

International Human Rights Funders Group Semi-Annual Meeting

July 12-13, 2004
Hotel Allegro
171 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel: (312) 236-0123

A G E N D A

Monday, July 12

8:30-9:00am

Breakfast and Welcome from Steering Committee

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

9:00-12:00pm

Human Rights Education Session

Facilitator: Dorothy Thomas, Shaler Adams Foundation

“Advancing the International Human Rights Movement: Views from Around the World”

At the dawn of the 21st century, we are witnessing a surge of international initiatives to realize human rights around the world. Organizations in every corner of the world are looking at their own country's human rights performance. Such groups have formed even in the U.S. Human rights activists around the world are applauding this development, as everyone stands to benefit from U.S. adherence to international human rights standards both domestically and internationally. A distinguished panel of human rights leaders from around the world will help us understand the current status and future directions of the international movement, the interconnection between human rights efforts focused on the U.S. and other nations, and what is needed to help the international human rights movement advance to the next stage.

Ajamu Baraka

Executive Director, U.S. Human Rights Network
Atlanta, GA

Irene Khan

Secretary General, Amnesty International
London, UK

Craig Mokhiber

Deputy Director, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
New York, NY

Felix Morka

Executive Director and Founder, Social and Economic Rights Action Centre
Board Member, International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)
Lagos, NIGERIA

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch

1:00-3:00pm

Programming Trends Session

(This is a chance for members to raise issues of concern and give direction to the Steering Committee.)

Facilitator: Chet Tchozewski, Global Greengrants Fund

“The *International* in the International Human Rights Funders Group”

What does the “international” mean in the name of our network? In 1994, IHRFG was launched by a group of U.S. funders with "international human rights" programs supporting work outside the U.S. A lot has changed since that time: U.S. foundations learned more about their counterparts around the world; grantmaking entities were launched in the global South; and work to bring international human rights norms to bear on domestic US issues began to make headway. All this in just one decade! In response to these important developments, IHRFG decided in 2001 to redefine its identity from a *Group of Funders* who support *International Human Rights* to an *International Group of Human Rights Funders*. Over the last three years, the number of foundations outside the U.S. joining the Group has increased dramatically, but still remains at 10%. What should the “international” in our network look like? What should we be doing? These and other questions will be discussed with colleagues from Canada, Europe, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

3:00-3:15pm

Break

3:15-5:00pm

Cross-issue Working Groups - Breakouts

(Groups will meet concurrently then report back.)

Leveraging New Funds to Support Human Rights

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Inspired by *Funding Human Rights: An Invitation*, our recently completed “leveraging booklet,” interested members will help develop the strategy for Phase II of the leveraging project – Implementation!

Communicating a Human Rights Message?

Co-Facilitators: Conrad Martin, Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust
Melanie Oliviero, Consultant

We are aware of several trends that could seriously “chill” the support for international human rights. The Treasury Department's Voluntary Treasury Guidelines is one example to which groups like the Council on Foundations, Independent Sector, InterAction, etc. are working to respond. In this session, we will explore how to best convey the positive and complementary work of human rights funders to current global concerns and troubling policies. How can IHRFG best contribute to this process? How can we share our expertise with colleagues, as well as Treasury, on how to implement effective cross-border human rights funding? Are we ready to take the next steps toward implementing an effective Media/Policy strategy?

**Reaching Remote Places and Activists –
What Difference Can We Make?**

Location: Goodman A

Co-Facilitators: Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights
Chet Tchozewski, Global Greengrants Fund
Amelia Wu, Global Fund for Women

Critical to the future of human rights work globally are the efforts of activists and organizations far off most funding radar screens. Funders have sought ways to increase funding for advocates whose work is hindered by lack of access to resources. In the process, funders have discovered creative and effective work being done at the local and national levels in countries around the world. This session will explore ways in which funding grassroots activism contributes to sustainable social change and ways to overcome the challenges inherent in international grantmaking, particularly in a climate in which such funding programs are under close scrutiny.

7:00pm

Special Event and Dinner

**Diane Weyermann, Director, Sundance Institute Documentary
Film Program and Sundance Institute Documentary Fund**

Welcome by John Kowal, Open Society Institute

The Sundance Institute Documentary Program and Fund are dedicated to supporting U.S. and international documentary films and videos focused on significant issues in contemporary human rights, freedom of expression, social justice, and civil liberties. Diane Weyermann, the director, will be on hand to give an inside account of how these work to raise public consciousness about human rights abuses and restrictions of civil liberties, and engage citizens in a lively, ongoing debate about these issues. We will also be treated to clips from some very compelling films.

Tuesday, July 13

8:30-10:00am

Business Meeting (Breakfast will be served)

Facilitator: Mona Younis, Mertz Gilmore Foundation

- Review Progress Report (2000-2003)
- Moving Forward: Plan of Action, 2004-2007
- Other business

10:00-10:15am

Break

10:15-12:15pm

Networking Session

Facilitator: Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

“International Partnerships to Support the International Human Rights Movement”

IHRFG is committed to advancing and strengthening the international human rights movement. In this session, U.S.-based human rights funders will have a chance to roll up their sleeves and talk shop with their grantmaking counterparts from Canada, Europe, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere. By identifying issues of common concern and interest, we hope to spark ongoing dialogue and

perhaps plant the seeds of some enduring, global philanthropic partnerships focused on achieving human rights for all. (Those who wish to discuss practical next steps for implementing the ideas raised are welcome to join the Working Group Session at 1:15pm)

Martín Abregú
Program Officer, Ford Foundation
Santiago, CHILE

Abdel-Fatau Musah
Program Officer, Open Society Initiative for West Africa
Dakar-Fann, SENEGAL

Martin O'Brien
Programme Executive, Atlantic Philanthropies
Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND

Emma Playfair
Representative, Ford Foundation
Cairo, EGYPT

12:15-1:15pm

*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.!

1:15-5:00pm

Thematic Working Groups - Breakouts
(Groups will meet concurrently without reporting back.)

(1:15 – 3:15pm)

International Partnerships – Next Steps
Facilitator: Mary Ann Stein, The Moriah Fund
(Opportunity for interested members to explore outcomes of the two-day meeting and possible action steps, if desired.)

(3:30 – 5:00pm)

Fund for Global Human Rights – Focus Group
Facilitator: Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights

(1:15 – 5:00pm)

U.S. Human Rights *Location: Allegro Suite (room 1934)*
Co-Facilitators: Dorothy Thomas, Shaler Adams Foundation
John Kowal, Open Society Institute

5:00pm

Cocktail Reception hosted by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Remarks by Mary Page of the MacArthur Foundation