



FUNDING IN INDIA: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING POLICY RESTRICTIONS

Telebriefing, June 13, 2012

Organized by the IHRFG Asia and Pacific Funders Working Group

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Tejas Merh is a qualified Chartered Accountant with a decade of experience in the not-for-profit sector in India. She has worked on accounting, financial management and legal issues with various organizations, including grantmakers and grantees. Her knowledge of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and other laws relating to NGOs is borne out of practical experience working with organizations to solve questions of interpretation regarding these laws. She currently works as a freelance consultant and provides operational support to NGOs, grantmakers and social businesses. Tejas also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in NGO Management and lives in Mumbai.

Syma Mirza is Program Officer for South Asia at the Fund for Global Human Rights, where she manages grants and capacity-building programs to over 40 local human rights organizations in India and Pakistan. Prior to joining the Fund, Syma practiced law at a firm in Washington, DC and has also worked for the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy in Karachi, Pakistan. Syma graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and holds a master's degree in human rights and conflict resolution from the School of International & Public Affairs at Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College.

Javid Syed is the Senior Program Officer in the Asia Team at the American Jewish World Service and supports activists working on Sexual Health and Rights and Natural Resource Rights through grants that focus on general support, crises, and capacity building. He has worked for over 15 years supporting the human rights of marginalized communities through the lens of health and sexuality and with a specific focus on LGBTI and HIV issues. He has helped create a community center for LGBTI communities of color in New York and been involved in grant making and community organizing to strengthen immigrant and communities of color in the US and movements in the Global South dealing with issues of sexuality and HIV.