

**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 25-26, 2011  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE:  
HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTMAKING AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
JANUARY 24, 2011**

**Plenary Theme:  
*HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR***

***What are the "levers" for holding corporations and other private actors accountable?***  
What are the roles and responsibilities of corporations and financial institutions in ensuring the protection of human rights? How can a legal framework strengthen corporations' voluntary compliance guidelines? How can grantmakers act most effectively in advancing this effort? What success stories and promising strategies have we seen?

[See below for an Agenda-at-a-Glance  
and an Annotated Agenda](#)

*(Check often for updates!)*

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

<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 24</b>
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|------------------------|---|
| <b>8:00-9:00 am</b>    | <b>Pre-Conference Institute Registration and Breakfast</b>  |
| <b>9:00 am-5:00 pm</b> | <b>Pre-Conference Institute:</b><br><i>Human Rights Grantmaking and International Development</i> |

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 25</b>
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| <b>8:00-9:00 am</b>     | <b>Conference Registration and Breakfast</b>  |
| <b>9:00-9:30 am</b>     | <b>Opening and Welcome</b>  |
| <b>9:30 am-12:00 pm</b> | <b>Opening Plenary:</b><br><i>Human Rights, the Environment, and the Private Sector</i>   |
| <b>12:00-1:30 pm</b>    | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| <b>12:15-12:45 pm</b>   | <b>The Funders' Soapbox</b>   |
| <b>1:30-3:00 pm</b>     | <b>Concurrent Member-Sponsored Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Transnational Worker Justice and the Excluded Workers Movement: What's Funding Got To Do With It?</i></li><li>• <i>"I now pronounce you...": Promoting Same-Sex Marriage</i></li></ul>                |
| <b>3:00-3:30 pm</b>     | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>3:30-5:00 pm</b>     | <b>Concurrent Member-Sponsored Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fighting Back Collaboratively: Responding to the Criminalization of Immigrants</i></li><li>• <i>Getting Out the Human Rights Story: Media Needs and Challenges for Rights Practitioners</i></li></ul> |
| <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b>     | <b><i>Open, unstructured time for networking</i></b>  |
| <b>6:00-7:00 pm</b>     | <b>Cocktail Reception</b>   |
| <b>7:00-9:00 pm</b>     | <b>Dinner-Dialogue:</b><br><i>Philanthropy, New Media, and Human Rights</i>   |

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

<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26</b>
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| <b>8:00-9:00 am</b>      | <b>Bagels and Brainstorming: IHRFG Business Breakfast</b>  |
| <b>9:00-10:30 am</b>     | <b>Concurrent Member-Sponsored Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bridging the Gap: The Right to Information and Human Rights Accountability</i></li><li>• <i>Human® Rights in the Age of Human Biotechnology</i></li></ul>  |
| <b>10:30-10:45 am</b>    | <b>Break</b>   |
| <b>10:45 am-12:15 pm</b> | <b>Concurrent Member-Sponsored Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Resource rights activists? Straight to jail you go!”</i></li><li>• <i>Securing Human Rights Accountability in the United States</i></li></ul>   |
| <b>12:15-1:15 pm</b>     | <b>Lunch and Lunchtime Discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>How can we transform survey results into action for criminal justice funders?</i></li><li>• <i>How can funders promote non-violence as a strategy in human rights movements?</i></li><li>• <i>Latin America Funders (Working Group in formation)</i></li></ul> |
| <b>1:15-2:15 pm</b>      | <b>Working Group Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Asia Funders (Working Group in formation)</i></li><li>• <i>Human Rights Defenders (Working Group in formation)</i></li><li>• <i>Environment and Human Rights Working Group</i></li></ul>  |
| <b>2:15-2:30 pm</b>      | <b>Break</b>   |
| <b>2:30-4:30 pm</b>      | <b>Closing Plenary:</b><br><i>Navigating “No-Man’s Land”: Corporations, Human Rights, and the Law</i>  |
| <b>4:30 pm</b>           | <b>Closing</b>   |

**IHRFG SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**JANUARY 25-26, 2011**  
**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011</b>
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**8:00-9:00 am            REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

**9:00-9:30 am            WELCOME**

Clara Shin, Member, Board of Directors, The Rosenberg Foundation

**CONFERENCE OPENING**

Diana Samarasan, Executive Director, Disability Rights Fund

Lesley Carson, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors

**9:30 am-12:00 pm      OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

***Human Rights, the Environment, and the Private Sector***

The intersection of human rights and the environment often offers compelling images: exploding pipelines that damage ecosystems and destroy local economies; toxic run-off that kills fish and sickens children and workers; conflicts over privatized water that erupt in violence. Trans-national corporations, financed by international public and private capital, are often implicated in these human rights violations, yet there is relatively limited grantmaking or policy focus on holding corporations accountable. This plenary will focus on strategies for “strengthening the teeth” of the citizen sector in increasing private sector accountability – particularly in areas where the natural environment is intimately linked to human rights, such as agriculture, energy and resource extraction. Panelists will discuss challenges and opportunities for grantmaking both around increasing direct corporate accountability to communities and individuals who have been harmed, as well as around strengthening the policy norms and standards that set the rules of the game for private sector actions.

**Sponsors:** CS Mott Foundation; Environmental Grantmakers Association; Global Greengrants Fund; Lawson Valentine Foundation

**Session Organizers:** Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation; Mafruza Khan, Environmental Grantmakers Association; Terry Odendahl, Global Greengrants Fund; Amy Shannon, CS Mott Foundation

**Facilitator:** Amy Shannon, Program Officer, CS Mott Foundation

**Panelists:**

- Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director, Environmental Rights Action; Advisor, Global Greengrants Fund
- Theodoros Chronopoulos, Programme Director of Social Justice, The Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Katherine Gilje, Executive Director, Pesticide Action Network – North America
- Lewis Gordon, Director, Environmental Defender Law Center
- Meg Taylor, Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman, International Finance Corporation

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011 (continued)</b>
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**12:00-1:30pm**      **LUNCH**

**12:15-12:45 pm**      ***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, announce an event, etc.!

**Moderator:** Valentine Doyle, Lawson Valentine Foundation

**1:30-3:00 pm**      **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Transnational Worker Justice and the Excluded Workers Movement: What's Funding Got To Do With It?***

On arrival, migrants to the United States often occupy the bottom rung of the labor market, taking jobs as domestic, restaurant, taxi, and guest workers. While these jobs have been legally excluded from current labor laws, a number of worker organizations are uniting to create a visionary new platform to promote labor rights for “excluded workers.” While labor rights violations continue as people cross borders, many funders only fund on one side of a country border. Are human rights funders positioned to respond to the complex nature of transnational economic justice work?

**Sponsor:** New World Foundation; Working Group on Labor and Community at the Neighborhood Funders Group; Fund for Global Human Rights

**Session Organizers:** Holly Bartling and Mary Estrin, General Service Foundation

**Facilitator:** Sarita Gupta, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice

**Panelists:**

- Valeria Scorza, General Coordinator, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Project
- Jill Shenker, National Organizer, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

***“I now pronounce you...”: Promoting Same-Sex Marriage***

How are various strategies and advocacy tools applied in South Africa, Ireland and the United States to achieve greater equality for the LGBTI community? This session will explore efforts to achieve greater legal recognition and protections for same-sex couples through civil marriage and civil partnership legislation. Advocates from each country will talk about the strategies and tactics used, what has worked and what hasn't, and the role human rights play in advancing equality for the LGBT community. The panelists will share lessons that are relevant to the broader human rights, social justice and equality agenda.

**Sponsor:** The Atlantic Philanthropies

**Session Organizers:** Brian Kearney-Grieve and Gerald Kraak, The Atlantic Philanthropies

**Facilitator:** Evan Wolfson, Executive Director, Freedom to Marry (USA)

**Panelists:**

- Melanie Judge, Associate, Inyathelo—The South Africa Institute for Advancement, South Africa
- Kieren Rose, Chair, Gay and Lesbian Network (GLEN), Ireland

<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011 (continued)</b>
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**3:00-3:30 pm BREAK**

**3:30-5:00 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Fighting Back Collaboratively: Responding to the Criminalization of Immigrants in the USA***

Join us for a report from the frontlines of efforts to overturn Arizona's and other localities' abusive anti-immigrant laws and practices in the United States. As federal, state and local governments have increasingly criminalized and demonized immigrants, a widespread pattern of human rights abuses has arisen throughout the United States. Panelists will share lessons from their collaboration on a multi-pronged approach to challenge these abuses in a politically hostile environment.

**Sponsor:** Four Freedoms Fund/Public Interest Projects

**Session Organizer:** Henry Der, Four Freedoms Fund/Public Interest Projects, Inc.

**Facilitator:** Henry Der, Senior Program Officer, Four Freedoms Fund/Public Interest Projects

**Panelists:**

- Nora Preciado, Staff Attorney, National Immigration Law Center
- Cecilia Wang, Managing Attorney, California Office ACLU Immigrant Rights Project

***Getting Out the Human Rights Story: Media Needs and Challenges of Rights Practitioners***

What are the challenges faced by human rights practitioners who seek to use media to effectively tell their stories? What are barriers to human rights messages breaking through our current media environment? How can funders increase the communications capacity of individual organizations and the field as a whole? This panel will examine the challenges and pitfalls when human rights practitioners seek to take advantage of existing and new media and how funders can help resolve these challenges.

**Sponsor:** Sigrid Rausing Trust; Security & Rights Collaborative/Proteus Fund

**Session Organizers:** Dimple Abichandani, Security & Rights Collaborative/Proteus Fund; Julie Broome, Sigrid Rausing Trust

**Facilitators:**

- Dimple Abichandani, Program Officer, Security & Rights Collaborative/Proteus Fund;
- Julie Broome, Programme Director, Civil and Political Rights, Sigrid Rausing Trust

**Panelists:**

- Lynn Fahselt, Co-Director, ReThink Media
- Oren Yakobovich, CEO, Videre Est Credere

**5:00-6:00 pm OPEN UNSTRUCTURED TIME FOR NETWORKING**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011 (continued)

6:00-7:00 pm      **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

7:00-9:00 pm      **DINNER-DIALOGUE**

### *Philanthropy, New Media, and Human Rights*

How is the rise of “new media” changing human rights and investigative journalism? What new business models are emerging? What impact is philanthropic support having on editorial judgment? Are there ways to increase the likelihood that reporting will result in concrete human rights gains? Are document dumps a form of journalism? Can information disclosure have negative impacts?

A conversation with:



**Kathi Austin**, Arms Trafficking Expert and Investigator



**Robert Rosenthal**, Executive Director, Center for Investigative Reporting; former Managing Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*



**Adam Hochschild**, award-winning author and journalist; founder of *Mother Jones* magazine

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

8:00-9:00 am      **BAGELS AND BRAINSTORMING**

**with IHRFG Staff and Steering Committee Members**

Join us, by dawn's early light, for a strategy discussion on the International Human Rights Funders Group's "road ahead." Help us map IHRFG's priorities and projects for the next 1-3 years. How can IHRFG be most helpful to you, and you to IHRFG?

**Facilitator:** Lesley Carson, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors and Member of IHRFG's Steering Committee

**9:00-10:30 am    CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Bridging the Gap: The Right to Information and Human Rights Accountability***

The dissemination of information is a global phenomenon, but access to it is not a universal right. At the September 2010 meeting of the UN General Assembly, President Obama called for a new “Global Open Government Initiative” with the aim of creating a system of transparency and public participation. How can funders develop a framework that will place access to information squarely on the human rights agenda? What has been learned regarding effectiveness of projects that support transparency to reduce corruption, foster accountability, and promote innovation and growth? Have some disclosures caused more harm than good? What are the issues raised by WikiLeaks?

**Sponsors:** Stewart R. Mott Foundation; Open Society Justice Initiative

**Session Organizers:** Conrad Martin, Stewart R. Mott Foundation; Sandra Coliver, Open Society Justice Initiative

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

**Panelists:**

- Sandra Coliver, Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative
- Kate Doyle, Senior Analyst, National Security Archive; Director, NSA Mexico Project
- Robert Rosenthal, Executive Director, Center for Investigative Reporting
- Martin Tisé, Program Manager, Transparency and Accountability Initiative, Open Society Foundations

***Human® Rights in the Age of Human Biotechnology***

How can we ensure that new human biotechnologies support human rights and social justice? After reviewing what is real and what is science fiction, speakers and participants will discuss a series of real-life human rights challenges of new biotechnologies, including: reassertion of a genetic basis for race; DNA databases of people who are arrested and implications for privacy, presumption of innocence, and state surveillance; class and health implications of egg donation/sale and surrogacy; reproductive technologies and the rights of people with disabilities; and the rise of “neo-eugenic” ideologies. How can funders strengthen public oversight and accountability mechanisms, including the role of international human rights mechanisms?

**Sponsors:** Wellspring Advisors; Open Society Foundations

**Session Organizers:** Karen Plafker, Wellspring Advisors; Vera Franz, Open Society Foundations

**Facilitator:** Francine Coeytaux, Co-Founder/Program Consultant and Director, Emergency Contraception Initiative, Pro-Choice Alliance for Responsible Research / Compton Foundation

**Panelists:**

- Osagie Obasogie, Senior Fellow / Associate Professor of Law, Center for Genetics and Society / UC Hastings College of Law
- Helen Wallace, Executive Director, GeneWatch UK



<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011 (continued)</b>
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**10:30-10:45 am      BREAK**

**10:45 am-12:15 pm    CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***“Resource rights activist? Straight to jail you go!”***

Human rights activists can't do much while locked away in a cell. This includes women, indigenous people, peasants, and environmental justice advocates fighting for the right to land, water, and food, without which life itself is not possible. Find out how grantmakers help protect resource rights activists to keep the work going: what works, what doesn't, what to do, and what to avoid. This panel will also look into the role of advocacy – US-based as well as international – in defense of resource rights activists as a complementary but often overlooked component of thoughtful grantmaking in this arena.

**Sponsors:** Grassroots International; Global Fund for Women

**Session Organizers:** Nikhil Aziz, Grassroots International; Shalini Nataraj, Global Fund for Women

**Facilitator:** Kate Kroeger, Director of Grants, American Jewish World Service

**Panelists:**

- Saulo Araujo, Program Coordinator for Brazil & Mesoamerica, Grassroots International
- Shalini Nataraj, Vice-President of Programs, Global Fund for Women

***Securing U.S. Human Rights Accountability in the United States***

This session will explore progress and challenges in securing U.S. accountability to international human rights laws and norms. What would accountability look like, why does it matter, and what lessons are American advocates learning from human rights champions around the world? Discussion will highlight the UN's recent Universal Periodic Review of the U.S.; the human rights monitoring and enforcement mechanisms sought by the Human Rights At Home Campaign; an inside-the-federal-government perspective on barriers to and opportunities for overcoming U.S. exceptionalism; and ideas for improving funding practices to advance US human rights accountability. The session will include substantial audience interaction – so come prepared to share!

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

**Session Organizers:** Sophia Conroy, Open Society Foundations; Sue Simon, U.S. Human Rights Fund

**Facilitator:** Regan Ralph, Executive Director, Fund for Global Human Rights

**Panelists:**

- Julie Fernandes, Deputy Director, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Margaret Huang, Executive Director, Rights Working Group
- Eric Tars, Human Rights Program Director and Children and Youth Staff Attorney, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

**12:15-1:15 pm LUNCH AND LUNCHTIME DISCUSSIONS**

***How can we transform survey results into action for criminal justice funders?***

Learn about the findings from a nationwide survey of criminal justice funders and organizations and discuss recommendations for ongoing work.

**Facilitators:**

- Deborah Drysdale, Member, Race, Gender, Human Rights Fund of Women's Foundation of California; Women Donors' Network
- Paul Haible, Executive Director, Peace Development Fund
- Lenny Noisette, Director, Criminal Justice Fund, Open Society Foundations

***How can funders promote non-violence as a strategy in human rights movements?***

What unique role do funders have in encouraging dialogue and reflection on the importance of nonviolence, broadly understood, as a force for transformative social change?

**Facilitators:**

- Terry Greenblatt, Executive Director and CEO, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
- Monica Larenas, Program Officer, Fund for Nonviolence

***Latin America Funders (Working Group in formation)***

Join this initial brainstorming on goals and activities for this possible joint IHRFG-Grantmakers Without Borders Working Group for grantmakers focusing on the Latin America region.

**1:15-2:15 pm IHRFG WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**

***Human Rights Defenders (Working Group in formation)***

Share your interest in and ideas on the goals, future activities, structure, etc. of this potential working group. It will be a forum for dialogue and fostering collaboration on issues related to supporting human rights defenders.

**Facilitators:**

- Bahey El Din Hassan, Board Member, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)
- Anne-Sophie Schaeffer, Program Manager, EMHRF
- Regan E. Ralph, Executive Director, Fund for Global Human Rights
- Terry Greenblatt, Executive Director & CEO, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

***Asia Funders (Working Group in formation)***

Join this initial brainstorming on goals and activities for this possible joint IHRFG-Grantmakers Without Borders Working Group for grantmakers focusing on the Asia region.

***Environment and Human Rights Working Group***

**Facilitators:**

- Terry Odendahl, Executive Director and CEO, Global Greengrants Fund
- Valentine Doyle, Program Officer, Lawson Valentine Foundation

<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011 (continued)</b>	
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<b>2:15-2:30 pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
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<b>2:30-4:30 pm</b>	<b>CLOSING PLENARY SESSION</b>
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***Navigating “No-Man’s Land”: Corporations, Human Rights, and the Law***

What are the best strategies to ensure that corporations respect human rights? Is a company’s “voluntary compliance” with international guidelines enough to guarantee respect and promotion of human rights? Do we need laws - international and national - to enforce corporations’ accountability? What is the role of the grantmaker in promoting a legal framework for corporate accountability? Share your own experiences with practitioners and fellow grantmakers who are implementing strategies to ensure respect for human rights by corporations.

**Sponsors:** King Baudouin Foundation-United States

**Session Organizer:** Carlos Lopez, International Commission of Jurists

**Facilitator:** Lesley Carson, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors

**Panelists:**

- Ramón Cadena, Director, Office in Central America, International Commission of Jurists
- Tricia Feeney Grylls, Director, Rights and Accountability in Development
- Mark Hodge, Director, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights
- Carlos Lopez, Senior Legal Advisor, Project on International Economic Relations, International Commission of Jurists

<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>
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## CONFERENCE 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:

Tuesday, January 25th, only:	US\$135
Wednesday, January 26th, only:	US\$135
Both Monday and Tuesday:	US\$270
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. To reduce our carbon footprint, we ask that you bring only a few 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:  
Phone: 1.212.378-4428  
Email: [asalimi@ihrrfg.org](mailto:asalimi@ihrrfg.org)