

International Human Rights Funders Group
July 14-15, 2003
New York, NY

AGENDA

Monday, July 14

Location: Open Society Institute
400 West 59th Street (bet 9th & 10th Aves), Conference Room 3A & B
Tel: 212.548.0600

9:00-9:30am *Breakfast*

9:30-9:40am *Welcoming Remarks from the Steering Committee*
Steve Riskin, U.S. Institute of Peace

9:40-12:30pm *Human Rights Education Session*
Facilitator: John Kowal, Open Society Institute

"Human Rights in the U.S.: Challenging the Erosion of Civil Rights and Liberties"

In the US, an increasingly conservative judiciary has been systematically rolling back civil rights protections under the banner of a radical "new federalism" jurisprudence that limits the power of Congress to pass laws enforcing national standards of equality, liberty and fairness. The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, a newly formed coalition of rights advocates, academics, lawyers and concerned citizens, is developing strategies to fight this rollback of rights -- including the development of legal theories and public education "messages" based on international human rights principles. This session will profile the work of the Campaign, and will explore the pros and cons of incorporating a human rights approach into its work.

Steven W. Hawkins
Executive Director
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Washington, DC

Cheri Honkala
Executive Director
Kensington Welfare Rights Union
Philadelphia, PA

Eva Jefferson Paterson
Executive Director
Equal Justice Society
San Francisco, CA

Anthony D. Romero
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union
New York, NY

12:30-1:30pm *Lunch*

1:30-3:45pm *Special Projects Session*

Facilitator: Shalini Nataraj, Reebok Human Rights Foundation

Leveraging New Funds to Support Human Rights

Michael J. Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Fund for Global Human Rights

Mona Khan, Fund for Global Human Rights

New IHRFG Initiatives

Steve Riskin, U.S. Institute of Peace

7:00pm

Dining Out (*at own cost*)

Il Sogno Ristorante

222 East 39th Street (between 2nd/3rd Aves)

Tel: 212.297.0280

Tuesday, July 15

Location:

Rockefeller Foundation

420 Fifth Avenue (bet 37th & 38th St), The Board Room (23rd Fl)

Tel: 212.869.8500

9:00-9:30am

Breakfast

9:30-12:00pm

Networking Session

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

“Funding in High Conflict Zones”

Conflict zones can create the most horrendous human rights abuses (think Bosnia, think Sierra Leone, think Rwanda), but where the need is greatest, help is often hardest to deliver. Information is hard to come by, money may be impossible to channel where you want it, the right groups may be hard to find, and the work itself is incredibly dangerous. Some colleagues have managed it anyway – here’s how.

Johanna Mendelson Forman

Senior Program Officer

United Nations Foundation

Beka Vuco

Regional Director for Western Balkans

Open Society Institute

Joe Wilson

Program Officer

Public Welfare Foundation

Chris Wing

Program Officer

Ford Foundation

12:00-1:30pm

Lunch ... and The Funders’ Soapbox!

Facilitator: Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation

An opportunity for participants to speak extemporaneously on their philanthropic passions (people, projects or programs), promote a favorite organization, appeal for advice, etc.!

1:30-3:00pm

Programming Trends Session

Facilitator: Melanie Oliviero, Grantmakers Without Borders

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's recently-issued "Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines" could profoundly affect the funding of domestic and overseas organizations. If made mandatory, these guidelines would, for example, require donors funding groups overseas to (1) run background checks on grantee organizations, key staff, and board members, (2) obtain a range of new assurances from grantees about the operations of the financial institutions with which they maintain accounts, and (3) collect information about grantees' affiliated groups and contractors, beneficiary organizations, and their sources of income. Participants will be invited to discuss the implications of these new guidelines and their tactics and broader strategies for dealing with them.

3:00-3:15pm

Break

3:15-4:45pm

Business Meeting Session

Facilitator: Mona Younis, Mertz Gilmore Foundation

- Old Business: January 2003 meeting decisions
- Membership Dues
John Kowal, Open Society Institute
- Steering Committee Membership
Surita Sandosham, Rockefeller Foundation
- Visit to Office of UNHCHR in Geneva
Johanna Mendelson Forman, United Nations Foundation
- Next three meetings: Where, When, What and How
January ___, 2004, San Francisco
July ___, 2004, _____
January ___, 2005, _____
- Other business

7:00pm

Dining Out (at own cost)

St. Bart's Café - Great Terrace
109 E 50th St (at Park Avenue)
Tel: 212.888.2664