

MEMORANDUM

To: U.S. Programs Staff
From: NSHR Campaign Staff – Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, Carol Schlitt, and Emma Greer
Date: June 6, 2011
Re: NSHR Campaign Grant Recommendations for the August 4, 2011 Docket

This memo describes five grants that the NSHR Campaign plans to recommend on its August 4, 2011 docket, along with five grants that will be put forth by other funds with co-funding from the NSHR Campaign. One out-of-docket grant, which we will recommend to Diana in June, is also described, as well as one out-of-docket grant that Ann approved before her departure. These recommendations total \$3,935,000 in NSHR Campaign funds.

1. Grants Recommended in the NSHR Campaign's August 2011 Docket

Connect US (A Project of the Tides Foundation)¹

\$1,000,000 over one year (renewed; project support)

To provide renewed support for Connect US Fund, a Washington, D.C.-based collaborative fund established in 2004 with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, OSF, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Additional funders include the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation and the Ploughshares Fund. Through a program of operational activities and grantmaking, the Connect US Fund seeks to foster stronger collaborations among foreign policy groups that will result in more effective advocacy for policy change, stronger NGOs, stronger networks among NGOs, increased salience of neglected but critical issues, and common messages within issue areas and (where possible) across issue areas. The four issues Connect US focuses on include: human rights, nuclear non-proliferation, U.S. leadership on climate change, and reform of international financial and trade architecture. Connect US supports the advocacy efforts of NGOs and also advocates in its own name; it acts as a convener and facilitator; and it provides small rapid response grants. The Tides Foundation, a public charity based in San Francisco, has offered donor advised funds and other grantmaking vehicles and professional philanthropic services since 1976. This grant represents the third year of a three-year commitment OSF made after Ambassador Nancy Soderberg took over leadership of Connect US in 2009.

Constitution Project

\$400,000 over two years for the Rule of Law Project and \$250,000 over one year for the Task Force on Detainee Treatment (renewed; project support)

To provide renewed support for the Constitution Project (CP)'s Rule of Law Program, which addresses threats to constitutional protections, including: the government's use of video surveillance and data mining; the increasing use of terrorist watch lists; and the assertion of governmental secrecy that conceals government wrongdoing in the name of fighting terrorism. CP strategically forms bipartisan coalitions in which respected leaders serve on issue-oriented

¹ The National Security and Human Rights Campaign serves as the administrative home in US Programs for the grant to the Connect US Fund, which is made on the Cooperative Global Engagement budget line (21096). Nancy Youman serves as program officer for the grant to the Connect US Fund.

committees to identify threats to constitutional rights and partner with unlikely allies to implement practical reforms. The grant will also provide renewed support to the Task Force on Detainee Treatment which, following the 2012 election, will release a comprehensive report on what is known and what remains classified but should be made known about past and current treatment of detainees by the U.S. government in connection with counterterrorism policies. The Constitution Project is a bipartisan, independent think tank based in Washington, D.C. that forges consensus reform recommendations to safeguard the U.S. Constitution and provides critical political and public support for those reforms.

National Security Archive Fund

\$600,000 over two years; (\$400,000 over two years from the National Security and Human Rights Campaign; \$200,000 over two years from the Transparency and Integrity Fund) (renewed; project support)

To support the Open Government and Accountability Program, which engages in policy advocacy, litigation, scholarship and research, communications, and public education to combat government secrecy and ensure independent oversight of the U.S. government's national security practices. The Program will continue to build its Torture Archive, an indexed online compilation of around 100,000 pages of primary source documents related to the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects by the U.S. The Program will also pursue a number of initiatives to hold government officials accountable for complying with President Obama's executive order to release additional information to the public and new guidance on government transparency and openness. In addition to undertaking strategic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation, the Program will fight the government's broad assertion of the state secret privilege to block litigation from moving forward. The National Security Archive is an international affairs research institute, a library and archive of declassified U.S. documents, a public interest law firm that works to defend and expand public access to government information through FOIA, and an indexer and publisher of documents. Founded in 1985 by journalists and historians, the Archive is housed at George Washington University.

Proteus Fund, Inc.

\$1,000,000 over two years (renewed; project support)

To provide renewed support for the Security and Rights Collaborative, a collaborative fund established in 2008 with support from OSF and Atlantic Philanthropies. The Collaborative seeks to leverage funds for the NSHR field and support Campaign strategies that are particularly suited for collaborative grantmaking, including: (1) building the capacity of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian organizations; (2) supporting the implementation of collaborative communications capacity for more than 100 human rights organizations working on national security reforms; and (3) providing rapid response grants to support strategic communications to create a media echo chamber through coordinated messaging. The Proteus Fund, founded in 1994 and based in Massachusetts, has since 1997 administered a number of donor collaborative structures in which OSF has participated, including the Piper Fund, Media Democracy Fund, State Strategies Fund, and Civil Marriage Collaborative Fund. Proteus also operates a Peace and Security Program and manages family foundations and projects in the broader peace and national security arena.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

\$150,000 over one year (new; project support)

To support the project, Message Research to Improve Perceptions of American Muslims, an initiative that will be undertaken by Hattaway Communications through a re-grant of funds to

research, develop and test messaging for a public education to counter fear-mongering and anti-Muslim bigotry, and proactively drive frames, messages, images, and narratives about Muslims in America to help blunt negative attacks on, and build positive perceptions of, American Muslims. Hattaway will work in consultation with key NSHR Campaign grantees and stakeholders, including media experts, representatives of America's Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities, grassroots networks, and policy advocacy organizations. NSHR Campaign funds would match funds that the Woodcock Foundation has committed toward this project. Hattaway Communications is a strategic communications firm based in Washington, D.C. that uses leading-edge tools and innovative research methods to create inspiring and effective messages informed by best practices from social psychology, cognitive studies, and consumer market research.

2. Grants Recommended in the D&P, E&O and Criminal Justice Funds' August 2011 Dockets

Breakthrough

\$300,000 over two years (\$150,000 from the NSHR Campaign, \$100,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund, and \$50,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund) (new; general support)

To provide general support renewal grant to Breakthrough, an international human rights organization that uses new media, public education and pop culture strategies to promote values of dignity, equality and justice. With its innovative use of cutting-edge alternative media, Breakthrough strategically engages and mobilizes young people on a range of human rights issues. Its ground-breaking Facebook game, *AMERICA 2049*, uses a social networking platform that is integrated with other online resources, multimedia, and interactive features. Breakthrough also uses video. Its recently launched documentary film, *Face the Truth: Racial Profiling across America*, centers on a young American Muslim man and urges young people to take action to address erosions of civil liberties that have increased dramatically in the aftermath of 9/11.

Faith in Public Life

\$425,000 over two years (\$100,000 from the NSHR Campaign and \$225,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund, and \$100,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund) (new; general support)

To provide renewed general support to Faith in Public Life (FPL), a Washington, D.C.-based strategy center that works to maximize the faith community's unique ability to shape public debate on a broad range of issues, including U.S.-sponsored torture policies, Islamophobia, and anti-Muslim bigotry. FPL was instrumental in galvanizing religious leaders and organizing constituent opposition to Rep. Peter King's (R-NY) hearing on the radicalization of American Muslims. Working with many NSHR grantees, such as the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, FPL successfully amplified religious voices opposing the hearings, called attention to the problematic premise of the hearings, organized an online echo chamber of interfaith allies, and developed proactive messaging affirming Muslims as key allies in confronting extremism. In preparation for the tenth anniversary of September 11, FPL will continue to mobilize its 110,000 member online community via its blog, *Bold Faith Type*, and provide strategic advice to interfaith coalitions to help coordinate messages and shape the media narrative to promote pluralism and tolerance.

Foundation for Criminal Justice

\$425,000 over two years (\$200,000 from the NSHR Campaign and \$225,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund) (renewed; project support)

The Foundation for Criminal Justice and its member organization, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), are the preeminent organizations in the U.S. advancing the mission of the nation's criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crimes, to foster the integrity and independence of the criminal defense profession, and to promote the proper and fair administration of justice. Together FCJ and NACDL have developed projects designed to protect fundamental constitutional rights threatened by the "war on terror" with a focus on detainees held in U.S. custody. FCJ and NACDL advance their mission through strategic litigation, training and resourcing of the defender community, and initiating advocacy projects designed to improve the delivery of justice.

Public Religion Research Institute

\$175,000 over two years (\$100,000 from the NSHR Campaign and \$75,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund) (new; general support)

To provide general support to the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) for its work to change the public narrative on critical moral issues through earned media and by equipping progressive religious organizations with strategic insights and research-based messaging.. PRRI has conducted groundbreaking research on attitudes towards Islam, American Muslims, and torture among the general public and religious groups. Annually, PRRI conducts a large national American Values Survey which tracks past trends, tests faith- and values-based messaging, and provides strategic maps to faith communities on key NSHR issues. It will work with NSHR grantees, including the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture to engage in message research and develop progressive faith-based and values-based responses to anti-Muslim bigotry, which will help to shift paradigms and shape major media narratives. PRRI is working with Hattaway Communications, also recommended on this docket, on a project to understand and improve the way American Muslims are perceived.

Sojourners

\$300,000 over two years (\$100,000 from the NSHR Campaign, \$150,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund, and \$50,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund) (new; general support)

To provide general support to Sojourners, a faith-based organization working within the evangelical community to inform and mobilize a national constituency on social justice issues, including civil rights and civil liberties. Led by Reverend Jim Wallis, Sojourners has played a critical role in defusing controversies around the proposed Islamic cultural center near Ground Zero and threats of Koran burnings, and has rallied prominent faith leaders to build interfaith understanding and respect. In the lead-up to the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Sojourners will organize Faith Table conference calls for evangelical leaders across the country and invite experts to offer recommendations based on strategic message research, development, and testing. In addition to working with partners in the evangelical community, Sojourners will work with multi-faith campaigns funded by the NSHR Campaign to support religious tolerance such as the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign and the Prepare New York Campaign. Based in Washington, D.C., Sojourners has been a force working at the intersection of faith, politics and culture in the United States and globally for forty years.

3. Out-of-Docket Grant Approved in May 2011

New America Foundation

\$35,000 over six months (renewed; project support)

To support the project, Lessons Learned: Reflections on National Security and Civil Liberties in the Post-9/11 World, a series of 14 on-line video dialogues that the New America Foundation will commission Bloggingheads.tv to develop, produce, and disseminate between June and October, 2011. Each dialogue will feature in-depth discussions lasting 30 to 60 minutes between two leading thinkers located anywhere in the world, who will challenge each other and their viewers to assess critically – against the backdrop of the emotionally charged atmospherics that the tenth anniversary of 9/11 will generate – the lessons that America as a nation should draw from its response to the threat of terrorism, and what America can do to reduce this threat while guarding civil liberties. This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority of cultivating persuasive messengers and thought leaders to challenge and dismantle the flawed “war on terror” paradigm and shift the national security paradigm to one that respects human rights and the rule of law. Based in Washington, D.C., the New America Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy institute.

4. Out-of Docket Grant To Be Recommended in June 2011

PEN American Center

\$50,000 over five months (renewed; project support)

To provide renewed support for the “Reckoning With Torture” Project, an innovative performance and film initiative that aims to raise awareness of U.S.-sponsored torture of detainees and build support for accountability. A recent grant from the NSHR Campaign enabled the PEN American Center, in collaboration with the American Civil Liberties Union and acclaimed director Doug Liman, to stage and film a “Reckoning With Torture” event at the January 2011 Sundance Film Festival. The recommended grant would cover costs for a performance held in Lincoln Center on May 24, 2011 and will enable PEN to bring the “Reckoning” project to audiences across the country, who will then be enlisted to stage and film readings in their local communities. PEN will work with the ACLU to collect video footage of these grassroots productions, which Doug Liman will intercut with the Sundance and Lincoln Center performances to create a film that delivers a national call for accountability. Founded in 1922 and based in New York City, the PEN American Center is a literary organization of 3,300 writers and is dedicated to the promotion of literature and the protection of freedom of expression and the free flow of ideas.