

Monday 18th May, 2026

VACANCY: FHR Executive Director

Job Title: Executive Director
Organisation: Foundation for Human Rights
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
Application Deadline: 8 June 2026

The FHR (Foundation for Human Rights) is looking for an exceptional Executive Director to lead our organisation into its next chapter of growth and impact. This leadership role will give the successful candidate an opportunity to guide the future direction of the FHR as it seeks to improve access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised communities in South Africa.

You will join a passionate team committed to building a fairer and more just society. This is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy while leading an organisation that values integrity, innovation, collaboration, and impact.

About the Role

The Executive Director will provide visionary leadership, strategic direction, and operational oversight across the organisation. Working closely with the Board, donors, partners, government stakeholders, and communities, the successful candidate will deliver on the core mission of the FHR while building organisational sustainability and strengthening impact.

We are looking for a person who:

- Is a bold, values-driven leader with strong strategic and people management skills;
- Has senior leadership experience within either the NGO, development, social impact, or public sector environment;
- Has hands-on experience of fundraising, stakeholder engagement, governance, and financial oversight;
- Is passionate about social justice, development, and community empowerment in South Africa;
- Has excellent communication and stakeholder engagement abilities
- Demonstrates innovation, adaptability, and resilience in a changing environment;

- Is aware of the possibilities of technology and digital transformation, and how these can be used positively in the social justice sector.

Key Responsibilities

The new Executive Director will be expected to:

- Provide strategic leadership and organisational direction;
- Drive fundraising and partnership development initiatives;
- Ensure sound governance, financial sustainability, and compliance;
- Lead and inspire multidisciplinary teams;
- Represent the organisation nationally and internationally.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will have:

- At least a MA/MSc degree, or equivalent, in a relevant field;
- 5 or more years of leadership experience;
- A proven track record of strategic leadership and management;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Applicants must submit a brief cover letter along with an updated CV, including the contact details of three referees. Please do not include copies of qualifications at this stage.

The deadline for submissions is **5PM on 8 June 2026**. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered for the position.

Only suitably qualified candidates will be considered. The FHR reserves the right to not make an appointment.

Applications should be emailed to **ed-recruit@fhr.org.za**

About the FHR

The FHR was established in 1996 and has worked for nearly three decades to advance human rights and social justice in South Africa. The FHR's current initiatives include collaborations with community-based organisations to combat gender-based violence, supporting the work of human rights defenders representing casual and marginalised workers, and pursuing accountability for apartheid-era gross human rights violations. For more information on our work please see www.fhr.org.za.