

For example, in Sierra Leone, DFATD supported independent media's important "watchdog" role by providing training to journalists and journalism students to effectively report on locally relevant human rights and governance issues, including the promotion of gender equality. The project, implemented by Journalists for Human Rights, contributed to exposing a case of corruption in Sierra Leone's education system and facilitated dialogue on human rights among policy makers, civil society members, and the media through community forums.

Political parties also play an essential role in democracy, including by channelling and articulating public and constituent concerns, aggregating electoral interests and facilitating civic engagement. In 2013–2014, in Burma, DFATD strengthened the practical skills of local government and civil society groups to engage with each other through facilitation, negotiation and partnership brokering in order to better equip local stakeholders to safeguard peace and advance democratic processes. The department also enhanced knowledge among key stakeholders in Burma on the topics of decentralization, democracy and civil-military relations, while improving the organizational capacity of political parties to more effectively represent their constituents.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are intrinsic to democracy, including the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. In order to be realized, human rights must be enshrined in a legal framework under which all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection. The promotion and protection of human rights also require the strengthening of informal institutions and practices that are used to resolve disputes. Canada advances human rights by enhancing the ability of citizens to claim their rights and by strengthening human rights institutions and processes.

For example, DFATD's support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in 2013 helped to provide human rights training within the government, the army, the national police, the judiciary and various schools. It also supported the AIHRC's focus on promoting the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

In Sri Lanka, DFATD supported the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration in the development of its roadmap, which guided a government-wide implementation of the Official Languages Policy, and was a key recommendation from the 2011 Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report.

THE LABOUR PROGRAM: ADDRESSING THE LABOUR DIMENSIONS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND TRADE



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Labour Canada, through the Labour Program, negotiates and administers Canada's Labour Cooperation Agreements (LCAs), which are signed along with free trade agreements. LCAs include commitments to protect internationally recognized core labour rights and enforce domestic labour laws. LCAs are intended to protect workers' basic rights and improve working conditions and standards of living in signatory countries. These agreements also ensure fair competition for Canadian industry in a globalized world. Canada's latest generation of LCAs contain mechanisms to receive and investigate complaints and impose penalties where warranted.

In addition to negotiating and administering LCAs, the Labour Program provides technical assistance to developing countries such as Jordan, Vietnam and Costa Rica. Through this technical assistance program, Canada seeks to strengthen institutions of democratic governance, promote economic growth while respecting workers' rights and improve the quality of working conditions in partner countries.

In 2013–2014 the Government of Canada also supported the International Labour Organization for the implementation of a project in Jordan. This initiative developed the capacity of the Jordanian Ministry of Labour to promote conformity of domestic legislation with international labour standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining, and eliminate discriminatory practices in employment and working conditions.