



2021 Grants Scheme

Humanists International is the global representative body of the humanist movement, uniting a diversity of non-religious organisations and individuals. We have [hundreds of Members and Associates around the world](#) and we support them every year via our Grants Scheme.

Our 2021 Grants Scheme is the biggest ever announced so far: £122,000 spread over six types of grants. It is an open and competitive process reserved for our Members and Associates. We will evaluate all applications equally and we will assess applicants on their ability to provide evidence-driven and innovative solutions to promote humanism around the world with targeted campaigns, advocacy programs, educational resources, etc.

In this document we gather all the information needed to apply for one of our 2021 grants. If you have any questions about the application process or if you want to have a preliminary discussion about your project proposal, please contact us at grants@humanists.international

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Budget overview

In 2021, we will award a total of £122,000 in grants to our Members and Associates, £100,000 of which is restricted to organizations in developing countries.¹

Grant programs	Total budget allocated	Restricted to developing countries
Development Grants	£50,000	Yes
Digital Humanism Grants	£25,000	Yes
Regional Networking Meetings Grants	£15,000	Yes
Humanist Ceremonies Grants	£10,000	Yes
Café Humaniste Online Grants	£6,000	No
Young Humanist Grants (Americas)	£4,000	No
Young Humanist Grants (Asia)	£4,000	No
Young Humanist Grants (Africa)	£4,000	No
Young Humanist Grants (Europe)	£4,000	No
TOTAL	£122,000	£100,000

Timeline

Our 2021 Grants Scheme will run according to the following timeline:

Application period: 15 December 2020 - 12 February 2021

Evaluation: 15 February - 28 February 2021

Award and agreements signature: March 2021

Payment of the first tranche: 1 April 2021 - 15 April 2021

Q2 monitoring and evaluation review: June 2021

Q3 monitoring and evaluation review: October 2021

Payment of the second tranche: 1 November - 15 December 2021

End of the project review: January 2022

¹ The list of developing countries in 2020 is available in the "United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects" (Table C, page 166): [hmnets.in/2020-UN-developing-countries](https://www.hmnets.in/2020-UN-developing-countries)

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for one of our 2021 grants all applicants have to meet the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be a Member or an Associate of Humanists International
2. Applicants must have paid their 2021 membership fees **before applying**²
3. Applicants' membership must have been ratified by Humanists International's General Assembly

Individual humanists might apply provided that they live in countries where humanist organizations are banned by law or practically impossible to be set up.³

Previous applicants (including grantees) are welcome to re-apply.

Application requirements

The Grant Committee will usually award grants starting from a minimum of £500 to a maximum of £5000. However, the Grant Committee will consider larger grants (up to £10,000) for extremely well-developed and impactful project proposals.

All project proposals should be conceived on a yearly basis (i.e. ending in December 2021). Longer projects will be considered as well, but they will require extra monitoring and evaluation reviews along the way.

Applicants have to be aware that all grants will be awarded after the signing of a mutual agreement between Humanists International and the successful applicant organization. Grants will generally be released in two tranches. The first tranche will be paid in April 2021 after the signature of the agreement. The second tranche will be paid in between November and December 2021 once the grantee has satisfactorily completed the two monitoring and evaluation reviews in June and October 2021.

All applications must be submitted by the deadline of 12 February 2021 at 2PM GMT via Humanists International's Grants Portal: hmnts.grantplatform.com

² Invoices will be sent to all Members and Associates on 4 January 2021

³ As listed in the [Freedom of Thought Report 2020](#): Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates

The seven selection criteria

The Grant Committee will evaluate all applications equally, but it will give priority to applications that meet the following seven criteria.

	We will give priority to...
Project feasibility	projects with clear and realistic goals, and well-thought out needs and risk assessments
Social impact	projects with clear and measurable social impact goals that can be monitored and evaluated throughout the year and at the end of the project
Global impact	projects whose outputs can be freely made available to humanist organizations and individuals all around the world (e.g. resources published with a common license that can be translated in other languages)
Strategic impact	projects in line with Humanists International's aims ⁴
Budget consistency	applications with clear and detailed budgets
Organization reliability	organizations that have a good record of success for similar projects and a list of significant collaborations with Humanists International
Sustainable approach	projects meant to set in place a sustainable income structure which will allow the organization to replicate the same project without the need of further funding

⁴ Please refer to Humanists' International 2018-2020 Strategy (pages 12-18): hmnts.in/2018/20-strategy

Grants Description

Development Grants

Our Development Grants are awarded to fund humanist projects and to support our Members and Associates' capacity building in developing countries over a one-year period.

Development Grants are available from £500 to £5000. Larger grants (up to £10,000) will be considered for extremely well-developed and impactful project proposals.

Our Development Grants will fund organizations that are developing potentially transformative solutions to tackle the following humanist issues:

- Promotion of humanism
- Promotion of critical thinking or scientific and evidence-based information
- Capacity building of humanist organizations
- Promotion/protection of women's rights and sexual health and reproductive rights
- Promotion/protection of the rights of the child
- Promotion/protection of the right to freedom of religion or belief
- Promotion/protection of secularism and democracy
- Campaigning to repeal apostasy and blasphemy laws
- Assistance to humanists at risk
- Promotion/protection of the right to free artistic expression
- Non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender ideology
- Anti-racism and caste-based discrimination initiatives
- Initiatives to combat harmful traditional practices

We seek to support Members and Associates that pursue new ways to solve old problems with solutions that are more efficient, faster, increase cost effectiveness, and lead to better results for their respective humanist communities and the broader society.

Projects eligible for a Development Grant might include for example:

- New campaigns on key humanist issues (as listed above)
- Provision of humanist training sessions (introduction to humanism to people outside the humanist community, thematic workshops with members, etc.)

- Production or translation of humanist resources (leaflets, books, reports, etc.)
- Appointment of dedicated staff members (a part-time or full-time campaign manager, for example)

In general, what Humanists International wants to achieve by awarding Development Grants to a Member or an Associate is a measurable development within the humanist organization or a tangible change within society or the humanist community impacted. Measurable developments might include for example:

- A 30% increase in the number of individual paying members of the organization
- The discussion (or the approval) of a new secular law by the Parliament
- Raising awareness on humanism by delivering training program to 200 individuals
- Assistance provided to 20 humanists at risk in the region

Digital Humanism Grants

Our Digital Humanism Grants are awarded to fund projects online meant to spread the humanist message in developing countries, mainly through social media or any other digital environment.

Digital Humanism Grants are available from £500 to £5000. Larger grants (up to £10,000) will be considered for extremely well-developed and impactful project proposals.

The three goals of the Digital Humanism Grants are the following:

- To improve the online presence of humanist organizations in developing countries
- To reach new communities and individuals online
- To create new digital resources that can be shared with the global humanist community

The outbreak of the global pandemic made it profoundly clear that there is a big digital divide between humanist organizations all over the world: our Digital Humanism Grants program aims to bridge this gap.

Projects eligible for a Digital Humanism Grant might include, for example:

- Production of documentaries and informative videos on key humanist issues

- Video-interviews, vlogs and podcasts with humanist activists from around the world
- Creation of infographics or “best practices” guides on key humanist issues
- The development of a new online presence (new apps, websites, etc.)

A key aspect of the Digital Humanism Grants will be the monitoring and evaluation of the projects. Grantees will have to record and report the impact of their projects in terms of:

- People reached online
- Engagement rates for each content shared
- Increase in the number of followers online
- New individual members recruited through social media

Regional Networking Meetings Grants

Our Regional Networking Meetings Grants are awarded to fund the organization of humanist meetings and events on a regional/linguistic/thematic basis in developing countries.

Regional Networking Meetings Grants are available from £500 to £5000. Given the current global pandemic, we strongly encourage applicants to apply solely for online events. The Grant Committee might award a grant for the organization of in-person events only if the applicant organization is able to provide an extremely well-thought risk assessment.

The three goals of the Regional Networking Meetings Grants are the following:

- To help humanists from all around the world to connect with each other
- To allow humanist groups to discuss specific regional issues and topical themes
- To organize events with the goal of attracting new individuals to the movement

Projects eligible for a Regional Networking Meetings Grant might include - for example:

- Organization of online conferences on a regional or local basis (i.e. a first Latin American Humanist Meeting, the 2021 South-East Asia Humanist Conference, etc.)
- Organizations of congresses and workshops around specific humanist themes (i.e. a workshop on the caste system in India, a two-day congress on climate change, etc.)
- Organization of webinars and online training sessions for humanist activists

The money from the Regional Networking Meetings Grants can be used to:

- To buy technological equipment needed for the broadcasting of the event
- To pay an honorarium for the speakers
- To hire a professional full-time or part-time Event Manager

It will be crucial for grantees to be able to show the impact of their events by gathering individual feedback from participants, media coverage and other appropriate measurable indicators.

Humanist Ceremonies Grants

Humanist Ceremonies Grants are awarded to foster the introduction of new humanist ceremonies in developing countries or to consolidate the pre-existing humanist celebrant networks.

Humanist Ceremonies Grants are available from £500 to £5000. Given the limited budget, larger grant applications cannot be considered.

The three goals of the Humanist Ceremonies Grants are the following:

- To spread the humanist message to the broader society via the celebration of humanist ceremonies
- To create a sustainable source of income for humanist organizations
- To normalize humanism and to provide an alternative way to celebrate life for humanists and non-religious people

Projects eligible for a Humanist Ceremonies Grant might include - for example:

- Campaign to introduce humanist marriages or funerals in a new country
- Organization of training sessions for humanist celebrants
- Advocacy campaigns to legalize humanist marriages
- Appointment of a dedicated staff member

It will be crucial for grantees to be able to show the impact of their ceremonies program by gathering individual feedback from attendees, taking videos and pictures of the

ceremonies, tracking the number of new members recruited after the ceremonies and other appropriate measurable indicators.

Young Humanist Grants

Grants made available by Young Humanists International for all activities, events and projects focusing on the promotion of humanism specifically for young people

Applications are welcome from all around the world, including developed countries. Grants are available from £500 to a maximum of £4,000 for each world region: Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe.

A committee composed by both members of the staff of Humanists International and by members of Young Humanists International will follow the award process, securing that the best projects will be funded in a spirit of transparency and efficiency.

Projects eligible for a Young Humanist Grant might include for example:

- Conferences and events made *by* or *for* young humanist activists;
- Seminars on critical thinking and humanism in primary/high schools and university;
- Workshops and webinars to train young humanist activists;
- Books, documentaries and media resources meant to spread the humanist message to young people.

Café Humaniste Online Grants

We will award our standard £200 grants to support the organization of online events from our Café Humaniste series: hmnts.in/CH-calendar

The money from the grants may be spent to buy technological equipment (cameras, microphones, etc.), extra internet data allowance, video software, premium subscriptions with online meeting platforms, honorarium for speakers, etc.

Grantees will be asked to keep track and report the reach of their events (i.e. how many people attended? How many of the participants joined the organization after the event?) among other appropriate indicators.

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