



**2018 ANNUAL CONVENING – MEXICO CITY
CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS**

Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2018

Monday, October 15 (afternoon): Workshop on Participatory Grantmaking & Pre-Conference Meetings
Tuesday, October 16 (morning) – Thursday, October 18 (mid-day): Full Conference
Thursday, October 18 (afternoon) – Friday, October 19: Funder-organized civil society visits (*tentative*)

For questions, please email Rebecca Landy at rlandy@hrfn.org.

Introducing Human Rights Funders Network's 2018 Conference Theme

Reimagining Human Rights: New Energy for a New Era

On the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a dramatically shifting world order presents profound challenges for the Human Rights community. With the rise of right-wing governments and the breakdown of democracies and democratic freedoms, activists and funders have recalibrated and refocused in response, experimenting with new strategies and forging unlikely partnerships that are yielding promising results. Grounded in the context of Mexico and the Latin America region, the conference will profile efforts that are succeeding and challenge our community to fundamentally rethink how we make change in these times.

The 2018 Conference will feature:

- **Plenary sessions** – organized by HRFN and the Conference Advisory Committee – that advance a set of ideas, engage civil society, and elevate the context of Mexico and the Latin America region
- **Specialized tracks** to dig deeper on grantmaking strategy and inspire funders with new actions to take forward.

Conference Session Proposals

We invite proposals for:

- **Plenary lightning talks** (7-minute presentations that present a specific idea, recommendation, or case study). While we are open to any lightning talk connected to the conference theme, the following topics are of interest: 1) Leading from the South – What we can learn from Global South Philanthropy and 2) Responding to Impunity and Corruption – The Role of Human Rights.
- **Tracks** (60-90 minute breakout sessions geared towards engaging 20-40 funders on practical tools and approaches in human rights grantmaking). The tracks will meet each day of the conference. Participants will select one of four tracks ahead of time:
 - TRACK 1 – Beyond Grantmaking:** explore models that transcend traditional grantmaking to accelerate and deepen funders' impact and support activists in non-financial ways. From funder activism and advocacy to mission-aligned investing and loans, this track will examine ways that funders are evolving their purview and scope to adapt to today's context.

TRACK 2 – Funder Relevancy in Advancing Movements: identify strategies that movements—both new movements and existing movements testing out new strategies—are effectively using to respond to closing spaces and authoritarianism and uncover how funders can be relevant and most effectively bolster this work.

TRACK 3 – Shifting the Power: identify creative strategies for shifting power into the hands of those doing the work on the ground. From activist-led funds to participatory strategic plans to funding grantee endowments, this track will look at practical ways in which funders are ceding power.

TRACK 4 – Recapturing the Narrative: analyze the Human Rights “public relations crisis” and explore arts/culture, communications, direct-action, campaigns, and other approaches that funders and activists can use to change the narrative.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Compelling:** To what extent does this proposal advance our thinking on a critical and timely issue in human rights and/or philanthropy?
- **Relevant:** How well does the proposal connect to the conference theme or tracks?
- **Action-oriented:** Is the proposal likely to engage participants in a way that inspires a real-world outcome?
- **Original:** Does the proposal introduce new voices [to HRFN and the Human Rights Funding Community], new concepts, new format, or offer a fresh take on an issue?
- **Collaborative:** Does the proposal have the potential to initiate or encourage collaborations?
- **Diverse:** To what extent does the proposal present traditionally underrepresented or marginalized perspectives? Does the proposal feature speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds and communities and have an intersectional approach?

Information sessions:

We encourage session organizers to [join one of the scheduled informational sessions](#) to learn more about the proposal process and conference, ask any questions, and/or pitch a topic:

Tuesday, May 8th at 1:30 pm EDT ([other time zones](#))

Friday, May 11th at 8:30 am EDT ([other time zones](#))

Please note: If the Conference Advisory Committee recommends your proposal for the upcoming conference, HRFN staff and committee members will work with you to develop the session, identifying interactive and dynamic formats. While we will try to honor your desired session type and format, we will determine which modality will best showcase your ideas within the conference agenda and arc. Unfortunately, due to focus and limited time slots, we will not be able to accept every submission.

Thank you to our [2018 Conference Advisory Committee](#) for contributing their expertise and energy to making our Mexico Conference the best one yet!

Laura García, Semillas, Committee Co-Chair
Sharon Bissell Sotelo, MacArthur Foundation
Dugan Fraser, Raith Foundation
Helena Hoffbauer, Ford Foundation
Fabien Maitre-Muhl, Sigrid Rausing Trust

Sandra Macías del Villar, Mama Cash, Committee Co-Chair
Emilienne de León, Prospera
Ana Paula Hernández, Fund for Global Human Rights
Cleo Kambu, UHAI – the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative
Valeria Scorza, Fundación Avina



2018 SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2018

Please submit proposals online through the [Google Form](#).

For questions, please email Rebecca Landy at rlandy@hrfn.org.

1. SESSION TITLE
 2. SESSION ORGANIZER (primary contact)
 - a. Name
 - b. Email
 - c. Affiliation/Institution
 - d. Title
 - e. Country
 3. SESSION ROLES
 - a. Who else will be joining you in this session? Share specific names, titles, institution, preferred languages, and roles for proposed speakers. Have you confirmed their participation? Who will be moderating?
 - b. Please share how your speakers reflect a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.
 - c. Have you or any co-organizers organized an HRFN session before? If yes, please provide the session name(s) and year(s).
 4. What category does this session fit into? If you think your proposed session fits best within one of the four tracks, please select your top two choices below. Otherwise, please select no track/plenary, and write your proposed plenary lightning talk topic in the next question.
 - a. Tracks
 - Beyond Grantmaking
 - Funder Relevancy in Advancing Movements
 - Shifting the Power
 - Recapturing the Narrative
 - b. Plenary lightning talk [no track]
 - What topic?
 5. Any keywords for your proposed session?
 6. Please describe briefly what you want to do in your session.
 7. What outcomes would you like to achieve with your session and how will the session translate into action?
 8. What format would you like to use in your session? We welcome your initial thinking, including the ideal amount of time you would like, as our staff will work with you to identify a dynamic and engaging format if your proposal is selected. (Refer to [this list of possible formats](#), courtesy of AccessNow.)
 9. Anything else we should know?
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HRFN's member engagement program fosters peer-learning among grantmakers working to advance human rights globally. Our events are designed for grantmakers who meet the [eligibility guidelines](#) for membership, and therefore only session proposals submitted by grantmakers will be accepted.