

**Semi-Annual Conference  
January 25-26, 2010  
Marriott Union Square Hotel  
San Francisco, California**

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

Our plenary theme explores the rights of marginalized populations. What are advocacy and organizing models of movements led by marginalized groups? What lessons and strategies can human rights funders draw on to strengthen their practice in promoting protections for the most vulnerable? How can practitioners integrate marginalization issues more intentionally into their programming?

As always, this conference will mix in-depth examination of multiple perspectives on human rights issues alongside workshops on effective approaches to human rights grantmaking.

**AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE**  
*(subject to change)*

<b>Monday, January 25, 2010</b>
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<b>8:30-9:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>
<b>9:30-10:00 am</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>Opening Plenary:</b> <i>Moving to Rights: Inspiration from the Disability Movement</i>
<b>12:00-1:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime Networking and Discussions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U.S. Human Rights Working Group</li><li>• <i>Earthquake Response in Haiti: What is the Human Rights Approach?</i></li><li>• <i>Legal Empowerment for the Poor: How Can It Become a Useful Approach to Human Rights Grantmaking?</i></li><li>• <i>Communicating human rights: where's the cutting edge?</i></li></ul>
<b>1:30-3:00 pm</b>	<b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fulfilling the Right to Participate: A Grantmaker's Duty?</i></li><li>• <i>The Return of the Coup: Popular Movements, the Rule of Law, and Human Rights Funding</i></li></ul>
<b>3:00-3:30 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>

<b>Monday, January 25, 2010 (continued)</b>
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| <b>3:30-5:00 pm</b> | <b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Big Dams, Big Pipelines, Big Problems: Human Rights and Megaprojects</i></li><li>• <i>Justice Systems that Prey on the Vulnerable: Can Funders Get Involved?</i></li></ul> |
| <b>5:15-6:15 pm</b> | <b>Urgent Funders' Briefing: The Human Rights Crisis in Iran</b>  |
| <b>6:00-7:00 pm</b> | <b>Networking Cocktail Reception</b>  |
| <b>7:00-9:00 pm</b> | <b>Dinner-Dialogue:</b><br><i>Advancing Human Rights: The Power of Documentary Filmmaking</i><br>With Cara Mertes, Director, Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program  |

<b>Tuesday, January 26, 2010</b>
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| <b>8:00-9:15 am</b>   | <b>IHRFG Business Breakfast</b>   |
| <b>9:15-10:45 am</b>  | <b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Half Empty or Half Full? National Security and Human Rights: The Obama Administration After One Year</i></li><li>• <i>Social Stigma in Human Rights Advocacy and Funding</i></li></ul> |
| <b>10:45-11:00 am</b> | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>11:00-12:30 pm</b> | <b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Human Rights and Soap Operas: Communication Strategies for All</i></li><li>• <i>To Migrate or Not to Migrate: Defending Human Rights at Home and Abroad</i></li></ul>                  |
| <b>12:30-2:00 pm</b>  | <b>Lunch and...</b><br><i>The Funders' Soapbox</i><br><i>On-the-Spot Consulting: Proposed U.S. Reforms on National Security</i>   |
| <b>2:00-3:50 pm</b>   | <b>Closing Plenary:</b><br><i>Juvenile (In)Justice: Human Rights Can Break the School-to-Prison Pipeline</i>  |
| <b>3:50-4:00</b>      | <b>Closing</b>  |
| <b>4:00-5:30 pm</b>   | <b>Invitation to Interested Grantmakers: Criminal Justice Funders Network</b>   |

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

(subject to change)

<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010</b>
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**8:30-9:30 am      REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**9:30-10:00 am    WELCOME**

**10:00 am-12:00 pm   OPENING PLENARY**

***Moving to Rights: Inspiration from the Disability Movement***

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) marks a turning point in the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities. It frames disability in terms of the barriers created by the social attitudes, public policy and physical environment that block people with disabilities from enjoying their rights on an equal basis with others. This plenary session will illustrate the human rights issues facing people with disabilities in the developing world, highlighting this historic moment for action given the momentum around CRPD ratification and the unprecedented organizing and participation of stakeholders in its drafting. Drawing on the experience of activists and donors in this field, the session will discuss how this movement advocates for their inclusion in the rights debates taking place at the international and domestic levels and how their efforts provide opportunities for cross-pollination with other movements.

**Sponsors:** Disability Rights Initiative, Open Society Institute; Wellspring Advisors, LLC; Disability Rights Fund; Disability Rights Working Group

**Facilitator:** Emily Martinez, Special Initiatives Director, Open Society Institute

**Panelists:**

- Gabor Gombos, Human Rights Activist, Hungary
- Gerard Quinn, Director, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, School of Law, National University of Ireland-Galway; Member, Irish Human Rights Commission
- Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank

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**MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010**

**12:00-1:30 pm**

**LUNCHTIME NETWORKING AND DISCUSSIONS**

**U.S. Human Rights Working Group**

This working session is an opportunity for funders to discuss concrete opportunities and challenges in U.S.-focused human rights grantmaking. Participants are requested to come prepared with updates on important initiatives, to talk about worthy organizations or projects in need of support, and to discuss ideas on more effectively advancing human rights in the United States. The discussion will also include the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Commission, which the United States will undergo in the spring, potential mapping of domestic human rights funding, and the possibility of shared site visits.

***Humanitarian Assistance in Haiti: What is the Human Rights Approach?***

with Blaine Bookey, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

***Legal Empowerment for the Poor: How Can It Become a Useful Approach to Human Rights Grantmaking?***

Since the release of the final report of the UN High Commission for Legal Empowerment of the Poor, co-chaired by Madeline Albright and Hernando de Soto, legal empowerment of the poor has gained attention as an alternative approach to human rights and development. However, a comprehensive strategy and funding framework for legal empowerment has not emerged. This discussion will explore what such a strategy would look like and present a potential concept.

***Communicating Human Rights: Where's the Cutting Edge?***

Participants will put their minds together informally to share perspectives and contacts about innovative communication – including examples utilizing video, social media and new media – about human rights. We will discuss how emerging tools have proven effective in capturing ‘hearts and minds’ in relation to the human rights issues of our day.

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<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 (continued)</b>
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1:30-3:00 pm

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Fulfilling the Right to Participate: A Grantmaker's Duty?***

Several international human rights mechanisms, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, explicitly state that constituencies have the right to participate in policy-making that affects their lives. Do grantmakers have a responsibility to uphold this right within their own decision-making processes? While many human rights grantmakers do include communities in their decision-making, it's often based on principles of grantmaking effectiveness and efficiency, rather than on rights. Two grantmakers will present their models of participation to stimulate a wider discussion about the right to participate and how a range of grantmaking structures might better fulfill this right.

**Sponsors:** Disability Rights Fund; Disability Rights Working Group

**Facilitator:** Daniel Lee, Executive Director, Levi Strauss Foundation

**Panelists:**

- Diana Samarasan, Director, Disability Rights Fund
- David Barr, Project Director, The Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness (c/o The Tides Foundation)

***The Return of the Coup: Popular Movements, the Rule of Law, and Human Rights Funding***

On June 28, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was exiled by military police in the first coup in Central America since the 1980s. Widespread condemnation from the international community has failed to reinstate him as president or limit widespread violations of human and civil rights of pro-democracy demonstrators. A broad social movement of labor, environmental, indigenous, *campesinos* and gay and transgender activists has emerged in response to this crisis, but it has received little international support and protection. A dialogue with prominent experts on the situation in Honduras and democracy and human rights throughout Latin America will examine: the use of media and lobbying campaigns by the de facto Honduran regime to shape the U.S. government's responses; the significance of recent international human rights prosecutions of Latin American abusers; the challenges facing civil society movements and the deep political divisions in Latin America; and the role that funders—small grants in particular—can play in strengthening civil society and the international community's resolve in preventing human rights abuses.

**Sponsors:** Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust; Global Greengrants Fund

**Facilitator:** Conrad Martin, Executive Director, Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust

**Panelists:**

- Almudena Bernabeu, Director, Transitional Justice Program, Center for Justice and Accountability; International Attorney
- Ibis Colindres, Program Officer for Honduras, Danish Church Aid-Honduras; Advisor, Global Greengrants Fund

3:00-3:30 pm

**BREAK**

## MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 (continued)

3:30-5:00 pm

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### ***Big Dams, Big Pipelines, Big Problems: Human Rights and Megaprojects***

Grantmakers concerned with the human rights impact of megaprojects often struggle with identifying the most effective intervention, especially in light of sensitivity to “outside intervention” and national development priorities that emphasize natural resources extraction. This session will explore challenges and opportunities for funders in addressing human rights violations in communities with large-scale megaprojects (oil, gas, hydro, highways, and waterways). Challenges include linking support for local empowerment with efforts to bring about bigger picture policy changes, i.e., changing safeguard policies at international financial institutions or informing policy debates around energy policy at the national and regional levels. Human rights issues related to megaprojects also have a strong overlap with environmental issues, including climate change. But it can be a challenge to make sure these issues are mutually reinforcing rather than divisive.

**Sponsor:** Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Grassroots International

**Facilitator:** Amy Shannon, Program Officer, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

#### **Panelists:**

- Cesar Gamboa, President, *Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales* (Rights, Environment and Natural Resources), Peru
- Amalia Souza, Executive Director, *Centro de Apoio Socioambiental* (Center for Environmental Support), Brazil
- Christian Poirier, Brazil Coordinator, Amazon Watch

#### ***Justice Systems that Prey on the Vulnerable: Can Funders Get Involved?***

Around the world, vulnerable groups are overrepresented in criminal justice systems. In India, where the poor, Dalits, and Muslims constitute the majority of those in detention, as many as 70 percent have not been convicted of any crime. Earlier this year, pre-trial detainees in Mozambique suffocated to death due to extreme overcrowding. In many countries, prison populations provide a striking reflection of who the society believes is of less value. Notwithstanding these abuses, few human rights funders or groups are engaged in criminal justice reform because of limited knowledge or fear of being accused of supporting “criminals.” This session will explore how funders can support civil society to prevent rights violations against vulnerable groups in detention. Participants will learn about the human rights violations perpetrated against vulnerable groups in criminal justice systems globally, particularly in the pre-trial phase; explore examples of innovative interventions to protect the rights of vulnerable groups in criminal justice systems; and hear examples of good grantmaking in this field.

**Sponsor:** Open Society Institute, Global Criminal Justice Fund of Special Initiatives

**Facilitator:** Martin Schönteich, Legal Officer: National Criminal Justice Reform, Open Society Justice Initiative

#### **Panelists:**

- Natalie Rea, Director, International Legal Foundation
- Yervand Shirinyan, Director, Human Rights and Governance Grants Program, Open Society Institute
- Navaz Tehmurasp Kotwal, Coordinator, Access to Justice Program, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (New Delhi, India)

## MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 (continued)

5:15-6:15 pm

### URGENT FUNDERS' BRIEFING: *The Human Rights Crisis in Iran*

- Professor Abbas Milani, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies, Stanford University
- Steven Riskin, Senior Program Officer, Grant and Fellowships Program, United States Institute of Peace

6:00-7:00 pm

### NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:00-9:00 pm

### DINNER-DIALOGUE



### *Advancing Human Rights: The Power of Documentary Film*

Cara Mertes, Director, Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program

Introduced by Pamela Harris, Program Director, Grantmakers in Film + Electronic Media

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010

8:00-9:15 am

### IHRFG BUSINESS BREAKFAST

We need your input. IHRFG is a peer-led organization. Over the past year, IHRFG has been blessed with the opportunity to expand. We are exploring exciting new projects in policy and research, educational convening, and outreach and communications. By dawn's early light, join members of IHRFG's Steering Committee and staff to discuss IHRFG's plans-in-the-making for mapping human rights funding; becoming more "globally inclusive"; launching day-long institutes and other in-depth learning opportunities; and upgrading our website and web-based resources. Come listen, question, and offer us your thinking. We promise a good cup of coffee!

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<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010 (continued)</b>
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9:15-10:45 am

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Half Empty or Half Full? National Security and Human Rights: The Obama Administration After One Year***

In his first week in office, President Obama signed three executive orders aimed at restoring human rights: closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within one year; banning the use of torture and secret prisons; and ordering reviews of detention and interrogation policies. Despite this strong start, progress on restoring human rights in these and other key areas—accountability, surveillance, transparency, racial profiling, and “terrorism financing”—has been slow. This session will review how the Obama Administration has fared in its first year with respect to issues at the intersection of national security and human rights. Presenters will analyze the factors that contributed to human rights victories in 2009, as well as the policy gaps that still exist, focusing on how funders can engage in order to continue to restore the rights that were eroded after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

**Sponsors:** Proteus Fund (National Security and Human Rights Pooled Fund); Open Society Institute; Atlantic Philanthropies; Wellspring Advisors, LLC

**Facilitator:** Vince Warren, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights

**Panelists:**

- Shahid Buttar, Executive Director, Bill of Rights Defense Committee
- Kay Guinane, Program Manager, Charities and Security Network
- Admiral John D. Hutson, Dean and President, Franklin Pierce Law Center

***Challenging Social Stigma: The Role of Human Rights Advocacy and Funding***

To assess human rights gains, many funders look at policy changes, expansion of services, and the creation or modification of laws. This is particularly true in the field of LGBT rights. Gains in these areas include legal recognition of same sex couples and anti-discrimination protections in employment and housing. While these achievements are significant, there remains significant personal prejudice, fear and revulsion directed toward people because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. This panel will stimulate a discussion on the role social stigma plays in advancing or limiting human rights advancements and how funders might consider funding projects and efforts that challenge those stigmas. Participants will explore the impact of stigma on funding choices that relate to policy and advocacy work in those fields. For example, how does funding on the issue of, for example, gay marriage affect stigma toward LGBT people?

**Sponsor:** Wellspring Advisors, LLC

**Facilitator:** Matt Foreman, Program Director: Rights, The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

**Panelists:**

- Randall Miller, Senior Program Officer, The Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
- Gregory M. Herek, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of California, Davis

10:45-11:00 am

**BREAK**



11:00-12:30 pm

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Human Rights and Soap Operas: Communication Strategies for All***

In the Peruvian Amazon, indigenous communities struggle with violence against women, lack of healthcare, and obstacles to growing their own food. Minga Peru helps these communities advocate for their human rights through innovative communications work, such as convening community residents to produce radio programs and even a soap opera viewed by tens of thousands of people. In other corners of the world, Daniel Moss applies communication tools (as a donor, activist and practitioner) to promote social change at the grassroots level. Susan Rosenberg, Communications Director of AJWS, knits grantee messages and experiences together in a communications campaign designed to raise awareness and funds to support global hunger issues. In conversation with session participants, this panel will grapple with a concern of many human rights grantmakers: What support most helps strengthen effective grassroots communication that challenges and shifts power relationships and social norms?

**Sponsor:** American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

**Facilitator:** Susan Rosenberg, Communications Director, American Jewish World Service

**Panelists:**

- Eliana Elias, Director, Minga Peru
- Daniel Moss, Communications Consultant

***To Migrate or Not to Migrate: Defending Human Rights at Home and Abroad***

The human rights of migrants are often discussed in terms of immigrant rights in the receiving country. But what about people's right to stay home and remain on their land, i.e., to *not* migrate? Since the passage of NAFTA, for example, Oaxaca, Mexico has become an area of increasing out-migration as indigenous peoples and small farmers lose their livelihoods to international trade rules, agribusiness, and genetically modified crops. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in other regions are also associated with growing displacement, criminalization and exploitation of migrant labor. Internationally, receiving country governments tend to view migrants as commodities to fuel economic growth and development. This session will prompt discussion about a) how rural communities are working to defend their land rights and resist displacement; b) the policies being promoted by international bodies such as The Global Forum on Migration and Development; c) popular responses by migrant groups, human rights organizations, trade unions, and development NGOs around the world; and d) the role of funders in keeping the focus of migration debates on dignity and human rights.

**Sponsor:** Grassroots International

**Facilitator:** Lilian Autler, Institutional Coordinator, Grassroots International

**Panelists:**

- Aldo Gonzalez, General Coordinator, Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca, Mexico
- Colin Rajah, International Migrant Rights and Global Justice Program Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Catherine Tactaquin, Executive Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010 (continued)</b>
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**12:30-2:00 pm**

**LUNCH AND...**

***The Funders' Soapbox***

Join this “open mic” opportunity to speak extemporaneously on your philanthropic passions (people, projects or programs), promote a favorite organization, appeal for advice, etc.!

***On-the-Spot Consulting: Proposed U.S. Reforms on National Security***

In advance of her presentation to U.S. government officials, Kay Guinane of the Charity and Security Network would like to seek your input on proposals she is drafting for national security policies that will impact U.S. charitable giving.

**2:00-3:50 pm**

**CLOSING PLENARY**

***Juvenile (In)Justice: Human Rights Can Break the School-to-Prison Pipeline***

In the United States, poverty, racism and poor education are linked to schools which promote aggressive policing rather than a culture which teaches behavioral skills and conflict resolution. Youth who are pushed out via zero-tolerance disciplinary policies often pass through juvenile detention into adult facilities. This “school-to-prison pipeline” encompasses insidious and interconnected human rights abuses. International human rights standards and amicus briefs from foreign bar associations are being used with growing frequency, but vital changes in the education and criminal justice systems cannot be achieved by advocates working in silos. Thankfully, there is increased cohesion/collaboration among young people, parents, organizers and lawyers who are using human rights values, standards and strategies to address these challenges. In this closing plenary, three long-term advocates and two donors will have an honest exchange about efforts to break the school-to-prison pipeline using a human rights framework. Funders working on this set of issues are beginning to forge alliances across funding sectors, attempting to provide more holistic support. Examples include: donors working in closer partnership with advocates to secure policy change; organizing omnibus proposals/reports and shared site visits to reduce advocates’ fundraising burden; helping advocates from related campaigns come together to enhance effectiveness; and mapping funding gaps and strategic opportunities to effectively allocate resources. Such practices may have resonance for other social justice issues.

**Sponsors:** U.S. Human Rights Fund; Ford Foundation; U.S. Human Rights Working Group

**Panelists:**

- Connie de la Vega, Professor and Academic Director, International Programs, University of San Francisco School of Law
- Kim McGill, Organizer, Youth Justice Coalition
- Maisie Chin, Director, CADRE (Community Asset Development Re-defining Education)
- Kirsten Livingston, Program Officer, Peace and Social Justice, Ford Foundation
- Leonard Noisette, Program Director, Criminal Justice Fund, Open Society Institute

**3:50-4:00**

**CLOSING**

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**INVITATION TO INTERESTED GRANTMAKERS**

**4:00-5:30 pm Criminal Justice Funders Network**

Join this nascent network that aims to map philanthropic investments in the United States criminal justice sector and strengthen donor linkages.

## MEETING LOGISTICS

### ELIGIBILITY

This conference is open only to grantmakers. Current IHRFG members and individuals eligible for membership may attend the semi-annual conferences.

IHRFG membership is open to staff, consultants and trustees of private foundations, corporate foundations, community giving programs, governmental giving programs, faith-based giving programs, philanthropic advocacy and support organizations, individual philanthropists with significant giving programs, and public charities (public foundations and community foundations) whose primary activity is grantmaking and who do not relate to other IHRFG members primarily as grant-seekers.

Please note: Staff of grantmaking institutions (that are also grant-seeking organizations) whose functions are solely fundraising are not eligible for participation.

### PARTICIPATION FEES

IHRFG charges a daily registration fee to help off-set the costs of food and beverages. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days. We encourage participation by grantmaking staff at all levels who are interested in exploring human rights.

The fees for the conference events are:

Monday, January 25th, only:	US\$125
Tuesday, January 26th, only:	US\$125
Both Monday and Tuesday:	US\$250
Networking Reception (January 25th):	US\$30
Dinner-Dialogue Event (January 25th):	US\$80

### CONFERENCE VENUE

Marriott San Francisco Union Square Hotel  
480 Sutter Street (and Powell Street)  
San Francisco, California 49108  
1.415.398.8900

This venue is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### MATERIALS TABLE

If you would like to share resources with IHRFG colleagues, we will have a table for printed materials and other informational resources. However, to reduce our carbon footprint, we ask that you bring only three copies of the resource with you and provide information on how interested participants can obtain more copies.

### QUESTIONS

Please contact Azeen Salimi, IHRFG Program Manager:

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