



US HUMAN
RIGHTS
FUND

US Human Rights Fund Distributes \$650,000 in Grants

The US Human Rights Fund (the Fund), a collaborative fund comprised of nine national and regional donors, is pleased to announce **\$650,000** in grants to be awarded to ten domestic social justice organizations for their work to promote human rights in the United States. The Fund provides strategic, field building support to U.S. human rights organizing and advocacy, and seeks to increase overall awareness of and resources for this work amongst its members and other donor partners. In its June 2007 docket, the Fund made grants in the areas of human rights education and training and strategic thought and advocacy. A grants list is attached.

Over its initial two dockets, the Fund made significant investments in cross issue and introductory human rights trainings. The Fund's June 2007 docket builds on these areas of work, and provides support for human rights education and training programs within specific issue areas that enable individual organizations to carry out related human rights advocacy campaigns. Grants will support training and education initiatives within the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights, housing, and health and reproductive rights, and will include participation by national, state and local advocates. The docket also features two strategic thinking and advocacy grants that support state based human rights campaigns to eliminate juvenile life without parole policies. In this area, the Fund prioritized collaborative projects that engage policy and grassroots constituencies and that also meaningfully use and refer to human rights in order to advance key advocacy objectives.

The Fund aims to complete its fourth docket in January 2008. It will consider proposals that focus on coordinated communications work and messaging of domestic human rights, as well as human rights training and education initiatives with a specific focus on grassroots, and legal and policy sectors. The docket will be a closed application process, and the Fund will be in direct contact with those organizations from which it seeks to receive a proposal.

The next open Request for Letters of Inquiry is expected to be in December 2007 for grants to be awarded in June 2008. Although the Steering Committee has yet to make a final determination of the focus and priority areas for this docket, it anticipates inviting applications to support strategic thought and advocacy work. The docket will be highly competitive. The Fund expects to make no more than ten or eleven grants for its June 2008 docket.

The Fund is housed at Public Interest Projects and was launched in July 2005. Its Steering Committee is comprised of members from contributing foundations, including The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, The Libra Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, the Shaler Adams Foundation, the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

US HUMAN RIGHTS FUND GRANTEES JUNE 2007

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING AND EDUCATION

American University Washington College of Law, Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law
Washington, DC

\$15,000 program grant over one year

To design and distribute web-cast seminars on treaty implementation, shadow reporting, and international advocacy with regard to CERD and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Amnesty International – USA

New York, New York

\$60,000 program grant over two years

To hire a full time regional organizer in New Orleans, Louisiana in order to work with a Steering Committee of local advocates and to organize human rights trainings on housing rights advocacy.

Border Network for Human Rights

El Paso, Texas

\$25,000 program grant over one year

To organize and conduct a four day training program for immigrant rights groups and state based coalitions on human rights organizing and advocacy methods, and strategic immigrant rights work.

Hate Free Zone

Seattle, Washington

\$75,000 program grant over one year

To provide human training for advocacy on detention and deportation policies, and to map related regional human rights work amongst community groups, legal service providers, and affected families.

National Health Law Program & National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Washington, DC and New York, New York

\$100,000 program grant over two years

For collaborative work on training and partnership with grassroots groups interested in using a human rights analysis in their ongoing state and local efforts to achieve comprehensive health care reform.

Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center

New York, New York

\$60,000 program grant over two years

To design and provide training opportunities to grassroots social justice organizations in connection with the upcoming review of the U.S. report to CERD, as well as related follow up advocacy work.

SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective

Atlanta, Georgia

\$50,000 program grant over one year

For introductory trainings with reproductive justice groups on human rights framing and advocacy, and curriculum development for advanced training on integrating human rights into organizational structure.

US Human Rights Network

Atlanta, Georgia

\$130,000 program grant over one year

To conduct four regional trainings and provide technical assistance to groups participating in the shadow reporting process, as well as advocacy during and following CERD's consideration of the US report.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND ADVOCACY

ACLU Michigan

Detroit, Michigan

\$50,000 program grant over one year

To continue human rights advocacy work on ending juvenile life without parole policies in Michigan. Project work includes legislative and international advocacy, as well as media and human rights training for affected families.

Illinois Coalition for Fair Sentencing for Juveniles

Chicago, Illinois

\$85,000 program grant over two years

To support a coalition of seven state-based groups doing human rights advocacy to eliminate juvenile life without parole policies in Illinois. The coalition will complete a report on JWLOP policies and their impact on incarcerated youth, and organize a public and legislative campaign to achieve reform.