

Semi-annual Meeting - January 10-11, 2005

Sir Francis Drake Hotel
450 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
415 392-7755

Monday, January 10

8:30-9:00am

*Breakfast and **Welcome from Steering Committee***

John Kowal, Open Society Institute
Kari Suzuki Bardy, Otto Bremer Foundation

9:00-11:00am

"Four More Years: Implications for Human Rights in the U.S. and Around the World"

Facilitator: Alan Jenkins, Ford Foundation

Elisa Massimino

*Director of Washington, D.C. Office, Human Rights First
Washington, DC*

Juan E. Méndez

*President, International Center for Transitional Justice
New York, NY*

11:00-11:15am

break

11:15-1:00pm

Human Rights Education Session:

Facilitator: Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

"Building Human Rights Constituencies"

For decades, human rights lawyers, scholars, and NGOs have worked to secure human rights. Now more than ever, we know that a small community of experts cannot achieve the realization of human rights on their own. For "human rights for all" to become a reality, people need to hold their governments accountable to human rights obligations. A distinguished panel will speak about their experiences in building constituencies, lessons learned about effective outreach and communication, and the challenges and opportunities to incorporate new communities into advocacy work.

Jotaka Eaddy

*Domestic Program Coordinator, Grassroots Education & Mobilization,
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Washington, DC*

Eitan Felner

*Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Rights
Madrid, SPAIN*

Bobby Muller

*President, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and
Co-founder, International Campaign to Ban Landmines
Washington, DC*

1:00-2:30pm

Lunch and Discussion Groups

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Discussion tables will be organized around issues, ideas, geographic interests, or continued exploration of the morning discussions.

2:30-5:00pm

Cross-Cutting Working Groups – Break-outs

(Will meet concurrently then REPORT BACK.)

▪ **Challenges in International Grantmaking: An update on the regulatory framework** Location: Empire room

Facilitator: Conrad Martin, Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust

Guest presenter: Kay Guinane, *Counsel*, Nonprofit Advocacy Project, OMB Watch, Washington, D.C.

The session will begin with an update on developments affecting international funding. We will then hear from a member of the Treasury Guidelines Working Group, a diverse group of charitable organizations that has collaborated to draft an effective alternative to the "Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices For U.S.-Based Charities." The Treasury Department has agreed to discuss the proposed modifications. This session is an opportunity to hear how non-profits are strategically responding to the challenges before them.

▪ **Get Off Your Assets!**

Location: Cypress room

Co-facilitators:

Craig Cramer, EMPower - The Emerging Markets Foundation

Jay Beckner, Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Tired of shrinking program budgets? We invite you to come and discover how to leverage your foundation's financial assets to further the cause of human rights. This beginners' session on corporate proxy voting will start with the basics—what is a proxy, how do you vote, what does it cost—and end with recent success stories. This informative and inspirational session is intended for everyone, even if you have no influence, yet, over your institution's investment professionals.

▪ **Leveraging New Funds to Support Human Rights**

Location: Monterey room

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

"Leveraging" represents our effort to encourage a greater number of grantmakers to understand and fund human rights issues. We will seek your input into planning our new human rights speaker series for funders to launch in 1-3 cities this spring. The speaker series is designed to build on the success of the Leveraging Committee's first major project, the publication "Funding Human Rights: An Invitation."

7:00pm

SPECIAL EVENT

DINNER AND ADDRESS: HON. GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

Tuesday, January 11

8:30-10:00am **Business Meeting** (breakfast served)
Facilitator: Mona Younis, Mertz Gilmore Foundation

10:00-10:15am *Break*

10:15-12:00pm **Human Rights Networking Session:**
Facilitator: Alan Jenkins, Ford Foundation

"Funding the Engagement of New Constituencies"

Human rights organizations are turning to new tools and strategies to reach and mobilize communities to claim their human rights. As human rights funders, what can we learn from others about how to popularize the human rights message and organize people to claim their human rights? Representing a variety of fields, the funders on the panel will provide insight into supporting innovative programs to engage new constituencies. From their experience in funding programs that succeeded in reaching and engaging new and large segments of the public, they will discuss the characteristics of effective projects, the grantmaking styles and relationships that most effectively sustain, and strengthen these efforts, and the criteria for "success" in constituency-building.

Tina Eshaghpour

Program Officer, The Women's Foundation of California
San Francisco, CA

Geri Mannion

Chair, Strengthening U.S. Democracy Program and the Special Opportunities Fund, Carnegie Foundation
New York, NY

Alvin Starks

Associate Director, Open Society Institute
New York, NY

Tim Sweeney

Senior Program Officer, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
San Francisco, CA

12:00-1:00pm **Human Rights Networking Session – Break-outs**

1:00-2:30pm *Lunch ... and **The Funders' Soapbox!***
Facilitator: Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation

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

2:30-3:30pm

Programmatic Working Groups – Overview

(Will hear from each of the working groups before breaking out.)

John Kowal, Open Society Institute
Kari Suzuki Bardy, Otto Bremer Foundation

3:30-5:30pm

Programmatic Working Groups – Break-outs

(Will meet concurrently then REPORT BACK.)

- **Disability Rights Working Group** Location: Monterey room
Facilitator: John Taylor, Wellspring Advisors

Join some of the leading activists in the field to hear about the encouraging recent trend toward the creation of laws and policies that commit governments to providing access and promoting inclusion for people with disabilities around the world. This trend has culminated in the current efforts by member states of the UN to craft a convention to protect the human rights of people with disabilities. Together we will identify opportunities for funders to contribute to this important, timely and neglected area of human rights work.

- **Fund for Global Human Rights – Beyond Grantmaking** Location: Cypress room
Facilitator: Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

Human rights organizations around the world are eager to augment their skills, connect with organizations within and outside their countries and regions, and gain access to resources--financial and otherwise--that build strong organizations. In this session, we will discuss ways beyond grantmaking to support grantees in their work. What do grantees want and need? What are the most effective ways to respond? What are the elements of a successful, sustainable capacity-building initiative?

- **U.S. Human Rights Working Group** Location: Empire room
Co-facilitators:
Dorothy Thomas, Shaler Adams Foundation
Larry Cox, Ford Foundation
John Kowal, Open Society Institute

The revelations about the U.S. use of torture have spurred unprecedented public debate around human rights. Several U.S. human rights activists will join us to discuss these developments, as well as the U.S. government's current legal position regarding the use of torture. We will then discuss developments in U.S. human rights work more generally, and explore ways to strengthen that work.

5:30pm

**Closing Cocktail Reception hosted by
The Asia Foundation**

Remarks by Dr. Gordon Hein, Vice President of Programs