



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
JULY 21-22, 2008**

The Human Rights Framework - Is it always the strategic?

Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 1:15 – 3:15 pm

Co-Facilitators:

Ana María Enríquez, Program Manager (International Initiative to Strengthen Philanthropy [IISP]), Ford Foundation; Marta Tellado, Vice President for Communications, Ford Foundation

Speakers:

Akwasi Aidoo, Executive Director TrustAfrica; Irina Efremova-Garth, Executive Director, Russian Law and Justice Foundation; Annie Hillar, Director of Programs, Mama Cash Foundation; Fouad Hamdan, Executive Director, Arab Human Rights Fund; Martin Macwan, Board Chair, Dalit Foundation; Oscar Vilhena Vieira, Board Member and Vice President of Finance, Brazil Human Rights Fund

Session Organizer:

Ana María Enríquez, Program Manager (International Initiative to Strengthen Philanthropy [IISP]), Ford Foundation

Funders working on manifold issues in Brazil, Russia, and India, across Africa and the Arab World, and internationally on women's issues, debated the advantages and disadvantages of using a human rights framework in practicing social justice philanthropy. Can human rights language make the strongest case for reversing centuries of structural discrimination against Dalits in India? What is the public perception of human rights issues in Brazil? What does it take to motivate the business sector and ordinary citizens to support grassroots projects that advance human rights and social justice in Russia? What does it mean to build a legitimate human rights funding movement that is both sustainable and accountable? Participants discussed diverse points of view as local and international philanthropy leaders from the Arab Human Rights Fund, the Brazil Human Rights Fund, the Law and Justice Foundation in Russia, the Dalit Foundation, Mama Cash, and Trust Africa probed these and other questions.