

Semi-Annual Meeting:
***Human Rights, Development, and
Economic, Social, & Cultural Rights***
July 16-17, 2007



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

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(Between Sullivan & MacDougal)
New York, NY 10012

Human Rights, Development, and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

There is a growing sentiment that a new framework is needed to address human rights and development. Advocacy for rights often takes place in the context of grinding poverty, environmental degradation, gender discrimination and labor exploitation. This meeting will explore various aspects of "rights-based approaches" to civil and political issues as well as economic, social and cultural goals. Funders will discuss specific rights, capacity building strategies, as well as divergent points of view within the human rights community concerning advocacy priorities.

Cover photo: A group of Haitian men wait to be transferred to the sugarcane plantations at a clandestine crossing camp in the hills near the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Photo by Walter Astrada

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Monday – July 16

9:00-9:30am	Breakfast
9:30-10:00am	Welcome
10:00-12:00pm	Opening Plenary: <i>Breaking the Links in the Long Chain of Slavery</i>
12:00-1:30pm	Networking Lunch & Discussion Groups
1:30-3:00pm	Member-Sponsored Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy 2.0: New Technologies and Human Rights Defenders ● More than Money: South-South and Peer-Peer Capacity Building
3:00-3:15pm	<i>Break</i>
3:15-5:00pm	Working Groups Meet
5:00-5:30pm	<i>Pre-Evening Events Break</i>
5:30-6:30pm	Cocktail Reception
6:30-9:00pm	Dinner with Stephen Lewis , former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and Director, Stephen Lewis Foundation

Tuesday – July 17

8:15-9:00am	Breakfast and IHRFG Membership Meeting
9:00-10:30am	Member-Sponsored Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Rights at Home & Abroad: The CERD Shadow Reporting Process ● Strategies for Advancing the Human Right to Health
10:30-10:45am	<i>Break</i>
10:45-12:15pm	Member-Sponsored Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building Binational Labor Justice ● Information as a Human Right: Defending the Right to Know
12:15-1:15pm	Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!
1:15-3:15pm	Closing Plenary Discussion of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) with Philip Alston , Professor of Law (NYU) and former Chair of the UN Committee on ESCR, and Aryeh Neier , President of the Open Society Institute and former Executive Director of Human Rights Watch. Gay McDougall , UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and Scholar in Residence (Washington College of Law at American University), will moderate.

DETAILED AGENDA

Monday, July 16

9:00-9:30 Breakfast

9:30-10:00 Welcome

Lipton Hall

Philip Alston, Chair, NYU Center for Human Rights and
Global Justice
Mona Khan, Fund for Global Human Rights
Rebecca Rittgers, The Atlantic Philanthropies

10:00-12:00 Opening Plenary:

Lipton Hall

Breaking the Links in the Long Chain of Slavery

Article Four of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms." Although slavery has long been officially abolished, it still shockingly afflicts an estimated 27 million people worldwide. Bloomberg Markets published a detailed story in December 2006 linking modern day slavery to the production of our cars, and a recently released documentary film shows how forced labor is used in the sugar we cook with. This session explores the ways in which advancing transparency and integrity in corporate supply chains, strengthening government trade and human rights policies, and coordinating efforts between NGOs are helping to break this chain of archaic tyranny.

Session Organizer and Facilitator: **Penny Fujiko Willgerodt**,
Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Speakers:

Bama Athreya, Executive Director, International Labor Rights
Fund

Bill Haney, Partner, Uncommon Productions and Director/
Producer of The Price of Sugar

Patricia Jurewicz, Associate Director (Corporate Social
Responsibility Program), As You Sow

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

Lipton Hall

Continuation of Opening Plenary Discussion

Upon conclusion of the opening plenary, panelists will gather for an informal roundtable lunch to continue the discussion.

Monday, July 16

Lipton Hall

Discussion of the U.S. Treasury Guidelines

Join Grantmakers Without Border's Advocacy Coordinator, **Vanessa Dick**, and Executive Director, **John Harvey**, for a discussion about current policies affecting international grantmaking. Topics will include the US Department of the Treasury's Anti-Terrorism Financing Guidelines, the Risk Matrix for the Charitable Sector, the Pension Protection Act, and the European Commission's Code of Conduct for NGOs.

Lipton Hall

How can evaluation be meaningful?

Mona Khan (Program Officer, Fund for Global Human Rights) will organize a participant-driven discussion on creative ways of assessing grantee and donor effectiveness.

Faculty Club

Overview and Discussion of LGBT Funders Research Report Release

Discussion with **Robert Espinoza** (Director of Research & Communications, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues) about FLGI's first-ever report on global LGBTI grantmaking in the Global South and East.

Faculty Club

Welcome to New Attendees of the Semi-Annual Meeting

IHRFG Steering Committee member **Michael Hirschhorn** (President, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation) will convene a roundtable welcome discussion of folks new to IHRFG meetings.

1:30-3:00pm

Member-sponsored sessions (meet concurrently)

Lipton Hall

Advocacy 2.0: New Technologies and Human Rights Defenders

How do mobile phones, blogs, YouTube, Google Maps, censorship circumvention tools and secure databases converge? All have become the tools of human rights defenders seeking to coordinate networks, amplify voices operating outside mainstream channels, and communicate information in a variety of formats to a broad, multi-lingual audience. Familiarity with the tools and tactics of technically inventive human rights defenders is increasingly important for funders, particularly those supporting organizations in repressive or semi-repressive countries. Panelists will discuss both concrete examples of effective uses of new technologies, as well as some of the challenges involved with introducing these tactics to human rights organizations.

Session Organizer and Facilitator: **Janet Haven**, Program Manager, Civil Society Communications Project of the Open Society Institute's Information Program

Monday, July 16

Speakers:

Stephanie Hankey (Director, Tactical Technology Collective)

Ethan Zuckerman (Co-Founder and Co-Director, Global Voices Online)

Faculty Club

More than Money: South-South and Peer-Peer Capacity Building

Many emerging human rights organizations in the Global South operate in isolation and have insufficient access to the financial and technical resources that would make their work more effective. This session will explore ways that human rights funders can support their grantees to enhance their skills and develop effective strategies by learning from the experiences of other activists. Participants also will have the opportunity to share their approaches to conducting and/or funding capacity building opportunities.

Session Organizer and Facilitator: **Mary Anne Stein**,
President, Moriah Fund

Speakers:

David Mattingly (Program Officer, Fund for Global Human Rights)

Nancy L. Pearson (Program Manager, New Tactics in Human Rights Project of the Center for Victims of Torture)

3:00-3:15pm *Break*

3:15-5:00pm **Working Groups Meet**

All groups meet in Lipton Hall, except Sexual Rights in Faculty Club.

- **Disability Rights**
- **Human Rights and the Environment**
- **Sexual Rights - Microbicides: Why the hype?**
- **US Human Rights - Funding US Human Rights Messaging & Communications**

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

5:30-6:30pm **Cocktail reception in the Foyer**

6:30-9:00pm **Dinner with Stephen Lewis, former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa and Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation**

*with an introduction by Ruth W. Messinger,
President of American Jewish World Service*

Tuesday, July 17

8:15-9:00am

Lipton Hall

Breakfast and IHRFG Membership Meeting

Facilitator: **Michael J. Hirschhorn**, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

9:00-10:30am

Member-sponsored sessions (meet concurrently)

Faculty Club

Human Rights at Home & Abroad: The CERD Shadow Reporting Process

Building on prior U.S. Human Rights Working Group discussions on re-linking domestic human rights and international advocacy, this session will focus on national and local efforts around the U.N.'s upcoming review of U.S. compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Invited speakers will highlight plans to engage local, state, and national NGOs in the shadow reporting process and advocacy in Geneva, and discuss tangible outcomes and key lessons learned that domestic human rights advocates can integrate into their advocacy for community based action, policy and legal changes at home.

Session organizer: **Sophia Conroy** (Senior Program Associate, Open Society Institute) and **Puja Dhawan** (Program Officer, U.S. Human Rights Fund)

Facilitator: **Steve Foster** (President, Overbrook Foundation)

Speakers:

Lisa Crooms (Professor of Law, Howard University Law School)

Ramona Ortega (Co-Director of Human Rights Project, Urban Justice Center)

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Strategies for Advancing the Human Right to Health

In the past few years, the right to health has moved from an abstraction to a tool of analysis and action to press for the development of sustainable health systems in the developing world that meet the needs of people in an equitable, non-discriminatory and effective way. This session will review how right to health strategies are being employed to address the health workforce crisis in the developing world, to reduce death in childbirth and to have community health programs themselves become a vehicle for advancing the rights of the poor.

Session Organizer: **Anne Stetson**, Trustee, John Merck Fund

Tuesday, July 17

Facilitator: **Leonard S. Rubenstein, JD** (Executive Director, Physicians for Human Rights)

Speakers:

Lynn Freedman (Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health)

Dr. Joia Mukherjee (Medical Director, Partners in Health)

10:30-10:45pm *Break*

10:45-12:35pm *Member-sponsored sessions* (meet concurrently)

Faculty Club

Building Binational Labor Justice

Every year, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers leave behind their homes and families to travel to the U.S. only to face exploitation and discrimination in the workplace. It is nearly impossible for undocumented migrant and “guest” workers, who by definition have no permanent home in the U.S., to fight the problems they face without a source of support for those battles in their home country. There is increasing recognition among labor lawyers and advocates defending the rights of migrant workers in the United States and Mexico (whose nationals comprise the largest group of migrants in the U.S.) of the need to understand the legal systems of both nations and to collaborate in coordinated cross-border outreach, organizing, litigation, and advocacy campaigns. On this panel, we will hear three advocates describe their successful binational strategies for defending the labor rights and human rights of migrant workers from Mexico in the U.S. They also will describe a collaborative Binational Labor Justice Initiative which is growing out of their experiences. This is critical work in light of a possible expansion of “guest” worker programs in the United States and the increase in temporary worker programs in other developed countries.

Session organizers: The Funders Network on Trade and Globalization; Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugee Rights

Facilitator: **Taryn Higashi** (Deputy Director of the Human Rights Unit and Program Officer for Migrant Rights and Policy, Ford Foundation)

Speakers:

Alejandra Ancheita (Director, Project for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [PRODESC])

Rachel Micah-Jones (Executive Director, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante/Center for Migrant Rights)

Baldemar Velásquez (Founder, Farm Labor Organizing Committee [FLOC])

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Information as a Human Right: Defending the Right to Know

In the last decades of the 20th Century, there has been growing acknowledgment and even grudging respect for the role of an informed citizenry in democracy, and better understanding of information as fundamental to democracy. Public access to information is essential to government accountability and full citizen participation. And the fundamental freedoms -- speech, the press and assembly -- depend on the free flow of information to the people. Invited speakers will discuss the role of information and how we secure the right to know, from the legal cases documenting human rights abuses to laws of public access to government-held data.

Session organizers: **Conrad Martin** (Executive Director, Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust); **Steven Gerber** (Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation); **Sophia Conroy** (Senior Program Associate, Open Society Institute)

Facilitator: **Kate Doyle** (Senior Analyst and Director of the Mexico Project, the National Security Archive in Washington, DC)

Speakers:

Patrick Ball (CTO and Director of the Human Rights Program, Benetech Initiative)

Trudy Peterson (Consulting Archivist)

12:15-1:15pm

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Lunch ... and The Funders' Soapbox!

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

1:15-3:15pm

Lipton Hall

**Closing Plenary Discussion:
Economic, Social and Political Rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights. Aryeh Neier has argued that while civil and political rights can be articulated in a universal manner which uphold common principles of democracy and limits on state power, ESC rights entail fluctuating and unstable criteria for human rights. He argues that advocacy for such rights is difficult and may actually undermine the true democratic expression of citizens in an open society. As a leading global thinker, Philip Alston has developed theories of the progressive realization of ESC rights and argues that ESC rights are a predicate to the full realization of civil and political rights.

Tuesday, July 17

Facilitator:

Gay McDougall

- UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Washington College of Law of American University
- Former Executive Director, Global Rights

Speakers:

Philip Alston

- John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law, NYU School of Law
- UN Special Rapporteur, Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions
- Former Chair, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Aryeh Neier

- President, Soros Foundations and Open Society Institute
- Former Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union
- Founding Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Meeting After Party!

Upon adjournment of the meeting at 3:15, all are welcome to gather at the Deco Room of the Washington Square Hotel, located at 103 Waverly Place. You can reach this by going left out the door, then making a right on MacDougal and following it across the park to Waverly Place.

Thank you 2007 IHRFG supporters!!

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