Dear Friends,

It turns out the populists do not always have the wind at their backs. As politicians took power in various countries including the United States with policies of indifference or outright hostility to human rights, there were plenty of reasons for concern. But the reaction has been hearteningly powerful, with a real battle underway. Human Rights Watch is proud to be playing a central role in that response.

The big development of the past year turned out to be not the rise of the populists but the strength of those defending human rights and democratic values in the face of the populist assault. Protesters have taken to the streets. Journalists have shined a spotlight. Litigators have gone to court. Politicians have spoken out. And Human Rights Watch has deployed our trademark tools of investigating abusive policies, exposing them to public condemnation, and generating pressure to resist.

But it has hardly been business as usual. The populists represent a fundamental threat because they succeed in making the abuse of certain disfavored minorities popular. Our job—one we have tended to take for granted but now must make a central part of our work—is to reinforce the values of our cause. We must show the importance of treating others the way we want to be treated ourselves. We must explain how no system of rights is meaningful if the government can selectively undermine it with emotional appeals to people’s worst instincts.

These are challenging times, but we are up to the task. As part of a global movement resisting the populist attacks on basic rights, we are confident that we can halt and reverse these threats to the core values of our cause.

Our strength lies in the principles we espouse, the accuracy and credibility of our voice, and the community of supporters who make our work possible. Thank you for standing with us at this challenging moment.

Hassan Elmasry
Board Co-Chair

Bob Kissane
Board Co-Chair

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
We practice a powerful, proven methodology: investigate abuses scrupulously, expose the facts widely, and relentlessly press those in power for change that respects rights.

For nearly 40 years, Human Rights Watch has defended people at risk of abuse.
Hadeel al-Shalchi, former Middle East researcher, interviews a man in the city of Manbij in northern Syria in October 2016. The extremist group, which burned an Islamic state it controlled this city until August 2016, Human Rights Watch interviewed 25, had to talk, played interviews in homes, schools, and hospitals, and on roads and bridges, which killed and injured civilians. © 2016 Ole Solvang / Human Rights Watch

Deep and careful research lies at the core of our ability to influence public debate and champion human rights. We stake our credibility on the facts we report, devoting great effort to ensuring the accuracy and fairness of every word we publish. Our researchers go to the site of human rights violations to interview victims and witnesses, to examine physical evidence, to identify those responsible, and to develop the most effective interventions.
Boris Dittrich (C), LGBT advocacy director, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on May 6, 2016, surrounded by Kyle Knight (L), LGBT researcher, and Kanae Doi (R), Japan director. Human Rights Watch revealed widespread bullying of LGBT youth in Japan. In response, the government policy to combat bullying was changed for the first time to protect sexual and gender minority students. © 2016 TORU YAMANAKA/AFP/Getty Images

Human Rights Watch exposes wrongdoing through all available media, often as events unfold. We empower victims to tell their stories and be heard. Personal accounts of suffering, infused with humanity and urgency, are often the key to overcome complacency and compel positive action.

We are effective communicators.
We are determined advocates.

Our ability to access policymakers and influence the public, while offering concrete ways to stem violations, often secures results. Regularly backed by strong media coverage, we meet face-to-face with those who have the power to act on the realistic steps we recommend. Combining our watertight facts with human stories of the consequence of abuse is a proven formula to secure improvements.
What Our People Do

Frontline investigations by expert researchers lie at the heart of Human Rights Watch’s work.

Our researchers examine situations in some 90 countries around the world. They function as investigators, journalists, and advocates.

Jonathan Pedneault, Africa researcher, interviews civilians displaced by conflict in South Sudan. Our investigations indicate that as the conflict spread, hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese faced violations, famine, and displacement. © 2017 Human Rights Watch
Our researchers go to the scene of atrocities to interview victims, witnesses, local activists, and government officials. They gather credible, first-hand information, whether in war zones, sites of repression, or other hostile environments.

Checking and cross-checking facts

Our researchers visit victims and witnesses wherever they can be reached, including refugee camps and prisons. They examine records and data from hospitals, morgues, courts, and the military. They use photos, video, forensic tools, statistical analysis, and satellite imagery—everything they can to piece together as complete and accurate a picture as possible.
Partnering with local activists and human rights groups

Our researchers immerse themselves in the communities where they work. They often live in-country, speak local languages, and partner with domestic organizations. They build networks of trust that can be relied on in a crisis to guide us in safely gathering reliable facts. They help to ensure that the concerns of local groups are heard by those with the power to make a difference.

Exposing evidence of abuses

Our researchers shine a spotlight on wrongdoing by writing reports, news releases, and opinion pieces, supplemented by original photographs and video. We distribute these materials through both traditional and social media to shape public debate and to ensure that policymakers learn of our findings and feel pressure to heed our recommendations for change.
Our researchers share their findings not only with the target government but also with other governments and international institutions with clout. We ask (and sometimes demand) that they use their influence to help curb human rights abuses.

Convincing key decision-makers to act

Our researchers respond to growing demands for on-the-ground, credible information from journalists, political leaders, and policymakers. Sometimes we share our work quietly, other times through the media, at government hearings, or even as expert witnesses in criminal trials.
Our researchers stay with an issue until they get results. They recognize that some problems are entrenched, and their solution requires long-term resolve.
In partnership with local activists, we document the truth, resist abuse, and support people who most need the protection that human rights afford.

Iain Levine
Deputy Executive Director
Program
Looking back at the challenges of the past year, I urge you to consider the real stories of hope, resilience, and inclusion that have kept our movement strong. Despite the threats to our cause, Human Rights Watch has worked with partners and supporters to differentiate fact from propaganda, to put a human face on often-complex issues, and to secure concrete changes in policy and practice.

Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that does not accept any government funding. Generous private investments in our work make possible every interview with a victim, exposé in the media, and advocacy meeting. Our ability to make a difference in the world depends on our global community of informed, dedicated supporters. We could not do it without you.

Thank You

Michele Alexander
Deputy Executive Director
Development & Global Initiatives
Board Members Emeriti

Joel Motley  
Former Board Chair, 2013-2016  
Managing Director  
Public Capital Advisors, LLC

Alice H. Henkin  
Director Emerita, Justice and Society Program  
The Aspen Institute

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Human Rights Activist  
Writer-Producer  
Former President of the Writers Guild of America

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Former Editor  
Foreign Affairs

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Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
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Landmine Survivors Network 1998-2010  
Board Member  
Pacific Council on International Policy

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Asia Society  
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UC Berkeley

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Visiting Fellow  
Hunter College, CUNY

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Senior Research Scholar  
& Adjunct Professor of Middle East Politics  
Columbia University

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Former Chairman  & President, 1966-1990  
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Lisa Anderson  
Former President  
American University in Cairo

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Phillips-Van Hassen

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& Co-Founder, 1978-1992  
Random House

Joanne Leedom-Ackerman  
Author  
Former Board Chair, 2004-2010  
Hunter College, CUNY

Theo Forbath  
Human Rights Activist

Alice H. Henkin  
Human Rights Activist  
Writer-Producer  
Former President of the Writers Guild of America

Samuel K. Murumba  
Professor of Law  
Brooklyn Law School

Kevin P. Ryan  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
Gilt Group

Darian W. Swig  
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Writer-Producer  
Former President of the Writers Guild of America

William D. Carmichael  
Human Rights Activist

David M. Brown  
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Random House
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017 FY TOTALS</th>
<th>2016 FY TOTALS</th>
<th>2015 FY TOTALS</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>SUPPORTING SERVICES</th>
<th>TOTAL EXPENSES</th>
<th>TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>TOTAL REVENUE</th>
<th>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>NET INVESTMENT INCOME</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS</th>
<th>PUBLIC SUPPORT</th>
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<td>$2,183,039,223</td>
<td>$1,674,362,798</td>
<td>$1,183,046,451</td>
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<td>$201,423,319</td>
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### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the year ended 30 June 2017

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<td>$2,183,039,223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities due to Foreign Currency Translation</td>
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Human Rights Watch has earned a reputation as a leading human rights organization because of our ability to respond quickly and effectively to a broad spectrum of rights concerns—from discrimination to genocide. We employ a deceptively simple methodology to advance our mission. First, our researchers go to the site of human rights violations and investigate the facts. Second, we expose our findings broadly in the media through expert-reviewed reports and multimedia content, ensuring that those responsible cannot hide the truth. Third, we meet face-to-face with influential policymakers to report and advocate for realistic steps that lead to concrete improvements.

This methodology yields significant impact. Some of our greatest accomplishments from July 2016 through June 2017 include the following:

- In Kyrgyzstan, our reporting and advocacy on widespread domestic violence inspired the government to strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence—in line with our recommendations.

- Our October 2016 report on sexual violence in Nigeria documented how state security agents raped and sexually exploited women and girls who had been displaced by violence from the insurgent group Boko Haram. Our work prompted the Nigerian president to order a thorough investigation, which led to multiple arrests of police and army officers responsible for the abuses.

- In May 2016 we released a report to improve protections for rape survivors in the United States military who are wrongfully discharged for reporting sexual assault. After months of outreach to policymakers and military officials to raise awareness of our concerns, many of our report recommendations were included in federal legislation passed into law in December 2016.

- In Japan, the government revised its national bullying prevention policy to address concerns raised in our May 2016 report on bullying against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. The new policy mandates that schools should prevent bullying of students based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. It was sent to school boards across the country.