

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS



SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE JULY 13-14, 2009

New York University School of Law Lipton Hall – 108 West Third Street New York, NY 10012

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE: Monday, July 13th

9:00-9:30am	BREAKFAST
9:30-10:00am	WELCOME
10:00am-12:30pm	OPENING PLENARY: HUMAN RIGHTS—CAN WE STILL AFFORD THEM?
12:30-2:00pm	 NETWORKING LUNCH QUESTION-FOCUSED TABLE DISCUSSIONS SPECIAL FILM SCREENING OF THE RECKONING
2:00-3:30pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS • FUNDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN REPRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTS—THE ARAB REGION AS CASE STUDY
	IF IT FEELS RIGHTS, CAN IT BE WRONG?—WORKING ACROSS DIVERSE CONSTITUENCIES TO PROMOTE A NEW DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA
3:30-3:45pm	BREAK
3:45-5:15pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS • EXHAUSTED, EXILED OR DEAD: CAN FUNDERS BETTER SUSTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM?
	GETTING PAST THE BARBED WIRELESS: PROTECTING SPEECH IN AN INCREASINGLY CENSORED WEB
	• U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
5:15-5:30pm	PRE-EVENING EVENTS BREAK
5:30-6:30pm	NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION
6:30-9:00pm	IHRFG DINNER WITH SPECIAL KEYNOTE BY
	ERIC P. SCHWARTZ UNITED STATES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POPULATION, REFUGEES & MIGRATION

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE: Tuesday, July 14TH

8:15-9:00am	Breakfast and IHRFG Membership Meeting
9:00-10:30am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS • FROM NEW ORLEANS TO THE ARCTIC: HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE FRAMEWORK TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS
	 ANALYZING GRANTEE/GRANTSEEKER HEALTH: TOOLS FOR STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING IMPACT
10:30-10:45am	BREAK
10:45am-12:15pm	 CONCURRENT SESSIONS HOW A HUMAN RIGHTS LINK IS TRANSFORMING THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN
	MILITARY JUSTICE: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN WAR
	JOINING FORCES: A SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATIVE FUNDING (SEXUAL HEALTH & RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING)
12:15-1:45pm	NETWORKING LUNCH
1:45-3:45pm	CLOSING PLENARY: HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
3:45pm	POST-CONFERNCE TOUR OF THE TENEMENT MUSEUM (OFF-SITE)

DETAILED AGENDA

Monday, July 13, 2009

9:00-9:30am BREAKFAST

9:30-10:00am WELCOME FROM CONFERENCE HOSTS

SMITA NARULA, FACULTY DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE



10:00am-12:30pm OPENING PLENARY SESSION

HUMAN RIGHTS: CAN WE STILL AFFORD THEM?

Given the financial crisis and global economic recession we are currently experiencing combined with the "war on terror," is the human rights framework still relevant and can we afford it as societies? Does the human rights framework provide a long term solution to the current challenges that our economies and societies face? The session will explore the opportunities and challenges to human rights that are emerging in this new environment and how the human rights framework can be applied to address these.

Facilitator and Session Organizer: Brian Kearney-Grieve,
Program Executive, The Atlantic Philanthropies

Panelists:

- Professor Francesca Klug OBE, Professorial Research Fellow, London School of Economics
- Ingrid Srinath, Secretary General, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- Ruth Wedgwood, Edward B. Burling Professor of International Law and Diplomacy; Director of the International Law and Organizations Program, Johns Hopkins University

Sponsor:



12:30-2:00pm NETWORKING LUNCH & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Join one of the following discussions:

- HOW DO WE CRAFT EVALUATION TOOLS THAT TRULY INFORM WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT? (with Mona Khan, Global Fund for Human Rights)
- HOW CAN FUNDERS MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS? (Table #1 with Smita Narula, Faculty Director, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice)
- ARE YOU NEW TO IHRFG OR PHILANTHROPY AND WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT? (Table #2 with Steve Riskin, IHRFG Steering Committee Member and Senior Program Officer, US Institute of Peace)

OR, attend a special screening of **THE RECKONING**

About the film: Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issues arrest warrants for the rebel leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda, puts four



Congolese warlords on trial in The Hague, charges the president of Sudan with genocide and war crimes in Darfur, challenges the UN Security Council to have him arrested, and shakes up the Colombian criminal justice system. Will this tiny upstart court in The Hague tame the Wild West of international conflict zones and end the culture of impunity?

Talk to the filmmakers: Director Pamela Yates and Producer Paco de Onís (Skylight Pictures) will both be present for this screening to answer questions. The film will air in the US on PBS's POV on the evening of July 14th, with a national education and outreach planned through www.IJCentral.org.

2:00-3:30pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FUNDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN REPRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTS: THE ARAB REGION AS CASE STUDY

This session will explore the human rights situation in the Arab region, elaborating on the strategies of local groups and activists facing immense pressure from authorities. Panelists will provide examples of how activists are fighting back with peaceful means and explore the funding challenges and opportunities in the region. Despite diverse activism in the region, there is remarkably little support for human rights. Why is this region so consistently overlooked? What kind of support is available? How does funding reach activists in repressive environments? The session will evaluate the difference funding can make through examples from different contexts, including Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Facilitator: Suzanne Siskel, Director of Philanthropy
The Ford Foundation

Panelists and session organizers:

- Fouad Hamdan, Executive Director Arab Human Rights Fund
- Regan E. Ralph, Executive Director Fund for Global Human Rights

Additional session organizer:

Cynthia Ryan, Principal, Schooner Foundation

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THE SCHOONER FOUNDATION

2:00-3:30pm

... CONTINUED CONCURRENT SESSIONS...

IF IT FEELS RIGHTS, CAN IT BE WRONG?: WORKING ACROSS DIVERSE CONSTITUENCIES TO PROMOTE A NEW DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

In a time of unprecedented opportunity to improve federal and state level accountability to human rights, and encouraged by the Obama administration's early signals, advocates across a broad range of issue-areas have launched a Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda. Building on previous funder discussions on the goals of the Campaign, this session will focus on the Campaign's use of diverse strategies to work within and across constituencies, and to develop shared priorities. Panelists will discuss how advocates are linking outreach to policymakers and administration officials with grassroots, community organizing efforts, and how both could be strengthened. Specific goals and prospective outcomes of the Campaign, especially for marginalized communities, will also be shared.

Facilitator: **Stephen A. Foster**, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Overbrook Foundation

Panelists:

- Laura Murphy, Senior Consultant for the Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda and Principal, Laura W. Murphy, LLC
- Cathy Albisa, Executive Director, National Economic and Social Right Initiative

Session Organizers:

Sophia Conroy, Program Officer, Open Society Institute and **Puja Dhawan**, Senior Program Officer, U.S. Human Rights Fund

Sponsor:

US HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

3:30-3:45pm

3:45-5:15pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

EXHAUSTED, EXILED OR DEAD: CAN FUNDERS BETTER SUSTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM?

The defense and promotion of human rights are obstructed by threats to the well-being – and sometimes the safety – of individual activists and to the sustainability of their organizations. Drawing on testimonies and research, progressive funders are piloting grantmaking practices with a deliberate eye towards better sustaining activists and activism. What does the research say? What does this kind of grantmaking look like so far? How can it be improved and replicated? Join funders and human rights defenders in a facilitated but informal conversation about grantmaking practices that can keep activists healthy and safe, and their organizations vibrant and growing.

Facilitator and Session Organizer: Terry Greenblatt, Executive Director & CEO, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Panelists:

- Karen Plafker, Program Director/Women's Rights, Wellspring Advisors, LLC (also session organizer)
- Gistam Sakayeva, (Past) Executive Director, Doveriye (Chechnya, Russia)
- Sunila Abeysekera, Executive Director, International Women's Rights Action Watch/Asia Pacific

Sponsors:







... CONTINUED CONCURRENT SESSIONS...

GETTING PAST THE BARBED WIRELESS: PROTECTING SPEECH IN AN INCREASINGLY CENSORED WEB

Freedom of expression (FoE) is essential to human life and human self-realization. Digital networked communications are transforming and disrupting platforms for FoE, in traditional media and government. We are witnessing a truly democratic media and communications environment controlled neither by governments nor private interests.

Increasingly, the reaction of many policy makers, particularly in traditionally closed societies, is to stifle this new environment. This session will explore specific legal and organizing opportunities to unleash the global potential of digital communications to enhance democracy and human rights and what action is needed to ensure that its positive potential is harnessed for the public good.

Facilitator: Gene Kimmelman,

Consumer/Telecommunications Policy Expert

Panelists:

- Beatriz Garcia Buitrago, President, Consumidores Argentinos (Consumers of Argentina)
- Andrew Puddephatt, Founding Director, Global Partners and Associates
- Xiao Qiang, Director, China Internet Project & Founder of Human Rights in China

Session Organizer: Jenny Toomey, Program Officer (Media Rights and Access), Ford Foundation

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FORD FOUNDATION

U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING



In addition to further exploring topics discussed in previous meetings (such as domestic and international advocates exchanges, case studies, and key questions on using human rights in the U.S.), we will use the session time to examine more in depth the funding needs for the domestic human rights accountability work, and how funders can support component parts. We will also discuss the US Human Rights Fund's strategy exchange for domestic and international advocates, which took place in New Orleans earlier this year.

3:30-3:45pm	Pre-Dinner Break
5:30-6:30pm	NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION IN THE LIPTON HALL FOYER
6:30-9:00pm	IHRFG SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER WITH A SPECIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY



ERIC P. SCHWARTZ

United States Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees & Migration

with an introduction by

STEVE RISKIN, IHRFG Steering Committee Member and Senior Program Officer (Grant Programs), United States Institute of Peace

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

8:15-9:00am Breakfast and IHRFG Membership Meeting

IHRFG is taking stock, looking forward, and setting its priorities for the next 2-3 years. We need your input. How can IHRFG be most useful to you? How can IHRFG contribute most strategically to strengthening the field of human rights grantmaking? Join members of IHRFG's Steering Committee in this important conversation.

9:00-10:30am CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ANALYZING GRANTEE/GRANTSEEKER HEALTH: TOOLS FOR STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING IMPACT

Funders Only This interactive session will look at the range of strategic approaches that human rights grantmakers are taking in response to the

global economic crisis and its dramatic impact on both grantmaking budgets and grantseeker needs. One particular focus will be principles and techniques for conducting due diligence to better understand the true financial health of grantseeking organizations. Come ready to talk about how your giving program is approaching these critical questions.

Facilitator: Michael Seltzer, Senior Counsel, Rabin Strategic Partners & Trustee, Empower

Panelist: Barbara Krasne, Principal, KrasnePlows

Session Organizers: Michael J. Hirschhorn, Director, IHRFG and President, Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation, and Brenda Bodenheimer Zlatin, Program Officer, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

FROM NEW ORLEANS TO THE ARCTIC: HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE FRAMEWORK TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Widespread recognition of the realities of global warming and climate change is leading to a newfound urgency to develop climate policy. The solutions we promote will depend in part upon how we define the problem. How does

situating this conversation within a human rights framework shift our perspective on the problem and possible solutions? What can we do to bring together the philanthropic community and indigenous, immigrant and environmental rights leaders to discuss ways to broaden the climate movement to include diverse voices? As human rights funders, we have the opportunity to bring the most vulnerable communities, an emphasis on community resiliency, and the enforceability i.e. the implementation of rights into a conversation that is sometimes focused only on the technical aspects of the problem. Join us to discuss solutions with renowned experts seeking to create a sustainable world and resilient communities through a variety of concrete strategies, including legal, policy and advocacy.

Facilitator: Monette Zard, Program Officer, The Ford Foundation

Panelists: Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network; Monique Harden, Co-Director, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights; Julianna Malerba, Coordinator, Brazilian Environmental Justice Network

Session Organizers: Nikhil Aziz, Executive Director,
Grassroots International; Michelle DePass, Program
Officer, Environmental Justice and Healthy Communities,
Ford Foundation; Laura Livoti, Senior Program Officer,
FACT Services

Sponsors include: Prospect Hill Foundation, The Gulf Coast Fund at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and...







FORD FOUNDATION

10:30-10:45am

BREAK

10:45am-12:15pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

HOW A HUMAN RIGHTS LINK IS TRANSFORMING THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

One of the worst parts of the global economic crisis has been the global food crisis. Across the world, the food and agricultural supply chain is in transformation. Industrial methods have come, over the last century, to dominate the production, the processing and the distribution of food, destroying any nutrients or traditional cultures in their path. Come hear activists tell how the powerful human rights approach helps leverage the work of making the food system human again.

Facilitator: Shilpa Jain, Education & Outreach
Coordinator/Coordinating Committee Member, Other
Worlds Are Possible

Panelists:

- Brahm Ahmadi, Co-Founder and Executive Director, People's Grocery
- Gerardo Reyes Chavez, Staff Member, Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Sponsors and Organizers: Lawson Valentine Foundation and Other Worlds Are Possible

MILITARY JUSTICE: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN WAR

Since the U.S. entered wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and opened the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, human rights activists have begun to delve into questions of military tribunals, humanitarian law and civilian casualties. Two NGOs focus on this exclusively: NIMJ examines accountability systems inside the US military and how to improve them;

and CIVIC, works with the US military, NATO, the UN and others to promote mechanisms for dealing with civilian casualties. Both groups utilize the Laws of War in their efforts to promote human rights within the military, which can be a first line of defense against gross abuses of power and civilian casualties. This session will introduce key debates and challenges in advancing human rights and accountability within the military system.

Facilitator: Robert Goldman, Professor of Law, Louis C.
James Scholar, Washington College of Law at American
University

Panelists:

- Eugene Fidell, President, National Institute of Military Justice
- Sarah Holewinski, Director, Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC)

Session Organizers: Merrill Sovner, Program Officer (Office of the President), Open Society Institute and Sophia Conroy, Program Officer (U.S. Programs), Open Society Institute

Sponsor:



JOINING FORCES: A SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATIVE FUNDING (SEXUAL HEALTH & RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING)

Funders Only Hosted by the Sexual Health & Rights Working Group (SHRWG), this skills-building workshop will introduce grantmakers to

innovative collaborative funding models on sexual health and rights issues, and explore how these models are designed and managed. Heidi Dorow will speak on the Civil Marriage Collaborative, a collaborative that addresses marriage equality in the U.S.; Lourdes Rivera will speak on

the Catalyst Fund Collaborative, which addresses reproductive justice within the U.S.; and Carla Sutherland will speak of her involvement with the East Africa Sexual Health and Rights Initiative collaborative model, focusing on the advancement of sexual health and rights in East Africa.

Facilitator: Michele Lord, Executive Director, Public Interests Projects, Inc.

Panelists:

- Heidi Dorow, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors LLC
- Lourdes Rivera, Program Officer, The Ford Foundation
- Carla Sutherland, Director (International LGBT Rights Program), Arcus Foundation

Sponsors:

SEXUAL RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

12:15-1:45pm **NETWORKING LUNCH**

Join one of the following discussions:

- HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP (Table #1 with Valentine Doyle, Program Officer, Lawson Valentine Foundation)
- "What role does social stigma play in your (and your grantees') human rights work?"
- "How can we overcome the resistance to economic, social, and cultural rights in the United States?" (Table #2 with Monette Zard, Program Officer, Ford Foundation)
- "Who wants to talk about the intersection of international trade, economic policies, and human RIGHTS?" (Table #3)

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION 1:45-3:45pm

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

While there is increasing recognition that the policies and practices of large international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF have significant impact on human rights, for many in the foundation world, understanding how these institutions work, how their policies impact the lives of individuals and communities, and how to influence them through grantmaking remain challenging. Speakers will give a "101" about the IFIs and their role in human rights and discuss concrete efforts to influence their policy and practice. The session will also address opportunities for reform brought by the economic crisis.

Facilitator: Arvind Ganesan, Director (Business and Human Rights), Human Rights Watch

Panelists:

- Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative; former President of Ireland (1990-1997) and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002)
- Kate Watters, Executive Director, Crude Accountability
- Armstrong A. Wiggins, Director (Washington Office), Indian Law Resource Center

SESSION ORGANIZERS: LESLEY CARSON, PROGRAM OFFICER, WELLSPRING Advisors, LLC; Mona Chun, Consultant, International Human RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

3:45pm POST-CONFERNCE TOUR OF THE **TENEMENT MUSEUM** (OFF-SITE)

> Join IHRFG colleagues on a tour of the Tenement Museum, one of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Visit the restored homes of German-Jewish & Italian Catholic families surviving the Panic of 1873 and the Great Depression to discover how immigrants survived past economic crises. FREE but space is limited! See registration desk for info...

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS THUS FAR IN 2009

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US Human Rights Fund

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THOSE INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING CORE OPERATING SUPPORT TO IHRFG (NOTED IN BOLD).

THANK YOU ALSO TO

THE IHREG MEMBERSHIP

...whose participation makes these Semi-Annual Meetings possible;

THE SESSION SPONSORS

...who generously underwrite and coordinate most IHRFG meeting sessions;

THE IHRFG STEERING COMMITTEE

...whose volunteer leadership guides IHRFG the whole year round.

IHRFG STEERING COMMITTEE

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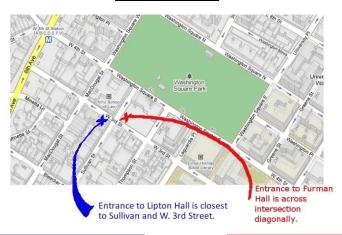


INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

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CONFERENCE MAP



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