40 years ago, in 1981, a group of international activists came together to create a movement for peace, solidarity and non-violent action.

While our core mission remains the same, we have adapted our tactics to ensure defenders are protected despite the rapidly changing global context and ever-evolving risks and threats they face. 40 years on, PBI remains convinced of the vital role HRDs play in strengthening democracy, upholding the rule of law, and protecting our shared environment. Together, through their protection, we can create a more peaceful and just world.

“We are forming an organisation with the capacity to mobilise and provide trained volunteers in areas of high tension, to avert violent outbreaks...We are convinced that this commitment of mind, heart, and dedicated will can make a significant difference in human affairs” – Excerpt from founding meeting of PBI, 13th August to 4th September 1981

In 2021 we take stock of our achievements, and more importantly those of the brave individuals and organisations we have stood beside during their struggle to defend human rights over the past 40 years. The world has changed drastically, and many positive steps have been taken towards the progressive fulfilment of human rights. However, continued attacks and threats against HRDs, as well as increased digital attacks, criminalization and the persecution of environmental defenders, and subsequent demand for PBI’s presence in different parts of the world, indicates that there is still a long way to go.

In this Annual Report we look back over the past 40 years, acknowledging our roots and appreciating our role in the international peace movement. We remember with huge gratitude all of those who have passed through PBI in different capacities, and recognise the contribution of so many volunteers and staff members to our movement.

2020 was a year in which international solidarity became commonplace as global interconnections were felt more strongly than ever. In the face of a devastating global pandemic, inequalities have been exacerbated around the globe have risen to meet new human rights challenges. HRD’s fundamental role as advocates for vulnerable groups, leaders of social movements and opponents of repression have become more necessary than ever.

Despite their key roles, many HRDs experienced heightened situations of risk. In this struggle to uphold the fundamental tenets of social justice, PBI remains at the forefront, supporting those with steadfast faith in the ability to build better, safer and more peaceful societies.
Living and working with people from different cultures has enriched me enormously. It has created a kind of “global family” for me.

NURIA FREY
Volunteer in Honduras, 2015-2016

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, PBI carried out 505 physical accompaniments across our different projects in 2020 and provided 582 capacity development sessions. 4,971 people attended these sessions. 1,669 of whom were women. These range from trainings in security and protection, digital security and psychosocial workshops, to the building of advocacy capacities in terms of creating and sustaining support networks and designing effective strategies.

Over the year the projects and country groups undertook 399 communications activities, including articles, online newsletters, videos, press releases, and printed publications. Added to this is the social media activity of each project and country group.

We ran and participated in 189 events across 2020, including thematic events on important human rights issues in the different parts of the world where we work, fundraising and volunteer recruitment. Adapting to the circumstances, many of these events were held virtually, giving us the opportunity to reach new audiences.

In 2020, PBI accompanied 54 organizations across our different projects, comprising of 1803 individuals, 896 of whom are women. These organizations reach over 206,928 people with their services, which range from capacity development to psychosocial support for victims of human rights abuse as well as litigation and other legal support.
In 2020, our work was divided into the following topics:

- Business and Human Rights/Land and Environmental Defenders: 654
- Human Rights Defender Security and Protection: 252
- Human Rights/Country Context: 255
- Impunity and Rule of Law: 87
- Criminalization/Defamation: 68
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution: 458
- Human Rights Defenders General: 111
- Gender/Women Human Rights Defenders/Women’s Rights: 181
- LGBTQI+ Rights: 89

1,141 external meetings were held across the organisation in 2020, ranging from advocacy meetings with the diplomatic corps or government authorities on a local, national or international level (295 meetings), to context analysis meetings with general civil society (350 meetings) as well as the organisations and individuals we accompany (315 meetings). In these meetings PBI raised concerns about the lack of protection measures for defenders, the widespread impunity in cases of attacks against defenders as well as specific concerns about each context within which we work.

The organizations we accompany defend the following rights:

- Civil and political: 65.4%
- Gender and sexual: 7.3%
- Economic, social, cultural and environmental: 27.3%
**Previous projects**

**SRI LANKA**
**1989–1998**
A team was installed during some of the worst violence and protected HRDs until 1998, when PBI was told that if it wished to remain working in Sri Lanka it would have to submit its reports to the authorities to be censored prior to their publication. This was not compatible with PBI’s mission, so the project was closed.

**HAITI**
**1992–2001**
In response to increasing military violence in after the 1991 coup, PBI joined a coalition called “Cry for Justice”. After the return of president Aristide in 1995, PBI installed a team that offered training in nonviolent conflict resolution.

**THE BALKANS**
**1994–2001**
PBI participated in a coalition of groups who set up teams in three different locations in Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo/a. These teams carried out a variety of peace-building work amidst ethnic rivalry in the former Yugoslavia region.

**CANADA**
**1992–1999**
Following the 1990 military confrontation between Mohawk warriors and the Canadian Army near Montreal, Quebec, PBI opened a project aimed at responding to conflicts in and around indigenous communities. The project’s work involved supporting local dialogue and reconciliation, training local human rights monitors and anti-racist education.

**EL SALVADOR**
**1987–1992**
PBI provided accompaniment to threatened organisations and carried out regular visits to the villages of returned refugees. After the signing of the Peace Accords in 1992, the project was closed.

**HAITI**
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Where we work

COLOMBIA
1994–NOW
With the spreading violence, PBI quickly expanded to four teams in different regions involving the constant presence of up to 40 volunteers accompanying HRDs who faced attacks and harassment from paramilitary squads and the Colombian military. In 2020 PBI maintained teams of volunteers in Urabá, Barrancabermeja and Bogota who responded to the needs of defenders, closely monitoring their security situations throughout the pandemic.

HONDURAS
2013–NOW
In May 2010, following the increased violence after the 2009 military coup, PBI received a request for accompaniment. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 10 volunteers accompanied HRDs in 2020 ranging from LBGTQI activists to indigenous land and territory defenders.

NEPAL
2005–2014
2013–NOW
The first requests for PBI presence were made by local organisations in 2003 because of violent conflicts between Maoist insurgents and the government. The PBI office in Kathmandu closed in 2014 but through a partnership with the Collective Campaign for Peace we continue to support the Nepal Monitor Project, the most comprehensive violence monitoring and mapping system in the country.

NICARAGUA IN COSTA RICA
1983
2013–NOW
In 1983, 10 PBI volunteers maintained a short presence interposing themselves between US-backed contras and the Sandinista forces in order to deter hostilities. Following the political crisis in 2018, PBI began an accompaniment project for Nicaraguan organisations and social groups exiled in Costa Rica. In 2020, PBI overcame the challenges of the pandemic by developing virtual methodologies to support the reconstruction of social fabric of those hoping to return to defend human rights in Nicaragua.

MEXICO
1995
1998–NOW
In response to requests for international presence in the face of the worsening human rights situation in the country, PBI set up a project. Previously, PBI was a member of the SIPAZ Coalition, in response to growing violence following the Zapatista uprising in 1994 in Chiapas. Throughout 2020, 12 volunteers accompanied defenders from different states, including those defending their territories against extractive projects, women defenders, and those seeking justice for forced disappearances.

KENYA
2013–NOW
Since 2013, PBI has supported Kenyan defenders in a variety of ways, most recently in 2020 by accompanying defenders in the urban settlements of Nairobi to share important sanitary information during the pandemic.

GUATEMALA
1983–1999
2003–NOW
In 1983, PBI installed its first team during a period of intense state terror and repression. The project was closed after the evaluation concluded that there was no longer a need for PBI’s work. PBI reopened in Guatemala in 2003 and in 2020, 15 volunteers accompanied defenders through the hugely challenging circumstances of the pandemic and hurricanes that hit the region.

INDONESIA
2000–2011
2014–NOW
Recent and long-standing conflict had led to invitations for a PBI presence by local organisations. Following discussions with civil society organizations and other stakeholders, PBI began a new project in 2014, in partnership with the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM).

MANUEL MÜLLER
Volunteer in Colombia, 2019–2020

The Coronavirus crisis has led to a lowering of the guard on human rights violations, both in the media and in state institutions. This is another reason why it is extremely important that PBI continues its work in a rigorous manner.
PBI’s commitment to non-violence has characterised our movement since it’s outset. Enduring peace and lasting solutions to conflicts between and within nations cannot be achieved by violent means and therefore we reject violence of any kind and from any source.

Our understanding of nonviolence continues to evolve and adapt according to the needs of those we accompany and the contexts within which they work. Over the past 40 years, PBI has supported humanitarian zones at the centre of the armed conflict in the 90’s in Colombia, observed peaceful marches against the killings of transgender activists in Honduras, and walked alongside the mothers of disappeared children in Mexico.

Invitations to speak at international events during 2020 such as the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the London Regional Social Forum, illustrate that our role in the global nonviolent movement remains crucial, and we continue to use these invitations to provide a platform for defenders we accompany.

I value hugely PBI’s presence and physical accompaniment in my journeys to communities, to protect my security and physical integrity.

LORENA CABNAL
TZKAT Healers Network, Guatemala

The film “The Blood of the Earth” by Félix Zurita for PBI and Entrepueblos tells the stories of environmental defenders fighting against the imposition of international energy production projects through their own voices. The film won a prize awarded by Amnesty International in the Sicilian Film Festival in August 2020, a testament to its emotive and topically important nature.
PBI has been a fundamental experience in my career path, it has allowed me to train in topics related to security and it was a unique experience in my life. Since PBI I began to collaborate with a local Oaxacan organization with which I have spent 9 years.

EMILIE DEWOLF
Volunteer in Mexico (2010-2012)

In 2020 in Kenya, PBI carried out a training course on conflict resolution for 29 grassroots HRDs from different Social Justice Centres in Nairobi. The training discussed the different stages of conflict and how to address them, as well as non-violent communication. The training contributed to improving relationships with important stakeholders such as religious institutions, police and local leaders.

In Colombia in 2020 PBI accompanied organisations litigating against human rights violations against participants in peaceful protest amid increasingly violent state responses during national protests. In September, 13 protesters were killed in the police response to protests in Bogotá and various defenders were illegally detained. In September a historic tutela (writ of protest of constitutional rights) filed by civil society organisations was approved by the Supreme Court which concluded that the Colombian riot police had used excessive force in their response to the 2019 national strike and that actions of the government and national police violated the constitutional rights of those who protested; a huge achievement for the organisations PBI supports.
40 years working through Horizontality

PBI uses a non-hierarchical model of organising and decision-making, which places importance on relationships and processes and not just on outcomes. We make decisions through consensus and ensure everyone's perspective is taken into account. This model is the practical embodiment of the principle of non-violence and is a fundamental tenet of PBI’s culture.

It has been beautiful getting to know the people we accompany and also seeing how a small organisation such as PBI can do such integral and relevant work.

ROBERTO MELONI
Volunteer in Guatemala, 2016-2017

PBI are like our brothers and sisters.

ESDRA SOSA
Arcoiris Association, Honduras
As a young human rights defender, seeing other people believing in our own cause was such a motivation. And I still see PBI as a huge motivation personally. They were there in 2015 when we started, and they have been part of the journey.

STEPHEN MWANGI
Kenyan HRD

In today’s polarised world, we are hugely proud of our model, which celebrates diversity, tolerance of different opinions, and the patience and dedication required to build strong and representative consensuses. We apply this principle of horizontality to our accompaniment work with local organisations, ensuring their work remains at the centre of our strategies and decisions.

Since 1981, hundreds of volunteers have passed through PBI, learning the importance of participatory decision-making processes and of including all voices. Individuals often carry this experience with them long after leaving PBI, and many go on to contribute to peace-building efforts within families, communities, organizations and even with and between nations.
40 years reflecting an International Character

PBI welcomes people from all the cultures, languages, beliefs and geographical regions. It offers possibilities for volunteers to act as representatives of the international community to help generate dialogue between conflicting parties and to demonstrate the international support for the defence of human rights across the world.

Over the past 40 years, PBI has sought to understand the interrelations between systems of oppression across the world and has intervened in areas of conflict in order to improve the protection of human rights globally.

The environmental crisis our planet is currently living through is an example of the interconnectedness of the world, requiring international action and solidarity with those bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

"PBI is very important because it works at the local level. International meetings are important because PBI makes sure that they give you exposure, [and an opportunity to] meet HRDs from other continents."  
FRANCIS SAKWA  
Kenyan participant in Shelter City programme, Netherlands
Despite the challenges of the pandemic, in 2020 PBI connected defenders with political actors from across the world to build their support networks and request specific actions to ensure their protection. We organised webinars and online events during the year to build political support for accompanied HRDs, including online roundtables with Colombian defenders and Canadian civil society, a series of meetings in the UK between defenders and the legal and political communities, as well as webinars addressing global police violence and virtual speaker tours of Latin American and Kenyan defenders in Europe.

In 2020 PBI supported environmental defenders from across the world in different ways, a group of activists who are increasingly vulnerable to attack as natural resources deplete and the competition for them increases. In Mexico we provided support to the Land and Water Defence Front for Morelos, Puebla and Tlaxcala (FPDTA-MPT), a group of defenders who actively resist the implementation of a large-scale development project, the Morelos Integral Project (PIM), due to its devastating environmental impacts. Our support has included raising the profile of select defenders and helping to grow their international support networks.
PBI’s accompaniment makes a difference because the authorities know that there is international accompaniment so they limit their attacks.

OMAR JERÓNIMO
CCCND, Guatemala

Every year, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs awards the Human Rights Tulip prize to support HRDs. In 2020 the Guatemalan defender, Lorena Cabnal, accompanied by PBI, was among the finalists. During the award ceremony, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stef Blok, spoke at length about Lorena and her work.

I want you to know, Lorena, that equal rights for women and girls is a key part of Dutch human rights policy. And we will do everything we can to continue improving the position of women and girls, worldwide. Not only because gender equality is crucial for ending violence and building sustainable peace, but also because women’s rights are human rights. Thank you Lorena.

STEF BLOK
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
In 2020, CEHPRODEC in Honduras requested that PBI intervene in a territorial conflict in the region of Minas de Oro in Comayagua, an area where several communities have rejected the presence of mining operations. PBI responded by activating our international support network, which in turn contacted the local authorities with their concerns, resulting in a collaborative spirit between the police and local leaders and a de-escalation of the conflict.

PBI’s calls had immediate impact; the police apologised to the community. Since PBI’s activation the situation has changed and the community is very happy.

DONALD HERNÁNDEZ
CEHPRODEC, Honduras

PBI respects the autonomy and the right to self-determination of all people and sees its services as a complementary contribution to their own peace-building efforts. We do not interfere with the work of the defenders we accompany, nor do we project our own ideas or experiences onto them. Non-partisanship does not mean indifference, neutrality or passivity towards injustice or towards violation of human rights, personal dignity and individual freedom. On the contrary: PBI is fully committed to these values and struggles against violence – physical or structural – as a means of establishing enduring peace. However, we maintain our non-partisanship approach to ensure we can undertake our work as effectively and efficiently as possible.
At PBI, you learn a lot about the sensitive relationships between parties, but also how to deal with them as a neutral mediator...You hear from different sides how a human rights situation is viewed.

LANI TELJOARUBUN
Volunteer in the Netherlands, 2016-2018

In June 2020, the Guatemalan Constitutional Court emitted a sentence recognising the collective right to property of various ch’orti’ communities that PBI accompanies through the Central Farmer Coordination Ch’orti’ Nuevo Dia (CCCND). This sentence promises to cancel mining licences given to extractive projects in the area.

In 2020, PBI provided capacity development to the Nicaraguan Campesino Movement who supported the civil society sectors affected by the State repression of 2018. Our support focused on rebuilding the social fabric of the organisation to enable its members to continue with their work in defence of human rights.

Virtual methodologies allowed for the inclusion of defenders living in exile, along with those who remain in Nicaragua in workshops designed to support consolidation and collective self-care within the group.

I attach huge value to PBI’s accompaniment during the whole legal process of the recognition of the ancestral lands of the Jocotán communities.

OMAR JERÓNIMO
CCCND

“40 years of a Non-Partisan approach
Annual Review 2020
16

1981 – 2021
PBI
Annual Review 2020
40 years creating space for peace

The volatile contexts in which we work mean that PBI is constantly adapting to ensure continued protection and support for HRDs. When the global COVID-19 pandemic made much of our usual work impossible, PBI adapted, seeking out new ways to continue our accompaniment despite the challenging context. In Indonesia, PBI developed a language buddy program to enable Indonesian HRDs to improve their language skills and engage more effectively with the international community. We also supported Kenyan defenders painting murals in urban settlements of Nairobi to raise awareness about gender-based violence within the context of the pandemic.

In Latin America, we made the most out of the physical limitations to encourage greater virtual exchange between projects and HRDs from different contexts who shared best practice in terms of psychosocial well-being in the context of the pandemic.

“I have been threatened on multiple occasions, I was harassed in different ways until I left the country in 2013. But then I found PBI and I could start my work again.”

DINA MEZA

ASOPODEHU
In May 2020, PBI activated its support network in response to illegal military intelligence activities against defenders who contributed to the Peace Process in Colombia. In the Spanish State PBI organised a virtual tour to give Colombian defenders the opportunity to express their specific concerns about the situation to local authorities and parliamentarian groups. This action led to an outpouring of public support and solidarity for defenders, not only in Colombia but also from Guatemala and Honduras where similar attacks are commonplace.

“PBI has had a personal impact on me in many ways: how I express myself, how I approach people and how to understand the best forms of showing support.”

VERÓNICA FERNÁNDEZ PARRO
Volunteer in Honduras, 2018-2021

“...since I joined PBI as a Women Human Rights Defenders toolkit organizer, I have gained recognition in my community and expanded my network.”

ASHA ALI
WHRD Toolkit Organiser, Kenya
Our volunteers and supporters

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, PBI has continued to connect individuals and communities in support of human rights. We have held popular webinars to recruit and train new volunteers and are immensely grateful to all those who support our work financially and through other means.

PBI’s work over the past 40 years would not have been possible without this unwavering international solidarity: a testament to the potential for conflict transformation and peace building across the world.

In 2020, 173 volunteers from 18 countries contributed to PBI’s work across the world, 77% of whom were women. This number is lower than usual given the pandemic restrictions during many months of the year.

The volunteers came from the following countries:
- Australia
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Cataluña
- Colombia
- Germany
- Greece
- Honduras
- Ireland
- Kenya
- Nepal
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Spain
- Switzerland
- UK
- USA
Financial summary

We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work throughout the year.

Who funds PBI?

In order to protect human rights defenders, we rely on the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and religious groups as well as governments and other multilateral funders.

Most of our income from governments and foundations is raised by country groups with project support. Country groups also work closely with our committed individual donors in Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments and multilateral bodies</td>
<td>78.46%</td>
<td>1,998,302 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>15.17%</td>
<td>386,422 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Groups</td>
<td>6.18%</td>
<td>57,515 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
<td>4,922 €</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total income in 2020*  
2,709,561 €

How we spend your money

From every €1 you give us we spend 91 cents protecting defenders and 6.3 cents on ensuring best practice in organisational governance is followed in line with PBI’s principles of non-hierarchy and consensus decision making. The remaining 2.5 cents is used to raise the next €1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International protective accompaniment and other support for human rights defenders</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>2,512,644 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>67,801 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>184,116 €</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Expenditure in 2020*  
2,814,664 €

*All figures are in EURO and subject to final audit. This financial analysis does not include the accounts of PBI country groups which are separate legal entities.
Donors

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)
Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación para el Desarrollo (AExCID)
Agencia Vasca de Cooperación al Desarrollo
Ajuntament de València (País Valencià)
Ajuntament de Vila-real (País Valencià)
Akctionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden
Auswärtige Amt
Austrian Embassy in Mexico
Ayuntamiento de Alicante (País Valencià)
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona
Ayuntamiento de Cantabria
Ayuntamiento de Castellón (País Valencià)
Ayuntamiento de Donostia
Ayuntamiento de Madrid
Ayuntamiento de Pamplona
Ayuntamiento de Santander
Ayuntamiento de Torrelavega
Ayuntamiento de Valladolid

Basauriko Udala (Ayuntamiento de Basauri)
Basilian Human Development Fund
Barreau de Paris Solidarité
Bingo! Die Umwelt Lotterie
Brot für die Welt
Bundesamt für Famille und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
Christian Aid
Czech Republic Embassy in Mexico
DästerSchild Stiftung
Délegation Genève Ville Solidaire (DGVS)
Deutsche Postcode Lotterie
Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA)
Diputación de Córdoba
Donostiako Udala (Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián)
Canadian Local Initiative Fund in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua

Engagement Global – Förderprogramm für Entwicklungspolitische Bildung
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
Evangelische Kirche Deutschland
EZA Basel-Stadt
Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération (FEDEVACO)
Ferster Stiftung
Foundation Internationale pour les Défenseurs des Droits de L’Homme
Fondation Smartpeace
Fonds de solidarité du Barreau de Paris
Fonds pour le développement de la vie associative (FDVA)
Fribourg-Solidaire
Garapenerako Lankidetzaren Euskal Agentzia (Agencia Vasca de Cooperación al Desarrollo)
Gemeente Utrecht
Gobierno de Cantabria
Gobierno de Navarra-Mugarik Gabe
Haëlla Stichting
Huisman Vredesfonds
ICCO Cooperation
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (Zivik – zivile Konfliktbearbeitung)
Katholischer Fonds
Kinder- und Jugendhilfeplan des Bundes
Kirche St. Gallen-Tablat
Kirchgemeinde Wallisellen
Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst
Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law – Knowledge Management Fund
LUSH Charity Pot
Mairie de Paris
Matrix Chambers
Maya Behn-Eschenburg Stiftung
Misereor

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (Nederland)
National Union of Public and General Employee (NUPGE)
Non Violence XXI
Norddeutsche Stiftung für Entwicklung
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Open Society Foundation
Oxfam
Oxfam Solidarité-PBI België
Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Secours Catholique – Caritas France
Service de la Solidarité Internationale (SSI) – République et Canton de Genève
Sisters of Saint Francis Philadelphia
The Netherlands Embassy in Costa Rica
Trocaire
Unifor
Ziviler Friedensdienst (ZFD) // Civil Peace Service
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PBI has been able to train human rights defenders on digital security, wellness and connecting them to empowering opportunities to grow as grassroots defenders.

**SAMUEL KIRIRO**
Ghetto Foundation, Kenya