

Annual Report



2023



INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS ART
MOVEMENT



VISION

Artist activism is an engine for social change, and is honored as a human right.



MISSION

Supporting the most vulnerable creators in the most difficult social and political situations around the world.



WHO WE ARE

2023 saw a huge change in our brand, as we evolved from a “Festival” into a “Movement”:

The International Human Rights Art Movement.

This change in name honored the fact we have crossed all geographic, ethnic, religious and political borders, uniting a growing collective of creators at art, heart and the spirit.

We have presented over **2000** artists from **105** countries and **40** US states in live performances, on literary and book publishing platforms, through hosting International and youth fellowships, and by creating the IHRAF African Secretariat, with offices in Ibadan, Nigeria; Gweru, Zimbabwe; and Nairobi, Kenya.

The next three years will be even more ambitious.

IHRAM will expand our book publishing platform, increase the frequency of our literary magazine publishing and continue to pay the writers (moving us into the **top 8%** of literary magazines which do so), and broaden our reach through global partnerships, fellowships, ambassadorships, direct-action grants to artists-at-risk, awards, and creative support to help artists when help is needed most. We will expand our interactions with politicians, government agencies and non-art activists, so creative activists’ voices ring louder in the halls of power. And we will continue our work producing live events, classes, workshops, and partnerships to expand audiences, engagement, and outlets for creators around the world.

OUR INITIATIVES

IHRAM PUBLISHES

- Book Publishing
- Literary Magazine
- Translations

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2 International Fellowships and 2 Youth Fellowships
- 12 Creative Awards

LIVE EVENTS

- IHRAF Annual Festival

INTERIM EVENTS ACROSS THE WORLD

- both in person and online

NEW PARTNERSIPS WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NPO'S



OUR IMPACT IN 2023 *2023 Recap*

I want to thank everyone for another challenging but successful year! We couldn't have done it without our artists from Algeria to New Zealand, Uganda to Macao and everywhere in between. Our team aided in our rebranding from a Festival to a Movement, and we secured our first, important multi-year grants. Our end-of-the-year Festival was our strongest ever, and our book publishing arm and literary magazine continued to operate at the intersection of creativity, and the world's most challenging geo-political events. And we especially want to thank you, for being a part of our outreach, growth and international impact. We hope to see you in the new year,

Founding Executive Director
International Human Rights Art Movement

IN 2023 WE . . .

- [IHRAM Publishes: Books](#)— Published four books from *Iranian Women Speak* to *Queer Voices of the World* to two books from our African Secretariat— including writers from 30+ countries.
- [IHRAM Publishes: Literary Magazine](#) — Published 60 literary pieces (poetry, short story and essay) from around the world.
- [IHRAM Publishes: Translations](#)— Continued IHRAM's translation program to further highlight works from around the world — with pieces in Chinese, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Filipino, Ayuujk (Mixe- Indigenous Mexican), Bengali, German, Farsi, Spanish and more.
- [IHRAM African Secretariat](#)— Our African Secretariat published 52 interviews with creators from around Africa, initiated writing prizes, literary collections, award-winning videos, teen and youth workshops and worked with creators from Somalia to Ghana to Uganda to Ethiopia.
- [IHRAM Youth Fellows](#) — Supported youth fellows who provided writing on issues of concern, created an anthology of youth writers opining on the most pressing social issues, and produced a video about retaining culture for immigrants. IHRAM also published pieces from youth writers around the world.
- [IHRAM International Fellows](#) — Supported fellows from Cameroon and India who presented online programming, written works, literary submissions and initiated and edited writing works from within their networks.
- [IHRAM Art of Unity Award Creative Award](#) — received 352 entries from 68 countries and 22 US States, including 84 from creators 18 and under.
- [IHRAM Creators of Justice Award](#)— received 557 submissions, from 80 countries and 25 US States, of which 141 were from creators 18 and under.
- [IHRAM Rhonda Gail Williford Award](#) — inaugurated this sponsored award in honor of a deceased DC poet, receiving 174 submissions from 39 countries.

And we're excited about

continuing and expanding our programming, working with fellows from Kazakhstan, Philippines, Japan and Ghana; books planned about the Cameroon, indigenous voices in Canada, Maltese activists, *Voices of Palestine* and more; a new quarterly, thematic literary magazine format; an expanded IHRAF Festival; further international partnerships and much more!

In 2023, we greatly expanded our support, with grants from the New York State Council of the Arts, Alliance of Resident Theatres - NY, Google, Microsoft, initiated a Board of Directors “Give/Raise” and expanded our individual donors from around the country and world.

SUPPORT US NOW AS WE EXPAND OUR WORK AS THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ART MOVEMENT

We’ve reached over 1500+ artists so far, help us make their message have an impact. To meet our ambitious goals for 2024, we will need your help!

Our growth campaign fundraising goal is \$50,000.

Can you contribute to help us reach our goal?

Donate now at <https://humanrightsartmovement.org/donate>

YOU CAN CHECK OUT OUR LATEST BOOKS HERE



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US...

"To be published by the IHRAF is to be recognised as a global voice for freedom"

Dr. Uche Akunebu, Professor at the International Institute of Journalism, Abuja, Nigeria

"I thank you and your team from the bottom of my heart for helping such small but significant voices reach the global stage. I will continue writing and exploring and giving my part to make this world a better place"

Prabuddha Basu, India, Creators of Justice Literary Awards

"The arts have a long history of being at the forefront of social justice movements, and Africa is no exception. From the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to the African American Civil Rights Movement, the arts have been a powerful tool in the fight for human rights. And in my view, IHRAF is one of the most powerful movements of the 21st century, and it is here to stay. IHRAF has revolutionized human rights in Africa through the use of arts"

Wole Adedoyin, Director, IHRAF African Secretariat, Nigeria, 2020-present

"You're a wonder change maker and a game changer. It is an honour for me to be selected as IHRAF International Fellow for 2023. I do accept and appreciate this opportunity that you have given me so that I can tell the stories of my suffering people through interviews and documentation. If there is a platform where these stories about the traumatic experiences my people have suffered due to the ongoing Anglophone crisis, then that place is IHRAM"

Geraldine Sinyuy, Cameroon, 2023 International Fellow



"Thank you sincerely for your message and the generous financial assistance extended to me. Your kindness is truly commendable, and I am deeply grateful for it. Your act demonstrates your belief in the importance of the work I am engaged in, and it fills me with honor and joy. It is a testament to your recognition of the value of Iranian women's voices and stories, and I am privileged to be a part of this project"

Fatemeh Mahdavi, Iranian Women Speak author



"I read/viewed both very moving books cover-to-cover on my way back upstate. What important work you and your team do, casting light into dark corners and raising powerful voices igniting change. Here's to unexpected miracles"

Rachael Sage, Indie Recording Star, IHRAF Performer 2017, 2021, 2023

"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible opportunity you gave us to present 'The Sea' at the International Human Rights Art Festival. Your belief in my work means more to me than words can express. Your guidance and support throughout the entire process have been invaluable. The resources you made available to us and the unwavering support of your team were crucial in ensuring a seamless and successful production. Your passion for the arts and commitment to nurturing emerging talent have made a tremendous impact on me personally and on the entire artistic community"

Taiwo Aloba, IHRAF Festival, The Tank, 12-2023



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



CONTACT INFO



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