



THE DAVID & LUCILE

Packard Foundation

# Civil Society and Leadership Initiative

## Initiative Overview

Achieving the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's vision of a just and equitable world where people and nature flourish requires a strong civil society. To create enduring solutions, leaders, organizations, and movements need resources, organizational strength, and the freedom to work together toward shared goals.



## What Is Civil Society?

Civil society is how people come together to make change. Alongside government and business, civil society is one of the three main sectors of society. It includes a range of nonprofit, grassroots, and community organizations that champion causes, pursue justice, and create change.

## The Challenge

For civil society organizations and leaders to achieve their bold goals, they must have the space to operate, organize, and protest. But in many places around the world, restrictions on rights make it difficult for civil society to express concerns – and they often face intimidation and harassment if they do. These threats to civil society are limiting the ability of leaders, organizations, and communities to drive progress.

## Our Goal

We are working to ensure that civil society organizations and leaders have what they need to achieve their goals and contribute to building a just and thriving society.



## Our Strategy

To ensure civil society leaders and organizations can be effective, we invest in:

- 1** The **organizational and leadership strength** of Packard's grantee partners through customized support on strategy, governance, fundraising, and more. This support is delivered through a variety of structures, including geography-specific resource hubs and cross-issue cohorts.
- 2** Strengthening the **infrastructure, movements, and networks** that help civil society leaders connect, coordinate, and collaborate.
- 3** Work to **protect and defend a free and open civic space** so civil society can operate safely and effectively.
- 4** Research and partnerships to **encourage other donors** to prioritize support for civil society.



Credit: Jumasyanto Sukarno  
Globepeace

The Civil Society and Leadership initiative supports current grantee partners across each of the Foundation's initiatives. We also fund organizations dedicated to strengthening civil society and protecting civic space in key geographies aligned with the Foundation's goals, including Indonesia and Chile, as well as at regional and global levels.

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the Packard Foundation's Civil Society and Leadership initiative, visit [www.packard.org/csl](http://www.packard.org/csl).