This edition of Window on the World provides a few examples of civil society networks and organizations working to restore and inform on rights of citizens that are facing different types of injustice either because of conflict and war, gender bias, ethnic or religious racism, or more generally due to the structural violence of the global political and economic system. They promote a more just and democratic world that upholds basic human rights and sustainable livelihoods.

The Roma Peoples Project

https://roma-project.github.io

The Roma Peoples Project at Columbia University is an initiative that examines, curates, and produces scholarship by and about the Roma. The project reimagines Roma studies as a field of interdisciplinary connection, bridging scholarship on identity, stigma, mobility and displacement.

Historically, Roma studies have occupied a marginal position in academia, receiving little scholarly attention. In many ways, this reflects the broader situation of the Roma, a people without a country of their own, who lack space in academic and mainstream societies for belonging, expressing their identities and accessing quality education. The Roma Peoples Project aims to bring Roma studies to the forefront of academia and global narratives, creating spaces for Roma people to connect and share their stories.

The Roma Peoples Project envisions a world where the Roma people can fulfill their full potential, without being discriminated against and outcast, and can overcome stigma, the unjust mark of centuries of oppression and marginalization. We wish for the Roma people to be treated as respected equals with the choice to speak openly and freely about their Roma heritage, with no fear of social repercussions and with worldwide acknowledgment of their human rights.

Refugees International

https://www.refugeesinternational.org

Refugees International is an independent organization that advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises. Each year, Refugees International conducts approximately twenty field missions to identify displaced people’s needs for basic services such as food, water, healthcare, housing, access to education and protection from harm. Refugees International focuses on the important refugee, displacement, humanitarian, and human rights issues that need urgent attention and action by government officials, policymakers, and other international organizations. Its advocates travel to some of the world’s most severe displacement crises, examining the conditions facing refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), and assessing the responses to those needs by governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local and international aid organizations.

Refugees International does not accept government or UN funding, enabling it to speak freely, underlining policies that are working well and where global action falls short. The humanitarian groups that respond to refugee and IDP crises often view Refugees International as an ally, since we can communicate needs and challenges through our robust advocacy in ways they often cannot. The alliances between Refugees International and humanitarian aid groups ultimately strengthen assistance efforts for refugees and displaced people, improving their circumstances and elevating their security and dignity.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC)

https://www.rescue.org

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world’s worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. IRC offers lifesaving care and
life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war or disaster.

The IRC will put in place high-impact, cost-effective solutions that help people affected by crisis. We’ll also use our learning and experience to shape humanitarian policy and practice in ways that improve the lives of more people worldwide. And in all of our work we will focus on breaking down each of the barriers faced by women and girls.

**ORAM**

https://oramrefugee.org

Founded in 2008, ORAM specializes in the protection of exceptionally vulnerable refugees, including LGBTI refugees. A thought leader in refugee protection, we are trusted by governments, international agencies, aid organizations and refugees alike. ORAM’s essential work enables the international community to protect exceptionally vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers and safeguards the integrity of the international refugee protection system.

**ILGA Europe**

https://ilga-europe.org/

ILGA-Europe is an independent, international non-governmental umbrella organization bringing together over 600 organizations from 54 countries in Europe and Central Asia. We are part of the wider international ILGA organization, but ILGA-Europe were established as a separate region of ILGA and an independent legal entity in 1996. ILGA itself was created in 1978.

LGA-Europe are a driving force for political, legal and social change in Europe and Central Asia. Our vision is of a world where dignity, freedoms and full enjoyment of human rights are protected and ensured to everyone regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

**Human Rights First**

https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/

Human Rights First is an independent advocacy and action organization that challenges America to live up to its ideals. We believe American leadership is essential in the global struggle for human rights, so we press the U.S. government and private companies to respect human rights and the rule of law. When they fail, we step into demand reform, accountability and justice. Around the world, we work where we can best harness American influence to secure core freedoms.

Though it is not enough to expose and protest injustice, the organization creates the political environment and policy solutions necessary to ensure consistent respect for human rights. Whether it is protecting refugees, combating torture, or defending persecuted minorities, it focuses not on making a point, but on making a difference. For almost 40 years, it has built bipartisan coalitions and teamed up with frontline activists and lawyers to tackle global challenges that demand American leadership.

Human Rights First is a non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization based in New York, Washington D.C., Houston, and Los Angeles.

**Bridge**

https://bridge.georgetown.edu/

The Bridge Initiative is a multi-year research project on Islamophobia housed in Georgetown University. The Bridge Initiative aims to disseminate original and accessible research, offers engaging analysis and commentary on contemporary issues, and hosts a wide repository of educational resources to inform the general public about Islamophobia.

**Global Citizen**

https://www.globalcitizen.org/

Global Citizen is a movement of engaged citizens who are using their collective voice to end extreme poverty by 2030. On our platform, Global Citizens learn about the systemic causes of extreme poverty, take action on those issues, and earn rewards for their actions—as part of a global community committed to lasting change.

It believes that the world needs active global citizens who are engaged in the world, knowledgeable about its diversity and passionate about change. Ending extreme poverty requires information and ideas that inspire and motivate the global community to act.

**CAGE**

https://www.cage.ngo/

CAGE is an independent grassroots organization striving for a world free of injustice and oppression. We campaign
against discriminatory state policies and advocate for due process and the rule of law.

It works closely with survivors of abuse and mistreatment across the globe, documenting their abuse and enabling them to take action and access due process. We carry out cutting edge research and provide a voice for survivors of the war on terror, challenging the dominant narrative of suspect communities and the perceived threat of terrorism. It empowers communities through educational workshops, community events and informative seminars.

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

https://www.iwgia.org/

IWGIA is a global human rights organization dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending indigenous peoples’ rights.

Since 1968, IWGIA has cooperated with indigenous peoples’ organizations and international institutions to promote recognition and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples. IWGIA works to empower indigenous peoples through documentation, capacity development and advocacy on a local, regional and international level. To achieve our mission we provide documentation, support advocacy and empower indigenous peoples’ organizations and institutions via global partnerships.

IWGIA was founded in 1968 by anthropologists alarmed about the ongoing genocide of indigenous peoples taking place in the Amazon. The aim was to establish a network of researchers and human right activists to document the situation of indigenous peoples and advocate for an improvement of their rights.

Today indigenous peoples from all over the world are involved in IWGIA’s global network. Still, the key drivers for change in our work are documentation, empowerment and advocacy.

Indigenous People and Forestry Network

http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/

Indigenous People and Forestry Network (IPFN) is a network coordinated by the Indigenous People Land Rights Project and the Forestry Rights Project of the Land and Livelihood Program of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. This Network has operated in close collaboration with national and international organization working in the forestry and indigenous people’s land rights sectors in Cambodia.

The IPFN was established from two networks: The Indigenous People Network and the Forest Livelihoods and Plantation Network. At presents, IPFN member organizations are coordinating with communities affected by economic land concessions, losses of indigenous and non-indigenous communities’ rights to their traditional use and management of forest. In order to strengthen IPFN’s relations and working capacity to share information and to develop strategies for advocacy and identification of cases for studies and investigation, member organizations have developed terms of reference for membership and the IPFN Commission, which serve as a basic principle for increasing cooperation and information flow from local to national levels.

Native Planet

https://nativeplanet.org/

Native Planet is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the worldwide preservation of threatened indigenous cultures. Using ecotourism, education, documentaries and humanitarian projects, we offer native peoples a global voice and promote the self-empowerment necessary for them to protect their own land and lifestyles. Its goals are to enhance global awareness of indigenous issues, evaluate needs, support local efforts and develop solution strategies. Moreover, it also aims to establish and promote international standards for responsible cultural ecotourism.

Food First

http://foodfirst.org

Food First envisions a world in which all people have access to healthy, ecologically produced, and culturally appropriate food. After 40 years of analysis of the global food system, we know that making this vision a reality involves more than technical solutions—it requires political transformation. That’s why Food First supports activists, social movements, alliances, and coalitions working for systemic change. Our work—including action-oriented research, publications, projects and Food Sovereignty Tours—gives you the tools to understand the global challenges, build your local movement, and engage with the global movement for food sovereignty.
La Vía Campesina

https://viacampesina.org

La Vía Campesina, founded in 1993, is a worldwide network of farmer and peasant organizations, whose livelihoods, cultures and environments are threatened by current neo-liberal economics and politics. They are committed to creating a rural economy which based on respect for the self and the earth, food sovereignty, and fair trade; ensuring rural development which recognizes and includes the important contribution women make in food production; and genuine agrarian reform which returns their territories to Indigenous peoples and gives landless and farming people ownership and control of the land they work.

Women’s Environment and Development Organization

https://wedo.org

WEDO is a global advocacy organization established in 1991 by former U.S. Congresswoman Bella Abzug (1920–1998) and feminist activist and journalist Mim Kelber (1922–2004). It grew out of an extraordinary group of women, including Bella and Gloria Steinem, who started Women USA in 1979, and became the organization it is today through the vision of WEDO pioneers, Wangari Maathai, Vandana Shiva, Thais Corral, and many others. In 2011, WEDO celebrated its official 20th anniversary!

WEDO has been a leader in organizing women for international conferences and actions, earning a reputation as a trailblazer in the international women’s rights movement. Read more of our history on our website.

WEDO recognized that the hard-won policy commitments to women’s rights that emerged from the major UN conferences of the 1990s were not enough to improve women’s daily lives. WEDO has spent the last few years focused on deeper collaboration with Southern partners to increase the number of women leaders at all levels, to implement global policy gains at the national level, and to hold governments accountable to their commitments on women’s rights.

Headquartered in New York, WEDO is a registered non-profit organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and is an accredited non-governmental organization with the United Nations. WEDO programmes receive financial support from government and UN donor agencies and partners, individual donors, and foundations.

Democracy in Africa (DiA)

http://democracyinafrica.org

Democracy in Africa is dedicated to building a bridge between academics, policymakers, practitioners and citizens. We focus in particular on encouraging academics to share their work on African politics in accessible formats, encouraging engagement and wide-ranging debate.

It hopes to encourage more people to study democracy in Africa and to make it easier for those who are already working in, and on, the continent to share ideas and information. We are positive about the prospects for democracy in Africa and believe that more time, resources, and energy should be put into understanding the complexities of politics at a local, national, regional and global level. This website is a small but significant contribution to this end.

Twaweza

https://www.twaweza.org

Twaweza means ‘we can make it happen’ in Swahili. Twaweza works on enabling children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. We have programmes, staff and offices across all three countries, and a world respected practice of learning, monitoring and evaluation. Our flagship programmes include Uwezo, Africa’s largest annual citizen assessment to assess children’s learning levels across hundreds of thousands of households, and Sauti za Wananchi, Africa’s first nationally representative mobile phone survey. We undertake effective public and policy engagement, through powerful media partnerships and global leadership of initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership.

Open Government Partnership

https://www.opengovpartnership.org

In 2011, government leaders and civil society advocates came together to create a unique partnership—one that combines these powerful forces to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance.

Seventy-eight countries and a growing number of local governments—representing more than two billion people—along with thousands of civil society organizations are members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).
OGP members work with civil society to determine priority public policy areas. Through the OGP process, members address issues that need reform to make a positive impact in their communities. Current issues being addressed in OGP include access to justice, gender and inclusion, digital governance, public service delivery, right to information, protection of civic space and natural resources and corruption.

**Third World Network**

[https://www.twn.my/](https://www.twn.my/)

Third World Network (TWN) is an independent non-profit international research and advocacy organization involved in issues relating to development, developing countries and North–South affairs.

Its mission is to bring about a greater articulation of the needs and rights of peoples in the South, a fair distribution of world resources, and forms of development which are ecologically sustainable and fulfill human needs.

TWN’s objectives are to deepen the understanding of the development dilemmas and challenges facing developing countries and to contribute to policy changes in pursuit of just, equitable and ecologically sustainable development.

TWN’s International Secretariat is in Penang (Malaysia) with offices in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Geneva (Switzerland). There are researchers based in Beijing, Delhi, Jakarta, Manila and New York. The Latin America Regional Secretariat is located in Montevideo (Uruguay) and the African Regional Secretariat is in Accra (Ghana).

**Open Society Foundations**

[https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)

The Open Society Foundations, founded by George Soros, are one of the world’s largest private funder of independent groups working for justice, democratic governance, and human rights. George Soros opened his first international foundation in Hungary in 1984. Today, the Open Society Foundations support a vast array of projects in more than 120 countries, providing thousands of grants every year through a network of national and regional foundations and offices. It claims to be ‘the largest private human rights funder in the world, working to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Since its inception, the Open Society Foundations have had expenditures of more than $15 billion.’

**Center for Genetics and Society (CGS)**

[https://www.geneticsandsociety.org](https://www.geneticsandsociety.org)

The Center for Genetics and Society (CGS) is a non-profit social justice organization that works to ensure an equitable future where human genetic and reproductive technologies benefit the common good. CGS works to: encourage responsible uses of human genetic and reproductive technologies; promote effective societal governance of these technologies; collaborate with a growing network of scientists, health professionals, civil society leaders and others; support equal access to benign and beneficial medical applications of these technologies both domestically and internationally; advocate for women’s health and reproductive rights, for racial justice, for the rights of people with disabilities and or the protection of our children; urge precaution in the use of technologies that could alter the fundamental processes of the natural world; and oppose any applications that objectify and commodify human life and threaten to divide human society, such as inheritable genetic modification.