

# 2017 New York Conference

**Map ➡ Resist ➡ Support**

July 10-13, 2017



Human Rights  
Funders Network

HOSTED BY:



# Introducing...



## Human Rights Funders Network

Dear friends:

Welcome to our 2017 conference—our first as Human Rights Funders Network!

### Why a new name after twenty-three years?

Since our founding, we have grown to nearly 1,500 individual members across 52 countries. In removing the word **international**, we recognize the diversity of our community and the relevance of human rights both “at home” and “abroad”—no matter where one is based. **Network** more fully captures the connectivity of our community, which we will experience over the coming days as we learn together and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

### What hasn't changed?

Our focus on advancing human rights through effective philanthropy is as relevant today as it was when we began in 1994. We remain a network **for** human rights grantmakers **by** human rights grantmakers. While the challenges facing the field are vast and complex, Human Rights Funders Network remains committed to bringing our community together to change the turning tides.

### Why Map → Resist → Support?

Over the next three days, we will chart out new strategies for supporting human rights movements in a climate of closing civic space and rising authoritarianism. The **Map** section will set the stage by helping funders understand the regional trends, catalysts, and case studies of repressive societies. **Resist** will explore tactics used on the ground to open civic space. **Support** will delve deeper into grantmaking practice and philanthropic models that can support human rights movements in this evolving context. Each section will build on the last, and will provide opportunities for reflection and deep inquiry. We hope that this conference will spark new ideas and strategies for collective action!

Onwards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mona Chun'.

Mona Chun  
Executive Director

P.S. Visit [www.hrfn.org](http://www.hrfn.org) today! We've redesigned it with YOU in mind! Share the news! Tweet [@hrfunders](https://twitter.com/hrfunders) and use [#hrfn2017](https://twitter.com/hashtag/hrfn2017) throughout the conference.

# Agenda-at-a-Glance

July  
10

## MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

- 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **NEW YORK INSTITUTES:**
- When the Going Gets Tough: A Funder-Activist Dialogue
  - Values to Action (*Organized with the Bay Area Justice Funders Network*)
  - Newcomers Welcome Gathering
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm **CONFERENCE OPENING:**  
Welcome Reception hosted by The Ford Foundation

July  
11

## TUESDAY, JULY 11

- 8:00 - 9:00 am **Registration** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 9:00 - 9:15 am **Welcome** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 9:15 - 10:15 am **Opening Plenary: Map → Resist → Support: Three Perspectives** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 10:15 - 11:15 am **Breakout Discussions** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 11:15 - 11:30 am **Break**
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm **From the Field Expo I: Country-Specific Cases of Narrowing Civil Society Space** (*Greenberg*)
- An Inside Look into Supporting Change in India
  - Breaking Funders out of Silos to Support Human Rights in Uganda
  - Fostering Systems Change in Thailand: Engaging with the Fishing Industry and Government to Fight Human Rights Abuses at Sea
  - Tactical Interventions to Protect Judicial Independence (United States)
  - The Frontier of Fear: Crisis in Brazil and Responses to Violations of Human Rights
  - 50 Years of Occupation and Israeli Human Rights Work: Lessons Learned and Strategies Going Forward
- 12:30 - 1:40 pm **Lunch** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 1:15 - 1:40 pm **Funders' Soapbox** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 1:45 - 2:45 pm **From the Field Expo II:** (*Greenberg*)  
A second opportunity to join a From the Field Expo session
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm **Concurrent Sessions:**
- From Critique to Resilience: Transforming Human Rights Activism (*Greenberg*)
  - Networked Propaganda: Digital Threats to Democracy and Human Rights (*Golding*)
  - Building Resilient Women's Movements: The Critical Dynamic between Movements, Philanthropy, and Governments (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)
- 4:30 - 6:30 pm **Working Group Meetings and Networking Break**
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm **Dinner and a Performance — *Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity*** (*Rosenthal Pavilion*)



MAP



RESIST

# Agenda-at-a-Glance

July  
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## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

8:00 - 9:00 am	<b>Breakfast: Funders' Initiative for Civil Society Strategy Launch</b> <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i> How can funders ensure free and open civic space across the globe?
9:00 - 9:15 am	<b>Opening Remarks: Masha Gessen</b> <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i>
9:15 - 10:30 am	<b>Plenary Lightning Talks</b> <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting Human Rights Defenders in the Face of Non-State Actors</li> <li>• Preaching Beyond the Choir: Engaging Faith Leaders on LGBTIQ Rights in Southern and Eastern Africa</li> <li>• Resisting Militant Masculinities and Big Nuclear Arsenals: Harnessing Intersectionality for a New Nuclear Disarmament Movement</li> <li>• Software and Human Rights: The Road Ahead</li> </ul>
10:30 - 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond Playing It Safe(Guard): New Tools and Tactics to Protect Defenders, Advance Accountability in Development Finance, and Move Towards Community-led Development Models <i>(Golding)</i></li> <li>• Movement-Centered Funding to Promote Human Rights and Justice <i>(Greenberg)</i></li> <li>• Organizing at the Margins: Supporting Feminist, Lesbian/Bisexual/Queer/Gender Non-Conforming Movements in Restrictive Environments <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i></li> </ul>
12:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch and Working Group Meetings</b>
1:30 - 3:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reimagining Civil Society in the Age of Authoritarianism <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i></li> <li>• Where Girls and Young Women Come into the Conversation: Reflecting on Trends and Funder Responses in Support of Youth Organizing and Transformative Leadership <i>(Greenberg)</i></li> <li>• Supporting Movements in Difficult Places: Lessons Learned From Public Foundations <i>(Golding)</i></li> </ul>
3:00 - 3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 - 5:00 pm	<b>Community Problem Solving</b> <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i>
5:00 - 6:00 pm	<b>Human Rights Funders Network Community: Tactics for Change</b> <i>(Rosenthal Pavilion)</i>



RESIST



SUPPORT

# Agenda-at-a-Glance

July  
13

THURSDAY, JULY 13

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 - 9:00 am      | <b>Breakfast Meeting</b> <i>(Greenberg)</i><br>Five Years of <i>Advancing Human Rights</i> : So What's Happened?  |
| 9:00 - 10:00 am     | <b>Plenary Lightning Talks</b> <i>(Greenberg)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the Inside Out: Creative Models for Local Funding for Civic Engagement and Human Rights</li> <li>• Rise to the Occasion: Supporting Movements through Streamlining and Alternative Structures</li> <li>• #ShiftThePower: Putting Community Philanthropy at the Heart Human Rights Work</li> </ul> |
| 10:00 - 10:30 am    | <b>Break</b>  |
| 10:30 am - 12:00 pm | <b>Modified Open Space to Chart Next Steps</b> <i>(Greenberg)</i>   |
| 12:00 - 1:30 pm     | <b>Closing:</b> <i>(Greenberg)</i><br>A Conversation with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Hussein  |



SUPPORT



## LOCATION

SESSIONS ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN THREE ROOMS LOCATED IN TWO BUILDINGS.

### VANDERBILT HALL

- GREENBERG (1ST FLOOR)
- GOLDING (2ND FLOOR)

### KIMMEL CENTER

- ROSENTHAL PAVILION (10TH FLOOR)

THE RELEVANT BUILDINGS ARE NOTED ON THE MAP FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

*\*Please note the venue has changed since previous years.*

# Detailed Agenda

## MONDAY, JULY 10

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **HRFN's 2017 Conference also includes three institutes:**

Further information is available on page 24

6:00 - 8:00 pm **Conference Opening: Welcome Reception hosted by The Ford Foundation**



## TUESDAY, JULY 11

MAP

8:00 - 9:00 am **Registration**

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

9:00 - 9:15 am **Welcome**

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

- Mona Chun, Executive Director, Human Rights Funders Network
- Ruby Johnson, Co-Director, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund
- David Mattingly, Vice President, The Fund for Global Human Rights

9:15 - 10:15 am **Opening Plenary: Map → Resist → Support: Three Perspectives**

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

What forces are driving closing civic space and rising authoritarianism? What new strategies and tactics are activists using to resist? How is philanthropy changing and adapting to this challenging climate? Our opening plenary will examine the shifting political landscape, its implications for human rights, and the role of human rights funders by sharing perspectives from an academic, an activist, and a grantmaker.

### Speakers:

- Philip Alston, John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law, New York University School of Law
- Laura Garcia, Executive Director, Semillas
- Judith Pasimio, Coordinator, LILAK - Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights.
- Deborah Doane, Director, Funders Initiative for Civil Society (moderator)

10:15 - 11:15 am **Breakout Discussions**

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

Following our opening plenary, participants will gather in small groups to unpack the analyses provided by the plenary speakers. How can the views they shared inform our work? Which topics and trends are the most critical to grapple with?

11:15 - 11:30 am **Break**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **FROM THE FIELD EXPO I:**

*Greenberg*

### Country-Specific Cases of Narrowing Civil Society Space

In this "From the Field Expo," we will analyze the ways in which activists and funders in six different contexts are responding to challenges. By looking at specific geographies, we will build a more nuanced understanding of the effects of narrowing civil society space.



## FROM THE FIELD EXPO I, *continued*

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### An Inside Look into Supporting Change in India

India faces economic pressures, national divisions due to religious fundamentalism, and tense debates over environmental and gender justice. With a vast and deep sector of grassroots organizations and networks in the country, it is an increasingly complex environment for funders and activists alike. With philanthropists working in India, we will explore ways to support civil society, civic engagement, and structural change.

#### Session Organizer:

- Trishala Deb, Regional Director, Thousand Currents

#### Speakers:

- Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation for India
- Trishala Deb, Regional Director, Thousand Currents
- Derek Mitchell, Holdeen India Program Director, Unitarian Universalist Association
- Seema Nair, Program Officer, The Fund for Global Human Rights

#### Session Sponsor:

**Thousand  
Currents**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### 50 Years of Occupation and Israeli Human Rights Work: Lessons Learned and Strategies Going Forward

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Over the last 30 years, Israeli NGOs have been documenting and organizing in response to Israeli human rights abuses intrinsic to the ongoing occupation. Together we will review the trajectory of these strategies and lessons learned. Particular attention will be given to new strategies going forward in light of new restrictive legislation and the challenges presented by a public that is largely indifferent to human rights consequences for a population labeled as the enemy.

#### Session Organizer:

- Aaron Back, Senior Advisor, New Israel Fund

#### Speakers:

- Aaron Back, Senior Advisor, New Israel Fund
- Michael Sfard, International Human Rights Law Specialist

#### Session Sponsor:

**הקרן החדשה לישראל**  
**New Israel Fund**  
**الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل**



MAP

**FROM THE FIELD EXPO I, continued**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg***Tactical Interventions to Protect Judicial Independence (United States)**

Although litigation is an essential tool used to preserve and protect rights in a democracy, courts are often overlooked and are increasingly under attack in the United States. In this interactive session, we will focus on a case study and participants will share ideas from their own experiences. The group will discuss tactics that funders and grantees can adapt to different contexts to ensure judicial independence.

**Session Organizer:**

- Kathy Bonnifield, Program Officer, The Piper Fund, a Proteus Fund Initiative

**Speakers:**

- Kathy Bonnifield, Program Officer, The Piper Fund, a Proteus Fund Initiative
- Emily Hutchinson, Program Manager, The Center for Victims of Torture
- Nancy Pearson, Training Manager, The Center for Victims of Torture

**Session Sponsor:**

- The Piper Fund, an initiative of:



PROTEUS FUND

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg***The Frontier of Fear: Crisis in Brazil and Responses to Violations of Human Rights**

The space for Brazilian civil society is shrinking as part of a global trend. Since a new, provisional government took office in June 2016, attacks have greatly intensified against social, environmental, and human rights activists. The new political climate has empowered landlords, police forces, and big business to actively repress social movements and human rights defenders. Drawing on first hand experience and insights from Brazilian funders, we will explore the efforts of funders and grantees to defend civil society space.

**Session Organizer:**

- Maria Amalia Souza, Founder and Senior Advisor, CASA Socio-Environmental Fund

**Speakers:**

- Ana Valeria Araujo, Executive Director, The Brazil Human Rights Fund
- Maria Amalia Souza, Founder and Senior Advisor, CASA Socio-Environmental Fund
- K.K. Verdade, Executive Director, ELAS Fundo de Investimento Social

**Session Sponsor:**



## FROM THE FIELD EXPO I, *continued*

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### Breaking Funders out of Silos to Support Human Rights in Uganda

In the face of closing civic space, we can strengthen human rights and social justice movements by collaborating across funding silos and incorporating grassroots voices. This session will explore the situation in Uganda and discuss best practices for cross-sector collaboration.

#### Session Organizers and Speakers:

- Naomi Ayot, Program Manager, Action for Community Development (ACODEV)
- Emily Jonas, CEO and Executive Director, One World Children's Fund

#### Session Sponsor:



11:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### Fostering Systems Change in Thailand: Engaging with the Fishing Industry and Government to Fight Human Rights Abuses at Sea

Thailand is the world's third largest seafood exporter, reaping over \$7 billion in revenues per year and supplying cheap seafood to Europe and the United States. Unfortunately, the industry's profits come at a high cost to the environment and migrant workers. To succeed in eradicating slavery and forced labor, the government and business sectors need reforming. This session will take the form of a conversation between the Freedom Fund, one of the largest funders in the anti-slavery space, and Thailand-based Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN), a Freedom Fund partner and grantee that works to combat forced labor in Thailand's fishing industry.

#### Session Organizers and Speakers:

- Kate Kennedy, Managing Director, The Freedom Fund
- Sompong Srakaew, Executive Director, Labour Rights Promotion Network

#### Session Sponsor:



12:30 - 1:15 pm

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Lunch

1:15 - 1:45 pm

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Funders' Soapbox

Join this "open mic" opportunity to announce an event or publication, appeal for advice, recruit collaborators, or anything you want your grantmaker peers to know. Sign up by the registration desk.

1:45 - 2:45 pm

*Greenberg*

## FROM THE FIELD EXPO II

A second opportunity to join a From the Field Expo session

2:45 - 3:00 pm

### Break



RESIST

3:00 - 4:30 pm  
*Greenberg*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### From Critique to Resilience: Transforming Human Rights Activism

Many in the human rights movement feel under siege as some question whether human rights activists are equipped to respond to current challenges, such as climate change or growing inequality. These critiques come at a time when activism itself is under attack. Drawing on research and consultations with activists, academics, and peer funders from across the globe, this session will examine the critiques that are most concerning to activists and how those in the movement are adapting in response. This session will give participants an opportunity to reflect on both the critiques as well as the approaches that activists are considering as they adapt and retool.

#### Session Organizer:

- Emily Martinez, Director of Human Rights Initiative, Open Society Foundations

#### Speakers:

- Phil Bloomer, Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
- César Rodríguez Garavito, Founding Director, Program on Global Justice and Human Rights; Executive Director, Dejusticia
- Regan Ralph, President and CEO, The Fund for Global Human Rights

#### Session Sponsor:



*Golding*

### Networked Propaganda: Digital Threats to Democracy and Human Rights

Public discourse is increasingly distorted by misinformation, disinformation, and highly divisive rhetoric. Emerging evidence suggests these tactics are driving right-wing populism in the United States and across the globe. As the networked, digital media environment increasingly permeates across private and public life, our systems for identifying and responding to misinformation and propaganda are failing us. This undermines public faith in core democratic institutions, including an independent press. The use of propaganda can also have a chilling effect on human rights defenders. This session will look behind the misleading "Fake News" headlines and dig deep into the trends and impacts observed during Brexit and the U.S. and French elections.

#### Session Organizers:

- Allison Barlow, Program Director, Wallace Global Fund
- Amalia Deloney, Senior Program Officer, Media Democracy Fund
- Amber French, Deputy Director, Media Democracy Fund
- Lori McGlinchey, Senior Program Officer, The Ford Foundation
- Chancellor Williams, Program Officer, Open Society Foundations

#### Speakers:

- Yochai Benkler, Co-Director, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University
- Amalia Deloney, Senior Program Officer, Media Democracy Fund (Moderator)
- Vladimir Cortés Roshdestvensky, Deputy Officer, ARTICLE 19
- Khadijah Costley White, Assistant Professor, Rutgers University

#### Session Sponsors:



FORD  
FOUNDATION

MEDIADEMOCRACYFUND



OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS

WALLACE  
GLOBAL FUND



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS, *continued*

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Rosenthal Pavilion

### Building Resilient Women's Movements: The Critical Dynamic between Movements, Philanthropy, and Governments

How are women's funds in the Global North working to advance women's movements in the face of changing discourses on aid, development and human rights in Canada, the United States and parts of Western Europe? How is feminist philanthropy adjusting to these new realities and influencing bilateral funding opportunities? Speakers will share the opportunities and challenges they see in bilateral support and funding for women's rights movements in the Global South with the advent of new governments in Canada, the U.S., and, shortly, the Netherlands.

#### Session Organizers and Speakers:

- Beatriz Gonzalez Manchon, Vice President, The MATCH International Women's Fund
- Zohra Moosa, Executive Director, Mama Cash
- Clare Winterton, Vice President, Global Fund for Women

#### Session Sponsors:



4:30 - 6:30 pm

Golding Wing North

### Working Group Meetings and Networking Break

**International Grants Operations Working Group:** *Bring Your Problem, Share Challenges You Face in Your Work*

Greenberg

**Asia and Pacific Funders Working Group:** *China's Overseas NGO Management Law*

Golding Wing South

**Disability Rights Working Group:** *Funding Inclusive Movements*

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Rosenthal Pavilion

### Dinner and a Performance

**What better way to plan a path towards resistance than a good meal and provocative conversation?**

Join us for an exclusive dinner performance of ***Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity***, an interview-based theater production by Ping Chong + Company exploring the diverse experiences of Muslims in the United States in a time of rising fear and violence toward Muslims. This *New York Times* "stage's best moments of the year" piece is part of the *Undesirable Elements* series, chamber pieces of storytelling developed through a community-engaged process wherein Ping Chong + Company extensively interviews local participants, who then become the performers. These interviews become the basis of a script that weaves together personal, historical, and political narratives.



RESIST

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

8:00 - 9:00 am

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Breakfast: Funders' Initiative for Civil Society Strategy Launch

How can funders ensure free and open civic space across the globe? Join us as the Funders' Initiative for Civil Society (FICS), hosted by Global Dialogue and led by Human Rights Funders' Network and Ariadne, launches its strategy to use a comprehensive diagnosis of the problem to coordinate a robust philanthropic response. There will be bagels!

9:00 - 9:15am

*Rosenthal Pavilion*



### Opening Remarks: Masha Gessen

Author-activist Masha Gessen will share her thoughts on what authoritarian leadership means for an organized resistance. An accomplished journalist, Gessen has emerged as a thoughtful and influential critic of President Trump. Gessen grounds her analysis in the experience of reporting in Russia during the rise of Vladimir Putin. In her 2012 bestselling book *The Man Without a Face*, she gave the chilling account of how a KGB operative ascended to the Russian presidency and destroyed years of progress.

9:15 - 10:30 am

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### PLENARY LIGHTNING TALKS

#### Preaching Beyond the Choir: Engaging Faith Leaders on LGBTIQ Rights in Southern and Eastern Africa

What are best practices for human rights organizations and donors to engage faith communities in Southern and Eastern Africa to advance a broad rights agenda? What kinds of challenges and opportunities do faith communities encounter in allying with LGBTIQ organizations? And vice-versa?

#### Session Organizers:

- Maxim Anmeghichean, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Foundations
- Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, Associate Director, Open Society Foundations

#### Speakers:

- John Kambo, Pastor, The African Independent Pentecostal Church of Africa

#### Session Sponsor:



*Rosenthal Pavilion*

#### Resisting Militant Masculinities and Big Nuclear Arsenals: Harnessing Intersectionality for a New Nuclear Disarmament Movement

Today, there are nine nuclear-armed countries. Our most basic human rights are at great risk every day in large part due to a small number of countries more interested in the prestige of possessing nuclear weapons than in their inherent capacity to inflict widespread suffering. Misguided ideas about masculinity and strength remain daunting hurdles on the road to disarmament, nonproliferation and viable peace and security. This lightning talk is an opportunity for funders to engage with those whose ideas and perspectives challenge the gendered and exclusionary nature of both the nuclear security regime and existing disarmament activism to find new solutions to the longstanding threat posed by nuclear weapons.

#### Session Organizers and Speakers:

- Terry Greenblatt, Senior Development Advisor, Ploughshares Fund
- Ariadne Papagapitos, Program Director, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Kavita N. Ramdas, Strategy Advisor, MADRE

#### Session Sponsors:



## PLENARY LIGHTNING TALKS, *continued*

9:15 - 10:30 am

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Software and Human Rights: The Road Ahead

Human rights communities have often viewed new technologies with a mixture of skepticism and wonder. These technologies seem to offer the potential to bring about social change and human rights on a massive scale. But are new technologies actually serving diverse populations across the globe? And as yesterday's hype quickly gives way to tomorrow's new obsession, what have we learned about funding strategies for technology-based interventions in human rights? This lightning talk will discuss why today's ecosystem—a patchwork of one-off apps and tools—is unlikely to yield impact at scale and will explore how tools can be repurposed and transferred from one community or topic area to another. We posit that the human rights sector needs a software ecosystem: both a set of tools built with human rights uses in mind, and a network of toolmakers that work together for impact at scale.

#### Session Organizer:

- Hanan Elmasu, Program Officer, Oak Foundation

#### Speakers:

- Keith Hiatt, Vice President, Benetech
- Firuzeh Mahmoudi, Executive Director, United for Iran

#### Session Sponsor:



*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Protecting Human Rights Defenders in the Face of Non-State Actors

In recent years, collusion between state and non-state actors—particularly organized crime and private corporations—has contributed to increased harassment, defamation, threats, attacks, and a general escalation of violence against human rights defenders (HRDs), organizations, and communities. At the same time, many of the strategies and approaches to protect and promote their safety are no longer effective. We will share reflections of how funders can play a more effective role in protecting HRDs in increasingly complex contexts of attacks and threats by state and non-state actors and how they can contribute to improving responses and developing alternative approaches, strategies and protection tools.

#### Discussion Leaders and Organizers:

- Ana Paula Hernández, Program Officer, The Fund for Global Human Rights
- Jovanna Garcia Soto, Program Coordinator, Grassroots International

#### Session Sponsors:



FORD  
FOUNDATION



RESIST

*Detailed Agenda continues on page 16*



## The ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS initiative has produced three tools to date:

- **Foundation Maps: Human Rights**, our funder-only map of human rights philanthropy that lets funders find peers and explore grants-level data in their areas of work
- The **Advancing Human Rights** website, a public tool that shows funding breakdowns by region, issue, population, and strategy supported
- **ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS: UPDATE ON GLOBAL FOUNDATION GRANTMAKING**, our annual Key Findings reports

## HRFN members have used the research and tools to:

- Craft new funding strategies
- Identify potential funding partners and grantees
- See where they fit within the field of human rights philanthropy
- Leverage additional resources to address funding gaps

## What's next?

With five years of data in the books, HRFN and Foundation Center will undertake our first-ever multi-year trend analysis. Interested in learning more or contributing? **Come to our breakfast discussion on Thursday morning, find Sarah Tansey at the conference, and look for a launch event in a city near you in 2018!**

# HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTMAKING

## NORTH AMERICA • \$1.2 BILLION (B)



\$216.8 M  
Health and  
Well-being Rights



\$137.2 M  
Equality Rights and Freedom  
from Discrimination



\$114.4 M  
Social and Cultural Rights

**Giving Focused  
on Region**

**Top Priorities**

## CARIBBEAN • \$22 MILLION (M)



\$4.5 M  
Health and  
Well-being Rights



\$3.6 M  
Civic and Political  
Participation



\$2.7 M  
Social and Cultural Rights

## LATIN AMERICA AND MEXICO • \$168 MILLION (M)



\$25.2 M  
Human Rights—  
General



\$21.8 M  
Environmental and  
Resource Rights



\$15.5 M  
Civic and Political  
Participation

# 729 FOUNDATIONS IN 50 COUNTRIES MADE 20,600 GRANTS TOTALING \$2.7 BILLION

## WESTERN EUROPE \$345 MILLION (M)



\$108.8 M  
Human Rights—  
General



\$69.4 M  
Health and  
Well-being Rights



\$34.3 M  
Equality Rights and  
Freedom from  
Discrimination

## EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA, AND RUSSIA \$156 MILLION (M)



\$32.1 M  
Freedom from Violence



\$26.7 M  
Civic and Political  
Participation



\$17.1 M  
Social and Cultural Rights

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC \$205 MILLION (M)



\$38.8 M  
Health and  
Well-being Rights



\$26.2 M  
Civic and Political  
Participation



\$24.6 M  
Expression and Information  
Rights

## SUB- SAHARAN AFRICA \$278 MILLION (M)



\$55.2 M  
Health and  
Well-being Rights



\$34.0 M  
Freedom from Violence



\$32.8 M  
Social and Cultural  
Rights

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA \$83 MILLION (M)



\$14.1 M  
Civic and Political  
Participation



\$13.1 M  
Social and Cultural Rights



\$9.0 M  
Human Rights—  
General

## GLOBAL PROGRAMS \$401 MILLION (M)

NOTE: Human rights grants made by foundations included in this study supported 12,888 organizations worldwide in 2014. Figures for each region represent human rights grantmaking for activities focused on that region, regardless of the recipient location. These figures exclude giving to organizations located in a specific region for activities focused on other regions.

Human rights grants generally benefit a specific country or region. However, as grants with a focus on multiple regions do not specify the share of support that targets each region, the full value of these grants is counted in the totals for each specified region. "Global Programs" includes grants intended to support human rights globally. In addition, human rights grants totaling \$57 million focused on "developing countries" are not reflected in this graphic.

The \$2.7 billion total human rights grantmaking figure for 2014 excludes all double-counting of grants that focused on more than one region.

For a full list of funders included in the research: [humanrightsfunding.org/about/#funders](http://humanrightsfunding.org/about/#funders).

These findings were developed through the International Human Rights Funders Group and Foundation Center's *Advancing Human Rights: Knowledge Tools for Funders* initiative, with support from the Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



RESIST

10:30 - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS***Golding*
**Beyond Playing It Safe(Guard): New Tools and Tactics to Protect Defenders, Advance Accountability in Development Finance, and Move Towards Community-led Development Models**

Closing civic space globally has increasingly put community leaders, indigenous rights activists, and human rights and environmental defenders on the wrong side of development. They are often the last line of defense against a global corporate model of economic development that privileges investor rights over human rights—and extractive development over sustainable livelihoods and community decision-making. Together, human rights activists and funders are exploring tools and tactics far beyond the traditional safeguards approach to protect communities and human rights defenders in the short-term and move towards community-led development in the long-term. In this session, participants will move through interactive case-studies guided by activists in order to explore the range of tools, tactics, and intervention points that activists and funders have employed, or could leverage in the future, to secure better outcomes for communities.

**Session Organizers:**

- Imali Bandera, Program Associate, Wellspring Advisors
- Daria Caliguire, Director, SAGE Fund
- Lesley Carson, Program Director, Wellspring Advisors
- Maria Koulouris, Program Director, 11th Hour Project

**Speakers:**

- Berta Zúñiga Cáceres, Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (COPINH)
- Aboubacar Diallo, Coordinator, Centre du Commerce International Pour le Development
- Gretchen Gordon, Coordinator, Coalition for Human Rights in Development
- John Mwebe, Program Coordinator, International Accountability Project
- David Pred, Co- Founder, Managing Director, Inclusive Development International
- Ryan Schlieff, Executive Director, International Accountability Project

**Session Sponsors:**

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS, *continued*

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### **Movement-Centered Funding to Promote Human Rights and Justice**

Why and how do civil resistance movements succeed? What are the implications of these findings for international human rights funders? Panelists will discuss best practices and effective models of movement support, considerations for funders engaged in movement-centered funding, and the importance of supporting education, knowledge sharing, skills-building, and networking for activists. Speakers will provide scholarly, international nongovernmental organization, funder, and activist perspectives to explore new forms of collaboration and funding mechanisms, including the potential creation of a "Global Nonviolent Movement Support Fund," crowd-funding within and across grassroots movements, and uses for matching and pooling funds.

#### **Session Organizers:**

- Katherine Hughes-Fraitekh, Director, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict
- Hardy Merriman, President, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict

#### **Speakers:**

- Maria Stephan, Senior Advisor, United States Institute for Peace
- Javid Syed, Director, American Jewish World Service
- Daniel Tulibagenyi, Program Manager, Solidarity Uganda

#### **Session Sponsor:**



**RESIST**



RESIST

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS, continued**11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
*Rosenthal Pavilion***Organizing at the Margins: Supporting Feminist, Lesbian/Bisexual/Queer/Gender Non-Conforming Movements in Restrictive Environments**

In recent years, the issue of shrinking space for civil society has compounded the restrictive environment in which Feminist, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Queer (LBQ), and/or Gender Non-Confirming (GNC) activists do their work. Most feminist, LBQ, and/or GNC activists and organizations working to shift social norms have historically operated in closed spaces in countries where mainstream representatives of civil society are just starting to face this trend. There are therefore lessons to learn from these movements about surviving in closed spaces as well as about making great strides and challenging the status quo with minimal to no funding. The session invites donors to re-examine how we support movements to be resilient in increasingly repressive political environments.

**Session Organizers:**

- Shalini Eddens, Director, Urgent Action Fund
- Mariam Gagoshashvili, Senior Program Officer, Astraea Lesbian Foundation For Justice
- Matthew Hart, Director, Global Philanthropy Project
- Happy Mwende Kinyili, Senior Program Officer, Mama Cash
- Vanina Serra, Programme Officer, Mama Cash

**Speakers:**

- Shalini Eddens, Director of Programs, Urgent Action Fund
- Asha Kowtal, General Secretary, All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch
- Akudo Oguaghamba, Executive Director, Women's Health and Equal Rights (WHER)

**Session Sponsors:**

**URGENT ACTION FUND**  
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



12:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch and Working Group Meetings</b>
Greenberg—floor	<b>Environmental Justice and Human Rights Working Group</b>
Golding Wing North	<b>Human Rights Defenders Working Group</b>
Golding Wing South	<b>Latin America Funders Working Group: <i>Protecting Human Rights Defenders in Latin America</i></b>
Greenberg—stage area	<b>Middle East and North Africa Working Group: <i>Supporting Civil Society in MENA</i></b>

## 1:30 - 3:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### Rosenthal Pavilion **Reimagining Civil Society in the Age of Authoritarianism**

Should we think differently about how we conceive of, and support, civil society as space for it closes and authoritarianism spreads around the globe? To explore this question, this session will draw on a new report that surveyed more than 1000 activists in 10 closed, semi-closed or closing societies around the world to find out the types of support that they say they need from foundations as they navigate difficult political environments. It will also explore what two foundations are doing to reimagine and test out new approaches for supporting social movements and traditional civil society actors as authoritarianism is spreading and national level human rights infrastructure is increasingly under attack. The session will incorporate discussion, feedback and ideas from audience members also grappling with these questions.

#### Session Organizers:

- Tracey Gurd, Senior Director, American Jewish World Service
- Emily Martinez, Director of Human Rights Initiative, Open Society Foundations
- Shari Turitz, Vice President, American Jewish World Service

#### Speakers:

- Tracey Gurd, Senior Director, American Jewish World Service (moderator)
- Emily Martinez, Director of Human Rights Initiative, Open Society Foundations
- Erin Mazursky, Founder and Executive Director, Rhize
- Shari Turitz, Vice President for Programs, American Jewish World Service

#### Session Sponsors:





## SUPPORT

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS, continued**

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Greenberg

**Where Girls and Young Women Come into the Conversation: Reflecting on Trends and Funder Responses in Support of Youth Organizing and Transformative Leadership**

To unleash radical change in an increasingly patriarchal and authoritarian world we must intentionally support young women, girl-led organizations, and youth-led movements as part of the changing philanthropic landscape. This session will share trends on how young women and girl activists are organizing in the current context, including challenges faced, successes achieved, and philanthropic responses to support efforts by girl-led organizations. Young feminist organizers and philanthropists who are working with girl-centered and girl-led organizations will share ways to cultivate leadership, discuss how they differ from organizations run by adults, and showcase the With and For Girls Collective (a collective of independent donors and agencies with over \$200 million in annual grantmaking that aims to be a girl-centered funding mechanism).

**Session Organizers:**

- Swatee Deepak, Consultant, Stars Foundation
- Ruby Johnson, Co-Director, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund
- Esther Lever, Senior Program Officer, Mama Cash
- Sandra Macías del Villar, Regional Program Director, The Global Fund for Children
- Cynthia Steele, Executive Vice President, EMpower

**Speakers:**

- Swatee Deepak, Consultant, Stars Foundation
- Ruby Johnson, Co-Director, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund
- Gloria Malone, Member of NYC Young Women's Advisory Council, Girls for Gender Equity
- Sandra Macías del Villar, Regional Program Director, The Global Fund for Children
- Zhanna Zharmatova, Coordinator, Girls Activists of Kyrgyzstan

**Session Sponsors:**

Stars Foundation



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS, *continued*

1:30 - 3:00 pm

*Golding*

### Supporting Movements in Difficult Places: Lessons Learned From Public Foundations

As human rights movements contend with the global phenomenon of closing space and several high-profile funders face targeted attacks, public foundations/intermediaries are the ones who are often able to stay under the radar and continue providing critical support to activists. Public foundations employ flexible and creative tools to sustain their funding to human rights groups. At the same time, they may face challenges in supporting groups' resilience and strengthening movements, particularly those led by more marginalized communities. Through case studies and group discussions, this session will highlight practical strategies used by public foundations to move money to groups in restricted environments and explore how funders can support movement-building in these contexts.

#### Session Organizers:

- Mariam Gagoshashvili, Senior Program Officer, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- Sarah Gunther, Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- David Mattingly, Vice President, The Fund for Global Human Rights

#### Speakers:

- Sarah Gunther, Director of Programs, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- David Mattingly, Vice President, The Fund for Global Human Rights

#### Session Sponsors:



3:00 - 3:30 pm

### Break

3:30 - 5:00 pm

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Community Problem Solving

Is there an issue that you are grappling with in your grantmaking? Are you looking for advice on how to navigate a complex problem? Tap into the vast knowledge and experience of the HRFN network! This session will use a structured problem-solving model to get you the feedback and support you need from your peers.

5:00 - 6:00 pm

*Rosenthal Pavilion*

### Human Rights Funders Network Community: Tactics for Change

How do we translate what we have learned into action? This session will unearth concrete ideas for how we can best support each other to amplify the impact of our work. Reflecting on how our thinking has evolved on topics raised thus far, we will work together to seed ideas for action moving forward. Let's roll up our (summer) sleeves and start charting our new course together!



SUPPORT



## SUPPORT

## THURSDAY, JULY 13

8:00 - 9:00 am

Greenberg

**Breakfast Meeting****Five Years of Advancing Human Rights: So, What's Happened?**

With five years of research on the books, Human Rights Funders Network embarks on its first multi-year analysis of trends, shifts, and gaps in human rights philanthropy. Now, we want to hear from you! Join us at breakfast to tell us the key events we should have on our radar and how your grantmaking has shifted.

9:00 - 10:00 am

Greenberg

**PLENARY LIGHTNING TALKS****From the Inside Out: Creative Models for Local Funding for Civic Engagement and Human Rights**

HRFN's data shows that the Middle East and North Africa lags behind almost all regions of the world in funding for human rights. While complexities characterizing the regional landscape could partially explain such low figures, progress in Tunisia and Morocco inspires hope. How can we nurture a culture of philanthropy that goes beyond "charity"? What are the legislative frameworks that can spur local support and sustain the engagement of local civil society movements in the long term?

**Session Organizers:**

- Eva Kolodner, Regional Director, Global Fund for Women
- Anne-Sophie Schaeffer, Programme Director, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)

**Speakers:**

- Hanny Megally, Board member of the EMHRF
- Habib Nassar, Director, Impunity Watch; Senior Research Advisor, EMHRF

**Session Sponsors:**

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders  
المؤسسة الأوروبية-مغاربية لدعم المدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان  
Fondation euro-méditerranéenne de soutien aux défenseurs des droits de l'Homme



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

Greenberg

**Rise to the Occasion: Supporting Movements through Streamlining and Alternative Structures**

Foundations and fiscal sponsors are experiencing major increases in requests from new groups forming in this current political moment. As funders, we must rise to the challenge and move resources as quickly and reliably as possible even if the organizations lack 501(c)3 status, need support in obtaining sponsorship, or want a different structure. This lightning talk will examine the role of funders as champions for grantee partners, and explore how to develop less onerous processes. How can funders move from talking about best practices to adopting a mindset of gratitude and accountability to reduce the burden on grassroots organizations? We will use confessions of both grantmakers and grantseekers to inspire funders to take action.

**Session Organizer and Speaker:**

- Jennifer Arieta, Program Officer, North Star Fund

**Session Sponsor:**



## PLENARY LIGHTNING TALKS, *continued*

9:00 - 10:00 am

*Greenberg*

### #ShiftThePower: Putting Community Philanthropy at the Heart Human Rights Work

Local funding is no longer just an option. It's an imperative. The shrinking space and diminishing flows of Overseas Development Assistance are forcing civil society to rethink its resource base. This is particularly critical for human rights organizations, which have typically depended on external rather than local funding. While local philanthropic sectors are growing in many parts of the world, they tend to steer clear of more complex, structural issues of rights and justice. Community philanthropy, which mobilizes both resources and people, is a growing phenomenon around the world. It has a powerful role to play as part of a larger structural and strategic civil society response to assaults on rights and justice worldwide.

#### Session Organizer and Speaker:

- Jenny Hodgson, Executive Director, Global Fund for Community Foundations

#### Session Sponsor:



10:00 - 10:30 am

### Break

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

*Greenberg*

### Facilitated Open Space to Chart Next Steps

You've asked for space to initiate collaborations and chart out concrete ways to carry the conversations forward. Join us for a facilitated Open Space session to put your great ideas into action! Topics suggested during the Tactics for Change session will be used to frame action-oriented conversations.

12:00 - 1:30 pm

*Greenberg*

### CLOSING: A Conversation with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Hussein



Join us for a conversation with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid bin Ra'ad al-Hussein. Hear the High Commissioner's thoughts on the shifting global order and its implication for human rights. Share ideas sparked by the conference and engage in a dialogue about where our work aligns and which strategies can advance human rights in challenging times. A veteran multilateral diplomat, Zeid was appointed to the position of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2014. His professional experience spans international criminal justice, UN peacekeeping, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and he played a leading role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

# HRFN's 2017 New York Convening Also Includes...

## **HRFN INSTITUTES:**

In advance of our 2017 New York Conference, HRFN will host three learning institutes, offering an opportunity to delve into a specific theme with a smaller cohort.

### **When the Going Gets Tough: A Funder-Activist Dialogue**

With right-wing populism and authoritarianism on the rise around the world, activists and funders face new challenges in defending civic space and human rights. Democratically elected leaders and non-state actors are seizing this moment to limit and delegitimize civil society and attack human rights protections—and institutions—across numerous fronts. At the same time, human rights movements bring a wealth of experience of how to hold ground in challenging contexts and how to forge and sustain alliances based on shared values. Activists around the world have already been developing new security measures, testing creative organizing tactics, and advancing cross-movement work in response. Join this institute to learn about past tactics that worked and new tactics that show promise and to share skills and build relationships across our communities.

### **Values to Action (Organized with Bay Area Justice Funders Network)**

Meeting the challenges of the present moment requires human rights funders to show up differently. This day-long Institute with Bay Area Justice Funders Network will help grantmakers consider what that “different way” could look like. Grantmakers will connect, reflect on their human rights values as touchstones for their work, and consider how and when grantmaking practice is either furthering or undermining those values. This highly interactive Institute is designed to foster deep learning and cultivate tangible and practical strategic and programmatic shifts. Participants will emerge with greater clarity about their values and grantmaking practices, better prepared to engage in the content and topics of ‘map, resist, support’ with the larger HRFN community.

### **Newcomers Welcome Gathering**

Are you a first-time conference attendee or new to the human rights funding community? Are you curious about current trends in human rights grantmaking? Do you want to meet more of your funder peers? Join us for a half-day Newcomers Institute. Network over lunch with Steering Committee members and staff, hear perspectives on trends in Human Rights Funding from longstanding members, and gain insights on how to make the most out of the network and community! Longstanding members interested in making new connections and tapping into new energy are also welcome to attend.

# HRFN Working Groups

## HRFN Working Groups provide members with an opportunity to:

- Increase awareness around specific issues, trends and funding opportunities
- Share knowledge, ideas, information and grantmaking strategies
- Promote dialogue, collaboration, and leveraging of resources

## Current HRFN Working Groups:

Asia and Pacific Funders

Children and Youth Rights

*(co-hosted by Elevate Children Funders Group)*

Conflict and Atrocity Prevention

*(co-hosted by Peace and Security Funders Group)*

Cross-Border Philanthropy

*(co-hosted by Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights)*

Disability Rights

*(co-hosted by Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights)*

Environmental Justice, Climate Change and Human Rights

HIV and Human Rights

*(co-hosted by Funders Concerned About AIDS)*

Human Rights Defenders

International Grants Operations

Latin America Funders

Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Middle East and North Africa Funders

*(co-hosted by Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights)*

Participatory Grantmaking

*(co-hosted by Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights)*

Sexual Health and Rights

## To establish a working group or for more information, please contact:

Camille Serrano [cserrano@ihrf.org](mailto:cserrano@ihrf.org), Program Associate, Membership & Operations Associate

# Thank You



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*...whose participation makes these convenings possible*

## The Sponsors

*...who generously underwrite and coordinate most HRFN conference sessions*

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## Session Organizers and Speakers

*...who generously contribute their time and thought*

## New York 2017 Conference Advisory Committee

*...who generously contribute their expertise to craft a dynamic and rigorous conference:*

Mona Dave – National Endowment for Democracy  
Hanan Elmasu – Oak Foundation  
Nyambura Gathumbi – Hivos East Africa  
Ruby Johnson – FRIDA The Young Feminist Fund (co-chair)  
David Mattingly – Fund for Global Human Rights (co-chair)  
Joy Messinger – Third Wave Fund  
Maitri Morarji – Wellspring Advisors  
Gabriela Ruiz – American Jewish World Service  
Anthea Zervos – Open Society Foundations

## The HRFN Steering Committee

*...whose volunteer leadership guides HRFN the whole year round:*

Ana Valéria Araujo – Brazil Human Rights Fund  
Lesley Carson – Wellspring Advisors  
Puja Dhawan – NoVo Foundation  
Hanan Elmasu – Oak Foundation  
Annie Hillar – Mama Cash  
Michael J. Hirschhorn – Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation  
Mary Miller-Flowers – Open Society Foundations  
Wanja Muguongo – UHAI—The East African Sexual Health & Rights Initiative  
Regan Ralph – Fund For Global Human Rights  
Diana Samarasan – Disability Rights Fund

## HRFN Staff

Keith Armstrong – Program Coordinator, Education and Convening  
Michele Bornstein – Program Consultant  
Jenna Capeci – Deputy Director  
Mona Chun – Executive Director  
Camille Serrano – Membership & Operations Associate  
Sarah Tansey – Program Manager, Research and Policy

## Conference Design and Facilitation Support

Beth Glick and Yonatan Gordis - ChangeCraft Consulting

## Graphic Design

Amy Thesing – [www.amythesing.net](http://www.amythesing.net)

*We would also like to thank our indefatigable volunteers and Conference Fellows who have assisted with this conference*



*Use HRFN's free app to access information about our conference, including the agenda, speaker biographies, participant list and more!*

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*See HRFN staff for assistance with the app.*

## **No-Solicitation Policy**

HRFN strives to provide its grantmaker members with learning and networking opportunities that advance their individual reflection and professional practice. We believe this best takes place in an environment temporarily free from the dynamics of solicitation from grantseekers. In this regard, HRFN enforces a strict no-solicitation policy.

