

## Other funding opportunities

Some of the other funding opportunities related to human rights education, trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence:

*This is not an exhaustive list.*

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### **Open Society Institute The Human Rights and Governance Grants Program**

The Human Rights and Governance Grants Program provides support to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the fields of human rights and governance in Europe and Central Asia. Under the supervision of OSI's Sub-Board for Law and Human Rights, the program manages grantmaking programs in the areas of human rights and government accountability. The program also takes an active role in identifying projects; in assisting supported organizations in their growth and institutionalization; in building networks among these groups; and in developing partnerships with other donors in this field.

In the area of human rights, the program supports national and international advocacy organizations promoting political and civil rights at local, national and regional levels. Priority is given to projects that address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and those that have strong monitoring and legal advocacy components.

The Human Rights and Governance Grants Program administers grants to a number of institutions providing expertise to governments and contributing to national policy debates on a wide variety of economic and political issues with the goal of promoting effective and accountable governance. Funding decisions for these organizations are made by the OSI board, in consultation with OSI's executive management.

### **Call for Proposals: Open Society New Response Projects**

July 6, 2006

Recent political developments in Central Europe demonstrate that populism and anti-democratic values continue to thrive in some new EU member states. An increasing number of governments show little interest in independent oversight of government activities, protection of minority rights, media independence and the rule of law. Public discourse in some of the new EU member states has taken a particularly negative turn with attacks against vulnerable groups and minority communities as well as against NGOs promoting tolerance and accountability. Debates within EU member states on issues such as immigration and security exacerbate negative discourse at the local level. Civil society in the region seems ill-prepared to counter these illiberal tendencies systematically and consistently.

Most think tank leaders agree that more should be done, and that liberal democratic values are at the core of their missions. However, given the current funding environment, tackling these types of issues is increasingly difficult. The [Think Tank Fund](#) response is to establish a competitive project fund that will support established policy centers in the region to confront issues the Fund believes critical to open society.

By funding Open Society New Response Projects, the Think Tank Fund aims to support independent policy centers in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia to promote policy research and alternatives on political and social issues critical to effective and accountable democratic governance in their own countries. Open Society New Response Projects should reflect the core values of the applicant organization as well as tackle key social and political policy areas.

Open Society New Response Projects will provide think tanks in the region with the opportunity to:

- *sustain their work on sensitive and unpopular social and political issues, particularly work that seeks to improve the position of disadvantaged and marginalized groups;*
- *promote transparent and effective democratic processes in their countries and to counteract illiberal tendencies; and*
- *advance systems for monitoring the performance of governmental institutions in ensuring tolerance and public accountability.*

In line with the aim of the Think Tank Fund of fostering inclusive policy change, Open Society New Response Projects should increase public participation in policy discussions, influence public policy discourse, and help to shape the policy agenda. Projects should aim to address the full policy cycle and reach out to relevant stakeholders. Priority will be given to research and policymaking that directly respond to threats to liberal democratic governance and promotes open society values.

For more information, see the [Think Tank Fund guidelines](#).

### **The East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program**

**The East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program** is one of the initiatives implemented by the [Open Society Foundation in London](#) (a registered UK charity).

The program supports international exchanges that bring together civil society actors to share ideas, information, knowledge, experiences, and expertise and to support practical actions that result from that networking.

The East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program provides financial and human resources that enable civil society actors to:

- build and/or strengthen resources and expertise;
- share best practices/lessons learned in social transformation;
- collaborate on innovative solutions to common challenges;
- create and/or strengthen international advocacy coalitions.

The program gives priority to long-term initiatives with clear goals and realistic potential for effecting positive change, for example, by:

- empowering marginalized and/or vulnerable sectors of society;
- promoting cultural, ethnic, and social diversity;
- managing the impact of social, economic, and political change;
- making information accessible and available to the public;
- encouraging public engagement and empowerment in civic dialogue.

The program responds to the needs of people in many diverse societies and empowers them to work beyond borders to achieve shared goals and leverage international experiences and perspectives to promote an innovative social agenda.

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### **ACT Project: LAUNCH OF THE 5TH PHASE (2005-2007): grants to NGOs for HRE activities**

ACT Project puts a special emphasis on activities related to human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems (including, for instance, material development/translation; workshop/training course for relevant authorities, teachers and other education personnel; school competitions and debates), although not exclusively supporting grants in this area. This is to create synergy with the newly-proclaimed World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing), whose first phase (2005-2007) focuses on the primary and secondary school systems. In principle, the time allocated to the grant recipients to carry out the funded activities will be of six months (tentatively, March-October 2006).

Specific details (application forms, eligibility requirements and deadline for submission of projects) are available in each selected country by OHCHR/UNDP Country offices. Please contact the OHCHR ACT Coordinator at the address below should you wish contact information for those offices:

ACT Project  
OHCHR, Palais des Nations  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
(fax: +41 22 917 90 10)

E-mail: [ACTProject@ohchr.org](mailto:ACTProject@ohchr.org)

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## UNIFEM

**UNIFEM** is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas: (1) reducing feminized poverty, (2) ending violence against women, (3) reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and (4) achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has its headquarters in New York City and works worldwide out of [15 regional offices](#) and [two country programme offices](#). A dedicated group of volunteers and friends also provide valuable support to UNIFEM's work, including the [National Committees for UNIFEM](#) and the [NGO Committee on UNIFEM](#).

### UNIFEM Headquarters

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## OSCE / ODIHR

**The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights** is based in Warsaw, Poland. It is active throughout the OSCE area in the fields of election observation, democratic development, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, and rule of law.

### Anti-trafficking

Trafficking in human beings affects virtually all OSCE participating States either as countries of origin, countries of transit, or countries of destination. It is a complex human-rights issue that cuts across the entire spectrum of the OSCE's comprehensive security policy.

The OSCE *Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*, adopted in December 2003, calls on participating States to take initiatives to prevent trafficking, to prosecute traffickers, and to protect victims with the assistance of OSCE institutions and field operations.

In 2004, the OSCE appointed a special representative who is also mandated with assisting participating States in the implementation of their commitments and the Action Plan.

In light of these developments, the ODIHR continues to be engaged in designing and implementing projects to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking with governments and NGOs, assisting in

legislative review and reform, and promoting the adoption of National Referral Mechanisms both in countries of origin and destination in order to protect and assist the victims of trafficking. But despite much progress, people continue to be trafficked and there is little evidence to suggest that the scale of the problem is diminishing.

### **Main issues**

The ODIHR deals with a number of issues related to combating trafficking in human beings. [More](#)

### **Activities**

The ODIHR's programme on anti-trafficking focuses on monitoring and the promotion of trafficked persons' rights through data collection, awareness raising, training and the exchange of practice between governmental authorities and civil society. [More](#)

### **Human Rights Department**

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Poland  
Tel: +48 22 520 0600  
+48 22 520 0605  
[trafficking@odihhr.pl](mailto:trafficking@odihhr.pl)

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## **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

IOM's counter-trafficking activities are geared toward the prevention of [trafficking in persons, particularly women and children](#), and the protection of migrant's rights. They include:

- Carrying out information campaigns.
- Providing counseling services.
- Conducting research on migrant trafficking.
- Providing safe and dignified return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.

Every year IOM helps thousands of victims around the world to cope with the physical, social, economic and psychological effects of their trafficking experience.

At all times, we keep their interests at the forefront. We seek to rehabilitate and empower victims and ensure that they will never be trafficked again.

IOM and partners provide effective assistance to victims of trafficking. This includes:

### **Protection**

In coordination with NGOs, international organizations and government agencies, IOM provides shelter and assistance for victims of trafficking.

### **Counseling**

IOM provides legal and medical counseling and assistance to trafficked migrants in transit and receiving countries. In cooperation with NGOs and/or ministries of health and other concerned parties, IOM seeks to address the health care needs of trafficked migrants.

### **Return/Reintegration**

IOM offers voluntary return and reintegration assistance to trafficked migrants. Return travel and reintegration assistance is tailored to the individual situation of the migrant.

### **Information Dissemination Programmes**

IOM organizes mass information campaigns in countries of origin in an effort to make potential migrants aware of the risks of irregular migration and trafficking.

### **Capacity Building**

IOM provides training to increase the capacity of governmental and other institutions to counteract trafficking in migrants.

### **Research**

IOM undertakes research to focus attention on the problem of trafficking, raise general awareness, and provide governments and other actors with essential information for developing various forms of intervention.

### **Seminars and Policy**

IOM organizes seminars and forum activities in order to raise general awareness on trafficking, share experience amongst the various partners, disseminate results from research, coordinate/harmonize policies and measures, and create formal and informal networks dealing with the issue.

### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

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CH-1211 Geneva 19 - Switzerland  
Tel: +41/22/717 9111 \* Fax: +41/22/798 6150  
E-mail: [info@iom.int](mailto:info@iom.int)

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## **IREX**

Civil society development engages citizens, nongovernmental organizations, and government bodies to work in partnership to improve their communities and foster good governance.

IREX adapts its approach and training to meet the specific local needs of a community so that stakeholders can better serve their constituents. IREX integrates targeted activities for underrepresented populations, which include women, youth, ethnic minorities, individuals with HIV/AIDS, and people with disabilities. Program areas include:

- Citizen Participation and Advocacy
- Community and Social Development
- Association Building and Networking
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Technology Access and Training
- Women's Empowerment

### **Trafficking Prevention and Information Dissemination (TPID)**

In September 2001, the Mission to the Russian Federation of the [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#) selected IREX to administer the **Trafficking Prevention and Information Dissemination (TPID)** program in Russia. The three-year TPID program is designed to combat the trafficking of women in Russia by creating viable alternatives for at-risk women, ages 15 to 30—empowering them with individual training and awareness that builds confidence and professional experience while creating new economic opportunities.

IREX works toward achieving the program goal of combating trafficking in women through the realization of four objectives:

- Develop a network of empowerment centers across four regions, based on existing crisis centers for the prevention of domestic violence in major trafficking cities of Russia—Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Petrozavodsk, and Krasnodar;
- Create practical economic alternatives for vulnerable women in high-risk areas of Russia by developing new professional opportunities, such as a professional internship program, and the demand-driven basic skills training to realize them, such as practical business skills and micro-enterprise development training;

- Empower at-risk women and victim-returnees by building initiative and self-esteem through individual psychological and legal counseling, peer support, mentoring, and training; and
- Disseminate information through innovative education campaigns, which will engage the local community through strategic alliances with local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders, and governmental organizations to promote awareness of trafficking and engage policymakers and community actors in finding solutions to the problem.

IREX is committed to collaborating with experienced local and international organizations in the prevention of trafficking in women. IREX's strategy applies and adapts the successful model of the USAID-funded Program to Support Crisis Centers for Women in Russia (WCC), relying on local capacity to address social issues.

**Contact IREX**

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 Suite 700  
 Washington, DC 20037  
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**CIDA LIP  
 Canadian International Development Agency's Local Initiatives Program**

The CIDA Local Initiatives Program (LIP) supports civil society organizations in the region strengthening them to better influence, and participate with, governments and other society stakeholders.

CIDA LIP will support civil society organizations to develop and implement: policies and accountability structures; strategies for sustainability and advocacy; and, mechanisms for effective planning, monitoring and reporting.

All CIDA LIP supported initiatives are expected to meet the needs of beneficiaries through the efficient and effective implementation of sustainable projects in the **health, education and rule of law** sectors.

**Who can apply?**

Civil society organizations (including not-for-profit and non-partisan local Non-Governmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations) in the region may apply for CIDA LIP co-financing.

**Expected Long-term Results of the CIDA Local Initiatives Program:**

- Increased capacity of civil society organizations to build partnerships with governments and network with other civil society organizations (including at the regional and national levels).
- Increased capacity of civil society organizations to influence and participate with governments and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of health policy that underpins efficient primary health care systems which are sensitive to the issues of gender and marginalized people.
- Increased capacity of civil society organizations to influence and participate with government and other stakeholders in the development, delivery and promotion of Education Systems that are inclusive, learner centered, sensitive to the issues of gender and marginalized people, and, that model respect and peaceful coexistence among all.
- Increased capacity of civil society organizations to influence and contribute to the establishment of accessible, transparent and effective justice systems that support the democratic application and enforcement of the Rule of Law, which is sensitive to the issues of gender and marginalized people.

Contact: Embassy of Canada in respective countries

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## The World Bank

The World Bank first began to interact with civil society in the 1970s through **dialogue** with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on environmental concerns. Today the World Bank **consults and collaborates** with thousands of members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) throughout the world, such as community-based organizations, NGOs, indigenous peoples organizations, labor unions, faith-based groups, and foundations.

The World Bank has learned through these three decades of interaction that the participation of CSOs in government development projects and programs can enhance their operational performance by contributing local knowledge, providing technical expertise, and leveraging social capital. Further, CSOs can bring innovative ideas and solutions, as well as participatory approaches, to solving local problems

### Funding Resources for Civil Society Organizations

There are a wide variety of funding sources that offer support for development projects managed by civil society organizations (CSOs). These can come from various Donors, from other CSOs and also from the World Bank.

The World Bank manages several types of funding mechanisms geared to providing funding directly to CSOs. Most of these funding mechanisms are managed out of World Bank's Headquarters, although some of these are also administered at many of the Bank's country offices.

Many of these mechanisms are funded in partnership with other government donor agencies, such as the UN and bilateral agencies (e.g. UNPD, DFID, CIDA). Some of these funding mechanisms only support CSOs, but other fund proposals submitted by government agencies and businesses. Finally these funds support civil society initiatives at the global, regional, and country levels in a variety of sectors.

### Small Grants Program

**What activities does the program fund?** The Small Grants Program funds activities to enhance partnerships and promote dialogue and dissemination of information on development, focusing on civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Funding is usually for projects less than \$15,000 and require leveraging and partnerships with other organizations.

**Who is eligible?** Civil society organizations in countries with a World Bank Small Grants Program.

**How to apply?** Request information from the Small Grants Program in the World Bank Country Office in which the project is located. Deadlines for proposals are usually once a year. Funding decisions are not made in the World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C.

**Website:** <http://www.worldbank.org/smallgrantsprogram>

**World Bank Unit:** Participation and Civic Engagement Team, Social Development Department

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## US Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants

The purpose of the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program is to award small grants for specific projects that support the democracy and the development of democratic institutions in the respective countries. Grants will be, primarily, awarded to non-governmental (NGOs), non-profit organizations. Projects can only be submitted by organizations, not by individuals. Government agencies, businesses, and commercial institutions are not eligible. The maximum amount of the grant is **\$24,000**, but smaller grants are preferred in order to support more projects. To be eligible for consideration, every applicant must be registered in the territory of the respective country and engaged in, or propose to carry out, a

project whose purpose is to further the development of democratic institutions in the country, especially in the local municipalities.

The Democracy Commission defines a specific topic for each round. The projects submitted during that round must be connected with the announced topic, which can be found on the main page of the grants website.

*(example)* The Democracy Commission is interested in projects relating to:

- \* building democratic institutions,
- \* support of civic education,
- \* respect for the rule of law,
- \* respect for human rights,
- \* women and children's rights,
- \* support for market reforms;
- \* fostering strong and independent media,

or

- \* Civic education, strengthening and promotion of civil society and democratic institutions;
- \* Gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights, human rights protection, ethnic equality and the rights of minorities;
- \* Ethnic and political harmony, tolerance issues, combating extremism and xenophobia;
- \* Independent media, free flow of information, transparency in government;
- \* Public participation in decision making;
- \* Anti-corruption awareness: campaigns and trainings;
- \* Conflict resolution;
- \* Institutionalization of open, pluralistic, and democratic political processes at the local level;
- \* Development of market economy.

In other words, the Democracy Commission will support projects that promote further development of a democratic society and democratic institutions.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The Democracy Commission, which is made up of senior officials of the U.S. Embassy examines the project proposals and recommends selected projects for funding. The U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C. confirms the decision. Project proposals are selected on the basis of an open competition four times a year. Project selection is competitive. Proposals are judged on the following criteria:

- Social importance of the project
- Sustainability and opportunities for development
- Clearly formulated goals and target groups
- Specific and concrete results
- Feasibility

Contact: United States Embassy in respective countries