

Semi-annual Meeting - July 10-12, 2005

Open Society Institute

400 West 59th Street, New York, NY

Telephone: (212) 548-0600

AGENDA

Sunday, July 10

10:00-4:00pm **Working Group Meetings** at the International Center for Tolerance Education (ICTE), Brooklyn, New York

- **Disability Rights Working Group**
- **Services to Human Rights Grantseekers Committee**
- **U.S. Human Rights Working Group**
- **"Wal-Mart: Protecting the human rights of consumers?"**
- **Website Committee**

Monday, July 11

8:30-9:00am *Breakfast*

9:00-9:30am ***Welcome from the (old and new) IHRFG Coordinators***

Mona Younis, Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Andrew Park, Wellspring Advisors

9:30-12:00pm ***Human Rights Education Session***

Facilitator: Gara LaMarche, Open Society Institute

"Human Rights and Security"

Since September 11th, many governments are asking people to choose between security and human rights protections. Human rights advocates, alarmed by the muted public outcry against recent human rights violations carried out in the name of security, consider this choice a false one. Indeed, many advocates view human rights and security as mutually reinforcing. A panel of experts will address the challenges and opportunities for the human rights community since September 11th: what we have learned and how we can advance the promotion and protection of human rights in an era dominated by the specter of terror.

Aziz Huq

Associate Counsel, Liberty and National Security program,
Brennan Center
New York, NY

Deborah Pearlstein

Director, U.S. Law and Security Program, Human Rights First
New York, NY

Oscar Vilhena Vieira

Executive Director, Conectas Human Rights and Sur - Human Rights
University Network
San Paolo, BRAZIL

Monette Zard

Research Director, International Council on Human Rights Policy
Geneva, SWITZERLAND

12:00-1:30pm *Lunch and **Human Rights Address:***

“Putting the Human Back in Human Rights”

Gara LaMarche, Open Society Institute

1:30-3:00pm **Break-outs** (Will meet concurrently)

▪ **Get Off Your Assets! (GOYA)** Cafeteria (4th Floor)

Facilitator: Stephen Viederman, Needmor Fund

What IHRFG working group was recently featured in *Pension and Investments*, the international newspaper of money management? That would be GOYA, whose mission is to assist foundations to exercise their human rights voice by voting on shareholder resolutions filed with companies they own. This session will feature Doug Bauer, Senior Vice President with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and Steve Viederman, retired President of the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation and a GOYA Committee member. Doug and Steve will review the basics—what is a proxy, how you inform yourself about the proxy issues, how do you vote—and then discuss specific victories from the 2005 Spring Proxy season. The emphasis will be on issues of interest to IHRFG members. Come listen, learn, and help build a track record of success adding value to your foundation’s grantmaking!

Doug Bauer

Senior Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
New York, NY

▪ **Human Right to Education** Conference Room 4D (4th Floor)

Co-facilitators:

Michael Gibbons, Banyan Tree Foundation

Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

A growing number of educators and activists around the world are turning to human rights to gain or maintain equal access to educational opportunities for all members of society. *Everyone has the right to education* proclaims Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Join a fascinating conversation among grantmakers and practitioners committed to advancing rights-based approaches to securing an education for all children and adults, in the US and abroad.

Cathy Albisa

Executive Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
New York, NY

- **"Human Rights in Russia: Who dares to fund it?"** Main room
Facilitator: Irina Yasina, Open Russia

Today, Open Russia is one of the few Russian grantmaking organizations that provides support for the protection of human rights and civil education in Russia. The example of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the founder of the Organization who is now in jail, is scary for everyone. Russian businessmen and donors are afraid to join this initiative. The directors of Open Russia will talk about the current political and human rights situation in Russia and Open Russia's projects in this context.

Alexander A. Osoltsov

*Director of Education and Enlightenment Programs, Open Russia
Moscow, RUSSIA*

3:00-3:15pm *Break*

3:15-5:00pm ***Human Rights Emergencies Briefing: "Darfur Update"***

Facilitator: Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service

In just over 2 years, millions of civilians in the Darfur region of western Sudan have been victims of a conflict characterized by racial and ethnic violence on a scale that many, including the Bush Administration and Congress, have labeled "genocide." Villages have been burned, their inhabitants driven into the desert, possessions and crops destroyed or stolen, women and girls raped, and men and boys killed. Some 300,000 people have died, with nearly 2 million more internally displaced and about 200,000 living in camps in Chad. Over half the population of Darfur, or about 3.5 million people, will be completely reliant on food assistance to survive the coming "hunger season." This informational session will assess the current situation and the urgent need to end the violence and help victims rebuild their lives.

The Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire

*Lieutenant-General, Senator, The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, CANADA*

Iain Levine

*Program Director, Human Rights Watch
New York, NY*

John Prendergast

*Special Adviser to the President, International Crisis Group
Washington, DC*

Nate Wright

*Co-founder, STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur)
Washington, DC*

7:00pm

Dinner at Café St. Bart's - Great Terrace

109 E 50th St (at Park Avenue), Tel: (212) 888-2664
(at own cost)

Tuesday, July 12

8:30-10:00am *Business Meeting*

Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

10:00-10:15am *Break*

10:15-12:30pm *Human Rights Networking Session*

Facilitator: Larry Cox, Ford Foundation

"Funding Human Rights When There's a 'War' On"

The massive diversion of financial resources to the "war on terror" has impeded the likelihood of real progress on economic and social rights for the majority of the world's poor. Even in the U.S., enormous outlays for the military and "homeland security" are accompanied by large cuts in social services and programs, while new "security" measures can produce actual assaults on civil liberties.

Yet many grantmakers feel that weakening civil liberties and gutting social services – both here and abroad – make us less secure, not more so. With the choice presented as one between freedom from attack and preservation of civil liberties, or between military preparedness and our social safety net, communities are expected to accept both the decline in public spending on social programs and services and the erosion of rights under the justice system. A panel of grantmakers will talk about funding human rights and social change in this context.

Kennette M. Benedict

*Director, International Peace and Security, Senior Advisor on Philanthropy, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Chicago, IL*

Paul Carroll

*Program Officer, Ploughshares Fund
San Francisco, CA*

Malak El-Chichini Poppovic

*Senior Advisor, United Nations Foundation
Sao Paulo, BRAZIL*

Rebecca Rittgers

*Program Executive, Atlantic Philanthropies
New York, NY*

12:30-2:00pm *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.!

2:00-5:30pm *Break-outs* (Will meet concurrently)

- **Human Rights and the UN** Cafeteria (4th Floor)
Facilitator: Johanna Mendelsohn-Forman, United Nations Foundation

“Reforming the UN: Prospect for Change?”

This is a key time for change at the UN. Proposals to reform the Secretariat, the Human Rights Commission and the UN management system are all under discussion. Voting for change will take place in September when the UN celebrates its 60th anniversary. This panel will review the key changes under consideration, explore the prospects for change, and consider what can be done to move things forward to improve the international system.

Shai Franklin

*Director of International Organizations, World Jewish Congress,
Executive Director, World Jewish Congress American Section
New York, NY*

Robert C. Orr

*Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning, Executive Office of
the UN Secretary-General, United Nations
New York, NY*

Joanna Weschler

*Director of U.N. Advocacy, Human Rights Watch
New York, NY*

- **Human Rights Skills Building** Main room
Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

An opportunity for members to gain valuable, concrete skills in the area of human rights communication. This hands-on, highly interactive session will look at both the broad – how we as grantmakers can frame messages as a means to increasing general understanding of human rights within the philanthropic community – and the specific communications challenges faced by each participant in the session.

Bonnie McEwan

*Executive Vice President, Douglas Gould & Co.
Larchmont, NY*

Joan Grangenois-Thomas

*Media Coordinator, Douglas Gould & Co.
Larchmont, NY*

Bob Ipcar

*Cameraman, Douglas Gould & Co.
Larchmont, NY*

5:30pm

**Closing Cocktail Reception at OSI hosted by
Atlantic Philanthropies**

Remarks by John R. Healy, President