

### Working Definition of Human Rights Grantmaking (August 1, 2011)

Human rights grantmaking empowers individuals, communities and institutions to promote the protection and enjoyment of the rights enumerated below. These rights are based on those in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and draw on ideas expressed in more recent international covenants and conventions. These rights apply across all identities, thus specific identity groups are not explicitly referenced within this definition. Human rights grantmaking has a special focus on, or duty to, support the efforts of disadvantaged or marginalized populations.

A grant or grants programme is defined as human rights funding if it seeks systemic change in the implementation of the rights that follow through the strategic application of philanthropic funds for or to individuals, communities, institutions, and movements.

Human rights grantmaking seeks systemic change through support of a range of approaches, including, but not limited to:

- Public education and awareness-raising concerning the existence of human rights and how to exercise them;
- Policy advocacy to ensure that states and non-state actors recognize, conform to, and implement international human rights standards;
- Documentation, monitoring, reporting and fact-finding to expose human rights violations and their perpetrators;
- Assistance to individuals and communities in seeking remedies for violations, including truthseeking, reparations, litigation, and policy change, to uphold human rights and hold abusers accountable;
- Research and scholarship to define the content of rights and develop norms within the field;
- Direct services to individuals and communities, if in conjunction with another strategy in pursuit of structural change;
- Media and technology to promote human rights standards and to assist human rights defenders;
- Work that seeks to transform cultures and social structures to be more respectful of human rights;
- Networking, coalition-, and social movement-building to further the effectiveness of a global human rights movement; and
- Capacity building, technical assistance and evaluation for individuals, organizations and states engaged in the above work.

Categories of human rights:

#### A: Access to Justice/Equality Before the Law:

Right to recognition as a person before the law.

Right to equality before the law.

Right to a remedy by a competent tribunal.

Freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile.

Right to habeas corpus.  
Right to a fair public hearing.  
Right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

*B: Labor Rights:*

Right to social security.  
Right to desirable work.  
Right to form and to join trade unions.

*C: Health and Well-Being:*

Right to an adequate living standard for health and well-being, including adequate food, clothing and housing.  
Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.  
Right to rest and leisure.

*D: Education:*

Right to education, without segregation or other barriers.

*E: Cultural Rights:*

Right to participate in the cultural life of a community.  
Right to engage in community duties essential to free and full development.

*F: Individual Integrity, Liberty and Security:*

Right to equality.  
Freedom from discrimination  
Right to life, liberty and personal security.  
Freedom from slavery.  
Freedom from torture and degrading treatment.  
Freedom from violence.  
Freedom from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence.  
Right to marriage and family.  
Right to own property.  
Freedom of belief and religion.  
Freedom of opinion, expression and access to information.  
Freedom from state or personal interference in all the rights articulated here.  
Right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children and have access to the information, education and means to enable the exercise of this right.

*G: Migration and Refugees:*

Right to free movement within a country and the right to leave and return.  
Right to asylum in other countries from persecution.  
Right to a nationality and freedom to change nationality.

*H: Civic and Political Participation:*

Right of peaceful assembly and association.  
Right to participate in government and free elections.  
Right to live in the community, with full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

I: Environmental and Resource Rights:

Right to a healthy environment.

Right to share in and determine the distribution of lands, territories, and resources.