



## 8 Ways to Use Our Research on Global Human Rights Grantmaking

- 1. Gain a better understanding of the overall field of human rights philanthropy. IHRFG and the Foundation Center's <u>Advancing Human Rights: Update on Global Foundation Grantmaking</u> provides an analysis of the state of human rights funding in 2011, while <u>Philanthropy In/Sight: Human Rights</u>, our online mapping tool, offers a visual representation of the field. A re-designed and enhanced version of this mapping tool will launch on Sept 1, 2014!
- 2. Identify strengths and gaps in human rights funding. *Philanthropy In/Sight: Human Rights* enables you to search by issue funded, population supported, and geographic focus, with the ability to drill down to the city level, helping you identify where your support could address a gap.



- **3. Inform your foundation's strategic planning and decision-making.** "In 2010," noted one foundation, "when we were making an assessment of human rights grantmaking, a mapping of the field would have helped enormously in giving us a better sense of the extent to which we had covered the field and where our particular niche was."
- **4.** Scope out potential new grantees, as well as new issues, populations, and geographies for potential support. One funder, for example, utilized the map to scope out grantees and grantmakers associated with local LGBTQ rights work prior to conducting site visits in Turkey.
- **5. Find funding partners.** Identify which funders already support your existing grantees, as well as already support areas new to your work. Utilize this information to build collaborations and alliances with your peers.
- **6.** Advocate for additional funding on behalf of issues, populations, and geographies of interest. This research provides data you can utilize to make the case for increased funding for a particular area, either within your institution or among your peers.
- 7. Utilize as a resource for specialized mapping exercises. This research serves as a critical central resource on funding flows within the human rights field. This can save your institution time and money by reducing or eliminating the need to hire consultants to conduct scoping studies on funding for particular issues, populations, or geographies.
- 8. Assess funding trends over time. This research will allow you to track donor engagement and giving in an issue area or geography over time and explore this relative to an area's geo-political context. In 2010, for example, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was the second least funded region for human rights. In 2011, human rights funding for the region increased by 33 percent. As we 2012 grants data, we will continue to better understand how philanthropy responded to the Arab Spring.





## 8 Ways You Can Strengthen Our Research on Global Human Rights Grantmaking

- 1. Submit detailed grants data! This research relies on receiving detailed grant descriptions from funders. We encourage you to submit data annually to the Foundation Center that specifies the specific rights issues, populations, and geographies each grant supported. (New to submitting data? We're happy to help you!)
- 2. Send us feedback on how your grants are portrayed on the map. We want to ensure that we are capturing human rights grantmaking as accurately as possible and your feedback is critical in this effort.



- 3. Spread the word. Tweet, blog, email your colleagues, and share "the word" in staff meetings. We want human rights funders near and far to know about them about the availability of these tools.
- **4.** Write blog posts or articles and host discussions about the findings at your foundation. This research aims to catalyze conversation within and beyond the human rights funding community about the contemporary state and future of the field. Jump in with your reactions and thoughts! In addition, IHRFG would love to facilitate a discussion among your team what about these findings is surprising? How do they reflect your understanding of the field? What needs to be explored in greater depth?
- 5. Serve on the Project Advisory Committee and/or Test Groups. Committees comprised of human rights funders have led the way in thinking through the numerous complexities encountered within this project. Committees to date have drafted a definition of 'human rights grantmaking', critiqued the functionality and content of the online map, and provided guidance on making this research helpful to the broader philanthropic community. If you are interested in being more involved in any aspect of this project, please let us know!
- **6. Speak on panels about this research.** To increase understanding of human rights funding within the broader philanthropic community, IHRFG and the Foundation Center mount sessions at numerous philanthropic conferences. Join one of these presentations to share your expertise!
- **7. Send us examples of how you are using the map and research findings.** As part of assessing the effectiveness of this initiative, we are tracking the various ways that funders are utilizing the produced tools in support of their work.
- 8. Send us feedback on the research methodology, map functionality and content, and areas for further exploration. We want future products to build on lessons learned. What areas of funding would you like to know more about? Are there additional tools that would be helpful? Tell us!