

Winter Semi-Annual Meeting – January 26-27, 2009

Hotel 480

480 Sutter Street (between Stockton and Powell) - Savoy Room
San Francisco, CA 94108

The current times present **unprecedented challenges** to the promise of human rights on every front. At the same time, many feel we are entering a period of **tremendous opportunity**. IHRFG's January conference will provide a forum for grantmakers to engage in dialogue with peers, grassroots practitioners and policy-shapers on some of the critical questions of our day, including:

- **How do we defend human rights**, including attempts by governments to criminalize the defense of rights? (*opening plenary*)
- **How can we best strategize our grantmaking in tough economic times?** (*member-sponsored session*)
- **What's ahead for human rights in the Obama administration**, and how can human rights be advanced among local policymakers? (*Monday dinner and member-sponsored session*)
- **Can we stop genocide?** (*member-sponsored session*)
- **How can sexual rights and notions of identity help strengthen a human rights framework**, from coalition-building efforts in the Middle East to Central Asia to Proposition 8 in California? (*closing plenary*)

As always, we'll probe the implications of each of these questions for grantmakers, exploring potential avenues for collaboration and action.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Monday – January 26

9:00-9:45am

BREAKFAST & WELCOME

9:45-11:45pm

OPENING PLENARY: **DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS**

Article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* confirms that everyone has the right to promote human rights. Yet human rights defenders are increasingly finding themselves subjected to persecution from governments and non-state actors. Government tactics to undermine the work of human rights defenders include interference, sabotage and overt criminalization of advocacy and dissent. Non-state actors invoke legal mechanisms and use violence. This plenary session will discuss these trends and the challenges that human rights defenders face, and explore possible responses by NGOs, supportive governments and funders.

11:45-1:00pm

NETWORKING LUNCH & DISABILITY RIGHTS WORKING GROUP MEETING

1:00-2:30pm

CONCURRENT MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS:

- **Are Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Respected in Environmental Grantmaking?**
- **Can We Prevent Genocide?**
- **Sexual Rights Working Group**

2:30-2:45pm

BREAK

2:45-3:45pm

IHRFG LOOKING FORWARD:

A SPECIAL STRATEGY SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

3:45-4:00pm

BREAK

4:00-5:30pm

CONCURRENT MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS:

- **Advancing Human Rights with Local Policymakers: Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Human Rights and the Environment Working Group**
- **International Site Visits: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly**

5:30-6:00pm

PRE-DINNER BREAK

6:00-7:00pm

NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:00-9:00pm

PROSPECTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

A DINNER WITH CHRISTOPHER EDLEY, JR., DEAN OF UC-BERKELEY LAW

Tuesday – January 27

8:30- 9:00am

BREAKFAST

9:00-10:30am

CONCURRENT MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS:

- **Contradictory or Complementary? – Voluntary Principles & Enforceable Mechanisms on Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Abuses**
- **The Movement for Fundamental Change: Formerly Incarcerated People Fight for Human Rights**

10:30-10:45am

BREAK

10:45-12:15pm

CONCURRENT MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS:

- **The Individual or the Collective: Which Way to Human Rights?**
- **Reading Between the Red Lines: Strategizing Grantmaking in Tough Economic Times**
- **US Human Rights Working Group**

12:15-1:15pm

LUNCH ... AND THE FUNDERS’ SOAPBOX!

1:15-3:15pm

CLOSING PLENARY:

Sexual Rights, Identity and Strengthening the Human Rights Movement

... MEETING ADJOURNS AT 3:15 PM ...

Are Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Respected in Environmental Grantmaking?

Indigenous Peoples have intrinsic rights to reside on their homelands and continue traditional stewardship practices to protect their assets (land, natural resources, etc.); however, many feel these rights are infringed upon by conservation funders promoting “people-free” agendas. Indigenous Peoples are among the world’s poorest, living in the last remaining biodiversity-dense regions and holding a wealth of knowledge on protecting their environments. Funders collaborating with Indigenous communities can achieve mutual conservation goals, often at a lower cost, by bridging traditional and Western knowledge without displacing people. This protects Indigenous rights to access homelands and maintain traditional cultural livelihoods while conservation agendas symbiotically advance.

Speakers:

- **Andrea Carmen**, Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
- **Dennis Martinez**, Founder and Co-Chair, Indigenous Peoples’ Restoration Network (IPRN)

Facilitator: **Mark Dowie**, Environmental Journalist

Session Organizer: **Rebecca Adamson**, President and Founder, First Peoples Worldwide

Sponsor: **First Peoples Worldwide**

Can We Prevent Genocide?

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide is 60 years old—and yet Rwanda, Darfur, Bosnia are just the most recent examples of the failure of the international community to intervene effectively in ongoing mass atrocity crimes, much less prevent them.

The new US Ambassador, Susan Rice, made a point of addressing the issue of genocide in introducing herself. New leadership, the emerging norm of “responsibility to protect,” the Albright-Cohen Genocide Prevention Task Force, and the growing anti-genocide movement (as illustrated by Darfur) present an opportunity for real gains in prevention.

Still, the problem requires new ways of working—and for policy organizations and advocates to work together to build constituencies that will create political will.

An advocate and policy expert talk about Darfur, the new movement for prevention and how these strategies complement each other—and sometimes clash.

Speakers:

- **Fabienne Hara**, Vice-President of Multilateral Affairs, International Crisis Group
- **Jill Savitt**, Executive Director, Genocide Prevention Project

Facilitator and Session Organizer: **Michele Lord**, Executive Director, Public Interest Projects and the US Human Rights Fund

Sponsor: **Public Interest Projects** and the **US Human Rights Fund**

1:00-2:30pm

...CONTINUED MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS...

Meeting of the Sexual Rights Working Group

The Sexual Rights Working Group is open to anyone who is already funding or interested to begin funding work to promote sexual rights. **Heather Doyle**, Project Director of the Sexual Health and Rights Program (SHARP) at the Open Society Institute, will facilitate an informal discussion on the different ways that donors define and approach sexual rights, the potential opportunities for more in-depth collaboration, and the mechanisms to foster such collaborations.

2:30-2:45pm

Break

2:45-3:45pm

IHRFG LOOKING FORWARD:

A SPECIAL STRATEGY MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FUNDERS GROUP

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.

3:45-4:00pm

Break

4:00-5:30pm

MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS

Advancing Human Rights with Local Policymakers: Challenges and Opportunities

As we enter a political climate likely to be friendlier to human rights, advocates are preparing to carry out domestic human rights advocacy at the local, state and federal levels of government. The effectiveness of their work is dependent not only on increased awareness amongst policymakers on U.S. human rights obligations, but also on crafting persuasive messages and constituency building. The Opportunity Agenda's 2008 research on state policymaker attitudes towards human rights brings useful perspective to advocates' efforts. Our panelists will balance these key findings with on-the-ground perspectives on when and how to most effectively employ human rights arguments to advance domestic advocacy goals.

Speakers:

- **Doug Schenkelberg**, Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy, Heartland Alliance
- **Robin S. Toma**, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

Facilitator: **Alan Jenkins**, Executive Director, The Opportunity Agenda

Session Organizers: **Sophia Conroy**, Program Officer, Open Society Institute; **Puja Dhawan**, Senior Program Officer, US Human Rights Fund

Sponsor: **US Human Rights Working Group**

...4:00-5:30pm SESSIONS ARE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

4:00-5:30pm

...CONTINUED MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS...

International Site Visits: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Site visits are a valuable tool for good due diligence and for building strong relationships with grantees, and truly great things can happen when overseas site visits are conducted well. Often, though, overseas site visits can go terribly wrong, for it's during a site visit that the greatest challenges of grantor/grantee dynamics—around power, language and culture—are most actively at play. Through role play, a case study and participatory problem-solving, we'll explore the good, the bad and the ugly in international site visits.

Facilitators and Organizers:

- **Jennifer Anderson-Bähr**, Senior Program Officer, The Firelight Foundation
- **John Harvey**, Executive Director, Grantmakers Without Borders

Intros by: **Andrew Park**, Program Director, Wellspring Advisors

Sponsor: **Grantmakers Without Borders**

Meeting of the Human Rights and the Environment Working Group

Although there isn't a set of "environmental" rights in the UN Declaration, many of the rights it does enumerate—livelihood, for instance—connect directly to environmental causes. Large dams flood farmland and communities, oil spills pollute drinking water supplies or climate change melts ice caps and permafrost, making impossible the traditional way of life for Native people in the North. While governments are usually the perpetrators of abuse of civil and political rights, it is often corporations who create environmental abuse, with governments complicit or silent. Join funders who will talk about ways to deal with these issues.

5:30-6:00pm

PRE-DINNER BREAK

6:00-7:00pm

NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Savoy Foyer

7:00-9:00pm

Prospects for Human Rights in the Obama Administration
a dinner with CHRISTOPHER EDLEY, Jr., Dean of UC-Berkeley Law

Savoy

Introduction by Rebecca Rittgers, Programme Executive, The Atlantic Philanthropies

What's ahead for human rights, both at home and abroad, with the new Obama administration? How might grantmakers provide the most strategic support in the human rights arena in this new political landscape? Join Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean of UC-Berkeley Law and former legal mentor and advisor to President-elect Obama, for this insightful discussion.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

8:30-9:00am

BREAKFAST

Savoy

9:00-10:30am

MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS

Contradictory or Complementary? – Voluntary Principles & Enforceable Mechanisms on Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Abuses

A spirited debate surrounds corporations, governments, NGOs, affected communities, and other stakeholders on the most effective tools to improve accountability and provide redress to victims of human rights abuses caused by corporations, particularly in the extractive industries. This session will offer participants a connection to the context in which this debate is situated through dialogue with leading practitioners in the fields of corporate liability and corporate social responsibility.

Panelists will discuss the state of play, the relative values and the challenges of each approach in seeking solutions that address the legitimate concerns of all stakeholders.

Speakers:

- **Christopher Avery**, Founder, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- **Katharine Redford, Esq.**, Co-Founder and US Office Director, EarthRights International
- **Diane Osgood, Ph.D.**, Vice President, CSR Strategy

Facilitator: **Naomi Roht-Arriaza**, Professor of Law, UC-Hastings

Session Organizers: **Laura Livoti**, Senior Program Officer, FACT; **Chet Tchozewski**, Executive Director, Global Greengrants Fund

Sponsor: **Global Greengrants Fund**

**The Movement for Fundamental Change:
Formerly Incarcerated People Fight for Human Rights**

The US currently imprisons a startling 2.3 million people (approximately .75% of the total population). California is leading the country's incarceration trend with a "tough on crime" stance and one of the largest prison systems in the US – the state currently locks up more than 170,500 individuals in 33 adult (four for women) and eight juvenile (one for girls) facilities across the state. People of color comprise seventy-three percent of the state's overall prison population. Sentencing disparities, disproportionate minority confinement, violence, and human rights abuses are rife within the criminal justice system. And the thousands of people exiting prison each year face enormous challenges and discrimination in rebuilding their lives and securing their basic human needs (housing, employment, health care) once outside. Join us for a conversation with formerly incarcerated leaders who are building a powerful grassroots movements of former prisoners and cultivating the leadership necessary to transform conditions both within prisons and outside in order to assure the basic human rights and dignity of all those affected by incarceration and the prison industrial complex in the United States.

Speakers:

- **Susan Burton**, Executive Director, A New Way of Life Reentry Project
- **Dorsey Nunn**, Co-Director, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; Organizer, All of Us or None
- **Marlene Sanchez**, Executive Director, The Center for Young Women's Development

Facilitator and Organizer: **Anuja Mendiratta**, M.E.S., Program Advisor (Race Gender Human Rights Fund), The Women's Foundation of California

Sponsor: **The Women's Foundation of California**

10:30-10:45pm

Break

10:45-12:15pm

MEMBER-SPONSORED SESSIONS & WORKING GROUPS

The Individual or the Collective: Which Way to Human Rights?

A popular approach to funding human rights work is to highlight the work of one human rights defender or social entrepreneur with an award. Yet foundations that are funding movements question the focus on the individual when there is immeasurable collective action behind that individual. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach? Why, and when, does one work better than the other? Panelists will include one funder and one grantee from each side of the spectrum. This session will facilitate a dynamic discussion of divergent viewpoints on funding individuals and funding collective action.

Speakers:

- **Patrick Ball, Ph.D.**, Director (Human Rights Program), Benetech Initiative
- **Zoe Gudovic**, Zene na Delu (Women at Work)
- **Shalini Nataraj**, Vice President of Programs, Global Fund for Women
- **David Rothschild**, Program Officer, Skoll Foundation

Facilitator: **Rachel Humphrey**, Director of Philanthropic Partnerships, Global Fund for Women

Organizer: **Shalini Nataraj**, Vice President of Programs, Global Fund for Women

Sponsor: **Global Fund for Women**

Reading between the Red Lines: Strategizing Grantmaking in Tough Economic Times

This practical, interactive session will explore strategic approaches to human-rights grantmaking in this difficult economic environment. Panelists and participants will examine various:

- ways in which funders are adapting to declines – some large and precipitous – in many grants budgets;
- principles and techniques for conducting due diligence to read the true financial health – and determine the most critical financial needs – of grantseeking organizations;
- alternative approaches to structuring grants and payments; and
- perspectives on adding grantees and communicating responsibly with organizations in the “pipeline.”

Join a discussion among panelists and fellow grantmakers on approaching the difficult choices that funders and grantseekers increasingly face. Come ready to talk about how your giving program is approaching these critical questions.

Speakers:

- **Jeff Krehely**, Research Director, Movement Advancement Project
- **Judith J. Plows**, Principal, KrasnePlows

Facilitator: **Michael J. Hirschhorn**, President, Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation; Director, International Human Rights Funders Group

Sponsors and Organizers: **The Atlantic Philanthropies** and **IHRFG**

Meeting of the US Human Rights Working Group

In addition to continuing some of the discussions from our July 2008 meeting, this working group meeting will feature a presentation by **Betsy Brill**, Executive Director of the Libra Foundation and one of the USHRWG members. As the Libra Foundation entered its sixth year of supporting human rights in the U.S. and abroad, the Foundation engaged an independent consultant to conduct a formal evaluation of their grantmaking program. The consultant surveyed Libra's grantees on their work to date and the impact of support from the foundation. As a starting point for USHRWG discussion, Betsy Brill will share the findings from their recent assessment, reflecting on some of the opportunities in domestic human rights grantmaking.

12:15-1:15pm

*Lunch ... and **The Funders' Soapbox!***

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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

CLOSING PLENARY:

Savoy

Sexual Rights, Identity, and Strengthening the Human Rights Movement

What are the critical issues facing organizations and activists advocating for the advancement of sexual health and rights of sexual minorities? This panel aims to raise awareness of the challenges and successes of organizations and activists advocating for the equitable treatment of sexual minorities in a range of areas (from the Middle East and Central Asia, to California around Proposition 8). Discussion will center on developing strategies to build a more inclusive human rights movement and opportunities for funder participation.

Speakers:

- **Anna Kirey**, Executive Director, Labrys (Kyrgyzstan)
- **Nadine M.**, Founder, Meem (Lebanon)
- **John Newsome**, Public Equity Group

*Facilitator: **Randall Miller**, Program Officer (Equality & Justice), Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund*

*Session Organizer: **Sexual Rights Working Group***

*Sponsors: **Sexual Rights Working Group** members, including the **Channel Foundation**, the **Global Fund for Women**, and the Sexual Health and Rights Project of the **Open Society Institute**.*

3:15pm

Adjournment

MEETING LOGISTICS

Eligibility:

This meeting is only open to grantmakers. Current IHRFG members and individuals eligible for membership may attend the Semi-annual Meetings. IHRFG membership is open to staff, consultants and trustees of private foundations, public charities that devote 50 percent of their program budget to grantmaking, corporate foundations and community giving programs, governmental giving programs, faith-based giving programs, philanthropic advocacy, and support organizations and individual philanthropists with significant giving programs.

IHRFG dues are voluntary, apply to member institutions (not individuals), and based on foundation size. While we strongly encourage the contribution of dues, the full benefits of IHRFG membership remain open to all, regardless of contribution.

Costs and Registration:

Registration for the conference ended **Wednesday, January 21, 2009**. As our registration fees only cover catering and we order exact numbers, we do not have the capacity for day-of registration.

Accommodations:

There are still rooms available at the [Hotel 480](#), the site of the meeting. Please visit the hotel website or contact the reservations department at **866-912-0972** or +1-415-398-8900 to make your reservations at their best available rate.

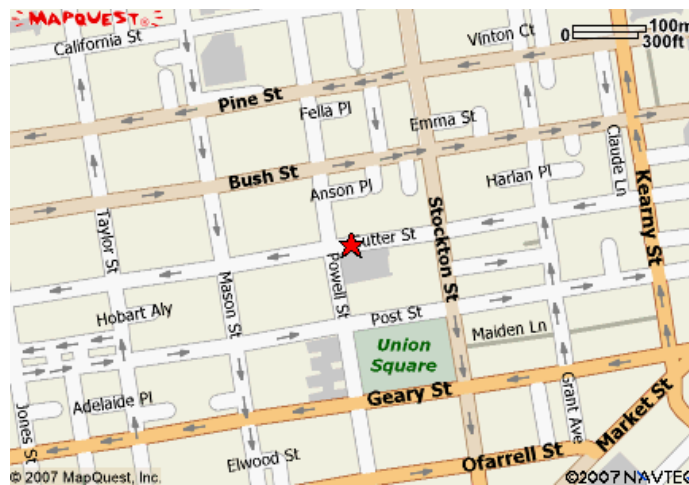
Materials/Resource table:

If you would like to share resources with IHRFG colleagues, we will have resource tables available. At this time, you will need to bring the materials on the day of the event, 2009

Getting to the Meeting

Hotel 480

480 Sutter Street (between Stockton and Powell) – San Francisco, CA 94108



Nearest Public Transportation (BART & MUNI transit systems)

BART: Powell Station Exit

- Distance: A four block walk up Powell Street to hotel (0.2 MI/0.32 KM)
- Taxi Fee From Train Station: \$3.00

MUNI: Powell Street Station for MUNI or BART

- Distance: A four block walk up Powell Street to hotel (.25 MI/0.4 KM)