



Ben Peterson

Co-Founder and Executive Director, jhr
(Journalists for Human Rights)

Ben Peterson is the co-founder and executive director of Journalists for Human Rights (jhr), Canada's largest international media development organization. Its goal is to make every person on earth fully aware of their rights. By mobilizing the media to spark human rights dialogue, jhr informs people about rights, empowering marginalized communities to stand up, speak out and protect themselves.

Since its founding in 2002, jhr has harnessed the power of the media in 15 different countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including major operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia and Sierra Leone. The organization has also established a presence in universities and high schools across North America, empowering students to spread rights awareness in their communities.

Mr. Peterson holds bachelor's degrees in economics and political studies (honours) from Queen's University, and a master's degree in political theory from the London School of Economics (LSE).

He has received many national and international awards for his work, including Canada's Top 40 under 40 Award, the Action Canada Fellowship and the Queen's University Alumni Humanitarian Award. A published author and accomplished public speaker, Mr. Peterson has been featured, along with profiles of the work being done by jhr, in the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, and on the CBC, among other media outlets.
