



US HUMAN
RIGHTS
FUND

**U.S. Human Rights Fund Distributes \$1,600,000 in Grants
July 2008**

The U.S. Human Rights Fund, a collaborative fund comprised of fourteen donors,¹ is pleased to announce **\$1,600,000** in grants to be awarded to fifteen domestic social justice organizations for their work to promote human rights in the United States. USHRF supports human rights organizing and advocacy in the United States, and works to increase awareness of universal human rights norms and strategies among donors. The Fund is housed at Public Interest Projects. A list with details on each grant is attached.

In its June 2008 docket, the Fund made grants in the areas of human rights education and training, national and regional networks, and strategic thought and advocacy.

Grants for human rights training and education will support an initiative to deepen the expertise of core human rights educators (*American University's Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law*) and provide general support for key providers (*Border Network for Human Rights*, *National Economic & Social Rights Initiative*, *National Employment Law Project*, and *National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty*) across a range of issues.

The Fund has also renewed its support for several human rights networks –*the Southern Human Rights Organizers Network and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign* – as well as extended support to new partners in this area. (*Rights Working Group*)

The docket also introduces a deeper investment in strategic thinking and advocacy. This year USHRF launched two advocacy sub-funds on immigrant rights and the elimination of juvenile life without parole sentencing.

- The docket includes \$400,000 in support to two immigrant rights organizations (*Border Action Network & National Immigrant Justice Center*) carrying out campaigns to improve due process and mitigate harsh enforcement against immigrants, as well as to a key human rights worker rights campaign. (*Coalition of Immokalee Workers*).
- The Fund also provided \$456,000 in grants to campaigns to end juvenile life without parole sentences in three states (California, Louisiana and Michigan) and a new national project to coordinate state legislative, litigation, and international advocacy work on JLWOP.

In November 2008, the Fund will consider proposals on human rights communications, grassroots, legal and policy training efforts. The docket will be a closed (by-invitation only) solicitation.

¹ General Fund donors include The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the John Merck Fund, The Libra Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the Otto Bremer Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, the Shaler Adams Foundation, the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation, and an anonymous donor. Donors to the immigrant rights sub-fund are the Ford Foundation and the Four Freedoms Fund. The Butler Family Fund, the Fund for Nonviolence, the Gideon Project at OSI, and The Overbrook Foundation contributed to the sub-fund on juvenile life without parole.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING & EDUCATION

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

\$56,719 program grant over one year

To convene experienced human rights trainers in a series of advanced trainings and web-based discussions on the use of human rights in domestic social justice advocacy in the United States.

Border Network for Human Rights

El Paso, Texas

\$150,000 program grant over two years

To strengthen and expand the human rights organizing capacities of immigrant and border communities, as well as to orient new networks of immigrant rights organizations on the use of the human rights and to update and consolidate human rights training curricula and materials.

National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

New York, New York

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To support NESRI's partnerships with community activists, which develop campaigns and policies to advance human rights standards and criteria in public education, health, and housing.

National Employment Law Project

Olympia, Washington

\$160,000 program grant over two years

To support NELP's partnerships with, and re-granting support to, four worker rights organizations (Domestic Workers' United; National Day Laborer Organizing Network; New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice; and Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York), in order to assist them with integrating human rights strategies and communications into their campaigns.

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

Washington, DC

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To train and support advocates and attorneys working to end and prevent homelessness, educate policy makers, and increase public awareness of the human right to housing.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL NETWORKS

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

Minneapolis, Minnesota

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To support organizational development, capacity building and education for member organizations, and mobilizations for national and local advocacy campaigns on access to health care, poverty, and other violations of economic human rights.

Rights Working Group

Washington, DC

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To launch a public education and advocacy campaign to hold the Department of Homeland Security accountable for restoring due process rights of non-citizens in the U.S.

Southern Human Rights Organizers Network

Greenville, Mississippi

\$50,000 program grant over one year

\$25,000 capacity building grant

To develop a strategic plan and to hire a fulltime organizer for the Southern Human Rights Organizers' Network, which works to build coalitions, coordinate organizing campaigns, and strengthen the capacities of human rights activists in the U.S. South.

STRATEGIC THINKING & ADVOCACY: IMMIGRANT RIGHTS SUB-FUND

Border Action Network

Tucson, Arizona

\$150,000 program grant over two years

To support the Rights on the Line: Human Rights & Border Policy campaign, which combines community organizing, communications strategies, alliance-building and policy advocacy, to call for local and national reforms in U.S. border policy and comprehensive immigration reform.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Immokalee, Florida

\$75,000 program grant over one year

To continue the Campaign for Fair Food, a national campaign to eliminate human rights violations in the U.S. agricultural industry. The grant will also support site visits by allied organizations to Immokalee to learn about CIW's human rights organizing model.

National Immigrant Justice Center

Chicago, Illinois

\$115,000 program grant over two years

To pursue strategic administrative advocacy aimed at strengthening due process and human rights protections for detained immigrants, in cooperation with a national alliance of advocates seeking to reform U.S. detention and deportation policies.

STRATEGIC THINKING & ADVOCACY: JUVENILE LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE (JLWOP) SUB-FUND

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Detroit, Michigan

\$56,000 program grant over one year

To hire a Program Coordinator to implement advocacy and public education activities around the elimination of JLWOP sentencing, including engaging the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and state legislature on the issue.

California JLWOP Working Group (Human Rights Watch, Faith Communities for Family & Children and National Center for Youth Law)

Los Angeles, California

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To support advocacy and coalition building to end JLWOP sentencing in California, including outreach to affected families and communities, engagement with opposition groups and leaders, and public education.

Citizens for Second Chances & Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana

New Orleans, Louisiana

\$100,000 program grant over two years

To staff efforts to expand public education, human rights advocacy and coalition building to end JLWOP sentencing in Louisiana.

National Coordinator for the Fair Sentencing of Children

Washington, DC

\$200,000 program grant over two years

To establish a National Coordinator for the Fair Sentencing of Children. The National Coordinator will grow a coalition to end JLWOP sentencing in the United States, oversee international human rights advocacy, and coordinate technical assistance to state reform campaigns.