

Peace and Social Justice [Ford Foundation](#)



Building a more secure and equitable world through  
governance, civil society, and human rights

## Four Vital Goals

In keeping with the foundation's mission, the Peace and Social Justice program has identified four vital goals that guide its work.

**We seek to foster institutions and practices of governance that are transparent, accountable, responsive, and effective in promoting peace and social justice. Accordingly, we support efforts to:**

—ensure that decision making at the global level is democratic, particularly in the areas of international economics, conflict, and security;

—advance democratic reforms and encourage government institutions to take steps to secure peace and social justice; and

—increase the capacity and responsiveness of local governments, especially through greater input from citizens.

**We aim to strengthen civil society in ways that help it promote peace, social justice, and democratic renewal. To that end, we make grants to:**

—heighten the impact of citizens' groups and social movements working for peace and social justice;

—create a legal, regulatory, and fiscal environment that can sustain these groups and movements; and

—protect democratic “public spheres” that encourage debate on key policy issues and enable citizen oversight of public and private power.

**We work to promote equal access to justice and to protect the full range of human rights for all members of society. In particular, we fund efforts to:**

—encourage government officials and the public to recognize and promote economic, social, and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights;

—implement human rights in concrete ways that improve people's lives; and

—secure the human rights of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups.

**We strive to empower communities and individuals to understand and assert their right to sexual and reproductive health. More specifically, we support organizations working to:**

—implement the principles of sexual and reproductive health endorsed at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, and reaffirmed at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held the following year in Beijing;

—develop social conditions that promote and safeguard sexual and reproductive health and slow the spread of H.I.V./AIDS; and

—promote dialogue on cultural and social values, as well as ethical and legal frameworks, that support women's empowerment and gender equity.





## About the Foundation

The Ford Foundation is an independent organization that seeks to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. It works mainly by making grants for research, dialogue, advocacy, and policy analysis that furthers these goals.

The foundation believes that the best way to address the challenges facing societies is to encourage initiatives by the people living and working closest to where problems and opportunities are located. Often these initiatives work best when they promote collaboration among the nonprofit, government, and business sectors and when they ensure participation by men and women from diverse communities at all levels of society.

The American entrepreneurs Henry and Edsel Ford established the foundation in 1936 to support charitable and educational institutions in Michigan, where they both lived. In 1950 the foundation moved its headquarters to New York and began to make grants on a national and international level. It no longer has any ties to the Ford Motor Company.

The foundation manages its diversified investment portfolio to provide a perpetual source of support for its programs and operations. As of June 30, 2003, it had assets valued at \$9.7 billion and a grant budget of more than \$300 million per year.

The foundation's board of trustees relies on an international staff to explore funding possibilities, evaluate grant applications, and recommend grants for approval. Staff members in New York and 12 regional offices—located in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Russia—spend about one-third of the foundation's grant budget on programs in Peace and Social Justice. The foundation does not support organizations that promote or engage in violence, terrorism, bigotry, or the destruction of any state.



Partido de Frente Algor  
MAY

TRIBUNAL POPULAR  
PORTAO 3 SAIDA

PORTAO 2 SAIDA

## Peace and Social Justice — [Ford Foundation](#)

Over the last hundred years, societies around the globe have generated more wealth than in any other century in history. Yet they have also produced more bloodshed and greater inequities than the world has ever known. The best hope for curtailing such strife and suffering—and letting more people share in the benefits of prosperity—lies with an engaged populace and public officials who are committed to building a more secure and equitable future. To realize this vision, people around the world are taking steps to strengthen the rule of law, establish democratic and accountable governments, and create opportunities for civil society to thrive.

The Ford Foundation's Peace and Social Justice program works globally to tackle some of the most difficult issues facing societies today. Our grantees are leading efforts to build inclusive democracies; curb government waste and corruption; safeguard the rights of women, refugees, and other vulnerable groups; and ensure reproductive freedom. They are exploring ways to end racial discrimination, stop nuclear proliferation, curtail the spread of H.I.V./AIDS, and remedy inequities in the international financial system. At times these can seem like distant aspirations. But we have seen real progress toward these goals, as well as vital opportunities for continued gains.





Our efforts to promote peace and social justice focus on four interrelated fields:

- **Governance**
- **Civil Society**
- **Human Rights**
- **Sexuality and Reproductive Health**

We regard these fields as interdependent and mutually reinforcing. No society can fully protect human rights without good governance and an active citizenry.

One distinguishing feature of Peace and Social Justice grant making is its global scope. Our staff works out of the foundation's headquarters in New York and in all 12 of its regional offices around the world. These many vantage points put us in close contact with local scholars, activists, and public officials striving to develop solutions that are appropriate to different historical, cultural, and political contexts. They also enable us to fund regional and international work by people in different countries who are sharing ideas and resources to maximize their contribution to positive social change.

The Peace and Social Justice program consists of two allied units. Our Human Rights unit promotes economic, social, and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights. It also works on sexuality and reproductive health, a field that cuts across each of the foundation's three major programs. Our particular focus in this field is empowering people to understand and assert their fundamental right to sexual and reproductive health.

Through our Governance and Civil Society unit, we are working to put in place the basic building blocks of democracy. Our grantees seek to strengthen institutions and relationships that allow people to reconcile disparate interests and

make collective decisions that advance the common good. These efforts embrace the values of human rights and focus on ways to achieve justice for all members of society, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

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At its core, this body of work recognizes that peace is a precondition for fully attaining the foundation's goals. Armed conflict destroys not only human lives, but also livelihoods, governments, civic institutions, and trust—in short, everything in its wake. We believe that building just and equitable societies is the only way to sustain peace over the long term.

*Photo: Hundreds of refugees flee the conflict in Rwanda, where livelihoods, government agencies, civic institutions, and public trust have been disrupted by civil war.*



**DEPOSITAR  
AQUÍ SU  
BOLETA**

**RALES**

COMITADO FEDERAL  
I.F.E.

EL MUNDO DE  
LIBRO Y  
SECRETOS

## Governance

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In many parts of the world, the word *government* evokes images of bureaucracy, tyranny, or corruption. These perceptions sometimes reflect real breaches of public trust. Yet effective democratic institutions remain an essential component of safe, free, and prosperous societies. Indeed, governments can play a crucial role in mediating and fulfilling the diverse aspirations of their constituents.

They do this best when they engage civil society in the process of governance, which we define as the exercise of democratic authority over matters of public concern. Our work explores ways to make this process more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive—as well as more effective in achieving peace and justice. Thus, we support efforts within governmental institutions that share this vision of working more inclusively and producing more equitable results.

We also support efforts by nongovernmental organizations and nonprofit groups that seek to increase citizen participation, a vital factor in genuinely democratic governance. Many of our grantees around the world are working to expand opportunities for people to find out what their governments are doing and hold them accountable to the common good. Sometimes this work entails removing legal and social barriers that keep people from voting. Beyond that, it calls for a more active form of citizenship, whereby everyone has the ability to engage in debates, help set public priorities, and shape government policy.

Citizen participation in governance is necessary not just at the local level, but in the global arena, too. Increasingly, the decisions that shape the lives of individuals, families, and communities are made in distant capitals by international organizations like the World Trade Organization. It's no longer possible for countries to neatly separate domestic governance from international affairs. The democratic responsibilities of governments to their citizens parallel their responsibilities to



the global community of nations. Thus, beyond well-established concerns like local governance, electoral reform, budget analysis, and the role of the state, our governance work includes grant making on peace and security, on reforming international financial institutions, and on conflict resolution.

Meanwhile, our foreign policy task force—a network of staff members throughout the Peace and Social Justice program—makes grants to restore confidence in multilateral approaches to solving global problems. It works in three areas: generating new solutions, communicating these ideas to decision makers, and strengthening support for them by public and political constituencies.

We are also committed to exploring ways that increasingly diverse nations can govern themselves. As countries and societies around the world undergo continual demographic change, they must wrestle with complex issues of difference and identity, religion and ethnicity, migration and citizenship. How can increasingly cosmopolitan societies govern themselves in ways that respect differences while fostering a genuine sense of the common or public interest? This is a key challenge for the 21st century.

We seek to promote democratic governance because we believe it best expresses the wishes and needs of the populace, and is most likely to produce a just, peaceful, and equitable world. Accordingly, the overarching goal of our work in this field is to foster institutions and practices of governance that are transparent, accountable, responsive, and effective in promoting peace and social justice.

Many of our grants aim to ensure that decision making at the global level is democratic, particularly in the areas of international economics, conflict, and security. For example, through the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University, leading economists such as Joseph Stiglitz, who won a Nobel Prize in 2001, are working to level the playing field in global negotiations on economic, trade, and finance policy. Specifically, they are training government officials, scholars, activists, business leaders, and journalists in developing countries to

evaluate economic policy alternatives and develop a better understanding of the available options.

This line of grants also includes a new portfolio that supports efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts within and among neighboring countries. In particular, it seeks to develop multi-lateral mechanisms that include both government and civil society; promote new thinking on conflict, especially among actors from the global South; and provide support to state and civil society institutions in post-conflict situations.

We also support efforts to advance democratic reforms and encourage government institutions to take steps to secure peace and social justice. In the United States, several grantees are working to engage the entire citizenry in democratic processes by exploring ways to reform campaign finance laws and to restore voting rights to ex-offenders who have paid their debt to society. Meanwhile, grantees in Brazil and Indonesia are seeking police reforms aimed at increasing civilian oversight of the government security apparatus.

Moreover, we make grants to organizations working to strengthen the capacity and responsiveness of local governments. In particular, we support efforts that emphasize citizen participation. For example, the International Budget Project assists organizations in nearly 40 countries that are pressing for more open and transparent negotiations about government budgets. The project also works to build the capacity of citizens' groups to engage in dialogue about priorities.



*Photo: A Mexican man exercises his right to vote in the eastern state of Puebla in July 2003.*



## Civil Society

Throughout history, people have come together voluntarily to defend and advance their common interests. After the collapse of authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe, scholars and activists revived the term *civil society* to describe the proliferation of associations and networks that enable people to do this.

At their best, such civic groups build social cohesion and provide a bulwark against the abuse of public or private power. Yet, the independent public spaces where they thrive are being eroded by censorship, commercialization and consolidation of the media, security concerns, and declining rates of political participation.

Some countries still lack constitutional and legal frameworks that guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of association. But even where these guarantees are in place, such as the United States, growing economic inequalities lead to clear disparities in whose voices are heard and which associations flourish.

At the international level, citizens' groups increasingly forge alliances that span the globe. Together, they have built broad movements to ban land mines, offer debt relief to developing countries, and temper the excesses of globalization. Yet the political and commercial opposition these movements face is formidable.

Our work seeks to expand the space for citizen organizing in ways that promote peace and social justice. We do so because we believe that free elections alone do not constitute a functioning democracy. Citizens must also have meaningful opportunities to engage in public deliberation, argument, and dissent—as well as the ability to organize and advocate. Strong and independent citizens' groups promote accountability and enable new and marginalized voices to be heard. To achieve these ends, we support organizations that seek to educate, motivate, and mobilize people to take action to influence the policy issues that touch their lives.



Increasingly, we seek opportunities to support movements that bridge ideological, geographic, or thematic divides. We look for ways that grass-roots groups, nonprofit intermediaries, and membership organizations can articulate common goals, build new coalitions, promote mutual accountability, and learn from each other.

Each of the foundation's programs works through civil society to advance its objectives. But we see strong, independent, plural, and democratic civil societies as a goal in and of themselves. We focus explicitly on efforts to expand the arena for active citizenship, encourage collective action, and build a more inclusive public sphere. We do so because we believe these activities form a wellspring of values, motivations, and social energy that can fuel positive transformation in economics, politics, and public life.

The overall goal of our work in this field is to strengthen civil society in ways that help promote peace, social justice, and democratic renewal.

To further this objective, we support efforts to increase the impact of citizens' groups and social movements working for peace and social justice. Typically, we make grants that enable such groups to strengthen their internal capacities, create collaborative projects, and build alliances with the government and business sectors. For example, the Uongozi Institute in Kenya is working to foster civic and intellectual leadership qualities among the next generation of East African leaders. In Indonesia, a new advocacy center called Pergerakan is providing resources so that people historically excluded from civic participation can contribute to policy debates in their local communities and at the national level. In the United States, we support statewide social justice coalitions that train people to organize and to engage in policy advocacy. We strive to link the work of research and policy organizations with the work of groups seeking to mobilize ordinary citizens, including USAction, Jobs With Justice, and the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice. Other grantees are working to promote civic engagement in global governance, lighten the debt burden shouldered by developing countries, and restrict the sale of small arms.

Another line of grants seeks to create a legal, regulatory, and fiscal environment that can sustain these groups and movements. In India, we have supported legal reforms to encourage local philanthropy and helped establish three funds serving the country's most marginalized populations: women, Dalits, and Adivasis. Likewise, we are working to mobilize resources for philanthropy in Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico, because local funding can help root nongovernmental organizations in their own societies, giving them greater legitimacy and staying power. In Brazil, Colombia, and Russia, we promote programs that encourage individual and corporate giving.

We also make grants to promote and protect democratic “public spheres”—at both the national and the global level—that encourage debate on key policy issues and enable citizen oversight of public and private power. In the United States, the Center for Public Integrity and OMBWatch are bringing to light conflicts of interest and promoting accountability in the public sector. In Bangalore, India, the Public Affairs Center has been conducting an independent survey of public services to strengthen civil society demands for improved accountability and performance. We also support new media ventures like [opendemocracy.net](http://opendemocracy.net), a Web site that reflects varied perspectives on globalization, culture, migration, and other pressing social issues.



*Photo: Students hold a candlelight vigil in Moscow's Red Square in July 2001 as part of a grass-roots campaign against importing nuclear waste into the Russian Federation.*

A woman wearing a white hoodie and a white headscarf is standing on a concrete ledge. She is holding a roll of black tape and applying it to the top edge of a large, dark-colored sign. The sign is being held up by other people whose hands and parts of their bodies are visible in the foreground. The background shows a clear blue sky and a concrete wall with some small holes.

We do not live  
a color-blind in  
society...

All  
Americans  
deserve an  
opportunity!

## Human Rights

During the long years of apartheid, activists in South Africa and abroad waged campaigns to end the use of torture, free political dissidents, and lift restrictions that kept black and “colored” people from participating as full members of their society. By 1994 this epic struggle to secure basic rights for all citizens brought down the apartheid government—a profound achievement that parallels the resurgence of democracy in Latin America and the fall of authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Today South Africans can take pride in having a freely elected government guided by the world’s most progressive constitution. This remarkable document not only affirms such liberties as freedom of expression and freedom of association, but also recognizes economic and social rights, including the rights to health, education, food, and housing. One of the most significant challenges South Africans will face in the years ahead is to marshal the resources needed to realize this vision of a more just society.

While the transformative power of human rights fueled the political changes in South Africa, South Africa, in turn, has helped to revolutionize the global human rights movement. Long focused on securing civil and political rights, a growing number of human rights organizations around the world now promote economic, social, and cultural rights as well. This shift is not a rejection of more conventional work in the human rights field, but rather an effort to deepen it by tackling systemic issues—like barriers to obtaining food, education, and health care—to make the exercise of other rights possible.

The ultimate goal of human rights advocacy is to achieve peace and social justice by fulfilling the rights that accrue to all people by virtue of their humanity. We believe that government and civil society share a responsibility to secure the full range of human rights. In some contexts, the challenge at



hand is to establish policies that recognize and protect these rights. In other cases, where such safeguards are already in place, the foremost task is ensuring their full implementation.

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We support advocacy, research, and educational efforts that protect the rights of all people, particularly the most vulnerable members of society. More often than not, it is women, migrants and refugees, and racial and ethnic minorities who face the greatest difficulties in exercising their human rights. In some contexts, though, children, prisoners, conscripts, and sexual minorities also endure prejudice and intolerance.

In recent years, the world has experienced an extraordinary range of political, economic, and social change. As jobs and capital move more freely around the globe, families are being uprooted and cultures irrevocably altered. At the same time, many societies are still grappling with problems of racism and xenophobia. Many people face discrimination in access to education, jobs, housing, and other opportunities.

All over the world, political leaders are wrestling with the scourge of terrorism. As they grapple with this reprehensible threat, they must balance the need to protect people from violence with the need to defend the civil liberties that are the bedrock of open, democratic societies. Indeed, some measures meant to combat terrorism can have undesirable consequences if they chill public dissent and make it more difficult for people to voice opinions in opposition to the government. Such policies can weigh heavily on immigrants, particularly noncitizens, who are often denied the fundamental protections afforded to citizens. And they divert resources and attention away from domestic issues of poverty, inequality, and neglect. All too often, they provide a justification for governments to violate human rights.

Most of our grantees work at the national, regional, and international level. We fund local work when it has a decisive national impact, or is part of a network of activities that advance state, regional, or national dialogue.

Our overarching goals are to promote equal access to justice and protect the full range of human rights for all members of society.

Through our grant making, we encourage human rights advocates and public officials to recognize and promote economic, social, and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights. For example, the International Network on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is taking steps to raise awareness of these rights and integrate them into the work of U.N. agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, and national governments.

Another line of grants supports efforts to implement human rights in concrete ways that improve people's lives. In South Africa, for instance, the Legal Resources Center and the AIDS Law Project have successfully litigated a landmark case before the Constitutional Court. The court held that the constitutional right to health obligates the government to provide antiretroviral drugs to pregnant women living with H.I.V., a measure aimed at preventing transmission of the virus to their newborns. We also support efforts to strengthen the International Criminal Court, which makes it possible to prosecute individuals accused of the most serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law—namely war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Finally, we support efforts to secure and fulfill the human rights of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups. In the United States, for example, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services is helping 10 grass-roots organizations improve their services and advocacy for Arab-American communities where residents may face being stopped, questioned, detained, or harassed in connection with new security efforts. Grantees in Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and other countries are working to curb gender violence—both in the home and in the larger society—by changing laws, attitudes, and behavior. The University of Michigan, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and other grantees helped win a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld affirmative action to promote diversity and academic excellence.

*Photo: Students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology express support for affirmative action in higher education at a rally in March 2003.*





## Sexuality and Reproductive Health

Researchers have repeatedly shown that when women have the ability to choose the number and spacing of their children, birth rates decline. More importantly, these women tend to be healthier and to exercise greater control over their own destinies. As recognition of this phenomenon has grown, policy makers have increasingly shifted their focus from the number of people on earth to the quality of their lives.

In a profound shift, 179 countries endorsed this new framework for safeguarding the reproductive health of individuals at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Delegates agreed to mobilize at least \$17 billion a year for family planning, reproductive health care, H.I.V./AIDS prevention, and related activities.

Yet many industrialized countries have not been honoring their pledges. Moreover, some cultures and governments have been slow to reflect the Cairo consensus in their implicit assumptions about sexuality. As a result, many people around the globe still find their sexual and reproductive health in jeopardy. Some 350 million couples still lack access to safe, modern contraceptives. Maternal mortality remains high, and sexually transmitted diseases like H.I.V./AIDS continue to spread. Coercive practices like forced sterilization persist in some quarters, and restrictions on reproductive freedom and healthy sexuality remain common.

Better health care is part of the solution. But remedying such deeply rooted social problems also calls for research, advocacy, and services—including legal aid, counseling, and education. Such measures can address sexuality, women’s health, and women’s empowerment comprehensively and fit within a broader framework of gender equity and human rights.



The foundation's work on sexuality and reproductive health cuts across all three of its major programs (Peace and Social Justice; Knowledge, Creativity, and Freedom; and Asset Building and Community Development). Within the Peace and Social Justice program, our particular objective in this field is to empower communities and individuals to understand and assert their fundamental right to sexual and reproductive health.

More specifically, we support efforts to implement the principles of sexuality and reproductive health endorsed in Cairo and again at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing. In Egypt, for example, grantees are working to curb H.I.V./AIDS and female genital cutting. The International Council of AIDS Service Organizations, a global network of nongovernmental and community-based organizations, is working to expand access to H.I.V./AIDS prevention and treatment.

We also make grants to develop social conditions that promote and safeguard sexual and reproductive health. For instance, the Community Life Project is taking steps to ensure that Nigerian women who want to give birth experience healthy pregnancies and deliveries. In the United States grantees are working to foster sexual and reproductive choice free of illness, coercion, and violence. Meanwhile, grantees in several countries, including Brazil and China, are promoting equitable, nonviolent gender relations. Other advocacy groups promote healthy sexuality for women and men, as well as greater understanding of how different family compositions benefit families and society.

A third line of grants seeks to promote dialogue on cultural and social values—as well as ethical and legal frameworks—that support women's empowerment and gender equity. We are particularly interested in advancing these aims within communities that are disproportionately vulnerable to poor sexual and reproductive health. This work seeks to build knowledge, develop policy, and deepen public understanding of sexuality and its relationship to human fulfillment, culture,

religion, and identity. For example, we support efforts to erase the stigma and discrimination associated with H.I.V./AIDS. Recent grants in Vietnam are supporting workshops for journalists, business leaders, and health officials, who are all in a position to shape public perceptions about the disease. In the United States, the National Association of People Living with H.I.V./AIDS is working to overcome the divisive forces of racism, sexism, and homophobia, which often hamper communities combating the epidemic.



*Photo: Marchers outside South Africa's High Court on December 14, 2001, when it ruled that the government must help pregnant women with HIV protect their newborns from AIDS.*

## Credits

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### About the Cover

*Front Cover: A floor painting in Maharashtra, India, greets participants at a meeting on ways to safeguard the health and human rights of women who work as prostitutes.*

*Inside: More than 100,000 participants from around the globe discussed programs and policies aimed at creating a more just and equitable world at the 2003 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.*

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*(effective April 2004)*

## Grants and Program-Related Investments to Organizations

Before a request is made for a grant or program-related investment, a brief letter of inquiry is advisable to determine whether the foundation's present interests and funds permit consideration of the request.

The letter should include:

- ▶ **The purpose of the project for which funds are being requested**
- ▶ **Problems and issues the proposed project will address**
- ▶ **Information about the organization conducting the project**
- ▶ **Estimated overall budget for the project**
- ▶ **Period of time for which funds are requested**
- ▶ **Qualifications of those who will be engaged in the project**

After receiving the letter, foundation staff members may ask the grant seeker to submit a formal proposal. There is no grant application form. The proposal should include:

- ▶ **The organization's current budget**
- ▶ **A description of the proposed work and how it will be conducted**
- ▶ **The names and curricula vitae of those engaged in the project**
- ▶ **A detailed project budget**
- ▶ **Present means of support and status of applications to other funding sources**
- ▶ **Legal and tax status**

In some instances, the foundation requires the grantee organization to match the foundation's grant with funds from other sources.

The foundation supports pluralism and equal opportunity in its grant making and in its internal policies. The opportunities that prospective grantee organizations provide for minorities and women are considered in evaluating proposals.

Applications are considered throughout the year. Normally, applicants may expect to receive within six weeks an indication of whether their proposals are within the foundation's program interests and budget limitations. Activities supported by grants and program-related investments must be charitable, educational, or scientific, as defined under the appropriate provisions of the

U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations. The foundation monitors grants through regular financial and narrative reports submitted by the grantee.

The foundation's funds are limited in relation to the great number of worthwhile proposals received. For example, in 2002 the foundation received about 40,000 grant requests and made 2,510 grants. The foundation directs its support to activities that are within its current interests and are likely to have wide effect. More information is available at [www.fordfound.org](http://www.fordfound.org).

Requests in the United States should be sent to:

Secretary

The Ford Foundation

320 East 43rd Street

New York, N.Y. 10017

or e-mailed to: [Office-Secretary@fordfound.org](mailto:Office-Secretary@fordfound.org)

Requests from outside the United States should be directed to the nearest foundation office (see insert for locations).

## Grants to Individuals

Most of the foundation's grant funds are given to organizations. Although it also makes grants to individuals, they are few in number relative to demand and are limited to research, training, and other activities related to its program interests.

The foundation does not award undergraduate scholarships or make grants for purely personal needs. Support for graduate fellowships is generally provided through grants to universities and other organizations, which are responsible for the selection of recipients. Most foundation grants to individuals are awarded either through publicly announced competitions or on the basis of nominations from universities and other nonprofit institutions. In all cases, recipients are selected on the merits of their proposals and on their potential contribution to advancing the foundation's program objectives.

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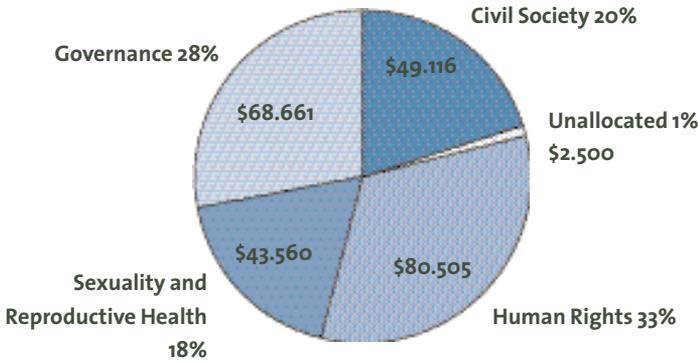
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## Russia

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**Fiscal Year 2004-2005 PSJ Projected Grant Allocations by Fields Worldwide (in millions of dollars)**

**\$244.342**



**Fields:**

**Human Rights**

Equal access to justice and the protection of the full range of human rights for all members of society.

**Sexuality and Reproductive Health**

To empower communities and individuals to understand, articulate, and address their fundamental rights to sexual and reproductive health.

**Governance**

Institutions and practices of governance that are transparent, accountable, responsive, and effective in promoting peace and social justice at all levels of the world system.

**Civil Society**

Civil societies that are effective vehicles for peace, social justice, and democratic renewal within, between, and across the countries in which we work.



*Electoral workers count votes in Qianxi County, part of China's Hebei Province, in July 2003.*

## Promoting Women in Local Government

Until recently, seats in the local women's associations in Qianxi County, Hebei Province, were filled the same way they are elsewhere in China: by appointment. But in July 2003, this agricultural zone east of Beijing tried a new approach, as 100,000 women went to the polls to choose their own representatives. Although the associations have limited power, candidates seized the opportunity to address local concerns. Some ran for office again a month later, winning seats on influential village committees. This experiment in direct democracy began with the Qianxi Women's Federation, which seeks to expand women's role in local government through voter education and leadership training. Since coordinating the first elections for 20 women's associations in 1999, it has trained thousands of candidates, public officials, and electoral staff. Now that 405 of the county's 417 villages hold direct elections, the federation is working to introduce them elsewhere in China through publicity and networking.

[www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2003-08/19/content\\_256101.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2003-08/19/content_256101.htm)

## Watching the Public Purse

Budgets are arguably the most important policy documents governments ever produce, as the choices they embody can have profound effects on the quality of people's lives. But because they are inherently complex—and sometimes shrouded in secrecy—government budgets often mystify the general public. Nevertheless, people around the globe are increasingly intent on finding out how their governments collect and spend money. Since 1997 analysts affiliated with the International Budget Project have worked to inform policy debates through applied research that shows how tax and budget policies affect the poor. Each year in Kenya, for example, civil society groups outline shared priorities in a report that the government now consults when drafting the national budget. The project, based at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C., works in nearly 40 countries worldwide. Its goal is to make budget systems more responsive to the needs of society, as well as more transparent and accountable to the public.

[www.internationalbudget.org](http://www.internationalbudget.org)

## Restoring Confidence in Government

In 1986, with trust in government eroding in the United States, the foundation launched an awards program to recognize creative and effective innovations within the public sector. The program, now administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University, has since recognized nearly 1,500 winners and finalists in areas ranging from policing to health care. Among them are Project QUEST, which trains low-income workers for solid jobs in San Antonio, Texas, and La Bodega de Familia, which is curbing substance abuse and recidivism among parolees through a partnership with the New York State Division of Parole. Similar awards programs now showcase pioneering approaches to public administration by American Indian nations as well as in Brazil, Chile, China, Mexico, the Philippines, East Africa, and South Africa. Collectively, these programs offer concrete evidence that government plays a central role in improving the quality of life.

[www.innovations.harvard.edu/content.cfm?activesection=2](http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/content.cfm?activesection=2)



*In Alabama 48,000 uninsured children have health insurance under a new statewide plan.*

## Strengthening Community Advocacy

As political authority in the United States shifts away from Washington, D. C., state legislators play a larger role in developing social policy. Some community activists see this change as an opportunity to ensure more inclusive laws and more equitable policies. Often, though, community groups lack the expertise to negotiate effectively with policy makers. To fill this need, the foundation's Collaborations that Count initiative brings together community-based organizations and policy groups with an eye to sharing insights and resources. Since 1998 it has supported hundreds of organizations through 11 statewide partnerships in the Northwest, South, and Southwest. One of them, the North Carolina Alliance for Economic Justice, spared social programs from deep state budget cuts by finding creative uses of highway and tobacco-settlement funds. The Alabama Organizing Project spurred lawmakers in Montgomery to create a statewide health insurance program for children—the nation's first—covering 48,000 previously uninsured children.

[www.fordfound.org/publications/recent\\_articles/collab.cfm](http://www.fordfound.org/publications/recent_articles/collab.cfm)

## Building Global Movements

In January 2003, more than 100,000 social activists, scholars, environmentalists, and workers from around the world gathered in Porto Alegre, Brazil, for the third annual World Social Forum. The weeklong event gave citizens of 130 countries a chance to debate issues related to social justice, the global economy, peace, and security. Although the agenda addressed positive alternatives to rapidly developing patterns of world economics and politics, the event's organizers saw individual networking as the foremost goal. "The World Social Forum is one of the few spaces where different groups can intersect—*campesinos* with trade union leaders with human rights advocates with economists," says Lisa Jordan, a program officer at the foundation's headquarters in New York. The Brazilian Association of Nongovernmental Organizations, a coalition of 270 civil society groups, began coordinating the forum in 2001. Other developing countries now take turns hosting the annual gathering, starting with India in 2004.

[www.abong.org.br](http://www.abong.org.br)

## Promoting Social Justice Through Local Giving

More than 400 million people in South Asia live in poverty, lacking not only food security, health care, safe drinking water, and education, but also opportunities to improve their well-being through social, economic, and political participation. In 2002 the foundation helped establish two funds aimed at easing these structural barriers. One, the Dalit Foundation, offers grants and fellowships designed to improve the social and economic standing of Dalits—the 240 million so-called untouchables who rank at the bottom of India's caste system. Similarly, the South Asian Women's Fund supports efforts to curb poverty, advance gender equity, and promote women's voices in public policy making within the region. These funds, now managed by the Tides Foundation in San Francisco, are governed by scholars, activists, and business leaders in South Asia. They are part of a larger effort to nurture local philanthropy around the world, so that communities can play a greater role in identifying needs and allocating resources.

[www.tidesfoundation.org](http://www.tidesfoundation.org)



*A Peruvian widow seeks answers from the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.*

## **Making Peace with a Violent Past**

After periods of violence or repression, societies often struggle to reconcile the painful legacy of human rights abuse. The International Center for Transitional Justice was established in 2001 to help such societies come to terms with crimes of the past. Building on the lessons learned from successful truth commissions in countries like South Africa and Guatemala, the center advances the efforts of nongovernmental organizations and governments to promote accountability after long periods of civil war or authoritarian rule. It presents ways to document abuses, prosecute perpetrators, reform abusive institutions, provide reparations to victims of violence, and promote reconciliation. The center works in 17 countries around the globe, including Peru, where it helped the Truth and Reconciliation Commission investigate and document more than 69,000 deaths at the hands of Shining Path guerrillas, the Peruvian military, and other factions in the nation's civil war.

[www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org)

## Safeguarding Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The words *human rights* often evoke images of dissidents jailed or tortured for their political views. But the rights that accrue to people by virtue of their humanity go beyond civil and political liberties. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948 by the United Nations, also affirms economic, social, and cultural rights. Governments have long neglected these tenets, but as economic inequality grows and living conditions within many vulnerable groups deteriorate, there is a mounting commitment to safeguard the full range of human rights. In 2000 a global alliance of scholars, lawyers, and activists began urging governments and international financial institutions to honor these rights. Known as the International Network on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, it promotes multidisciplinary research that shows how decisions on education, housing, and health can leave entire communities on the margins of survival. Through advocacy, its members explain that these are not just flawed policies, but also human rights violations that must be challenged and changed.

[www.escr-net.org](http://www.escr-net.org)

## Providing Legal Assistance to Victims of Terror

Soon after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Legal Aid Society in New York saw a sharply increased demand for its services—mostly from low-income people directly or indirectly affected by the World Trade Center disaster. The society responded with a streamlined model for delivering legal assistance on issues ranging from housing and health insurance to unemployment benefits, small-business recovery, and survivor benefits. To make these services more accessible, it stationed staff members at community-based organizations, social service agencies, and union offices. Moreover, it opened a toll-free disaster hotline that let people receive immediate assistance or directed them to appropriate staff members, either in its neighborhood-based offices or in its specialized citywide programs. The foundation's \$1 million grant to the society was part of an \$11.2 million contribution to relief efforts in New York and Washington, D.C.

[www.legal-aid.org](http://www.legal-aid.org)



*Family-planning workers collect information about slum dwellers in Calcutta, India.*

## Promoting Health Through Human Rights

In 1990 the world's governments set out to reduce maternal mortality by half within a decade. By 1995, as money was set aside to monitor pregnancies and provide skilled attendants at births, the number of pregnancy-related deaths each year had fallen from 585,000 to 515,000—an improvement, but still far short of the goal. The World Health Organization concluded that better health care was not enough; it was also necessary to address underlying conditions like child marriage, which leads to early childbirth and poor reproductive health. The International Program on Reproductive and Sexual Health Law is advancing this effort by applying human rights principles—including the rights to health and education—in ways that enhance clinical care for women and remedy social conditions that imperil their health. The program, based at the University of Toronto, has developed a series of case studies to train health workers and rights activists in the global South.

[www.library.utoronto.ca/rir/edge/spring2001/leaders/rebeccaCook.htm](http://www.library.utoronto.ca/rir/edge/spring2001/leaders/rebeccaCook.htm)

## Informing the Public Discourse on AIDS

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, more than 4 million people are living with H.I.V./AIDS. But that number continues to grow, as silence and stigma allow the epidemic to spread. In 1997 several reporters and editors founded Journalists Against AIDS, an advocacy group that seeks to clear up misperceptions about the virus and advance public dialogue about sexual health and rights. Through its monthly bulletin and resource center, it keeps thousands of reporters, editors, and media managers informed about H.I.V./AIDS and reproductive health issues. Meanwhile, its online forum lets journalists, policy makers, development activists, donor agencies, and people living with H.I.V./AIDS exchange ideas and circulate timely information. Journalists Against AIDS also promotes face-to-face dialogue. For example, it brings in people with H.I.V. to speak with journalism students, and it convenes monthly roundtables where journalists, activists, and government officials discuss ways to end the African AIDS crisis.

[www.nigeria-aids.org](http://www.nigeria-aids.org)

## Fostering Dialogue on Sexuality and Health

As a clinical psychologist in New Delhi, Radhika Chandiramani could see that local women had many questions about reproduction and sexuality, and few places to turn for help. And so, in 1996, she started a confidential telephone help line where they could find answers, advice, and referrals. The help line—called TARSHI, short for Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues—has handled more than 50,000 calls. (To Chandiramani's surprise, many come from men.) Counselors document each call, generating insights and data that they share with policy makers, AIDS educators, and providers of reproductive health services. In addition to the help line, TARSHI publishes fact sheets and booklets for young people; written in Hindi and English, they address adolescent concerns about sexuality, safe sex, and sexual violence. With the introduction of public lectures and a visiting scholars program, it is emerging as one of South Asia's leading resource centers on issues related to sexuality and reproductive health.

[www.tarshi.org](http://www.tarshi.org)