Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic



July

- AI for Good Summit
- Webinar & research report launch: Digital security tools for human rights defenders in Africa



October

- Launch of the Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice
- Data4Change workshop in Ankara
- 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence



November

- Tallinn Humanitarian Conference
- GroundDoc Research Initiative
- Martin Ennals Awards 2025



December

- 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum
- AI for Human Rights Professionals
- Curiosity to Impact: A webinar series for AI builders
- End-of-year virtual team get-together



**Rights
Con 25**
Taipei 台北
The world's leading summit
on human rights in the digital age
數位時代的世界級人權盛會



▲ Hyebin Bina Jeon at our roundtable on digital evidence for human right documentation, in RightsCon Taipei.



February



RightsCon 2025 in Taipei

The HURIDOCS team attended **RightsCon in Taipei**, one of the world's most prominent human rights conferences.

The team presented an interactive roundtable and hosted a community booth to engage with the human rights community, advance the preservation of digital evidence, and provide insights on human rights documentation practices and methodologies.

In addition, HURIDOCS joined a dialogue on building an ecosystem of complementary and interoperable human rights documentation tools.



March



HURIDOCS at side event of HRC58

On 06 March, HURIDOCS joined a side event hosted by the **International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)**, featuring Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.

The following day, Lucía Gómez, HURIDOCS Programme Manager, took part in another side event co-hosted by ISHR. This session focused on the growing threats of technology-facilitated rights violations, such as digital surveillance, online harassment, and the misuse of tech to stifle dissent. Lucía highlighted the importance of centring the experiences of defenders themselves when designing tools and strategies for protection.



June



Crimean Human Rights Group and HURIDOCS at side event of HRC59

HURIDOCS and the Crimean Human Rights Group co-hosted **two side events at the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC59)**, bringing together legal, institutional, and civil society perspectives on the impact of Russian state-sponsored disinformation and propaganda in the context of the war in Ukraine.

The events featured the database powered by Uwazi, Unmasking Russian Propagandists, which documents incitement to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and potentially genocide in the Russian media.

June



RELX SDG Inspiration Day: The future of philanthropy

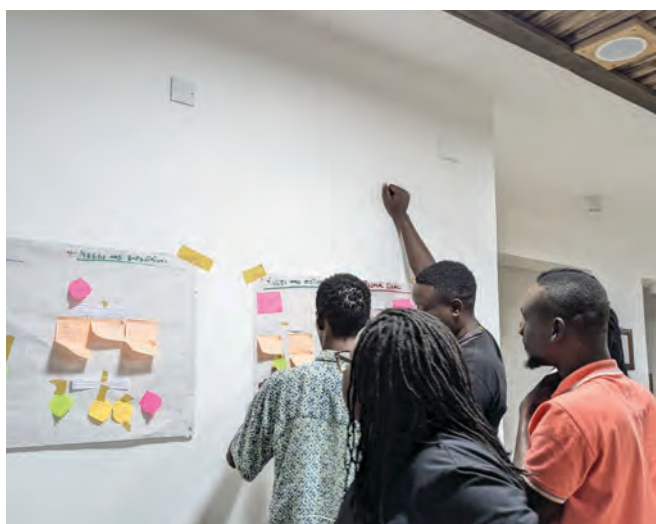
HURIDOCS participated in the **RELX SDG Inspiration Day** to contribute to discussions on collaborative, scalable action to advance the SDGs at the important five-year mark.

HURIDOCS' Executive Director joined other thought leaders to discuss how philanthropy can drive progress toward SDG 16 by building just, inclusive, and accountable institutions.





June



Uwazi training in Kenya & Uganda

Programme Officers Priscilla Tettegah and Arina Serebrennikova, travelled to Mombasa and Kampala to deliver in-person training and capacity building with two Documentation Fund partners.

In Kenya, **CMRSL** strengthened their documentation practices using Uwazi and Tella for secure field data collection. In Uganda, **JOMUF** began their transition from paper-based to digital documentation, building a shared vision for how data can support its advocacy and protection work.



▲ Priscilla Tettegah, HURIDOCs Programme Officer, at the closure of the in-person training held in Nairobi in June.



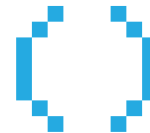
July



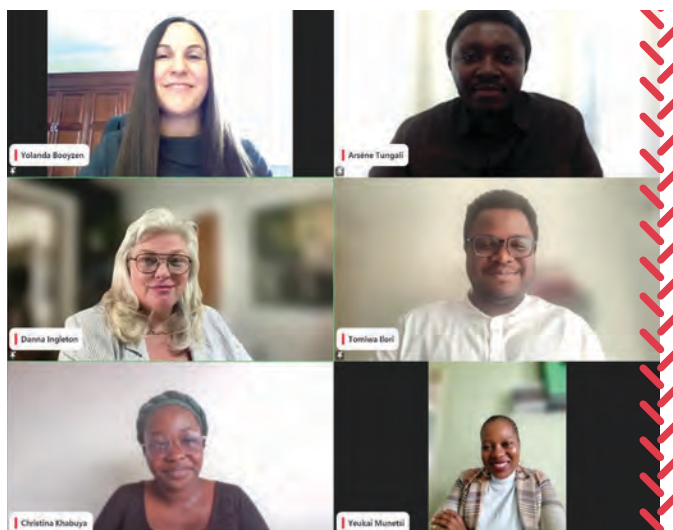
AI for Good Global Summit

HURIDOCS Executive Director Danna Ingleton participated in a dedicated workshop at the **AI for Good Global Summit** in Geneva, the UN's leading platform for promoting artificial intelligence in the service of sustainable development and the public good.

The workshop brought together experts from law, AI ethics, international policy, and data science to explore how AI can make human rights monitoring smarter, faster, and fairer, while remaining grounded in human rights values.



July



Webinar & research report launch

HURIDOCS hosted a **webinar to launch a research report** by Dr Tomiwa Ilori, Open Technology Fund Senior Fellow, hosted by HURIDOCS, examining how human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Senegal, and Zimbabwe use digital security tools to protect themselves and their work.

As HRDs across Africa face growing threats, including surveillance, censorship, and cyberattacks, the report offered grounded insights into the obstacles and opportunities for building more inclusive and effective digital security tools.





August



Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic

From 26 to 28 August, Bono Olgado, our Senior Documentalist, visited the **Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic** to deliver a lecture and hold consultations with the students of the GRIL Clinic, particularly around partner engagement and understanding documentation practices.



▲ Bono Olgado, Senior Documentalist, with the students at the Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic.



NECE

August



Digital Rights in Asia-Pacific (DRAPAC 25)

On 26 August, our Programme Officer, Phurbu Dolma, participated in the **Digital Rights in Asia-Pacific (DRAPAC 25)** conference hosted by The Architects of Diversity (AOD Malaysia), the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ Malaysia), the Initiative to Promote Tolerance and Prevent Violence (INITIATE.MY), Sinar Project, and EngageMedia, to co-lead a workshop with Tech Global Institute.

The session brought together participants from the region to explore the challenges and best practices in collecting, preserving and analysing digital evidence in conflict zones and repressive environments.

September



European Festival of Civic Education

From 2 to 4 September, our Communications Officer Alejandra Kaiser attended the **European Festival of Civic Education** in Oslo.

The festival included a masterclass on hope-based communications and presented a number of learning and networking opportunities.





September



Digital Democracy Initiative

The purpose of this webinar is to explore the opportunities and challenges of using open-source data for documenting human rights violations.

While new technological advancements open up exciting possibilities, they also raise critical questions around ethics, safety, and methodology. In this session, participants will hear from experts in the field who will share practical insights from their own work in open-source documentation, explore the ethical and security considerations associated with using these methods and finally, offer recommendations for civil society organizations engaging with digital documentation.

September 4
14:00-15:00 CEST
Live on Zoom

Moderator: Paola Verhaert
Paola is a Brussels-based researcher and writer. She has been working at the intersection of technology and social justice for a decade.

Georgia Edwards
Georgia leads work on the WITNESS evidence and investigations team and works on the Fortify Community Truth Project.

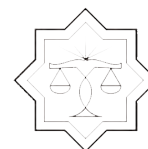
Libby McAvoy
Libby is a lawyer at Mnemonic, an organization focused on digital documentation of human rights violations and international crimes.

Hyebin Bina Jeon
Bina runs programmes at HURDOCS, an organization specializing in managing and archiving documentation of human rights violations.

Global Knowledge Hub Peer Learning Webinar

On 4 September, Hyebin Bina Jeon, our Programme Officer, participated in the **Global Knowledge Hub Peer Learning Webinar**, hosted by the Digital Democracy Initiative.

The purpose of this webinar is to explore the opportunities and challenges of using open-source data for documenting human rights violations. Other participating organisations include WITNESS and Mnemonic.



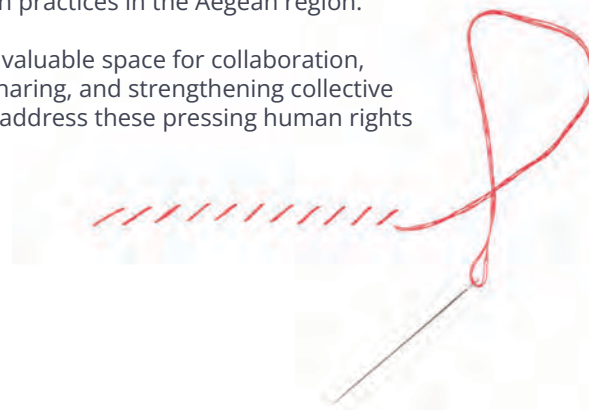
September



Workshop on the economies of expulsion

From 8 to 9 September, our Programme Manager Lucía Gómez Vicente attended a workshop in Durham co-organised by our partner, **Legal Center Lesvos**. The gathering brought together experts and advocates to assess the economies of expulsion by mapping pushbacks and detention practices in the Aegean region.

It provided a valuable space for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strengthening collective strategies to address these pressing human rights concerns.





**Prof. Jessica
Dorsey**
Utrecht University



Dr. Isabel Ebert
UN Human Rights
Office



Salva Lacruz
Huridocs

Join at menti.com



▲ Salva Lacruz, HURIDOCs Programme Manager, at the 2025 Latsis Symposium, held in Zurich in September.

September



2025 Latsis Symposium in Zurich

On 10 September, Salva Lacruz, our Programme Manager, presented at an in-person panel at the 2025 **Latsis Symposium in Zurich** at the session titled 'AI and human rights: Risks and promises: examining the ethical considerations and opportunities of AI in human rights contexts'.

On 12 September, Yolanda Booyzen, our Director of Development and Communications, presented at an online workshop during the symposium at the session titled 'Information management & machine learning for human rights: exploring how modern data tools can support documentation and digital transformation in the public sector'.

September



Coherent AI for Kenya

On 12 September, Matel Sow, our Director of Programmes, spoke at the online event 'Coherent Artificial Intelligence for Kenya', organised by the Center for Law in Information Technology.

She joined experts from law, media, technology and academia to discuss AI regulation, applications and the future of work.



▲ Workshop Beyond Pixels & Bytes held in Ankara in October 2025.



October



Data4Change workshop in Ankara

HURIDOCS and the Association of Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER), in collaboration with Data4Change, hosted **Beyond Pixels & Bytes workshop** in Ankara, a three-day workshop where human rights defenders explored how data and design can strengthen advocacy.

Built on eleven months of field research and Uwazi training, participants prototyped campaign pages and developed storytelling strategies (read more about the project on page XX).



October



Launch of the Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice

On Xx October, the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government and the Clooney Foundation for Justice launched the **Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice (OITJ)**, the first global initiative dedicated to harnessing artificial intelligence for international justice.

HURIDOCS was present at the launch and is partnering with the Institute on the development of the Global Human Rights Repository, to be launched in 2026.

October



23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights and AI

From 29 to 31 October, Bina Jeon attended the **23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence** in Denmark.

The seminar discussed the intersection of artificial intelligence and human rights, with a focus on privacy, equality, and access to remedies, and aimed to build capacity, strengthen partnerships, and develop actionable recommendations for human rights-based AI governance.



November



Tallinn Humanitarian Conference

On 6 November, Danna Ingleton travelled to the **Tallinn Humanitarian Conference** to participate as a speaker on the Digitalisation panel at the Tallinn Humanitarian Conference. HURIDOCS was invited and supported to contribute cross-sector dialogue during the panel.

November



GroundDoc Research Initiative

On 24 November, Bono Olgado, Senior Documentalist, attended Ghent University's **Justice Visions GroundDoc Research Initiative: Innovation and Documentation: Reconstructing the Paradigm of Transitional Justice from the Ground Up**. The session focused on data-inspired innovation in documentation and explored both the opportunities and pitfalls of data-driven approaches.





November



Martin Ennals Awards 2025

As a proud member of the **Martin Ennals Award** jury, HURIDOCS attended the 2025 ceremony in Geneva, represented by our Chair of the Board, Grace Kwak Danciu.

The award was presented to Ana Paula Gomes de Oliveira, a Brazilian activist who co-founded Mothers of Manguinhos after losing her son to police violence, turning her grief into a powerful fight against the disproportionate targeting of Black youth in Rio de Janeiro's favelas.



▲ Ana Paula Gomes de Oliveira, the 2025 Martin Ennals Award Laureate.



▲ Lucía Gómez, HURIDOCs Programme Manager, at the 2nd Policy Dialogue Forum, held in Ankara in October, 2025.



December



2nd Policy Dialogue Forum

HURIDOCS and AMER co-organised the **2nd Policy Dialogue Forum** in Ankara, a key milestone in the European Commission-funded project on the economic, social, and cultural rights of minorities in Türkiye.

The project subgrantees presented their findings on labour rights, discrimination in public institutions, and education access for incarcerated children to an audience of civil society organisations, policymakers, academics and unions.

December



AI for Human Rights Professionals

On 3 December, Alexandros Philopoulos, Product Manager, presented Uwazi's AI capabilities at a three-day training in Geneva on AI for Human Rights Professionals. The event was organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the FNF Human Rights Hub, bringing together practitioners to explore how artificial intelligence can support data collection, cross-referencing, predictive analysis, and reporting.

Participants also engaged in discussions on the ethics and governance of AI tools, highlighting both opportunities and responsibilities in this evolving field.





December



Curiosity to Impact: A Webinar Series for AI Builders

On 15 December, Rafael Pólit, Tech Lead, presented at the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation podcast, **Curiosity to Impact: A Webinar Series for AI Builders**.

The session explored how PJMF partners prototyped and launched AI-enabled products, tested and refined their models, and navigated data and AI governance challenges while sustaining trust with their user base.

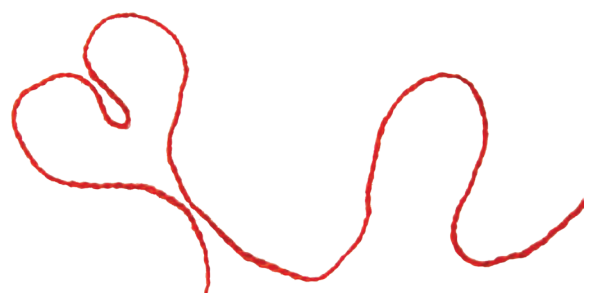
December



End-of-year virtual team get-together

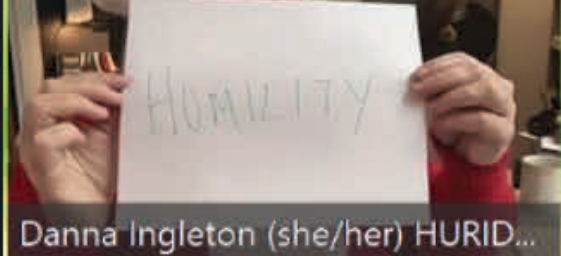
As the year drew to a close, the HURIDOCs team gathered virtually to reflect. Each team member shared one word that summarised their sentiment of the past year.

Together, those words told the story of a year that tested and united us in equal measure.

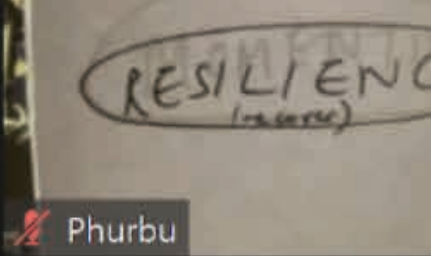




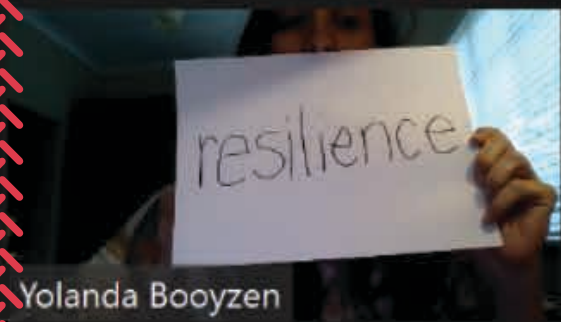
Daniel du Plessis



Danna Ingleton (she/her) HURID...



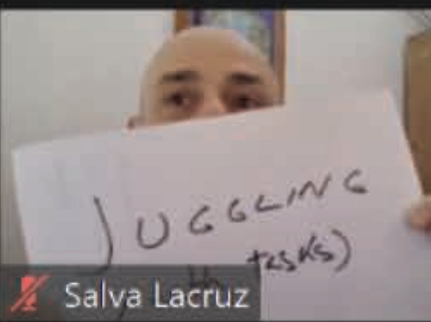
Phurbu



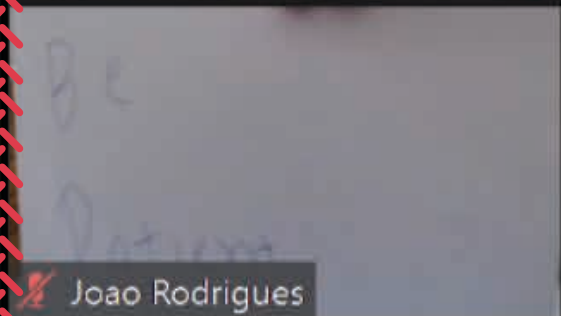
Yolanda Booyzen



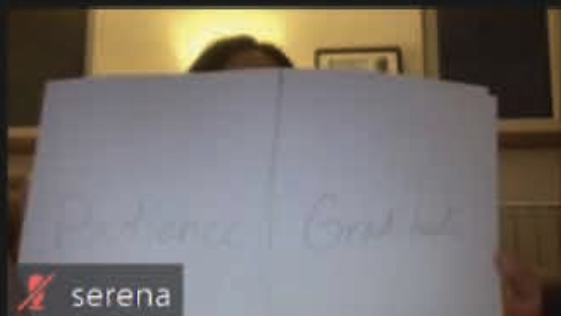
v



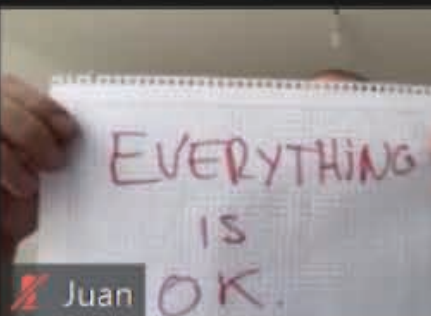
Salva Lacruz



Joao Rodrigues



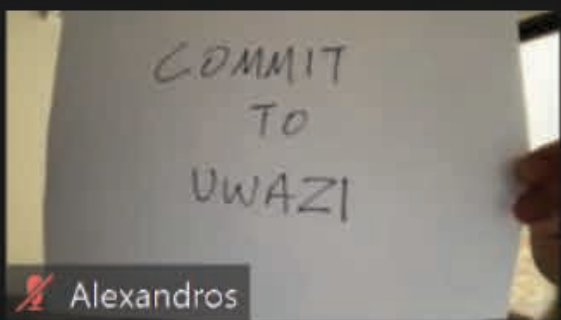
serena



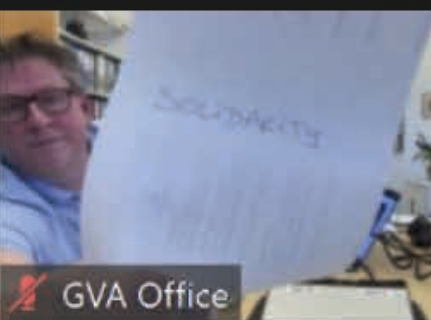
Juan



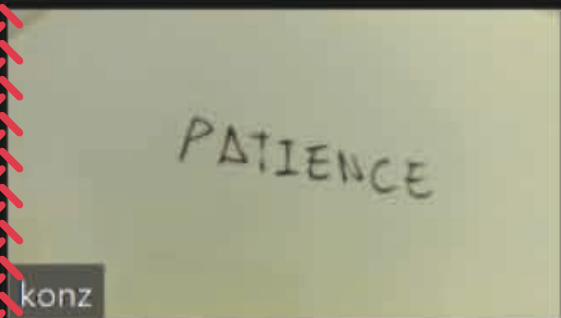
Lucia Gomez



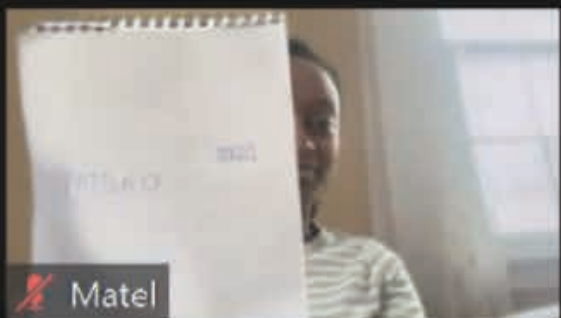
Alexandros



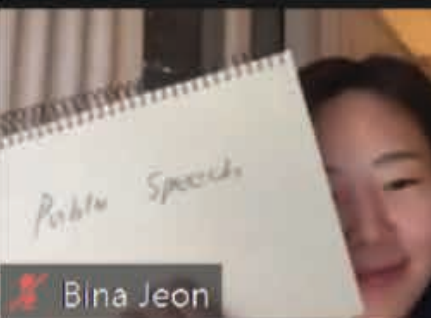
GVA Office



konz



Matel



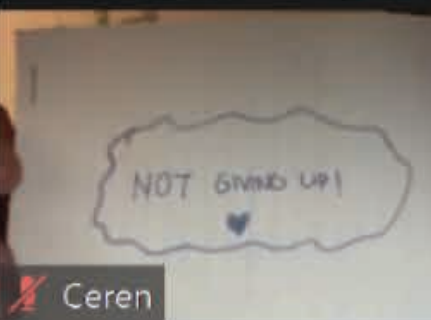
Bina Jeon



Rafael Pólit



Santiago



Ceren



Ale



Bono Olgado



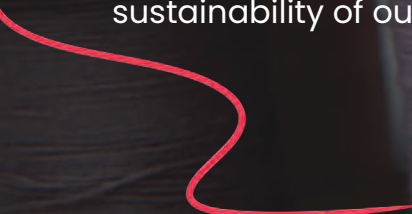
Ximena Arrieta - HURIDOC



Finances: Weave of support

Binding resources for collective good

HURIDOCs' work is made possible by a community of funders, partners, and supporters who believe in the power of documentation to advance justice. Our income combines grants, donations and service fees, and we remain committed to exploring new ways to strengthen the sustainability of our mission for the long term.



In 2025, HURIDOCs had a budget of **2.24 million USD**, representing an increase from 2.04 million USD in 2024.

This year was defined by shifting realities in the human rights sector, with geopolitical upheavals and shrinking international aid budgets reshaping the landscape. In response to these challenges, our team intensified its support for HURIDOCs' fundraising and donor relations, focusing on strengthening existing partnerships and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

Guided by sustainability as a core principle, the team worked closely with foundations, country missions, public institutions, and private companies committed to supporting the vital yet often underfunded work of human rights defenders documenting truth in pursuit of justice. Now in its third year, the

HURIDOCs Documentation Fund continued to expand its reach, providing pro bono or subsidised tools and support to under-resourced civil society groups and defenders.

We gratefully acknowledge the Irene M. Staehelin Foundation, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Däster-Schild Stiftung, the Canton of Geneva, and the Swiss Mission in Ukraine for their crucial support of the Documentation Fund, which enabled partners to strengthen infrastructure and advocacy strategies for justice and accountability. In 2025, 18 projects were supported pro bono through the Fund, with the goal of extending assistance to even more organisations in need.

We also extend deep appreciation to the Oak Foundation, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Google.org, European Commission, Temenos, Capital Group, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, City of Geneva, and the Commune of Plan-les-Ouates for their continued partnership and collaboration. Despite mounting pressures and deteriorating conditions on civic space, and with the erosion of human rights work globally, HURIDOCs remains steadfast in its commitment to building resilient technology, refining strategies, and standing strong alongside our partners defending human rights.

“



“The Principality of Liechtenstein supports HURIDOCS to ensure that human rights defenders worldwide have the tools they need to document, protect, and pursue justice. This commitment provides civil society actors, often working in difficult and dangerous conditions, with secure tools and specialised support. Through its open-source platform Uwazi, HURIDOCS equips communities with the infrastructure to monitor and record information safely, transparently, and with purpose.”

— Panagiotis Potolidis-Beck,
Head, Division for Economic Affairs and
Development, Office for Foreign Affairs,
Liechtenstein

“



We have seen firsthand how the HURIDOCS Documentation Fund strengthens the underlying core of civil society, meeting human rights defenders where they are and supporting their vital work. This flexible assistance enables organisations to collectively build resilience by ensuring that urgent documentation needs are addressed with secure tools and tailored methodologies. The Canton of Geneva is proud to back an initiative that transforms human rights documentation into collective strength and accountability for communities worldwide.

— Anne de Riedmatten,
Director of International Affairs,
Canton of Geneva

“



Seven years ago, Google.org decided to support HURIDOCS because we believed that the right technology, in the right hands, could change the course of human rights documentation. That belief has only grown stronger. Through Uwazi and its responsible integration of AI, HURIDOCS provides essential infrastructure for human rights defenders overwhelmed with data and under pressure to act fast. Google.org is proud to stand behind this work and excited to see how these tools transform the way human rights defenders access, document, and act on the information that drives justice forward.

— Ricki Meyer, Program Manager,
Google.org

The fabric of civil society is not built by any single organisation.

It is woven together, stitch by stitch, by the thousands of people
and groups who choose to show up, bear witness,
and refuse to let the truth disappear.

HURIDOCS plays its part in strengthening that fabric,
providing the tools, strategies, and accompaniment
that help human rights defenders do their work
with greater safety, clarity, and impact.

For over 40 years, we have remained committed to
underpinning the work of a dynamic and ambitious
human rights ecosystem.

In the years ahead, as pressure on civil society continues,
so does our commitment.

The threads hold.







HURIDOCs Annual Report 2025

Photo credits: Danna Ingleton (cover, p.2 and p.9), AI-generated (p. 3), Badre Bounailat (p.8, p.10 and p.11), Alejandra Kaiser (p.12, p.18, p.19, p.42, p.46), Shutterstock (p.16 and p.17), Canva (p.20 and p.30), Crimean Human Rights Group (p.21), Arina Serebrennikova (p.23 and p.35), Bono Olgado (p.32), ITU (p.36), Global Rights Innovation Lab (p.37), Peter Küttel (p.40), Grace Kwak Danciu (p.41), Estonian Refugee Council (p.44), Martin Ennals Awards (p.45), Envato (p.50).

