

Semi-annual Meeting: Human Rights and Armed Conflict

July 10-12, 2006

International Human Rights Funders Group

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Steering Committee:

Valentine Doyle	Lawson Valentine Foundation
Julia Greenberg	American Jewish World Service
Michael J. Hirschhorn	Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
John F. Kowal	Open Society Institute
Shalini Nataraj	Global Fund for Women
Andrew Park	Wellspring Advisors, LLC
Steven Riskin	U.S. Institute of Peace
John Taylor	Wellspring Advisors, LLC



Bunyatenge, DR Congo - June 2001
Photo by Molly Bingham

Plenary session highlights

- **Monday:** Education session with experts on Colombia, Chechnya and the DRC
- **Tuesday:** Grantmaking colleagues will share their experiences funding in situations of armed conflict
- **Wednesday:** Moving the Mountain: Can the UN Uphold Human Rights?

International Human Rights Funders Group Semi-annual Meeting

Monday - Tuesday

Columbia University
Faculty House
400 West 117th Street
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 854-1200

Wednesday

Columbia University
Jerome L. Greene Hall
(Law School)
435 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027

Meeting theme:

Human Rights and Armed Conflict

One of the greatest challenges facing human rights activists today is the goal of advancing human rights in countries and regions in the throes of armed conflict, weak security environments and a breakdown of the rule of law. In such unstable settings, where women, children and the displaced are particularly vulnerable, human rights defenders, both local and international, must confront immediate threats to the right to peace and physical integrity, including genocide. In doing so, they must also be mindful of the longer-term need to prepare the ground for strengthening respect for human rights as societies emerge from violent conflict.

A special thanks to supporters of this event:

- Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- JEHT Foundation
- King Baudouin Foundation
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- Open Society Institute
- Schooner Foundation
- The Overbrook Foundation

Thank you 2006 IHRFG supporters!!

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A special thanks to our collaborative partners for this event:

- Funders Concerned about AIDS;
- Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues;
- Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights;
- NYRAG; and
- Peace and Security Funders Group.

SESSION 3: Sex, Lies and the Prostitution Pledge *Room 701 (Case Lounge)*

Sex work is criminalized in some countries, regulated in others, and tolerated in most. Looking at government responses to prostitution through a human rights lens, raises questions related to the labor, health, and safety rights of sex workers as well as the rights of those seeking sexual services to be free of governmental intervention into intimate personal matters. How would using a human rights framework provide an alternative lens to examine issues of sex work and trafficking? What are the human rights of sex workers? This panel will explore these timely issues, the US government's 'anti-prostitution pledge', and the conflation of prostitution and trafficking.

Facilitator: **Andrew Park**, Wellspring Advisors. LLC

Speakers: **Rebekah Diller**, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law **Jodi L. Jacobson**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) **Ann Jordan**, Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons, Global Rights **Alice M. Miller**, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University **Juhu Thukral** Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center *Rapporteur:* TBA

12:15– 1:00pm Box lunch and Session summaries—Rapporteurs

Room 106

1:00– 1:15pm Welcome from Jose Alvarez,

Room 106

Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, Columbia Law School

1:00– 3:00pm MOVING THE MOUNTAIN: CAN THE UN UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS?

Room 106

The United Nations serves as the primary deliberative and implementing body for international human rights treaties. The newly formed Human Rights Council, meeting for the first time in June 2006, and the new Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities are just two of the major developments in human rights activism. This panel will provide an inside look at these reforms and developments within the UN.

Facilitator: **Michael J. Hirschhorn**, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Speakers:

- **Philip Alston**, *Special Rapporteur*, Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions (New York, UNITED STATES)
- **Craig Mokhiber**, *Acting Director*, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (New York, UNITED STATES)

Agenda At-a Glance

Monday, July 10, 2006

8:30-9:00am	Breakfast
9:00-9:15am	Welcome
9:15-12:00pm	Human Rights and Armed Conflict
12:00-12:15pm	Welcome from Columbia University
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch Discussion Groups
1:00-2:15pm	Working group and affinity group meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability rights • Human Rights and the Environment • Peace and Security Funders Group • Sexual Rights
2:15-2:30pm	Break
2:30-4:00pm	Grantmaking practice sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining Human Rights Funding • Finding and Funding Talent: Int'l Human Rights Fellowships • Using Advisors to Strengthen Grantmaking Session summaries - Rapporteurs
4:00-4:30pm	Documentary film, Human Rights Jeopardy
4:30-5:30pm	Cocktail reception
5:30-6:30pm	Dinner with Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
6:30-9:00pm	

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

9:00-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30-11:30am	Risk and Responsibility: Providing Effective Support in Conflict-Affected Areas
11:30-11:45am	Break
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!
1:00-2:30pm	Membership Meeting
2:30-2:45pm	Break
2:45-4:15pm	Breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights on the Hill • Racial Profiling at Home and Abroad: A Comparative Perspective • The Struggle to End Sexual Violence in War
4:15-4:30pm	Session summaries - Rapporteurs
7:00pm	Informal dinner—Radio Perfecto Uptown

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

9:00-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30-12:15pm	Breakout sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring What Matters: Evaluating the Impact of Human Rights Organizations • Re-linking Domestic Human Rights and International Advocacy • Re-connecting US Human and Civil Rights Continued • Sex, Lies and the Prostitution Pledge
12:15-1:00pm	Box lunch and Session summaries - Rapporteurs
1:00-1:15pm	Welcome from Columbia Law School
1:15-3:00pm	Moving the Mountain: Can the UN Uphold Human Rights?

MONDAY8:30-9:00am *Breakfast* Dewitt Clinton Dining Room9:00-9:15am **Welcome** Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation
 Julia Greenberg, American Jewish World Service

9:15-12:00pm **EDUCATION PANEL** Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

A panel of human rights practitioners with extensive experience in war-torn settings will examine the obstacles to and opportunities for promoting human rights amid violent conflict.

Facilitator: **Steve Riskin**, U.S. Institute of Peace

Speakers:

- **Mark Schneider**, Senior Vice President; Special Adviser on Latin America, International Crisis Group (Washington, D.C., UNITED STATES)
- **Ekaterina Sokirianskaia**, Analyst, Human Rights Center "Memorial" and Assistant Professor, Chechen State University in Grozny (Nazran, RUSSIA)
- **Bukeni Tete Waruzi**, Director, AJEDI-Ka/Projet Enfants Soldats (Uvira, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO)

12:00-12:15pm **Welcome from Lee Bollinger**, Dewitt Clinton Dining Room
*President of Columbia University*12:15-1:00pm **Lunch and Discussion Groups** Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Interested members are invited to form discussion groups around issues, ideas, geographic interests, or continued exploration of the morning discussions.

WEDNESDAY**NEW LOCATION:**

Jerome L. Greene Hall (Law School), 435 West 116th Street

9:00-9:30am *Breakfast* Jerome Greene Lobby9:30-12:15pm **Breakouts sessions** (meet concurrently)

SESSION 1: **Measuring What Matters:** Room 107
Evaluating the impact of human rights

Human rights organizations have resisted efforts to measure the impact of their work, oftentimes for good reason. An exaggerated focus on numbers and quantifiable measures of success may overlook the essence of effective human rights activism. Yet, human rights organizations owe it to themselves and their constituencies to understand how well they fulfill their missions. The session will present the state-of-the-debate on applying impact evaluation to human rights work, highlight the experience of human rights activists and funders with such assessment, and ask participants to create and apply evaluation tools to case studies.

Facilitator: **Regan Ralph**, Fund for Global Human Rights
Speakers: **Fernande Raine**, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy
Yumi Sera, Grants Facility for Indigenous Peoples, World Bank
Rapporteur: TBA

SESSION 2: **Re-linking Domestic Human Rights** Room 807
and International Advocacy

This session will continue the discussion of the January IHRFG meeting of the US Human Rights Working Group. Invited NGO speakers will discuss their renewed engagement with the international human rights arena as part of their domestic advocacy (with a particular focus on the use of human rights mechanisms to supplement community-based work), the value of this re-engagement, and US groups' interest in and capacity for it. The second part of the working session will include a presentation of case studies and discussion of best practices and challenges in domestic human rights grantmaking.

Facilitator: **John R. Taylor**, Wellspring Advisors, LLC
Speakers: **Lucas Benitez**, Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Bernardine Dohrn, Midwest Coalition for Human Rights **Cindy Sohoo**, Bringing Human Rights Home, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School
Rapporteur: Stephen Foster, The Overbrook Foundation

2:45-4:15pm Breakouts sessions (meet concurrently)**SESSION 1:****Human Rights on the Hill**

Stevens Room

This session will provide an overview of human rights issues looming before Congress. Panelists will discuss lessons learned from recent legislative successes, such as the McCain Amendment, and less successful endeavors. The panel will also examine where human rights concerns will sit on the Congressional agenda before and after the fall elections.

Facilitator: **Conrad Martin**, Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust
Speakers: **Salih Booker**, Global Rights **Hans-Joachim Hogrefe**, Human Rights Congressional Caucus **Lorelei Kelly**, The White House Project
Rapporteur: Ann Strimov, Wellspring Advisors, LLC

SESSION 2:**Racial Profiling at Home and Abroad: A Comparative Perspective**

Harison Room

While the issue of racial profiling by law enforcement has been widely documented in the US and the UK, there is limited awareness and data on its prevalence in Europe. Drawing on the UK and US experience, the panel will examine emerging evidence of ethnic profiling in Europe; review the strategies and challenges of addressing the issue in the public sphere, police institutions and in policy-making bodies at both the national and regional levels.

Facilitator: **Rachel Neild**, Open Society Justice Initiative
Speakers: **Rebekah Delsol**, Open Society Justice Initiative **Harry Dolan**, Grand Rapids Police Department **Philip Gounev**, Center for the Study of Democracy
Rapporteur: Rachel Neild

SESSION 3:**The Struggle to End Sexual Violence in War**

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Parties to internal armed conflict during the past 25 years have deliberately employed sexual violence as a tactic to terrorize populations. Experts working at the intersection of human rights and humanitarian concerns will discuss new initiatives to prevent gender-based violence in armed conflict. Participants will not only learn about the appalling scope of rape in recent wars, underscoring an ominous, still unchecked trend, but will discuss what grantmakers can do to support ending sexual violence.

Facilitator: **Larry Cox**, Amnesty International
Speakers: **Jennifer Leaning**, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) Harvard School of Public Health **Susannah Sirkin**, Physicians for Human Rights **Beth Vann**, JSI Research & Training Institute
Rapporteur: Debra Schultz, Open Society Institute

4:15-4:30pm Session summaries: Rapporteurs**5:30 p.m.***Informal dinner at Radio Perfecto Uptown*1187 Amsterdam Avenue between 118th and 119th, (212) 932-0707**1:00-2:15pm Working group and affinity group meetings****Disability rights**

Stevens Room

At recent IHRFG meetings, leading activists in the field have joined us to speak about the drafting of a UN treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities. Building and moving forward on these conversations, we will begin discussion about a possible pooled fund to support grassroots disabled persons organizations (DPOs) around the world working to secure ratification, implementation and monitoring of the soon-to-be completed convention. *Facilitator:* John Taylor, Wellspring Advisors, LLC *Rapporteur:* Catherine Townsend

Human Rights and the Environment

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Join this brainstorming discussion on how human rights and environmental grantmakers can work together to strengthen both movements. *Facilitator and rapporteur:* Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation

Peace and Security Funders Group

Harison Room

Facilitator and rapporteur: Katherine Magraw, Peace and Security Funders Group

Sexual Rights

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

The Sexual Rights Working Group explores the relationship between sexual rights issues as they intersect with women's rights, the right to health, the right to self-expression, and the right to be free from torture, to name a few. The intersectional nature of these rights means that the working group is open to funders from a variety of different affinity groups including; Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, Funders Concerned about AIDS, and the Funders Network for Population, Reproductive Health and Rights. We will be discussing future activities of the working group. *Facilitator:* Heidi Dorow, Wellspring Advisors, LLC *Rapporteur:* TBA

2:15-2:30pm Break

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

2:30-4:00pm Grantmaking practice breakouts sessions (meet concurrently)**SESSION 1:****Defining Human Rights Funding**

Harison Room

Does the lack of a concise definition of human rights funding help or hinder growth of the field? Human rights can be a value, a method, an analysis and a goal. Though they denote very different patterns of funding and activism, these distinctions are rarely ever made explicit. This session will embark upon the difficult task of constructing a functional and descriptive definition of human rights funding.

Facilitator: **Andrew Park**, Wellspring Advisors, LLC *Speakers:* **Mona Khan**, Fund for Global Human Rights **Mona Younis**, Mertz Gilmore Foundation
Rapporteur: Ann Strimov, Wellspring Advisors,

SESSION 2: Finding and Funding Talent: International Human Rights Fellowships

Stevens Room

This session will explore three different types of human rights fellowships and discuss how we can continue to bring new talent into the field. The panel will discuss ways of supporting international human rights fellows with a discussion period to follow.

Facilitator: **Cheryl Dorsey**, Echoing Green *Speakers:* **Karen Colvard**, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation **Dr. J. Paul Martin**, Center for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University **Karen Tse**, International Bridges To Justice
Rapporteur: TBA

SESSION 3: Using Advisors to Strengthen Grantmaking

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

How can we incorporate the voices of those closest to the issues and most affected by our grantmaking? How can we ensure that our grants address the needs of distant communities? This session will explore advisor-driven grantmaking and highlight how collaboration can benefit both the grantmaker and the advisor. Participants will gain an understanding of the challenges and rewards of using advisors, and take away concrete examples of how to develop and manage advisory networks to enhance grantmaking and increase impact.

Facilitator: **Michelle Coffey**, Tides Foundation *Speakers:* **Shalini Nataraj**, Global Fund for Women **Chet Tchozewski**, Global Greengrants Fund *Rapporteur:* TBA

4:00-4:30pm Session summaries: Rapporteurs

Dewitt Clinton

4:30-5:30pm Attendees may choose between the following:

- **Article 24 - Human Rights Jeopardy** Harison Room
- **Documentary - Outlawed: Extraordinary Rendition, Torture and Disappearances in the "War on Terror"** Stevens Room

5:30-6:30pm Cocktail reception Randolph (1st floor)

6:30-9:00pm Dinner with Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Harison (2nd floor)

TUESDAY

9:00-9:30am Breakfast

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

9:30-11:30am NETWORKING PANEL

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Amid violent conflict, every normal funding procedure—oversight, communication, even just getting the money to the location—is suddenly much more difficult. This panel of IHRFG funders will discuss both funding strategies and approaches to overcoming the practical problems of funding in conflict zones.

Facilitator: **Julia Greenberg**, American Jewish World Service

Speakers:

Andrew Anderson, Frontline International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (Dublin, IRELAND)

Patricia Karam, United States Institute of Peace (Washington, D.C., UNITED STATES)

Julie Shaw, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (Boulder CO, UNITED STATES)

Eva Zillén, The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Stockholm, SWEDEN)

11:30-11:45am Break

11:45-1:00pm Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!

Dewitt Clinton

An opportunity to speak extemporaneously on philanthropic passions (people, projects or programs), promote a favorite organization, appeal for advice, etc.!

Facilitator: **Valentine Doyle**, Lawson Valentine Foundation

1:00-2:30pm Membership Meeting

Dewitt Clinton Dining Room

Facilitator: **Michael J. Hirschhorn**, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

2:30-2:45pm Break