



FOR MEDIA USE

# hūmānus

## **hūmānus BACKGROUND**

**Hūmānus: Humanising Justice**

### **Overview & Mission:**

hūmānus is an international human rights organisation dedicated to confronting the root causes of injustice, amplifying the voices of victims of mass atrocities, and pushing for systemic change. Our work is grounded in accountability, dignity, and the power of survivor-led justice. At its core, hūmānus believes that justice must be tangible and rooted in lived experience, not solely legal theory, striving to restore humanity instead of eroding it.

### **History and Evolution: From VAI to hūmānus**

Originally established in 2020 as Victim Advocates International (VAI), hūmānus in 2026 represents a significant evolution in its founding mission. The rebrand reflects a deepened commitment to a comprehensive, human-centred approach to justice. While the name has changed, the unwavering dedication to empowering victims of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity remains at the heart of everything we do. This transition signifies a refined identity that powerfully resonates with the organisation's core values and expansive vision for global human rights advocacy.

### **Our Approach & Methodology: Survivor-Led and Collaborative**

Founded by a global team of experienced advocates, international lawyers, and frontline organisers, hūmānus directly supports survivors of mass atrocities, displacement, and repression. Our approach is deeply collaborative and survivor-centred: we listen first, act with integrity, and always follow the lead of those most affected by harm.

hūmānus also serves as a vital platform for innovation in human rights advocacy. We actively build cutting-edge tools, cultivate extensive networks, and form strategic coalitions that bring new energy and approaches to addressing enduring challenges of impunity. We are committed to supporting those who bravely challenge injustice and advocate for fundamental change, not only in courts and parliaments, but also through the media and the broader public consciousness.



## **Key Areas of Work & Impact**

hūmānus engages in a multifaceted approach to justice that spans continents; from Southeast Asia to East Africa and the Balkans. Our work is unified by a mission to advance inclusive, survivor-led, and transformative justice, achieved through:

- **Strategic Litigation:** Bringing justice to victims before both international and national courts, facilitating legal accountability efforts, and providing expert strategic litigation support.
  - o Representing Rohingya victims in litigation against Meta Inc. for its role in stoking violence against the Rohingya through its promotion of harmful content on its platform.
  - o Representing Rohingya victims in criminal proceedings under universal jurisdiction in Argentina for the abuses and violations against them.
  - o Representing Rohingya victims before the International Criminal Court and advocating for relocation of the Court to be closer to affected communities.
  - o Representing two Somali victims of US drone strikes to access their ex-gratia payments for the loss and harm they have suffered.
- **Meticulous Documentation:** Building robust evidence for justice via human rights documentation and investigative work, ensuring that crimes are not forgotten, and perpetrators are held accountable. This includes gathering testimonies from thousands of survivors.
  - o Over 3000 cases of human rights violations against the Rohingya community have been documented and used in litigation against Meta Inc, in proceedings in the International Criminal Court.
  - o Tracking the detention of over 100 Rohingya asylum seekers abroad subjected to arbitrary detention for the purpose of litigation to secure their release.
  - o Documentation curated by hūmānus is being utilised in civil litigation to calculate damages owed to the Rohingya community.
- **Impactful Advocacy:** Partnering with communities to design holistic strategies that centre their dignity, safety, and goals beyond traditional legal forums. This includes vital work in memorialisation, truth-telling initiatives, reparations for survivors, and systemic reform.
  - o Established a new international precedent for Rohingya refugee resettlement from Bangladesh, facilitating the relocation of over 60 family members and colleagues following the assassination of our client, Mohibullah.
  - o Trusted briefings for States and UN agencies including appearing before the Informal Working Group on Myanmar.
  - o Prioritising alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, allows us to secure vital client outcomes where legal mechanisms are unavailable. This has led to achievements like third-country resettlement, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and the development of victim-centred policies.
- **Movement Support:** Robustly supporting local actors and broader movements that challenge impunity and advocate for change.



- o In Ethiopia, hūmānus has supported three victim groups, enabling them to prepare policy papers, undertake documentation, and participate in national dialogues addressing their needs.
- o Facilitated experience sharing exchanges between Rohingya and South Sudanese victims' groups on effective advocacy.
- o Established direct connection between Rohingya refugees and international mechanisms through virtual Q&As and Know Your Justice initiative on social media.

### **Leadership**

**Eva Buzo, Founder and Executive Director:** Eva Buzo established Victim Advocates International (now hūmānus) with a profound commitment to empowering victims of atrocities. As an accomplished international lawyer and advocate, her vision guides hūmānus's strategic direction and its relentless pursuit of human-centred justice globally.

### **The Name: hūmānus**

The name "hūmānus" directly reflects the organisation's foundational values. Derived from Latin, it means 'humane,' 'kind,' and 'belonging to people.' This defines the very essence of the justice hūmānus seeks: one that restores humanity, rather than stripping it away. The organisation undertakes this crucial work with humility, consistently recognising the leadership of survivors and the extraordinary bravery of communities demanding accountability for international crimes. Hūmānus: Humanising Justice.

**Website:** [www.humanus.co](http://www.humanus.co)

### **Social Media:**

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook](#)
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