

Semi-annual Meeting – January 28-29, 2008

Hotel 480 (formerly the Crowne Plaza)

Savoy Room

480 Sutter Street (between Stockton and Powell)

San Francisco, CA 94108

Plenary topic: **Human Rights and Natural Resources**

The ability to exercise human rights depends in part on the availability of finite resources. As privatization of natural resources increases, questions of ownership and access have become crucial. Strategies for economic development clash with human rights values. The failure of governments to provide access to land and natural resources often leads to war, migration, poverty and sickness. The denial of access to land and natural resources almost always disproportionately affects women and indigenous communities.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Monday – January 28

9:00-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30-10:00am	Welcome
10:00-12:00pm	Opening Plenary: Human Rights and Natural Resources
12:00-1:30pm	Networking Lunch
1:30-3:00pm	Concurrent member-sponsored sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicating Human Rights: New Opinion Research and Effective Messaging ▪ Women's Property Rights: Advancing Development Through Human Rights
3:00-3:15pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-5:00pm	Membership Meeting
5:00-5:30pm	Screening of <i>The Story of Stuff</i> with Annie Leonard
5:30-6:30pm	<i>Pre-Evening Events Break</i>
6:30-9:00pm	Dinner event – Screening of clips from <i>War Dance</i> and remarks from Executive Producer, Susan Maclaury

Tuesday – January 29

8:30- 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00-10:30am	Working Groups: Environmental, Disability, Sexual Rights and US Human Rights
10:30-10:45am	<i>Break</i>
10:45-12:15pm	Concurrent member-sponsored sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population, Justice and the Environmental Challenge ▪ Beating Rights into Plowshares: Guaranteeing Food for All
12:15-1:15pm	Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!
1:15-2:45pm	Concurrent member-sponsored sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Name Only: The Right to Organize in the US ▪ The Hurdle of Donor Fatigue: The Need to Fund Hotspots
2:45-3:00pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-5:00pm	Closing Funder Discussion

DETAILED AGENDA

Monday, January 28

9:00-9:30 *Breakfast*

9:30-10:00 *Welcome*

10:00-12:00 **Opening Plenary:** *Savoy*
Human Rights and Natural Resources

Speakers:

- **Corinna Gilfillan**, Head of US Office, Global Witness, UNITED STATES
- **Isaac Asume Osuoka**, Director, Social Action Nigeria, NIGERIA
- **Samuel Kofi Woods**, Minister of Labor, Government of Liberia, LIBERIA

Facilitator: **Theresa Fay-Bustillos**, Executive Director, Levi Strauss Foundation

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

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) and **Shalini Nataraj** (Director of Programs, Global Fund for Women) will convene a roundtable welcome discussion of folks new to IHRFG meetings.

Presidential politics and human rights

IHRFG Steering Committee member, **John Kowal** (Director of Constitutional and Legal Policy, Open Society Institute), will lead a discussion on the 2008 presidential race and the role of human rights (or not) in the race.

Economic, social and cultural rights

Lesley Carson (Philanthropic Advisor, Wellspring Advisors) will lead a discussion on grantmaking to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

1:30-3:00pm ***Member-sponsored sessions*** (meet concurrently)

Communicating Human Rights: New Opinion *Savoy*
Research and Effective Messaging

A 2007 opinion survey by the Opportunity Agenda reveals a detailed picture of the American public's attitudes towards human rights. This data can be of immense value in retooling struggling domestic rights campaigns and better fostering public demand for US accountability to human rights at home *and* abroad. Invited NGO speakers will discuss key findings and recommendations from the survey, and show how advocacy groups can translate this data into action. Speakers will highlight current capacity and opportunities in strategic communications as we shape public opinion and further build the movement for US human rights.

Speakers:

- **Larry Cox**, Executive Director, Amnesty International USA

- **Alan Jenkins**, Executive Director, The Opportunity Agenda

Facilitator: **Gopal Dayaneni**, Progressive Communications Network

Women's Property Rights: Advancing Development Through Human Rights

Russian Hill

Equal access to property is fundamental to both the realization of women's human rights and development. The violation of women's right to non-discrimination under statutory and customary laws governing property ownership, inheritance, and marriage exposes them to the further violation of internationally recognized rights – to an adequate standard of living, to health, to be free from violence and exploitation. This session will illustrate, with concrete examples, how the realization of the full range of human rights characterizes, rather than conflicts with, development – so long as "development" is understood as strengthening people's ability to live with dignity.

Speakers:

- **Violet Shivutse**, GROOTS Kenya (KENYA)
- **Janet Walsh**, Deputy Director, Women's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch (UNITED STATES)

Facilitator: **Nata Duvvury**, Director of the Gender, Violence, and Rights, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

3:00-3:15pm *Break*

3:15-5:00pm **Membership Meeting**

Savoy

5:00-5:30pm **Screening of *The Story of Stuff* with Annie Leonard** *Russian Hill*

5:00-6:30pm *Pre-Evening Events Break*

6:30-9:00pm **Dinner with screening of clips from *War Dance* and remarks from Executive Producer, Susan Maclaury**

Savoy

Set against the backdrop of Uganda's 20 year civil war during which over 30,000 children have been abducted by a rebel army, this documentary tells the story of Dominic, Rose, Nancy and their school in the Patongo Internally Displaced Persons camp as they take an historic journey to compete in Uganda's national music and dance festival.

Introduction by John Taylor, Wellspring Advisors, LLC

Tuesday, January 29

8:30-9:00am *Breakfast*

Savoy

9:00-10:30am Working Groups Meet

**Disability Rights Working Group –
Civil society and monitoring a new treaty**

Telegraph Hill

Attendees will discuss the process for NGO involvement with the Committee of experts that will monitor the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A representative from the UN Secretariat as well as a representative from the disability community will update attendees on recent meetings to design a process for DPO and other NGO involvement. The session is a unique opportunity to hear about how UN mechanisms can be created to enhance the participation of civil society and how funders can help support such efforts.

Speakers:

- **Tina Minkowitz**, Co-Chair, World Users and Survivors of Psychiatry
- **Joop Theunissen**, Officer-in-Charge, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, DESA, United Nations

Facilitator: **Catherine Townsend**, Associate Philanthropic Advisor, Wellspring Advisors, LLC

Human Rights and Environment Working Group

Savoy

Although there isn't a set of "Environmental" rights in the UN Declaration, many of the rights it does enumerate – livelihood, for instance, connect directly to environmental causes. Large dams flood farmland and communities, oil spills pollute drinking water supplies or climate change melts ice caps and permafrost making impossible the traditional way of life for Native people in the North. While governments are usually the perpetrators of abuse of civil and political rights, it is often corporations who create environmental abuse, with governments complicit or silent. Join funders who will talk about ways to deal with these issues.

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

**Sexual Rights Working Group –
The Impact of International Financial Institutions' Programs on
Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

Russian Hill

The policies and programs of International Financial Institutions (IFI) have a significant effect on sexual and reproductive rights (SRR), especially for young people in developing countries. IFI's have the potential to either promote or limit young people's sexual and reproductive rights. Yet SRR are largely excluded from principles that guide IFI policies and programs. Victor Bernhardt will examine the impact that IFI's and global economic trends have on SSR. Session attendees will also discuss advocacy strategies that activists can undertake to better integrate SRR into the IFI's work.

Speaker:

Victor Bernhardt, Vice Chair of the Board, Youth Coalition (SWEDEN)

Facilitator: **Heidi Dorow**, Philanthropic Advisor, Wellspring Advisors, LLC

US Human Rights Working Group

Savoy

This meeting is an opportunity for funders to talk about domestic human rights funding challenges and opportunities. The discussion will build on the preceding day's panel on "Communicating Human Rights," and the Working Group discussion at the July IHRFG meeting. Areas of focus could include U.S. human rights messaging and communications, transnational learning exchanges for advocates, and human rights training for the legal and judicial community. Session participants will also be asked to come prepared to talk about 1-2 worthy organizations they could not fund or fully fund.

10:30-10:45pm *Break*

10:45-12:15pm *Members-sponsored sessions* (meet concurrently)

Population, Justice and the Environmental Challenge

Russian Hill

In the last year, climate change has rocketed to the top of the public agenda, prompting a resurgence of interest in the relationships among population growth, climate change and other environmental issues. But, too often, the conversation about population issues is framed in a way that threatens human rights, focusing on "population control" and severe restrictions on immigration. Is it possible to confront our growing numbers and environmental impact while advancing human rights and wellbeing? Yes, answer the panelists in this session, who will lay out a justice framework for addressing rapid population growth and environmental degradation, and show how to apply that framework.

Speakers:

- **Monica Jasis**, Director, Centro Mujeres (MEXICO)
- **Laurie Mazur**, Editor (UNITED STATES)

Facilitator: **Shira Saperstein**, Deputy Director and Program Director for Women's Rights and Reproductive Health, Moriah Fund

Beating Rights into Plowshares: Guaranteeing Food for All

Savoy

The right to food is enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights. But what political action is needed to ensure that this actually translates into food on the plates of consumers and fertile land for farming families? This panel brings together two key actors on the world stage. Rafael Alegria works with peasant organizations around the world to advocate for land reform and helps defend land activists in the inevitable repressive backlash. Wayne Roberts has brought the right to food to the municipal level; this right is now in the Toronto City Charter. Hungry for change? This is the session for you.

Speakers:

- **Rafael Alegria**, Coordinator, Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform (HONDURAS)
- **Wayne Roberts**, Project Coordinator, Toronto Food Policy Council (CANADA)

Facilitator: **Maria Aguiar**, Director of Global Programs, Grassroots International

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

1:15-2:45pm **Members-sponsored sessions** (meet concurrently)

In Name Only: The Right to Organize in the US Savoy

The right of workers to organize is well established under international human rights law. Yet according to Human Rights Watch and other watchdog groups, US labor law and practice fail miserably in protecting this basic right. As foundations, we support a variety of projects to protect the rights of workers abroad, but we rarely examine practices in our own backyard. This session will explore the problems with current laws and the consequences for US workers; changes proposed under the Employee Free Choice Act; and what funders can do to promote and respect worker rights via daily practices, investment portfolios and grantmaking dockets.

Speakers:

- **Amaha Kassa**, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)
- **Mary Beth Maxwell**, Executive Director, American Rights at Work Education Fund

Facilitator: **Pronita Gupta**, Director of Programs, Women Donors Network

**The Hurdle of Donor Fatigue:
The Need to Fund Hotspots** Russian Hill

This panel will examine the challenges of funding in areas like Zimbabwe, Burma, and DRC, where the needs are great, challenges continue to grow, and progress is not always apparent. The panel will include Otto Saki, a prominent lawyer from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, as well as Brian Joseph, a donor who supports such hotspots. The panel will explore those aspects of funding that have been most productive and make recommendations as to how international funding can make a difference despite the frustrations that can come with the lack of clear progress.

Speakers:

- **Brian Joseph**, Director for South and Southeast Asia, National Endowment for Democracy
- **Otto Saki**, Projects Lawyer, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Facilitator: **Bess Rothenberg**, Associate Director, Center for the Study of Human Rights

2:45-3:00pm *Break*

3:00-5:00pm **Closing Plenary:** Savoy
Funding human rights and natural resources

Framing the discussion around human rights, the speakers will discuss funding around sustainable consumption/ environmental management, the right to water and the right to food. Each will share how donors can

strengthen rights work in these areas. Speaker will identify "tipping points" (such as particular movements, regional momentum, exciting campaigns at country level) where funders have an immediate opportunity to support such work and maximize potential for impact.

Don't miss this exciting closing session! Each panelist will also bring a handout that identifies practical resources that donors can use to better understand the issues and monitor what's happening in the field (including tools/resources you can share with grantees).

Speakers:

- **Nikhil Aziz**, Executive Director, Grassroots International
- **Patricia Jones**, Program Manager, Environmental Justice, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- **Anne Leonard**, Coordinator, Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption

Facilitator: **Mona Khan**, Director of Programs, Fund for Global Human Rights

MEETING LOGISTICS

Eligibility:

This meeting is only open to grantmakers. Current IHRFG members and individuals eligible for membership may attend the Semi-annual Meetings. IHRFG membership is open to staff, consultants and trustees of private foundations, public charities that devote 50 percent of their program budget to grantmaking, 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.

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 and Registration:

IHRFG will charge a daily meal fee of \$75 to cover the cost of breakfast, lunch and beverages on both days. For registration details, please go to our online registration service that can be accessed at www.regonline.com/IHRFG08.

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 meal fee, please contact Catherine Townsend at IHRFG.

The **deadline to register** for the meeting is **Friday, January 18th**.

Accommodations:

IHRFG has blocked rooms at the [Hotel 480](#) (formerly the Crowne Plaza Union Square), the site of the meeting, at the rate of \$195 per night, plus tax. To reserve a room at this special rate, please contact the reservations department at **866-912-0972** and reference the International Human Rights Funders Group. A limited number of rooms are available and the special rate ends **January 16, 2008**.

Materials/Resource table:

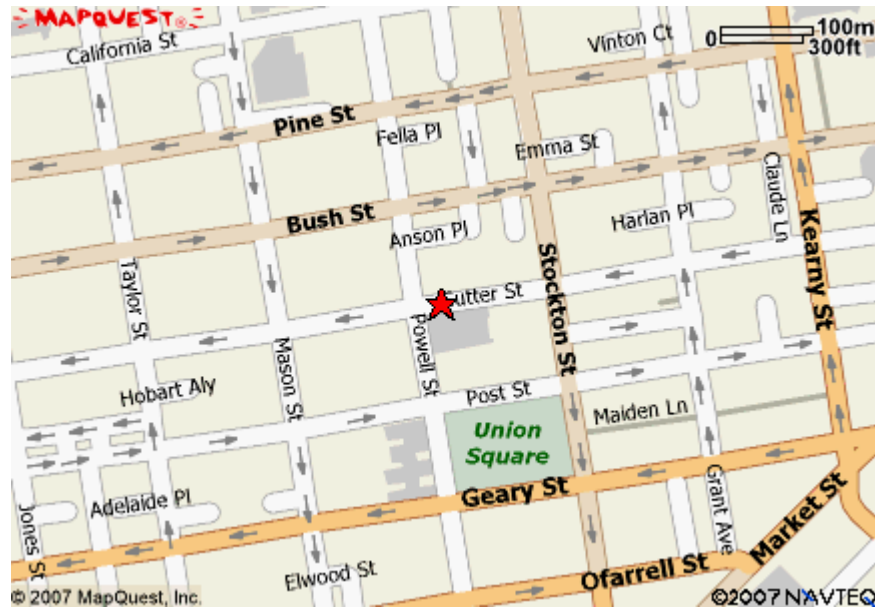
If you would like to share resources with IHRFG colleagues, we will have resource tables available. You may bring the materials on the day of the event or send them to arrive at the address below no later than January 24th. Please note that IHRFG is charged a per box handling fee.

Banquets Department
Hotel 480
480 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
ATTN: International Human Rights Funders Group
Catherine Townsend
January 29-30, 2008

Getting to the Meeting

Hotel 480

480 Sutter Street (between Stockton and Powell)
San Francisco, CA 94108



Nearest Public Transportation

Bart: Powell Station Exit

- Distance: A four block walk up Powell Street to hotel (0.2 MI/0.32 KM)
- Taxi Fee From Train Station: \$3.00

Muni: Powell Street Station for MUNI or BART

- Distance: A four block walk up Powell Street to hotel (.25 MI/0.4 KM)
- Taxi Fee From Subway Station: \$6.00