



Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative
Eligibility criteria for temporary relocation
(up to 6 months)

General remarks:

The Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative (ESI) is open to Human Rights Defenders (HRD) from all countries outside the European Union and all professions. HRD can submit an application to ESI directly or via their nearest German mission; any organisation or entity can also propose HRD for the programme. Relocation stays can be realised in Germany or other countries considered as safe. During their stay, HRD will be hosted by a civil society organisation; if the HRD are already in touch with NGOs, they can also suggest an organisation to host their stay. This can speed up the relocation process. If the HRD cannot suggest a host organisation, ESI will identify one. All financial means for relocation under the ESI are issued only to a host organisation. After submission, the HRD's application will be verified. After completion, an independent committee decides on the application. A national visa from the destined host country is required in order for the temporary relocation grant to become valid.

Who can apply?

1. HRD are persons defending or promoting peacefully human rights either as an individual or in a group. The HRD should provide documentation regarding their human rights work and achievements.
2. The HRD are facing risks related to their human rights work (such as persecution, threats, attacks, harassment, arrests, raids, etc.) and the effects of these risks are severe. Local protection measures are not available or not sufficient.
3. The HRD are in need of temporary relocation and require support to temporarily relocate. The HRD have not currently applied for any other relocation grants. The HRD are still in their home country or have left only recently.
4. To ensure communication between the host organisation and the HRD, relevant language skills will be considered. The HRD intend to return to their home country or a third country after the temporary relocation stay. At the application stage, the HRD have neither applied for asylum nor been granted asylum.
5. The German Federal Foreign Office funds all temporary relocation grants under the ESI. Grants cannot be allocated to HRD or host organisations who/that question the existence of Israel, call for boycotts against Israel or carry out activities aimed at supporting the BDS movement.
6. Temporary relocation grants become valid only if a visa is issued by the destined host country. The HRD must hold a valid passport and must be allowed to pass borders.

If you meet these eligibility criteria, please get in touch with us via Protonmail ESI-contact@protonmail.com or your nearest German mission. We recommend that you create a free account on Protonmail to ensure secure communication.