

December 14, 2005

To: International Human Rights Funders Group
From: Steering Committee
Re: Semi-Annual Meeting
Date: January 9-10, 2006
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Ramada Plaza Downtown
1231 Market Street
San Francisco, CA

Dear Friends:

We are delighted to announce the final agenda for the two-day IHRFG Semi-Annual Meeting on January 9-10, 2006. Our meeting theme chosen by members will be "Human Rights and the Media: Threats and Opportunities."

On Monday, we welcome an expert panel of speakers who will discuss the challenges facing independent media worldwide, the role of media in promoting or impeding human rights, and how we can support efforts to use media to promote and protect human rights. Moderated by Ann Cooper, Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, the panel will include Mallika Dutt, Executive Director of Breakthrough, Masha Lipman, a distinguished journalist from Russia, and Josh Silver, a media policy expert. On Tuesday, funders will discuss grantmaking strategies to support free expression and the use of media as a tool for human rights education.

During the afternoons, we will take a break from the meeting theme and hold concurrent sessions for working groups, committees and timely human rights topics, such as sexual rights, corporate social responsibility and human rights and the environment.

On Monday evening we are delighted to welcome Gillian Caldwell, Executive Director of WITNESS. Gillian will speak about the potential of tactical media techniques and present film clips from three WITNESS projects: the California juvenile justice system, child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and mental disability rights. The dinner is generously sponsored by The Overbrook Foundation.

On Tuesday morning we will start the day with the IHRFG Business meeting. The meeting is a unique opportunity to discuss the nuts and bolts of IHRFG and its Committees, financial planning for 2006, and future priorities for our network. All attendees, new and old, are invited to attend.

Attached you will find an agenda and RSVP form. To help us plan, we would appreciate receiving the form by **Wednesday, December 28, 2005**. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Townsend at (212) 475-8363 or ctownsend@mertzgilmore.org. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

Sincerely,

IHRFG Steering Committee,

Valentine Doyle	Lawson Valentine Foundation
Michael J. Hirschhorn	Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
John F. Kowal	Open Society Institute
Shalini Nataraj	Reebok Human Rights Foundation
Andrew Park	Wellspring Advisors
Steven Riskin	U.S. Institute of Peace
Kari Suzuki Bardy	Otto Bremer Foundation
John Taylor	Wellspring Advisors