

## Semi-Annual Meeting – July 21-22, 2008

New York University School of Law  
Lipton Hall - 108 West Third Street  
(Between Sullivan & Macdougall)  
New York, NY 10012

### *Plenary topic: Human Rights and Climate Change*

"Climate change is profoundly transformational, and as it becomes increasingly felt, it will leave no field of policy untouched. Human rights are especially relevant given the immense threat to their fulfillment that climate change poses. As climate harms are increasingly felt, protection will be sought in the law and language of human rights."<sup>1</sup>

#### **AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE**

#### **Monday – July 21, 2008**

9:00-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30-10:00am	Welcome
10:00-12:00pm	Opening Plenary on Human Rights & Climate Change with Rocky Anderson, Paul Baer, and Michael Northrop
12:00-1:30pm	Networking Lunch, with table discussions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuation of Opening Plenary Discussion</li><li>• Welcome to New Attendees</li><li>• Exploring the work of Hivos, the Dutch grantmaking entity</li><li>• Sexual Rights Working Group Discussion</li><li>• Get Off Your Assets! Working Group Discussion</li></ul>
1:30-3:00pm	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Emergencies: Are Human Rights Funders Prepared?</li><li>• Guantanamo &amp; Beyond: Detention of Terror Suspects</li></ul>
3:00-3:15pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-4:45pm	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accountability Abroad: Southern NGOs and their Governments' International Human Rights Policies</li><li>• Meeting of the US Human Rights Working Group</li></ul>
5:00-5:30pm	<i>Pre-Evening Events Break</i>
5:30-6:30pm	Cocktail Reception
6:30-9:00pm	Dinner with IHRFG

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<sup>1</sup> *Climate Change and Human Rights: A Rough Guide (Summary)*. Published in 2008 by the International Council on Human Rights Policy. Authored by Stephen Humphreys, Research Director.

## Tuesday – July 22, 2008

8:15-9:00am Breakfast and IHRFG Membership Meeting

9:00-10:30am Concurrent Sessions:

- Are Justice Mechanisms Doing Enough for Human Rights?
- Human Rights and the 2008 US Elections

10:30-10:45am *Break*

10:45-12:15pm Concurrent Sessions:

- Learning from the Inside: Evaluating human rights advocacy
- Giving the Environment a Human (Rights) Face

12:15-1:15pm Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!

1:15-3:15pm Closing Plenary: "Human Rights Framework: Is it always the most strategic?"

## DETAILED AGENDA

## Monday, July 21, 2008

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9:00-9:30 Breakfast

9:30-10:00 **Welcome**

10:00-12:00 **Opening Plenary:**  
***Human Rights and Climate Change***

*Lipton Hall*

Global climate change holds dramatic implications for human rights — from the prospect of millions of "climate refugees" fleeing low-lying or changed areas, to rapid disease spread, to ecological disruption — all likely to have a vastly disproportionate impact on the world's poorest and most marginalized populations.

*Speakers:*

- **Rocky Anderson**, Mayor of Salt Lake City (2000-2008); Founder, High Road for Human Rights
- **Paul Baer**, Research Director, EcoEquity
- **Michael F. Northrop**, Program Director (Sustainable Development), Rockefeller Brothers Fund

12:00-1:30pm **Networking Lunch and Discussion Groups**

*Continuation of Opening Plenary Discussion*

Panelists will gather for an informal roundtable lunch to continue the discussion.

*Welcome to New Attendees*

IHRFG Steering Committee member **John Taylor** (Managing Partner, Wellspring Advisors) will convene a roundtable welcome discussion of folks new to IHRFG meetings.

*Exploring the work of Hivos, the Dutch grantmaking entity*

Join Reena Fernandes, Deputy Director, and Rajendran Nathan, Programme Officer (Human Rights, Arts & Culture) – both from the Hivos India Regional Office – will discuss Hivos' approach to human rights, its plans, priorities and its global programme.

*Sexual Rights Working Group Discussion*

The Sexual Rights Working Group is open to anyone who is already funding or interested to begin funding work to promote sexual rights. Shari Turitz, Director of Programs of the Public Health Program at the Open Society Institute, will facilitate an informal discussion on the different ways that donors define and approach sexual rights, the potential opportunities for more in-depth collaboration, and the mechanisms to foster such collaborations.

*Get Off Your Assets! Working Group Discussion*

The Get Off Your Assets (GOYA) Working Group was formed to help human rights funders learn about shareowner activities that can add value to their grants and harmonize their investments with their mission. Join Stephen Viederman, Treasurer of the Needmor Fund, for an informal discussion on how funders' assets are slowly changing corporate behavior.

**1:30-3:00pm Concurrent Sessions**

**Health Emergencies:**

*Faculty Club*

**Are Human Rights Funders Prepared?**

Tuberculosis patients are locked up in South Africa. SARS information is censored in China. Laws criminalizing HIV transmission are sweeping Africa amidst calls for mandatory HIV tests. As governments respond to health emergencies with coercive measures, funders have largely ignored one of the most important emerging threats to human rights. Like the "war on terror," disease control can curtail basic rights of due process, information, and equality. Increasingly, human rights groups are combating these abuses and partnering with health experts on pragmatic, rights-based solutions. This panel will feature leading experts on these issues and present concrete ways that IHRFG members can respond.

*Speakers:*

- **Joe Amon**, Director (HIV/AIDS & Human Rights Program), Human Rights Watch
- **Tawanda Mutasah**, Executive Director, OSI Initiative for Southern Africa

*Facilitator:*

**Françoise Girard**, Director, Open Society Institute Public Health Program

*Session Organizers:*

**Jonathan Cohen & Tamar Ezer**, Open Society Institute

**Guantanamo & Beyond:**

*Lipton Hall*

**Detention of Terror Suspects**

Does the threat of terrorism justify detention without charge? How can we protect security and human rights? The debate on the future of Guantanamo and the fate of its detainees has begun to raise the question of whether a new form of preventative detention is required for terrorist suspects. A growing number of voices contend it is, arguing some detainees cannot be criminally prosecuted without compromising

intelligence and are too dangerous to be released. In the wake of the US Supreme Court's recent ruling on detainee rights (*Boumediene v. Bush*), leading advocates will discuss the key arguments in this looming national debate about closing Guantanamo and handling terrorist suspects.

*Speakers:*

- **Elisa Massimino**, Washington Director, Human Rights First
- **Ken Roth**, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

*Facilitator:*

**Wendy Patten**, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Institute (DC)

*Session Organizers:*

**Sophia Conroy**, Senior Program Associate, Open Society Institute  
**Puja Dhawan**, Senior Program Officer, US Human Rights Fund

**3:00-3:15pm**     *Break*

**3:15-4:45pm**     **Concurrent Sessions**

**Accountability Abroad: Southern NGOs & their Governments' International Human Rights Policies**

*Lipton Hall*

United Nations human rights institutions are inherently representative of the policies of the member states. The UN will become more progressive and effective in promoting human rights only if more member states pursue positive policies in UN fora.

In a large number of states in the global south, civil society has become a powerful force for improving domestic human rights policies and practice. This session will explore opportunities and obstacles for a similar mobilization around southern governments' international human rights policies. The session will build upon many of the discussions at the International Human Rights Funders Group meeting in Geneva.

*Speakers:*

- **Lucia Nader**, Coordinator of International Relations, Conectas Human Rights
- **Ted Piccone**, Senior Fellow & Deputy Director (Foreign Policy), The Brookings Institution

*Facilitator & Session Organizer:*

**Jarrett Blanc**, Senior Policy Analyst for Multilateral Affairs, Open Society Institute

**US Human Rights Working Group**

*Faculty Club*

This meeting is an opportunity for funders to talk about domestic human rights funding challenges and opportunities. Areas of focus could include US human rights messaging and communications, transnational learning exchanges for advocates, human rights training for the legal and judicial community, etc. Session participants will also be asked to come prepared to talk about 1-2 worthy organizations they could not fund or fully fund.

*Co-Facilitators:*

**Sophia Conroy**, Senior Program Associate, Open Society Institute  
**Puja Dhawan**, Program Officer, US Human Rights Fund

**5:00-5:30pm** Pre-Evening Events Break

**5:30-6:30pm** **Networking and Cocktail Reception**

**6:30-9:00pm Buffet Dinner with IHRFG**

*Lipton Hall*

Join the current and past IHRFG Steering Committee and other friends as we take a walk down memory lane and look toward the future activities of the organization.

*Emceed by Andrew Park, Wellspring Advisors, LLC*

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**Tuesday, January 29**

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**8:15-9:00am** Breakfast & IHRFG Membership Meeting

*Lipton Hall*

**9:00-10:30am** **Concurrent Sessions**

**Are Justice Mechanisms Doing Enough  
for Human Rights?**

*Lipton Hall*

International Courts are increasingly being expected to contribute to building domestic capacity, as well as to assist with human rights, truth, peace and reconciliation work in post-conflict fragile nations. Are donors setting expectations unrealistically high? Would these Courts be more effective if they concentrated their efforts and resources on prosecuting perpetrators and conducting fair trials? Should broader justice needs even be a part of a Court's core mandate? This discussion will be preceded by a 10 minute video showing the work of the "outreach" unit in Sierra Leone that is charged with attending to broader justice needs.

*Speakers:*

- **Herman von Hebel**, Registrar of the Special Court of Sierra Leone
- **Alex Whiting**, formerly Senior Trial Attorney, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

*Facilitator:* **Caitlin Reiger**, Deputy Director (Prosecutions Program), International Center for Transitional Justice

*Session Organizer:*

**Penny Fujiko Willgerodt**, Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

## Human Rights and the US Elections

Faculty Club

The session will (1) explore how human rights issues are playing out in the current presidential and congressional election campaigns (to the extent they are not being ignored); and (2) consider the prospects for advancing human rights priorities in the post-election period. John Kowal will moderate the session in an interactive Q&A format.

*Speaker:*

- **Catherine Powell**, Associate Professor of Law & Director of the International Law & the Constitution Initiative at Fordham Law School

*Facilitator & Session Organizer:*

**John Kowal**, Director of Constitutional Democracy Initiatives, OSI

10:30-10:45pm *Break*

## 10:45-12:15pm Concurrent Sessions

### Learning from the Inside:

#### Evaluating Human Rights Advocacy

Lipton Hall

The Atlantic Philanthropies is undergoing a major evaluation of its human rights funding around the world. In this session, speakers will share their experiences in evaluating human rights and social change efforts, and in particular, explore how advocacy and movement building assessment and evaluation might help strengthen the groups and movements in which grantmakers invest.

*Speakers:*

- **Steven Budlender**, Evaluation Consultant
- **Steven Burkeman**, Evaluation Consultant

*Facilitator:*

**Michael Quinn Patton**, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

*Session Organizer:*

**Rebecca Rittgers**, Programme Executive (Reconciliation & Human Rights), The Atlantic Philanthropies

### Giving the Environment a Human (Rights) Face

Faculty Club

Humans instigate environmental degradations like climate change, and such environmental shifts in turn cause enormous human suffering. At least for the time being in this unfolding drama, the *instigating* humans and the *suffering* humans tend to be two rather *separate* groups of humans. During this working group-style meeting, we'll explore how the human rights framework might be particularly effective for *grantmaking* humans who want to help rewrite the drama. Hosted by the Human Rights and the Environment Working Group.

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

12:15-1:15pm     *Lunch ... and **The Funders' Soapbox!***     *Lipton Hall*  
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

1:15-3:15pm     **Closing Plenary:**     *Lipton Hall*  
***The Human Rights Framework –  
Is it always the most strategic?***

Funders working on manifold issues in Brazil, Russia, and India, across Africa and the Arab World, and internationally on women's issues, will debate 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?

Join us to hear 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 TrustAfrica probe these and other questions.

*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

*Co-Facilitators:*

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

**Marta Tellado**, Vice President for Communications, Ford Foundation

*Session Organizer:*

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

## LOGISTICAL DETAILS

### How to register for the meeting:

IHRFG is now using an on-line registration process. Please register directly at [www.regonline.com/IHRFG-JULY2008](http://www.regonline.com/IHRFG-JULY2008). The deadline for registration is **Thursday, July 10, 2008**.

**Eligibility:** *This meeting is only open to grantmakers.* Current IHRFG members and individuals eligible for membership may attend the Semi-annual Meetings.

IHRFG is open to staff, consultants and trustees of private foundations, public charities (public foundations and community foundations) whose primary activity is grantmaking and who do not relate to other members primarily as grantseekers, corporate foundations and community giving programs, governmental giving programs, faith-based giving programs, philanthropic advocacy and support organizations and individual philanthropists with significant giving programs. Only individuals whose functions include grantmaking activities (please note: staff whose functions are solely fundraising are not eligible for participation in IHRFG activities).

To become an IHRFG member, visit the IHRFG website for the current enrollment form. IHRFG dues are voluntary, apply to member institutions (not individuals), and based on foundation size. While we strongly encourage the contribution of dues, the full benefits of IHRFG membership remain open to all, regardless of contribution.

**Costs:** IHRFG will charge a daily meal fee of \$50 to cover the cost of breakfast, lunch and beverages on both days. To cut down on food waste and cost to members, our online registration process gives you the option of paying for only the days and optional events that you will attend. We encourage the attendance of grantmaking staff at all levels as well as grantmakers interested in exploring human rights. If you would like to attend but cannot pay the meeting fee, please contact [Addison Smith](mailto:info@ihrrfg.org) at [info@ihrrfg.org](mailto:info@ihrrfg.org)

### Accommodations:

Please note that the IHRFG has not blocked any hotel rooms for this event, but contact [Addison Smith](mailto:info@ihrrfg.org) at [info@ihrrfg.org](mailto:info@ihrrfg.org) for a list of nearby accommodations and logistical information.

### Materials table:

If you would like to share resources with IHRFG colleagues, we will have resource tables available. You may bring the materials on the day of the event or send them to arrive at the address below no later than **Wednesday, July 16**.

Shipping address for materials to arrive by **Wednesday, July 16**:

Addison Smith, Administrator  
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New York, NY 10001  
Ph: (212) 609-2631