

Funding  
Human  
Rights:

an  
invitation

Bridging Many Fields  
Employing Many Strategies  
Achieved in Many Ways  
Worldwide



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

# Abbreviated version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights\*

**Article 1:** Right to Equality

**Article 2:** Freedom from Discrimination

**Article 3:** Right to Life, Liberty, and Personal Security

**Article 4:** Freedom from Slavery

**Article 5:** Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment

**Article 6:** Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law

**Article 7:** Right to Equality before the Law

**Article 8:** Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal

**Article 9:** Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile

**Article 10:** Right to Fair Public Hearing

**Article 11:** Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty

**Article 12:** Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, and Correspondence

**Article 13:** Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country

**Article 14:** Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution

**Article 15:** Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It

**Article 16:** Right to Marriage and Family

**Article 17:** Right to Own Property

**Article 18:** Freedom of Belief and Religion

**Article 19:** Freedom of Opinion and Information

**Article 20:** Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association

**Article 21:** Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections

**Article 22:** Right to Social Security

**Article 23:** Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions

**Article 24:** Right to Rest and Leisure

**Article 25:** Right to Adequate Living Standard

**Article 26:** Right to Education

**Article 27:** Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community

**Article 28:** Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document

**Article 29:** Right to fulfill Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development

**Article 30:** Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

\*Amnesty International,  
*Speak Truth to Power*, 2000

This booklet is a modest attempt to share an enormous gift—human rights and their potential to transform people's lives. We are continuously learning from our grantees as they carry forth in their courageous and vital efforts to realize the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We hope their stories will inspire you as they have us.

# To Our Grantmaking Colleagues

We have written this booklet for you. It is a collection of stories, insights and lessons gathered by our members in the course of funding human rights organizations around the world. Each of the stories herein—and countless others—demonstrate the power of human rights in enabling people to identify and tackle the problems that prevent them from living truly full human lives. As you will see, their efforts not only inspire hope but also produce remedies for the global threats to people's security and wellbeing.

The UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th, 1948 as a set of minimum standards that people everywhere require to live in dignity. Since then, human rights have evolved into sophisticated ethical standards elaborated in a variety of international treaties with mechanisms to hold those in power accountable for violations. Awareness of these rights and governments' responsibilities to protect them has motivated people around the world to seek genuine change.

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This is an open invitation to join us in the exploration of what human rights have to contribute to your current grantmaking objectives. As you embark on your exploration, we at the International Human Rights Funders Group will be delighted to assist you in any way that we can.

*International Human Rights Funders Group*

IHRFG is an international network of foundation staff and trustees and individual philanthropists committed to advancing human rights around the world. Currently our members represent over 250 grantmaking institutions.

Human rights  
are international  
ethical standards  
that:

**uphold as a birthright** the minimum  
all people require to live in dignity and  
to fulfill their potential;

**affirm as inalienable** a spectrum of  
rights—civil, cultural, economic, political  
and social—that can neither be bestowed  
as charity nor withheld as punishment;

What is the  
relationship of  
Human Rights  
to Social Justice?

What is the  
relationship of  
Human Rights  
to Humanitarian  
efforts?



**assert every individual's and community's right** to live free from both fear and want;

**empower people to act** to protect this birthright for themselves and others;


**confer responsibility** on all governments to respect, protect and fulfill people's human rights;

**evaluate governments** by how well they meet those obligations both domestically and internationally;

**remind us** that what is required to live a fully human life must be available to all people everywhere and cannot be claimed by some and denied others.

Human rights and social justice share a vision of a world in which equality and non-discrimination prevail. To achieve such a world, human rights work specifically makes use of the unifying language, morally and legally binding standards, institutional mechanisms, and the growing global consensus rooted in the Universal Declaration and international human rights law. By providing a framework for organizing, litigating, advocating and educating, human rights are inspiring people the world over to seek what is rightly theirs.

Humanitarian and human rights work are complementary and mutually enhancing. Humanitarian aid provides essential services to meet the vital needs of communities the world over. Human rights help ensure that governments meet international standards and comply with laws to protect people throughout the world. Working together, human rights and humanitarian efforts alleviate human suffering today while working to prevent it tomorrow.



**COORDENAÇÃO**

**Sindjus/RS**

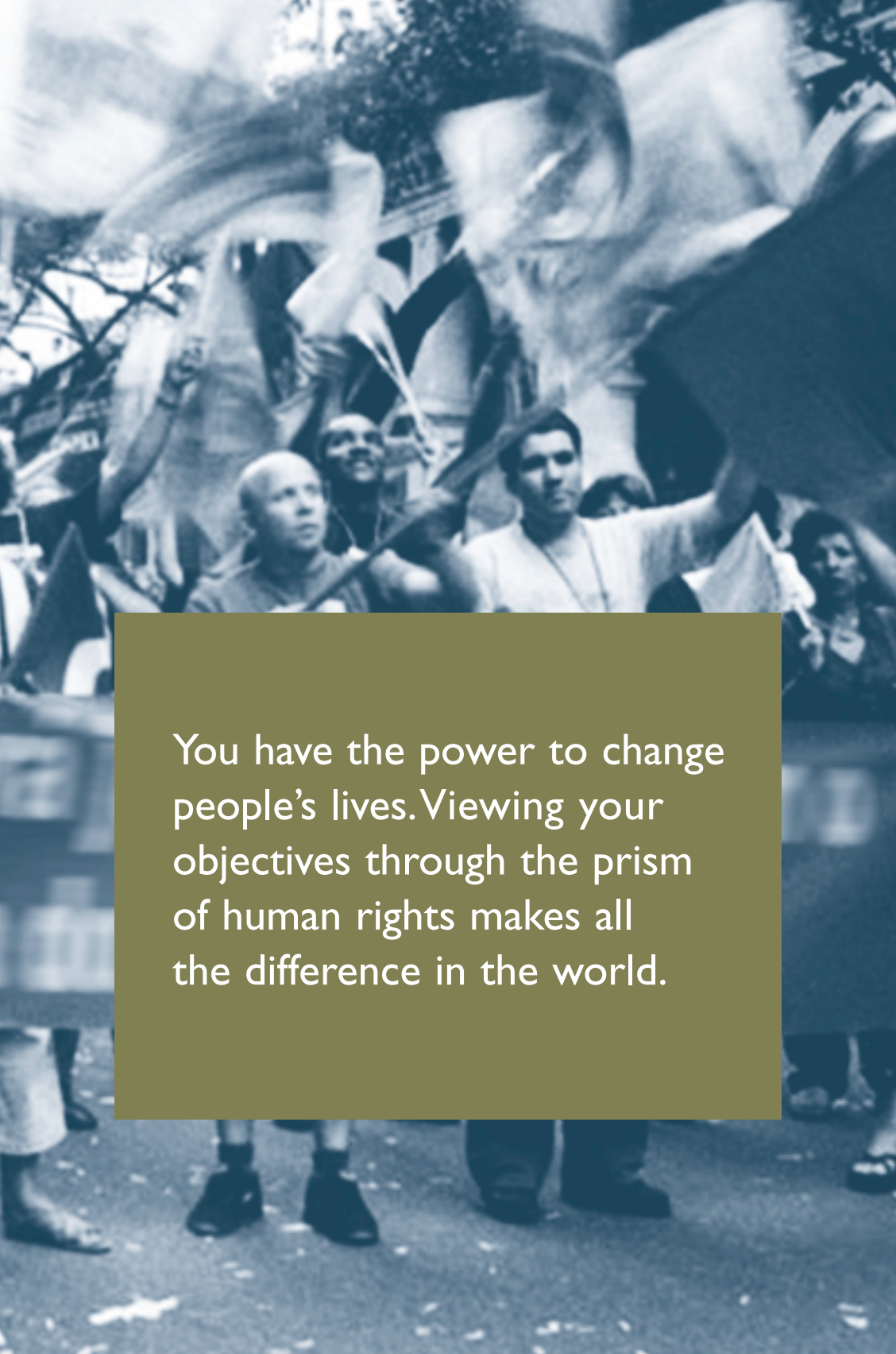
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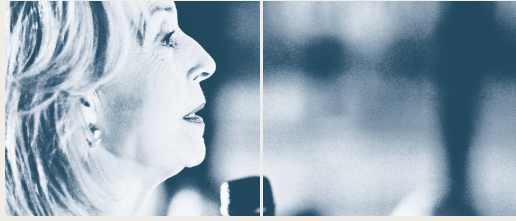
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You have the power to change  
people's lives. Viewing your  
objectives through the prism  
of human rights makes all  
the difference in the world.



## The Human Rights of Women

“Only with human rights standards and tools could we have accomplished what we did,” notes Krishanti Dharmaraj, founder and executive director of WILD for Human Rights. Dorothy Q. Thomas, a senior consultant with the Shaler Adams Foundation, a funder of WILD adds, “We were able to move beyond outreach and exposure to compel government to do its job.”

*“States Parties shall take in all fields...all appropriate measures...to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.” (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 3)*

In 1998, women’s rights advocates in the San Francisco Bay Area secured the passage of groundbreaking legislation that has bettered the lives of Bay Area women and their families. The legislation, based on an international women’s human rights treaty, means that Bay Area women and their families enjoy greater access to health care, improved public safety infrastructure, equitable jobs in the city, and are better served by a new system which more equitably distributes government monies.

Bay Area advocates turned to an international treaty known as CEDAW, or the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, because local and state law proved inadequate to ensure women’s equal access to government services. Led by the [Women’s Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights \(WILD for Human Rights\)](#), a San Francisco-based human rights organization, advocates identified provisions in CEDAW which, when integrated into city laws, would

strengthen the city’s ability to assess and address the needs of its women residents. Working with a wide range of allies—city government members, policy makers, anti-violence advocates and advocates for economic justice—WILD for Human Rights led an education and advocacy campaign around the meaning of CEDAW and the proposal to incorporate its provisions into local law. WILD and its allies organized a public hearing at which city government officials heard testimony on the treaty’s relevance to the lives of San Francisco’s women, especially for women of color. As a result, in April 1998, the Mayor of San Francisco signed an ordinance integrating CEDAW into local law. The legislation also makes government processes and service delivery more transparent, inclusive, and participatory. The success of the campaign in San Francisco has sparked similar efforts to secure the incorporation of CEDAW into local law in New York City, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, and Boston.



## The Human Right to Education

“For many of our education grantees, human rights has long been at the core,” explains Catherine Shimony of the American Jewish World Service. AJWS did not always think of itself as a human rights funder, and educated its board about the importance of integrating human rights strategies into its grantmaking. Once the board approved, “AJWS began playing a big game of human-rights catch-up with our grantees. We began to explicitly support grassroots organizations in using human rights tools to achieve their educational and advocacy goals.”

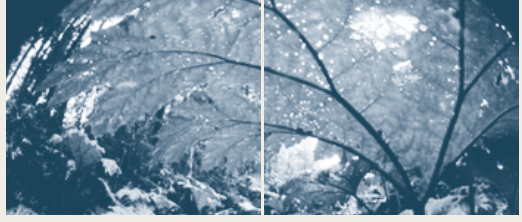
*“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages...Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26)*

A growing number of educators and activists successfully use human rights tools to improve children’s access to education. Advocates in India and Tanzania exemplify this trend.

In 1999, the [South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude](#) in India launched a national, multi-year campaign to gain passage of a right-to-education constitutional amendment. With funding from the Netherlands Organization for International Development (NOVIB), educators and activists successfully shifted the terms of the national education debate, with the result that the government acknowledged a responsibility to enforce the right of elementary school age children to free schooling. The right-to-education amendment, enacted in 2003, is expected to improve the lives of millions of children in India, where over 100-150 million children age 5-14 are not attending school. Fully one-third of Indian children under age 16 are engaged in child labor, many in hazardous industries, and India leads the world in the number of its adult citizens who are illiterate. “With a guaranteed right to education,” notes NOVIB’s former Principal Advisor for India and Nepal,

Dr. Sudhanshu Joshi, “even the most marginal, rural parent of ten can go to the local District Magistrate and demand school for her child.” “Denial of education is tantamount to denying the very existence of a child,” asserts Kailash Satyarthi, a leading Indian child labor activist and one of the principal organizers of the campaign for education. “One of the most important practical solutions to the problem of child labor is free, compulsory and quality education.”

Education activists in Tanzania have likewise used a human rights framework to change the terms of debate in their country. The Tanzanian organization [HakiElimu](#) believes all Tanzanians can and should enjoy their right to a quality education. “Our aim in Tanzania,” notes Rakesh Rajani, co-founder and director, “is to transform basic education by promoting public participation in schools’ governance.” Though Rajani remains aware of the limitations of relying on human rights language when mechanisms to enforce compliance are limited—“rights language only goes so far [in those cases]”—he says public participation forces government to recognize that universal access to education is “not an act of charity, but a right that trumps other priorities.”



## The Human Right to a Sound and Sustainable Environment

“While human rights and the environment are distinct fields,” notes Mary Robinson, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, “their interdependence is now broadly recognized.” Echoing this discovery, Helena Brykarz, Program Executive with the Goldman Fund, adds “We all acknowledge that human rights are important. We know that environmental protection is critical. Imagine the power of the two movements combined.”

*"All persons have the right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound environment."*  
(Draft Declaration of Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, 1994)

In the last decade, human rights activists and environmental defenders have teamed up with remarkable success. One such example is [EarthRights International](#), which brought together activists, lawyers, and organizers. In 1996, EarthRights International and its allies sued the California-based oil giant Unocal on behalf of Burmese villagers forced out of their homes and conscripted into building a natural gas pipeline in Burma. In 2004 their case went to trial, marking the first time that a corporation has been tried for human rights abuses committed overseas. In both this, and in a similar case under the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) in federal court, judges have declared that Unocal knew about and benefited from human rights abuses such as forced labor, torture and killing in Burma. Although the US Supreme Court will decide on the future of the ATCA in its 2004 term, both human rights and environmental organizations have been galvanized by the Unocal case, and are already testing legal strategies to demand real accountability for human rights and environmental abuses.

Human rights activists and environmental defenders again joined forces to win an important legal victory in the case of Aleksandr Nikitin, a former Soviet submarine captain wrongfully charged with espionage in July 1999. Nikitin had exposed the Russian government's role in illegal ocean dumping of nuclear waste. [Amnesty International](#), the world's oldest grassroots human rights organization, joined forces with the [Sierra Club](#), one of the world's largest environmental organizations, to call attention to environmental pollution as a violation of human rights. Amnesty adopted Nikitin as a "prisoner of conscience" and engaged tens of thousands of its members in writing letters to the Russian government demanding his release, while the Sierra Club launched an effective public appeal to members of the U.S. Congress. In December 1999, charges of high treason against Nikitin were dropped with the case closed for good in September 2000.



## The Human Rights of the Mentally Disabled

“When dissidents were detained in Soviet psychiatric hospitals, human rights advocates spoke out. We need the same outcry to rescue people with mental disabilities who languish in institutions around the world today,” urges Eric Rosenthal, Executive Director, MDRI. “Efforts to protect the mentally ill, frequently the most vulnerable and stigmatized among us, are a measure of any society’s common decency. Funding those efforts can be immensely rewarding,” adds A. Joshua Sherman, Conanima Foundation Trustee.



*“... all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and thus unreservedly include persons with disabilities. Every person is born equal and has the same rights to life and welfare, education and work, living independently, and active participation in all aspects of society.” (The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1993)*

In the 1980's, mental health advocates began to use a human rights framework to improve conditions for people with psychiatric illness and mental retardation. One group, Washington, DC-based [Mental Disability Rights International](#) (MDRI), embarked on a campaign to end the abuse and segregation from society of people with mental disabilities. Over the last decade, MDRI has conducted investigations in 21 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.

In the 1990's, MDRI teamed up with New York City-based [WITNESS](#), a human rights organization that helps activists use video technology to document rights abuses. In 1998-99, MDRI's staff, aided by local activists, gained access to dilapidated psychiatric hospitals in Mexico. They filmed barely-clothed patients denied medical care and living in filthy, subhuman conditions. MDRI wrote a groundbreaking report and eventually saw its video footage edited into a documentary called *Forgotten People*. CNN, ABC's 20/20 and Telemundo each broadcast television specials using excerpts from MDRI's report and footage from *Forgotten People*.

MDRI used the footage to gain access to new judicial bodies and to set legal precedents. In March 2000, it presented its documentary evidence to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. For the first time ever, the judges at the Commission raised concerns about conditions in Mexico's psychiatric facilities in their annual report on human rights in Mexico.

The combined exposure pressured the Mexican government to acknowledge the extent of abuse and take steps to correct it. In late 2000, the government closed the notorious Ocaranza facility, where MDRI had conducted a three-year investigation, and 280 patients were moved to transitional homes or small, supported apartments in the community.

MDRI's use of a human rights framework continues to improve international understanding of the problem of abuse of people with psychiatric illness and mental retardation. In 2001, MDRI provided documentation for Amnesty International's first "urgent action" on abuses in Bulgarian mental institutions. Likewise, the U.S. Department of State in 2001 incorporated excerpts from *Forgotten People* into a training video for its human rights staff.

# Human Rights achieve so much by:

**calling attention** to what we should expect from governments and the international human rights obligations to which all governments are equally accountable;

**showing** us when and how governments have succeeded or failed to meet their legally-binding human rights obligations;

**developing, articulating and refining** standards that we all require to live fully human lives;

**practicing** inclusionary, participatory, and comprehensive approaches to problems;



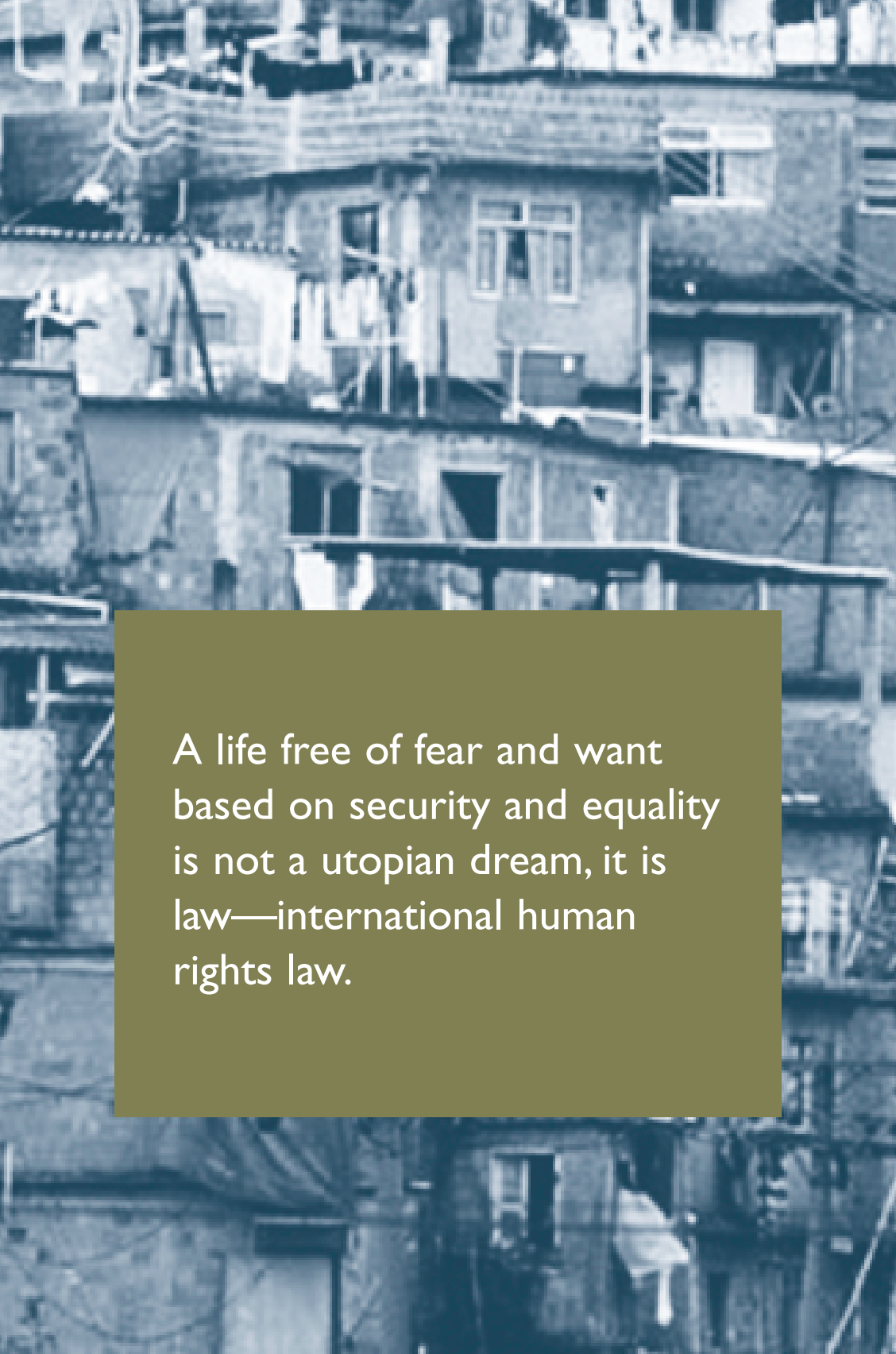
**linking** the efforts of various constituencies (such as minorities, the disabled, women, workers, and indigenous peoples) working on a variety of issues (such as discrimination, education, civil liberties, health care, and environmental justice) in their common pursuit of fundamental human rights;

**empowering** individuals and communities to advocate to secure and protect their rights and to identify, document and report rights violations.

Ultimately, they contribute to the growing international efforts to improve the human condition.



ANTE  
CASBRA

A blue-tinted photograph of a multi-story tenement building. Laundry is hanging on balconies and lines across the front of the building. The building has multiple windows and a complex structure with many small openings.

A life free of fear and want  
based on security and equality  
is not a utopian dream, it is  
law—international human  
rights law.

# Bridging Many Fields

Human rights approaches have led to gains in a variety of fields, including:

Housing/Labor/Health/Justice/Education

## Housing

In 1996, the [Social and Economic Rights Action Center](#) in Nigeria assisted residents of 15 major slums—an estimated 1.2 million people—who sought to protect their communities from forced evictions planned by the Lagos state government during the implementation of the Lagos Drainage and Sanitation Project. The Center's actions helped freeze the project in 1998, stopping evictions which would have displaced residents from their homes and businesses. The Center's staff continues to work closely with communities to ensure that the Lagos state government and other government entities respect the community's right to adequate housing.

## Labor

In March 2003, after years of campaigning led by [Centro Mujeres](#) and other organizations, the President of Mexico mandated the banning of pregnancy testing, as well as discrimination against pregnant women in the federal workplace. For years, Mexican women had to prove that they were not pregnant in order to keep their jobs. Women who became pregnant were routinely fired. Centro Mujeres launched a state-wide campaign in Baja California Sur to raise awareness among women and employers regarding these discriminatory practices. In October 1998, women's organizations held a national tribunal on work and maternity. Cases of women fired when they became pregnant and of women compelled to undergo pregnancy testing for employment were presented to government Ministers as well as to Members of Congress. The publicity generated by the tribunal and the campaign led by Centro Mujeres compelled public officials to respond to women's demands.

## Health

About 3.5 million inhabitants of the Argentinean pampas are at risk for a widespread disease, Argentine Hemorrhagic Fever. In 1996, the government stopped funding the production of the vaccine that prevents the disease. In response, the [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#) claimed that the rights to life and health of people at risk were being violated, and that the government was obliged to produce the vaccine. In 1999, the National Appeals Court ruled that the State was obliged to produce the vaccine and established a time frame for compliance. The Court also ruled that if, as a result of economic reasons or commercial interests, private institutions did not attend to the health of the population, the State would be responsible for securing the necessary resources to confront the disease. The State is now adopting the proper measures to produce the vaccine, which is expected to be provided to the entire population at risk in the near future.

## Justice

On October 19, 2001, internationally-known human rights lawyer Digna Ochoa was assassinated in her office in Mexico City. Among her clients were political prisoners Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, members of the Organization of Campesino Environmentalists (OCE) from Guerrero. Two weeks before Digna was killed, she visited the OCE in the community of Banco Nuevo, Guerrero. An OCE member who was trained and equipped by the [Chiapas Media Project/Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria](#) videotaped the trip. The footage included a serious confrontation with the Mexican army in which Digna stood up to threats and harassment. After the assassination, OCE members took this video footage to Mexico City, where it was shown extensively and continues to be broadcast on national television news. The graphic footage helped create political momentum leading to the release of Rodolfo and Teodoro. The video was also the primary source of evidence for the Attorney General's office as they investigated the assassination of Digna.

## Education

In 1998, the authorities of Simon Bolivar University, a public Venezuelan institution, introduced a compulsory monthly fee of \$100 for each student. Noting that this violated the right to education for many low-income students, the [Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos \(PROVEA\)](#) embarked on a human rights education campaign and appealed to the courts, arguing that the State was constitutionally bound to provide free education at all levels and that the elimination of free education contradicted the principle of "progressive realization" in international human rights law. In late 1998, the First Court of Appeals in Administrative Matters ordered the University to reinstate free education for all students. Venezuela's new 1999 Constitution recognizes the right to a free education for all.

# Employing Many Strategies

Human rights objectives have been achieved through a variety of strategies, including:

Legal Action/Public Advocacy and Community Organizing/  
Education/Fact-Finding and Reporting/Training

## Legal Action

In 1995, the Awas Tingni community in Nicaragua learned that the government planned to give a Korean company logging rights to their traditional lands without their consent. Failing to obtain redress in Nicaraguan courts, the Awas Tingni and the [Indian Law Resource Center](#) took the case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. When Nicaragua ignored the Commission's decision, the Commission in 1998 asked the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hear the case. The Court's ruling, in August 2001, affirmed states' obligations under international human rights law to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to their traditional lands, and ordered Nicaragua to demarcate such land and compensate the Awas Tingni community. In January 2003, Nicaragua passed a law affirming indigenous property rights and establishing a mechanism to delimit, demarcate, and give title to indigenous lands. Nicaragua has since met a Court-ordered award equivalent to \$50,000 for damages, by constructing a student hostel requested by the community that enables 80 of its youth to attend high school and university in the city.

## Public Advocacy and Community Organizing

Lacking organization and protection, street traders in the Philippines were routinely subjected to extortion, demolition of their stalls and arbitrary arrest. In 1998, the advocacy efforts of [CARE Philippines](#), in partnership with the [Coalition for the Recognition and Empowerment of Street Traders](#), resulted in the passage of seven pro-trader local ordinances and, in one city, the issuance of a temporary stop to demolition of 200 street vendors' structures. Assisted by lawyers and universities'



legal clinics, the Coalition established quick reaction teams to provide street vendors with legal defense against harassment and human rights violations by the authorities, and continues to document violations.

### Education

In Senegal, [Tostan's Village Empowerment Program](#) combines literacy education with local problem solving—most dramatically in a campaign to end female genital cutting (FGC) village by village. Through its integrated approach to human rights and literacy education, Tostan has achieved unprecedented results since 1997. Close to 1,271 villages in Senegal—more than 19% of the total number of villages practicing FGC—have publicly declared their commitment to ending that practice.

### Fact-finding and Reporting

In 1998, the Honduran government passed the General Mining Law to encourage foreign investment in mining. The law gave rise to the rapid and inadequately regulated growth of the gold-mining industry and resulted in the forced eviction of entire communities, contamination of local water supplies, respiratory diseases, and deforestation. In early 2001, the [Center for Economic and Social Rights](#) investigated the human rights violations and published its findings in a report presented to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in April 2001. The Committee used the report to develop recommendations for the Honduran government to improve regulatory oversight of the mining industry. The Center for Economic and Social Rights followed up by holding workshops and meetings with local groups regarding the recommendations. Ultimately, these meetings led to an initiative to build a national grassroots movement around gold mining, using human rights to strengthen their negotiating position with the government and mining companies.

### Training

During the May 1998 riots in Jakarta and other Indonesian cities, many women were victims of rape. Because police officers lacked training to work effectively with women survivors of violence, women often did not report the rapes to the police or seek help. In Yogyakarta district, [Rifka Annisa Women's Crisis Center](#) sought to establish a network of women's police desks within police departments and hospitals, with officers trained and equipped to serve female survivors of violence. The Crisis Center developed a training module and workshop that included police officers, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, survivors of violence, and women activists. Within five months of completion of training for female police officers, a special unit was set up in each of the districts' five police stations, institutionalizing a culturally sensitive mechanism for enforcing laws concerning violence against women.

# Achieved in Many Ways

Human rights have led to a variety of outcomes, including:

Allocation of Resources to Fulfill Rights/ Legislation to Secure Rights/ Raising of Rights Standards/ Prevention of Violation of Rights/ Restitution for Violation of Rights

## Allocation of Resources to Fulfill Rights

The efforts of [Citizen Action Against AIDS](#) resulted in over 10,000 people gaining access to treatment at no cost as well as better HIV/AIDS and health assistance in Venezuela. The development in 1996 of the new generation of anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) against HIV was a major pharmaceutical advance in the battle against the epidemic. Most people who tested positive for HIV in Venezuela, however, could not afford treatment. Human rights law provided the legal argument against the denial of access to ARV treatment on the grounds of its high costs.

## Legislation to Secure Rights

In 2001, the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#) and the [Forum for Women, Law and Development](#) of Nepal conducted an in-depth fact-finding mission to document the plight of Nepali women imprisoned for allegedly undergoing abortions. A human rights report and an advocacy kit for legislators were released at the National Event for Gender Equality in March 2002, which later that month helped garner support for the adoption of a bill that made abortion legal on broad grounds. Until then, Nepal's laws denied women access to safe abortion services, and resulted in prosecution and imprisonment of women accused of having abortions, with little regard for their rights as defendants and prisoners. The report continues to be the basis for advocacy to release women still in prison under the prior law. As of March 2004, about thirty women of the fifty known to be still in prison have been released.

### Raising of Rights Standards

In 2001, the [National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) helped Andrea Yates, who suffered from postpartum psychosis, to escape a death sentence after drowning her five children. The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty carried out a human rights education campaign to raise the awareness of the general public—the potential pool of jurors—regarding other nations' more progressive policies in cases of postpartum psychosis. The campaign and vigil organized to support Ms. Yates and her family saturated the media. In March 2002, Ms. Yates was spared the death penalty in a county that leads in death penalty convictions in the U.S.

### Prevention of Violation of Rights

In 1992, Occidental Petroleum purchased from the Colombian government oil-drilling rights to the land of the U'wa, a tribe of 5,000 people in Northeastern Colombia. After exhausting domestic legal remedies, the [U'wa Defense Working Group](#) combined public advocacy, international pressure and legal action to achieve the enforcement of international human rights law regarding indigenous land rights. In late April 2002, after spending in excess of \$100 million, Occidental Petroleum announced that they were renouncing all rights to drill on the U'wa tribe's territory. For the present, the U'wa have succeeded in protecting their land.

### Restitution for Violation of Rights

In 1995, while police stood back and watched, a mob of several hundred non-Roma residents looted and set on fire the homes and other possessions of the Roma residents of Danilovgrad, in southwestern Yugoslavia. The Budapest-based [European Roma Rights Center](#), in a significant legal victory for the Roma, successfully petitioned the UN Committee Against Torture to find that the demolitions and evictions comprised "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." In response, in 2003, Montenegro agreed to pay 985,000 euros in compensation to the 74 Romani people made homeless in the Danilovgrad pogrom.

# Worldwide

The value and power of human rights has been made evident in a variety of countries, including:

In [Argentina](#), a national nutritional security program, financed by the World Bank and aimed at improving the diet of the neediest citizens, was saved by the efforts of the [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#). The Center denounced a proposed 68% budget cut before the World Bank Inspection Panel. The budget cut would have jeopardized the nutrition program's existence, thereby violating the right to food. In response, the Argentinean government allocated an additional \$4.5 million to the Garden Program, providing support for 2.7 million people.

In [Pakistan](#), [NetAid's](#) World Schoolhouse program is securing the right to education for children of the country's North West Frontier Province, where almost 18 million of Pakistan's 153 million people live, and where the literacy rate for rural women is as low as 17%. Through debates led by local religious leaders and the establishment of community schools as an alternative to the local madrasas

(religious schools), this program has increased community support for educating both girls and boys, and has put over 13,000 children in school.

In [Egypt](#), the [Egyptian Center for Housing Rights](#) appealed to the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Housing, who in turn worked to persuade the Egyptian Minister of Housing to respect the country's international human rights treaty obligations. This and other actions by the Center helped prevent the demolition of 25 houses in a poor district in Cairo, until alternative housing had been provided. The Egyptian Center for Housing Rights continues to monitor closely the situation of people moved to alternative housing.

In the [U.S.](#), California's [Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#) is documenting, exposing and challenging human rights abuses in the U.S. criminal justice system. The Center launched a public education campaign called "Books Not



Bars,” with the goal of shifting state public resources away from incarceration and towards education. In May of 2003, after two years of campaigning, Books Not Bars successfully persuaded local officials to abandon their plans to relocate and expand a detention facility for young people. Another campaign to stop a “super jail” for youth succeeded in blocking \$2.3 million in state funding for the new juvenile hall.

In [Nigeria](#), the government cracked down on protestors who opposed the environmental degradation resulting from drilling by the Royal Dutch/Shell oil company. Among the victims of the crackdown was Ken Saro-Wiwa, the internationally renowned writer and activist eventually executed by the Nigerian government. Victims of the crackdown are seeking redress with the assistance of the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#).

And on the island of Mindanao in [the Philippines](#), settlers and plantation owners commonly displace indigenous communities from their ancestral lands. After years of persecution, villagers turned to [NAKAMATA](#), a consortium of indigenous groups, and to [WITNESS](#), a U.S. based human rights organization. Together, they produced a video which documented attacks on landless peasants and was broadcast on the top Philippine investigative TV show. Under pressure from local and international groups, the government conducted a thorough investigation in early 2002, resulting in arrests and prosecution of the individuals deemed responsible for the attacks.

# Resources

## Websites

### American Association for the Advancement of Science–Science and Human Rights Program

<http://shr.aaas.org/thesaurus/>

The on-line thesaurus assists readers to explore economic, social and cultural rights, related concepts, issues, and potential violations of these rights.

### ESCR-Net–International Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

[www.escr-net.org](http://www.escr-net.org)

A global coalition of organizations and activists dedicated to advancing economic, social and cultural rights. It contains four interactive, searchable databases of organizations and individuals; projects and activities; regional and domestic case law; and events.

### HURISEARCH

[www.hurisearch.org](http://www.hurisearch.org)

A tool for searching human rights information on the Internet and sites of human rights organizations in 58 languages.

### International Human Rights Funders Group

[www.hrfunders.org](http://www.hrfunders.org)

Designed both for funders and grantseekers, the site is organized around 28 human rights, includes articles, publications and links to key human rights groups and resources, as well as a database of human rights funders.

### Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

[www.unhchr.ch/html/hchr.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/hchr.htm)

The official site of the UN agency in charge of protection and promotion of human rights around the world.

### University of Minnesota Human Rights Library

[www.umn.edu/humanrts](http://www.umn.edu/humanrts)

The largest electronic human rights documentation site in the world, provides a single location from which users can access documents in five languages.

## Publications

### Amnesty International Annual Reports

<http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/aireport/index.html>

Each year the organization publishes a report on its work and its concerns throughout the world.

### Close to Home: Case Studies of Human Rights Work in the United States

[www.fordfound.org/publications/recent\\_articles/close\\_to\\_home.cfm](http://www.fordfound.org/publications/recent_articles/close_to_home.cfm)

Presents 13 cases studies of human rights work in the U.S. for activists, funders and policy makers interested in positive social change in the U.S.

### Circle of Rights–Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Activism: A Training Resource

[www.iie.org/Website/WPreview.cfm?CWID=336&WID=171#circle](http://www.iie.org/Website/WPreview.cfm?CWID=336&WID=171#circle)

Contains materials on specific rights, a rights-based approach, strategies and tools for economic, social and cultural rights activism and suggested training methodologies for training programs on these rights.

### “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Guide to the Legal Framework”

[www.cesr.org/text%20files/escrguide.PDF](http://www.cesr.org/text%20files/escrguide.PDF)

Provides a helpful review and explanation of the basic legal framework of economic, social and cultural rights and its utility for social justice advocates.

### Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action

[www.unhchr.ch/pdf/nhrap.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/pdf/nhrap.pdf)

The OHRCHR has prepared this handbook as a guide for those considering or working on national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights. It provides background information on the concept of national plans and the experience of some countries that have developed such plans.

### Human Rights Watch, World Reports

<http://hrw.org/reports/world/reports/>

Feature summaries of human-rights-related developments in over seventy countries and themes which the organization covers in-depth each year.

**International Council on Human Rights  
Policy—various publications**

[www.ichrp.org](http://www.ichrp.org)

Conducts applied policy research on issues that face organizations working in the field of human rights.

**Litigating Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:  
Legal Practitioners Dossier**

[www.cohre.org/library/Litigating%20ESCR%20Report.pdf](http://www.cohre.org/library/Litigating%20ESCR%20Report.pdf)

A survey of organizations and individuals active in the litigation of economic, social and cultural rights that covers 17 countries and shows the potential and the limitations of judicial enforcement of these rights.

**“Promises to Keep: Using Public Budgets  
as a Tool to Advance Economic, Social and  
Cultural Rights”**

<http://www.internationalbudget.org/themes/ESC/FullReport.pdf>

Reflections and strategies based on a three-day dialogue between international human rights and budget activists, convened by the Mexico City office of the Ford Foundation and FUNDAR-Center for Analysis and Research, in Cuernavaca, Mexico, January 2002.

**Ripples in Still Water: Reflections by Activists on  
Local- and National-Level Work on Economic,  
Social and Cultural Rights**

[www.iie.org/Website/WPreview.cfm?cwid=453&WID=171](http://www.iie.org/Website/WPreview.cfm?cwid=453&WID=171)

Written to assist groups interested in economic, social and cultural rights work by informing them about activities under way and sharing organizational strategies groups have used in this work. It draws on the experience of human rights organizations in different regions that had begun the difficult task of adopting a “rights-based approach” to work on these issues.

**Something Inside So Strong: A Resource  
Guide on Human Rights in the United States**

[www.ushrnetwork.org](http://www.ushrnetwork.org)

Provides models and case studies of the successful use of the human rights framework; identifies resources for collaborative efforts; and provides practical approaches to applying human rights in the U.S.

**Featured Human Rights Organizations**

**Amnesty International—USA**

600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, 5th Floor  
Washington, DC 20003 USA  
Tel 202.544.0200  
[www.aiusa.org](http://www.aiusa.org)

**Coalition for the Recognition  
and Empowerment of Street Traders  
CARE USA CARE Philippines (Headquarters)**

151 Ellis Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303 USA  
Tel 404.681.2552  
[www.careusa.org](http://www.careusa.org)

**Center for Constitutional Rights**

666 Broadway, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10012 USA  
Tel 212.614.6464  
[www.ccr-ny.org](http://www.ccr-ny.org)

**Center for Economic and Social Rights**

162 Montague Street, 2nd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201 USA  
Tel 718.237.9145  
[www.cesr.org](http://www.cesr.org)

**Center for Legal and Social Studies/  
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales**

Piedras 547  
1070 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA  
Tel +54.11.43344200  
[www.cels.org](http://www.cels.org)

**Center for Reproductive Rights**

120 Wall Street  
New York, NY 10005 USA  
Tel 917.637.3600  
[www.reprorights.org](http://www.reprorights.org)

**Centro Mujeres**

Marquez de Leon # 480-E  
Revolucion y Serdan, Col Centro  
La Paz, Baja California Sur, CP 23000 MEXICO  
Tel +52.612.1223342/ 1223570  
[www.bajatravel.com/centromujeres](http://www.bajatravel.com/centromujeres)

**Citizen Action Against AIDS/  
Accion Ciudadana Contra el Sida**  
Av. Rómulo Gallegos, Edf. Maracay  
Apto. 21 El Marqués,  
Caracas 1071 VENEZUELA  
Tel +58.212.2359215  
[www.internet.ve/acccs](http://www.internet.ve/acccs)

**EarthRights International**  
1612 K Street, NW, Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20006 USA  
Tel 202.466.5188  
Fax 202.466.5189

**Egyptian Center for Housing Rights**  
3A Mohamed Hagag St.  
Abd Emonam Riad Square, 3rd Floor  
Cairo, EGYPT  
Tel +20.2.5744428  
[www.echr.org](http://www.echr.org)

**Ella Baker Center for Human Rights**  
1230 Market Street  
PMB # 409  
San Francisco, CA 94102 USA  
Tel 415.951.4844  
[www.ellabakercenter.org](http://www.ellabakercenter.org)

**European Roma Rights Center**  
P.O. Box 906/93  
H-1386 Budapest 62  
HUNGARY  
Tel +36.1.4132200  
[www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org)

**Forum for Women, Law and Development**  
P.O. Box No. 2923, Thapathali  
Kathmandu, NEPAL  
Tel +977.1.242683/ 266415  
[www.fwld.org.np](http://www.fwld.org.np)

**HakiElimu**  
739 UN/Mathuradas Road  
P.O. Box 79401  
Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA  
Tel +255.22.2151852/ 2151853  
[www.hakielimu.org](http://www.hakielimu.org)

**Indian Law Resource Center**  
Central & South America Program  
601 E Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003 USA  
Tel 202.547.2800  
[www.indianlaw.org](http://www.indianlaw.org)

**Mental Disability Rights International**  
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 1001  
Washington, DC 20005 USA  
Tel 202.296.0800  
[www.mdri.org](http://www.mdri.org)

**NAKAMATA** (contact WITNESS)  
353 Broadway  
New York, NY 10013 USA  
Tel 212.274.1664, ext. 202  
[www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)

**National Coalition to Abolish  
the Death Penalty**  
920 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003 USA  
Tel 202.543.9577  
[www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org)

**NetAid**  
267 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10016 USA  
Tel 212.537.0500  
[www.netaid.org](http://www.netaid.org)

**Promedios de Comunicación Comunitaria/  
Chiapas Media Project** (USA and Mexico)  
4834 N. Springfield  
Chicago, IL 60625 USA  
Tel 773.583.7728  
[www.promedios.org](http://www.promedios.org)

**Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción  
en Derechos Humanos**  
Bulevar Panteón, Puente Trinidad  
Edif. Centro Plaza Las Mercedes  
PB. Local 6  
Apartado Postal 5156, Carmelitas 1010-A  
Caracas, VENEZUELA  
Tel +58.212.8621011/ 8625333  
[www.derechos.org.ve](http://www.derechos.org.ve)

**Rifka Annisa Women's Crisis Center**  
INDONESIA  
Tel +62.274.553333  
[www.rifka-annisa.or.id](http://www.rifka-annisa.or.id)

**Sierra Club**  
National Headquarters  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105 USA  
Tel 415.977.5500  
[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



**Social and Economic Rights Action Center**  
P.O. Box 13616  
Ikeja-Lagos, NIGERIA  
Tel +234.1.4968605/ 4748498  
[serac@linkserve.com.ng](mailto:serac@linkserve.com.ng) / [serac@hyperia.com](mailto:serac@hyperia.com)

**South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude/  
Bachpan Bachao Andolan and Global March  
Against Child Labor**  
L-6 Kalkaji,  
New Delhi 110019 INDIA  
Tel +91.11.26224899/ 26475481  
[www.sacscweb.org](http://www.sacscweb.org)  
[www.globalmarch.org](http://www.globalmarch.org)

**Tostan**  
PB 326 Thies,  
SENEGAL  
Tel +221.8205589  
[www.tostan.org](http://www.tostan.org)

**U'wa Defense Working Group  
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network  
Institute for Policy Studies**  
733 15th St NW, Suite 1020  
Washington, DC 20005 USA  
Tel 202.234.9382  
[www.seen.org](http://www.seen.org)

**WILD for Human Rights**  
3543 18th Street, # 11  
San Francisco, CA 94110 USA  
Tel 415.355.4744 ext. 400  
[www.wildforhumanrights.org](http://www.wildforhumanrights.org)

**WITNESS**  
353 Broadway  
New York, NY 10013 USA  
Tel 212.274.1664 ext.202  
[www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)

## **Contact Information for Selected Human Rights Funders and IHRFG Members**

**African Women's Development Fund**  
Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director  
Accra, GHANA  
Tel 233.21.780476  
[www.awdf.org](http://www.awdf.org)

**American Jewish World Service**  
Catherine Shimony, Director of Programs  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.273.1642  
[www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)

**Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**  
Katherine Acey, Executive Director  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.529.8021  
[www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org)

**The Ford Foundation**  
Larry Cox, Senior Program Officer  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.573.4707  
[www.fordfound.org](http://www.fordfound.org)

**Fund for Global Human Rights**  
Regan Ralph, Executive Director  
Washington, DC  
Tel 202.347.7488  
[www.hrfunders.org/fghr/index.html](http://www.hrfunders.org/fghr/index.html)

**Fund for Nonviolence**  
Betsy Fairbanks, Executive Director  
Santa Cruz, CA  
Tel 831.460.9321  
[www.fundfornonviolence.org](http://www.fundfornonviolence.org)

**Global Fund for Women**  
Kavita Ramdas, President  
San Francisco, CA  
Tel 415.202.7640  
[www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

**Global Greengrants Fund**  
Chet Tchozewski, Executive Director  
Boulder, CO  
Tel 303.939.9866  
[www.greengrants.org](http://www.greengrants.org)

**Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation**  
Michael J. Hirschhorn, President  
Baltimore, MD  
Tel 410.347.7202  
[www.blaufund.org/foundations/jacobandhilda\\_f.html](http://www.blaufund.org/foundations/jacobandhilda_f.html)

**Jewish Community Development Fund  
in Russia and Ukraine**

Martin Horwitz, Director  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.273.1642  
[www.ajws.org/jcdf/](http://www.ajws.org/jcdf/)

**John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

Roaul Davion, Program Officer  
Chicago, IL  
Tel 312.516.1612  
[www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org)

**John Merck Fund**

Nancy Stockford, Administrator  
Boston, MA  
Tel 617.723.2932  
[www.jmfund.org](http://www.jmfund.org)

**KIOS - The Finnish NGO Foundation  
for Human Rights**

Katariina Kempainen, Executive Director  
Helsinki, FINLAND  
Tel 358.9.68131530  
[www.kios.fi](http://www.kios.fi)

**Mertz Gilmore Foundation**

Mona Younis, Program Officer  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.475.1137  
[www.mertzgilmore.org](http://www.mertzgilmore.org)

**The Moriah Fund**

Mary Ann Stein, President  
Washington, DC  
Tel 202.783.8488  
[www.moriahfund.org](http://www.moriahfund.org)

**National Endowment for Democracy**

Brian Joseph, Program Officer  
Washington, DC  
Tel 202.293.9072  
[www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org)

**New World Foundation**

Ann Bastian, Senior Program Officer  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.497.3470  
[www.newwf.org](http://www.newwf.org)

**Open Society Institute**

John Kowal, Program Director  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.548.0345  
[www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)

**Otto Bremer Foundation**

John Kostishack, Executive Director  
St. Paul, MN  
Tel 651.227.8036  
[www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org)

**Reebok Human Rights Foundation**

Shalini Nataraj, Associate Director  
Canton, MA  
Tel 781.401.5061  
[www.reebok.com/humanrights](http://www.reebok.com/humanrights)

**Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund**

Helena Brykarz, Program Executive  
San Francisco, CA  
Tel 415.788.9090  
[www.goldmanfund.org](http://www.goldmanfund.org)

**Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**

Penny Fujiko Willgerodt, Philanthropic Advisor  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.812.4326  
[www.rockpa.org](http://www.rockpa.org)

**Samuel Rubin Foundation**

Cora Weiss, President  
New York, NY  
Tel 212.697.8945  
[www.samuelrubinfoundation.org](http://www.samuelrubinfoundation.org)

**Shaler Adams Foundation**

Dorothy Thomas, Senior Consultant  
Woodside, CA  
Tel 212.313.9154 (NY)  
[www.shaleradams.org](http://www.shaleradams.org)

**Stephan Batory Foundation**

Ewa Kulik, Information Director  
Warsaw, POLAND  
Tel (48 22) 536.0259  
[www.batory.org.pl](http://www.batory.org.pl)

**United Nations Foundation**

Johanna Mendelson Forman, Program Officer  
Washington, DC  
Tel 202.887.9040  
[www.unfoundation.org](http://www.unfoundation.org)

**Photos**

Inside front cover-India, Derek Chung  
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Page 6/7-Brazil, Derek Chung  
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Page 27-Geneva, UN-OHCHR  
Inside back cover-Kenya, Reebok Human Rights Foundation



As an international network of funders committed to advancing human rights at home and abroad, we invite our grantmaking colleagues to join us in exploring the value of human rights for your current funding objectives. If we can help your quest in any way, please contact us.

The International Human Rights Funders Group supports efforts to achieve a more just world by:

- promoting** the exchange of information and collaboration among grantmakers
- improving** the use, reach and effectiveness of existing resources
- expanding** resources to meet the growing needs of the field
- assisting** funders to explore the added value of a human rights approach

International Human Rights Funders Group

45 West 36th Street, 6th floor  
New York, NY 10018  
+ 1 212 378 4430  
[info@ihrfg.org](mailto:info@ihrfg.org)  
[www.ihrfg.org](http://www.ihrfg.org)

