



NEW YORK INSTITUTE

## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH: A FUNDER-ACTIVIST DIALOGUE

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

### OVERVIEW:

With right-wing populism and authoritarianism on the rise, activists and funders face new challenges in defending civic space and human rights. Democratically elected leaders and non-state actors are seizing this moment to limit and delegitimize civil society and attack human rights protections—and institutions—across numerous fronts. At the same time, human rights movements bring a wealth of experience of how to hold ground in challenging contexts and how to forge and sustain alliances based on shared values. Activists around the world have already been developing new security measures, testing creative organizing tactics, and advancing cross-movement work in response.

This institute will bring together activists and funders working across the globe to address the following questions:

1. What can funders and activists learn from one another about effective strategies for building legitimacy and local support for human rights work, particularly in places where there is popular support for leaders who are hostile to human rights norms and values?
2. What can funders and activists learn from one another about forging and supporting cross-sector alliances and coalitions in repressive conservative settings?

**AGENDA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

<b>8:00-9:00 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION</b>
<b>9:00-9:50 am</b>	<b>WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AND AGENDA REVIEW</b>
<b>10:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>BUILDING AN ON-THE-GROUND CONSTITUENCY</b> <p>When the broader populace is disinclined to support human rights work, how can funders and activists work together to build a strong constituency for human rights? This session will highlight three case studies to examine tactics that have worked or show promise and explore the feasibility of applying these across contexts.</p>
<b>12:00-1:00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1:00-3:15 pm</b>	<b>JOINING FORCES: REORGANIZING THE RESISTANCE PLAYING FIELD</b> <p>Funders and activists will reflect on cross-sector partnerships with which they are involved, and unpack how these partnerships came to be, challenges they face, what they hope to accomplish, and lessons learned.</p>
<b>3:15-3:30 pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>3:30-5:00 pm</b>	<b>WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH</b> <p>How can funders and activists work together to sustain and promote the wellbeing of our communities in increasingly repressive contexts? We will also look at ways to thread the conversation that has taken place at the institute throughout IHRFG's 2017 New York Conference, "Map → Resist → Support."</p>

HOSTED BY THE  
**CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE**  
 AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

