Supplementary information

Otherwise inert reaction of sulfonamides/carboxamides with formamides via proton transfer-enhanced reactivity

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I. General

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without treatment, unless otherwise indicated. The products were purified by column chromatography over silica gel. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Varian 500 MHz and 125 MHz, respectively, and TMS as internal standard. Elemental analyses were measured on an E-2400 analyzer (Perkin-Elmer). Mass spectra were recorded on Agilient 1100 LCMsD mass spectrometer.

II. DFT-calculations on the proposed hydrogen bond activation.

All of the DFT calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 suite of programs. B3LYP3 method and the 6-31G* basis set were used for the geometry optimization of all the minima and transition states. Frequency analysis were carried out at the same level of theory to check the stationary points to be real minima or saddle points, and to evaluate its zero-point vibration energy (ZPVE).

Reaction a:





Figure S1. Structures of intermediates and transition states for reaction a (TsNH₂ and DMF).



Figure S2. DFT-computed energy profile for reaction a.

III. DFT-calculations on the proposed halogen activated hydrogen bond activation

Reaction b:



Figure S3. Structures of intermediates and transition states for reaction b (PhSO₂NHBr and DMF), in whichCom1b, TS1b and Int1b correspond to 6-8 in the main text, respectively.



Figure S4. DFT-computed energy profile for reaction b.

IV. Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for compounds 3 and 5











































































