

“When I first arrived here, I still had the feeling that I had to run, but then I realised: I no longer need to run.”

For their protection, the voices of the human rights defenders are anonymised.

Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative  
Linienstr. 139/140  
10115 Berlin

Requests for protection stays  
[ESI-contact@protonmail.com](mailto:ESI-contact@protonmail.com)

General requests  
[info-esi@ifa.de](mailto:info-esi@ifa.de)

Further information  
[www.ifa.de/foerderungen/elisabeth-selbert-initiative/](http://www.ifa.de/foerderungen/elisabeth-selbert-initiative/)

ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen is Germany’s oldest intermediary organisation for international cultural relations. It promotes a peaceful and enriching coexistence between people and cultures worldwide. ifa supports artistic and cultural exchange in exhibition, dialogue, and conference programmes, and it acts as a centre of excellence for international cultural relations. It is part of a global network and relies on sustainable, long-term partnerships. It is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg and its capital Stuttgart.  
[www.ifa.de/en](http://www.ifa.de/en)



## ELISABETH-SELBERT-INITIATIVE

- Managed by ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen
- Supported by an independent Committee, whose members are nominated by the Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, the Forum Menschenrechte, the Federal Foreign Office and the ifa
- Implemented with organisations committed to human rights and host human rights defenders
- Supported by the Federal Foreign Office

The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative was founded in June 2020 by the Federal Foreign Office. It is named after the politician and lawyer Dr Elisabeth Selbert (1896–1986), who was one of the “four mothers of the Basic Law”. She campaigned for enshrining equal rights in the Basic Law, thus making an important contribution to the realisation of human rights in Germany.

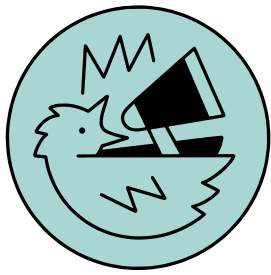


Supported by the German Federal Foreign Office

# ELISABETH-SELBERT-INITIATIVE

## A PROTECTION PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS





## FOR WHOM IS THE ELISABETH-SELBERT-INITIATIVE?

The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative supports people who peacefully defend human rights in their countries and are thus under threat. To continue their work, they must leave their country for a certain period or require local protection measures.

## ELISABETH-SELBERT-INITIATIVE'S GOALS

The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative strengthens the commitment to human rights worldwide by providing concrete support to human rights defenders at risk. It offers both temporary protection stays in safe places as well as temporary on-site assistance.

## HOW ARE PROTECTION STAYS IMPLEMENTED?

Host organisations play a central role in the implementation of protection stays. They accompany the human rights defenders, promote exchange, and prevent isolation. This allows human rights defenders to rest, to deal with trauma, to continue human rights work from a safe place, to build contacts that have a lasting effect, and to prepare for one's return.

## WHAT IS COVERED DURING A PROTECTION STAY?

- Monthly scholarship and rent
- Travel expenses, health insurance
- Psychosocial support
- Networking, expert talks, training
- Compensation for the host organisation for support and assistance expenses

## HOW TO APPLY FOR PROTECTION STAYS?

Human rights defenders or host organisations contact the Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative. In a next step they receive the necessary documents for the application process. After all documents have been submitted, an independent Committee decides on the application.



“I carry on with my activities. The constant pressure I was under before is gone. I want to develop strategies on how the work can be continued.”



## WHAT IS ON-SITE ASSISTANCE?

From 2022 onwards temporary local measures will be supported by on-site assistance. It aims to increase the protection of human rights defenders at risk and to contribute to ongoing human rights work. It is awarded by the German missions abroad, which are happy to answer questions on the application process.

## ELISABETH-SELBERT-INITIATIVE PROMOTES NETWORKING:

The initiative brings together participating actors and provides networking opportunities. Workshops on risk management and security deepen the exchange and contribute to knowledge transfer. The initiative works with the Federal Foreign Office, German missions abroad and organisations that promote human rights. It participates in networks that are committed to human rights defenders.

“The most important for me, was the opportunity to network. And after my return to my home country, I will continue to work with these networks.”