



SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK REPORT 2008

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

TOP LEFT Pamela Chen, "We Are Roma," page 30

TOP RIGHT Karen Robinson, "We Are British," page 38

BOTTOM LEFT Aubrey Wade, "We Are Mauritanians," page 6

BOTTOM RIGHT Jon Anderson, "We Are Dominicans," page 20

Complete photography credits appear on page 96.

SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK REPORT 2008

2	President's Message <i>A Celebration of Ongoing Work</i>
6	WE ARE MAURITANIANS
14	<i>Securing Citizenship for Millions of Stateless People</i>
20	WE ARE DOMINICANS
28	<i>Dominican by Birth, Haitian in Name Only</i>
30	WE ARE ROMA
34	<i>Roma Health Scholars Learn to Help Their People</i>
38	WE ARE BRITISH
46	Human Rights and Justice
50	Public Health
54	Education, Information, and Media
58	Other Programs
60	U.S. Programs
64	OPEN SOCIETY IN EASTERN EUROPE
70	Europe
74	Asia
77	Middle East and North Africa
78	Africa
82	Latin America and the Caribbean
84	Open Society Institute
88	Expenditures
90	Directory
96	Credits

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President's Message

A Celebration of Ongoing Work

Thirty years ago George Soros began supporting efforts to promote open society. Five years later he established a foundation in Hungary which signaled the start of the distinctive network that now operates in all parts of the globe.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAREN ROBINSON
Community police officer, Leicester, United Kingdom

Looking back over those 30 years, certain accomplishments stand out. Aside from successes in helping to promote, through an array of activities, the emergence of more open societies in particular countries, the accomplishments include global leadership in promoting freedom of information, budget transparency, and accountability for the revenues from the exploitation of natural resources; efforts to develop and make effective such institutions as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and the International Criminal Court, all of which contribute to global governance on crucial issues that must be addressed transnationally; increased access

also on the discriminatory treatment of immigrants.

In Central and Eastern Europe, including the Balkans, a major part of our work has been to address both the immediate harms and the long-term consequences of discrimination against the Roma minority. We have also addressed problems particular to certain countries, such as discrimination against ethnic Russians in Latvia and Estonia; against Albanians in Macedonia; and against Serbs in Kosovo.

In Russia, and also in Western European countries, we have worked to end ethnic profiling and initiated efforts to secure legal remedies against it. In recent years, we have also monitored the problem of discrimination

Problems associated with discrimination against minorities do not

to justice both for criminal defendants and, in civil matters, for those not able to afford legal representation; and mitigation of the devastating consequences of armed conflict.

Discrimination Against Minorities

Another area where we have been deeply engaged—and where we have had some successes, though the challenges that continue to confront us are very great—is the effort to mitigate the effects of discrimination against minorities. This aim is central to our work in many places. It has been a dominant theme of the Open Society Institute's programs in the United States where, from the start, we have focused on the particular harm done to minorities by the criminal justice system and

against Muslims in some Western European countries and we now have underway a major research and advocacy project concerned with the situation of Muslim minorities in 11 European Union cities.

In African states, denial of citizenship or nationality to certain ethnic groups is one of our important concerns. In other parts of the world, we have focused efforts on discrimination against other minority communities such as the Palestinians in Israel, Dominicans of Haitian ancestry, and the Burmese in Thailand.

Discrimination in Open Societies

This year's annual report highlights some of the activities the network has undertaken to address discrimination against minorities

in a number of countries. The issue plays such a large role in our work because the problems associated with discrimination against minorities do not necessarily diminish when countries make transitions from repressive regimes to more open societies. On the contrary, it is sometimes the case—as with respect to the Roma in the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe—that there are actually more opportunities in relatively open societies for demagogues to exploit hostility against minorities for their own political purposes.

Another common aspect of discrimination against minorities is also a significant concern at this time: discriminatory practices tend to increase during periods of financial crisis. Resentment against migrants may be particularly acute in such a crisis because they are seen as competitors for scarce jobs.

by minorities in the United States, and supported programs that assist migrants in the process of becoming citizens. We have directly engaged in precedent-setting litigation to challenge discriminatory practices and created legal programs to support this work; conducted training programs for local officials on governance of multiethnic communities; sponsored arts programs to promote cultural expression by minorities; supported minority media; and sponsored economic development programs focused on minorities—to name only a few efforts.

Underlying these activities, of course, is a belief that an essential characteristic of an open society is that all people count equally and that all should enjoy equal opportunities. Virtually every component of the network has been engaged in these efforts. In some areas, progress is frustratingly difficult; in

necessarily diminish when countries make transitions from repressive regimes to more open societies.

Also, minorities who have suffered from discrimination and marginalization may be stereotyped as disproportionate consumers of social services.

Efforts to Mitigate Discrimination

The Open Society Institute has engaged in a wide range of activities to mitigate discrimination. We have supported education programs for Roma ranging from early childhood to postgraduate training in professional disciplines, and launched programs to ensure that the Roma obtain access to health services. We have established debate programs at urban schools attended

others, we have made substantial headway. That progress is possible was, of course, affirmed in a spectacular way when a black man with the name Barack Hussein Obama was elected as president of the United States. Speaking personally as someone who was involved in the civil rights struggle in the United States half a century ago, I did not believe then that such a thing was possible in my lifetime and still find myself amazed by this achievement.

ARYEH NEIER
June 2009





WE ARE MAURITANIANS

The Open Society Institute is fighting for every person's right to citizenship, opposing the power of state authorities to exclude anyone they dislike for their race, ethnicity, politics, sexual orientation, gender, or religion.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AUBREY WADE
Returning Mauritians, Lisse Rosso, Mauritania





Exiled Mauritians in
Dagana, Senegal





Returning Mauritians in the temporary settlement of Lisse Rosso



Returned Mauritians in the village
of Medina Salam



Securing Citizenship for Millions of Stateless People

MAHMOUT DIAGNE AND HIS family were expelled in 1989 from their country, Mauritania, and informed by their government that they were no longer Mauritanian. Indeed, in its public rhetoric of Arab nationalism, the Mauritanian state suggested that the Diagne family, and the approximately 75,000 other black Mauritanians expelled with them, had never been Mauritanian in the first place.

The Diagnes joined the ranks of the stateless, who today number at least 12 million worldwide. Statelessness can be perpetrated as part of an ethnic cleansing exercise, as in the Mauritanian case, where states legally disown the citizens they do not want, expelling people, confiscating and destroying their ID cards. But statelessness can also be perpetrated through years of stonewalling, repeated denials of citizenship documents that leave individuals in limbo, still living in their country of birth, but without rights.

Statelessness is so intolerable that it impelled Mahmoud Diagne and his family to leave their home in exile, an orderly Senegalese village, when a return to Mauritania became possible. They chose to endure heat, dust, mud, thirst, and physical hardship in a windswept, bare-earth settlement of returned Mauritanians

called Lisse Rosso. There, in September 2008, as he reclined on a mat spread beside a tent he was sharing with his wife and nine children, Diagne talked about his life. He had no job. His family's food had nearly run out. And the dry season was approaching. Yet Diagne felt his struggle was worth it. For almost two decades, he had lingered in forced exile in Senegal with no identification card, no passport, no right to vote, no legal standing to hold a job or travel freely. Now, by persevering in Lisse Rosso, it seemed, Mahmoud Diagne might regain from his homeland legal recognition that he and his family were citizens in every sense.

Who Is a Citizen?

The Open Society Justice Initiative supports and pursues local, regional, and international efforts to help the world's stateless people gain or regain citizenship. "Combating statelessness challenges one of the most fundamental aspects of state sovereignty: the power of government to determine who is and is not a citizen," said James Goldston, executive director of the Open Society Justice Initiative. "Whether our focus is the rights of blacks from Mauritania, people of Haitian ancestry in the Dominican Republic, the Nubian people of Kenya,

Kenya

Denies Nubians Rights and Benefits

Many of the more than 100,000 Nubians in Kenya cannot obtain identity cards or passports and are barred from traveling, working in the formal sector, and benefiting from government services. The state's refusal to recognize Nubians as citizens encourages ethnic discrimination and hostility toward them throughout Kenya. The Justice Initiative is acting as co-counsel in a case before the African Commission, alleging that the Kenyan government's actions constitute a discriminatory denial of citizenship to the country's Nubians.

or the 'erased' people of Slovenia, the Justice Initiative aims to tear down this last bastion of discretionary prerogative by making citizenship denial and statelessness international human rights issues.”

To secure political power or to pursue the idea of a mythical national identity, many governments block or revoke the citizenship of members of particular ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups. They do so by changing the law, or simply by applying citizenship laws in discriminatory ways, consigning unwanted citizens to a state of perpetual illegitimacy by refusing to issue them the documents they need to prove their citizenship.

Discriminatory manipulation of citizenship is common in countries with ethnically or racially mixed populations that have emerged from defunct multiethnic states like the successor states to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia; in countries like Kenya, that have a colonial past and multiethnic populations; or areas of regional conflict such as Burma

or Nepal, where populations that may have moved decades or generations ago are still categorized as “refugees.”

Loss of citizenship has a devastating impact upon the victims, even if they have not been physically deported. It prevents people from sharing in the responsibilities citizenship demands. It systematically cheats people of access to public services, including health care, education, and housing. Many victims descend into extreme poverty, and too many become prey to human-trafficking and slavery networks. Depriving people of their citizenship also warps political life and can undermine the security and well-being of entire countries and regions.

The Justice Initiative has taken a leading role among the nongovernmental organizations working strategically to establish citizenship as an inalienable human right and to strengthen international law, which fails, for example, even to define the circumstances under which individuals have a right to claim citizenship of a specific

country. It has developed statements of principle on statelessness and joined with other organizations to promote their adoption by international bodies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Union.

The Justice Initiative has also launched or supported litigation aimed at resolving specific inequities that statelessness has caused. On a strategic level, it has litigated to promote the development, by international human rights tribunals, of a critical mass of legal precedent that will limit the power of governments to render people stateless and to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or ethnicity in the administration of citizenship laws and regulations.

“As a complement to other advocacy,” Goldston said, “litigation effectively spotlights the untenable justifications governments frequently offer to defend actions to withhold or withdraw citizenship, or distinguish arbitrarily between citizens and noncitizens.”

The litigation that the Justice Initiative has supported includes cases brought against the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Pakistan, Slovenia, and Zimbabwe. In the Dominican Republic, for example, the government systematically denies the rights of citizenship to Dominicans of Haitian descent. The Justice Initiative filed an amicus curiae brief that helped secure a landmark ruling in 2005 by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *Dilcia Yean and Violeta Bosico v. Dominican Republic*. The court ruled that the government discriminated on the basis of race in denying Dominicans of Haitian descent access to the rights of citizenship, and ordered it to extend citizenship rights to all Dominicans of Haitian descent. The Dominican Republic subsequently ignored

Pakistan Refuses to Admit Loyalists from Bangladesh

When Bangladesh split from Pakistan in a civil war in 1971, hundreds of thousands of people loyal to Pakistan were stranded. Pakistan has refused to accept these people, many of whom are still living in internal refugee camps. The Justice Initiative will submit an amicus brief in a case to be filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan arguing that these people had the right to choose their citizenship and Pakistan committed an arbitrary and discriminatory act in denationalizing them.

and challenged this ruling. The Justice Initiative supported a study to monitor the citizenship policies of the Dominican government since the court's ruling.

Who Is Mauritanian?

In 1989, Mauritania's Arab-dominated government revoked the citizenship of Mahmoud Diagne and an estimated 75,000 other blacks and had the police and army deport most of them into neighboring Senegal (up to 15,000 blacks were expelled to Mali). The guns just happened to be pointed primarily at black civil servants, prosperous black merchants, and black land owners, so the government found itself with

a windfall of vacant jobs and unprotected assets to distribute to Arabic-speaking loyalists. The government had reconsidered the expulsions by 1994. About half of the exiles had returned by 1997; however, many subsequently left again because they could not regain recognition of their nationality and get their lands back.

In 2000, the African Commission ruled that Mauritania had breached the African Charter when it undertook the deportations. This ruling and the installation of a new government in Mauritania during 2007 presented the Justice Initiative and its partners with an opportunity to press for the return of the rest of the black deportees lingering in Senegal. In January 2008, under United Nations auspices, a return began, and 4,760 people found their way back into Mauritania before the rainy season made further travel impossible.

“Despite the hardship it has entailed, the return to Mauritania of thousands of people who had been forcibly deported and rendered de facto stateless constitutes one of the most successful, if belated and still incomplete, efforts to combat statelessness and citizenship deprivation in recent years,” Goldston said.

The challenges of the return and the perseverance of the people who have risked making it are evident in two locations on Mauritania’s side of the Senegal River: Medina Salam, a long-established village of rice farmers with its own mosque, school, and water tower, and Lisse Rosso, the temporary, at least for now, settlement where Mahmoud Diagne and his family were placed.

Medina Salam welcomed home about 45 exiled families in the wave of returns that ended in 1997. The Mauritanian government, however, returned only half of the land that the village cooperative was holding in common on that day in 1989 when

Slovenia Denationalizes Longtime Residents

In 1996, Slovenia’s government placed the names of 18,305 longtime residents who had failed to apply for citizenship on a register of foreigners residing illegally in Slovenia, and it has since denied them social services including health care and education. The Justice Initiative has submitted arguments before the European Court of Human Rights in *Makuc, et al. v. Slovenia*, a case brought by 11 longtime residents of Slovenia who are challenging the government’s action depriving them of their legal status.

the police surrounded the place, packed practically everyone into pick-up trucks, and dumped them at a ferry crossing to Senegal. The 59 exiled families that returned in 2008 could not be absorbed back into the cooperative because, the earlier returnees say, their numbers would so dilute the profits as to make survival impossible for everyone. Many exiles who returned in 2008 became dollar-a-day farm laborers.

At a gathering of Medina Salam’s villagers in September 2008, one of these laborers, 35-year-old Modou Gueye, lamented that he and his family had consumed almost all of the wheat flour, beans, oil, and sugar they received from the United Nations. “After this aid is gone, I will barely be able to sustain

myself,” he said. “We were given cows, but I don’t have enough milk, and even the cow is sick. In Senegal, I had the opportunity to participate in a farming program with microcredit. We were able to work. When we came here we were promised land.”

“The women know they are heading for hardship,” said Gueye, who was helping to support two wives, five children, and his mother. “I left in Senegal a house with two rooms, one for each wife. Now, I have a tent that is more like an oven. And one of my wives stayed in Senegal.”

Mugabe Removes Citizenship of Opponents in Zimbabwe

Using a new law prohibiting dual nationality, President Robert Mugabe’s government has refused to issue identity cards or passports to anyone suspected of having “foreign” citizenship—in practice, those with “foreign” names—unless they formally renounced their supposed foreign citizenship. The move disenfranchised opposition supporters, commercial farmers, and independent newspaper owners. The Justice Initiative and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa are supporting cases brought in Zimbabwean courts on behalf of individuals rendered stateless by Mugabe’s decision.

Another villager at Medina Salam spent 10 days in jail after approaching the Mauritanian authorities and complaining that a local police officer had occupied his land. “We all think about going back to Senegal,” said yet another villager, Yousuf Niang, age 39. “We have seen nothing of what they promised. It is mental torture to look at your land, see someone else farming it, and not be able to get it back.”

Still, they have persevered. Some of the exiles who returned to Medina Salam have gone to seek jobs in Rosso, a nearby town, or in Mauritania’s capital, Nouakchott. But well-paying employment is difficult to find, especially when the people returning have no official Mauritanian identification card. Of the 291 persons who had returned to Medina Salam by September 2008, only two had received a personal identification card from the Mauritanian government. Others had only a receipt showing that they had been registered for a card.

Who Gets an ID Card?

Mahmout Diagne, who is 51, and his wife, Oumou Diaw, 41, were promised identification papers when they returned to Mauritania in April 2008 and set up camp in Lisse Rosso. They also believed they had been promised something to compensate for the losses Diagne suffered when he was driven from the country.

Months of uncertainty followed their return. Lisse Rosso is nothing but eight white, single-room blockhouses and a few dozen tents. Barred from planting crops, Lisse Rosso’s men risked grazing their cattle on someone else’s land or cut fodder with machetes on a nearby riverbank and carried it back in plastic bags for their sheep, goats, and cows. By September, Diagne’s family had also consumed almost all of its one-time United

Nations food allotment, which was supposed to have lasted only three months.

Oumou Diaw talked of returning to the house their family had occupied during their exile across the river in Senegal. Diagne and Diaw had been small merchants in Senegal. They managed to build a five-room house and raise a family. They took advantage of the nearby school and health care facilities. And they did not leave these assets behind without hedging their risk. They left their home in the care of a friend. They made sure there were guarantees that they could return to Senegal if Mauritania failed to honor its commitments.

Diagne speaks of working again as a merchant. He and Oumou Diaw have already set out snack foods and other items in a makeshift kiosk in a metal locker standing on the bare earth outside his tent. Diaw said that life for her has become tougher in Mauritania. "Here you have to go into the bush to collect cooking wood," she said. "Then you have to walk to the market, and it is a long way. Then, when you come back, you go to collect water and cook under the sun."

"I am not used to the dust and the heat, but I am back at home," she said. "It is not exciting, but I am back at home."

Diagne clutched his tattered Koran. "A man sometimes has to face hardship," he said, "and to trust in God to change things."

Thousands of Mauritanian exiles still in Senegal have signed up to make their way back to their homeland. They have heard about unfulfilled promises and the hardship in Lisse Rosso and other settlements on the Mauritanian side of the river.

In Dagana, a Senegalese village just across the river from Medina Salam, Amadou Sy, 36, described life in Lisse Rosso for his neighbors. "I was very excited after 19 years, I was going to get back all my rights," he

said. "But when I saw my rights were gone, I was disappointed. We were supposed to spend no more than 15 days in temporary tents. Nothing was done. They [the United Nations refugee-relief agency] said we'd get identification cards from the Mauritanian government. Nothing. I sold my cow and calf and started to trade. I realized I couldn't do anything with that, so I returned."

Amadou Sy's neighbor, Mansour Harouna, who was 24 when the Mauritanian government expelled him, heard Sy lament about Lisse Rosso. But Harouna has not struck his name from the list of exiles who have signed up to return. "It is not because I am suffering here," Harouna said. "I earn a respectable living breeding cattle. In Mauritania, I will be living in a hut or a tent. But I am going back."

"It is a matter of principle," he insisted. "My parents are still there. And I would be returning to their village. We have been living there for five centuries."

OSI ONLINE

Learn more about the global problem of statelessness and efforts to secure citizenship rights for all people.

www.soros.org/ar08/stateless





“My parents are Haitian
but not me, I am Dominican.

I was born here.

My children need their IDs
and birth certificates to go
to university. If they don't
have those documents, it is
as if they don't exist. Without
studies, what's their life?
Nothing. To the left of zero.”

MARIA

WE ARE DOMINICANS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON ANDERSON

Maria, standing in middle, with her family, Dominican Republic



“They told me they wouldn’t register my son. They said I have a Haitian last name. But I am Dominican. If you are born here, you are Dominican, that’s the law. You could be the child of French, Chinese parents, doesn’t matter. But they didn’t want to register the boy.” **JAVIER, HUSBAND OF RUTH**



"I am Dominican. Both of my parents are Dominican. They suggested I register the boy on my own. I said no. This is my country and I am married. He is the father of the boy. I am not going to register him alone." **RUTH, WIFE OF JAVIER**



“When my daughter was born, I went to register her to get health insurance. They said, ‘We don’t give documents to children of immigrants! That was a shock because I don’t know anything about Haiti. That’s my parents’ country, but I am Dominican. This attacks the lives of so many people. It’s like civil genocide. Without identity we are nobody.” **DANILO**









“I am a lawyer, I was born here. I have a wife and children here. I have bank accounts. I have a piece of land and a small business. **I love my country**, and I am going to fight for my nationality. I am selling my grocery shop, selling my land. Why? If they deny my nationality, don't you think they could take away my right to property? To fight, I shouldn't have anything.” **DIONISIO**

Dominican by Birth, Haitian in Name Only

FOR AN UPSTANDING, native-born citizen of the Dominican Republic, renewing a passport should be a simple task. Bring an official copy of a birth certificate, the current passport, photos, and any other required identification documents. Fill out the forms. Stand in line. Pay the fee. Take a receipt. Wait.

As an upstanding, native-born citizen of the Dominican Republic, this is what Dionisio assumed. He wanted to renew his Dominican passport to prepare for an upcoming visit to his wife's parents in the United States. So he went to a government office and stood in line for an official copy of his birth certificate. The young clerk was polite when she told Dionisio that she could not issue the document. She advised Dionisio to take his request to a judge.

Dionisio was standing as he spoke to the judge, because the judge had not offered him a seat. Dionisio thought this was odd. Dionisio is well known in his community, and as much a Dominican and as much an officer of the court as the judge herself.

Dionisio had worked his way through college in a job with a pineapple-canning company. He had become a lawyer, and a Dominican university issued the diploma hanging on a wall in his home. His wife, a Dominican citizen, is also an attorney. They have four children, all native-born

Dominicans. Dionisio owns his home, a small grocery store, and some property. He has a firearms license, credit cards, and bank accounts.

He has known for years that Article 11 of his country's constitution recognizes the Dominican citizenship of anyone born on the country's territory, except infants born to diplomats or foreigners "in transit"—understood for decades to mean those in the country for fewer than 10 days. Dionisio's parents—a sugar cane cutter and a bread seller who immigrated five decades ago from neighboring Haiti—raised their five children in the Dominican Republic, and lived there as legal residents for decades.

Dionisio remained standing as the judge answered: "I can't give it to you because you have a Haitian last name."

"How is this possible?" Dionisio asked. "Look at my parents' papers." Dionisio presented the documents with registry numbers and official stamps. He showed the state residency permit his father had used to travel out of the Dominican Republic in 1976.

The judge replied: "I have orders not to give a birth certificate to anyone who has a Haitian last name, because we are purifying our municipality."

Dionisio was still standing when he absorbed the sting of the word purify.

The Dominican Republic is home to about 9.8 million people, hundreds of thousands of whom are Dominicans of Haitian descent. Their ancestors came from Haiti to find work—often on the sugar plantations. This journey was not uncommon nor was it discouraged; thousands came with the express permission of the Dominican government. Despite welcoming workers from Haiti, the government has never hesitated to use Haitians and their offspring as scapegoats for the country’s economic or political problems.

Dominicans of Haitian descent are just like other Dominican citizens. They are teachers, lawyers, and doctors; they pay taxes and are active in their communities. Born on Dominican soil, they are just as much citizens as Dominicans without Haitian ancestry. But now, the country’s leaders claim that practically every person in the country with a Haitian last name—even Dominicans of Haitian descent who have parents or grandparents born in the Dominican Republic—are no longer citizens, despite previously having been recognized as citizens by the state.

The Open Society Justice Initiative has worked since 2005 to help ensure that all citizens of the Dominican Republic, regardless of their ethnic background, can exercise their right to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship: to access state health care, to obtain public education for their children, to vote and to run for political office, and to obtain basic documents, including birth certificates and passports. To this end, the Justice Initiative supports monitoring and documentation efforts in the Dominican Republic. It is providing advisory assistance for ongoing strategic litigation.

In its decision in *Dilcia Yean and Violeta Bosico v. Dominican Republic*, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held that no state can deny citizenship to native-born

children based upon the immigration status of their parents. It ordered the Dominican government to stop discriminating against persons of Haitian descent. The Justice Initiative filed an amicus brief in the case.

Instead of complying with the court’s order, the government effectively began denying even more Dominicans of Haitian descent the rights attached to citizenship. Today, government offices refuse to issue lifelong Dominican citizens like Dionisio certified copies of birth certificates and other documents that the government had issued lawfully for decades.

Dionisio has contacted other Dominicans of Haitian descent to stand and resist the government’s actions, which are threatening to push them into the limbo of statelessness. The majority of them, however, are not willing to do anything because of their fear of losing what few benefits they still enjoy. He too is afraid.

“Why?” Dionisio asked. “Because if they can take away my nationality, they can take anything away from me. Without my identity papers, I am nobody.”

But Dionisio is ready to fight for his rights.

“All I’m asking is that we respect the existing laws.”

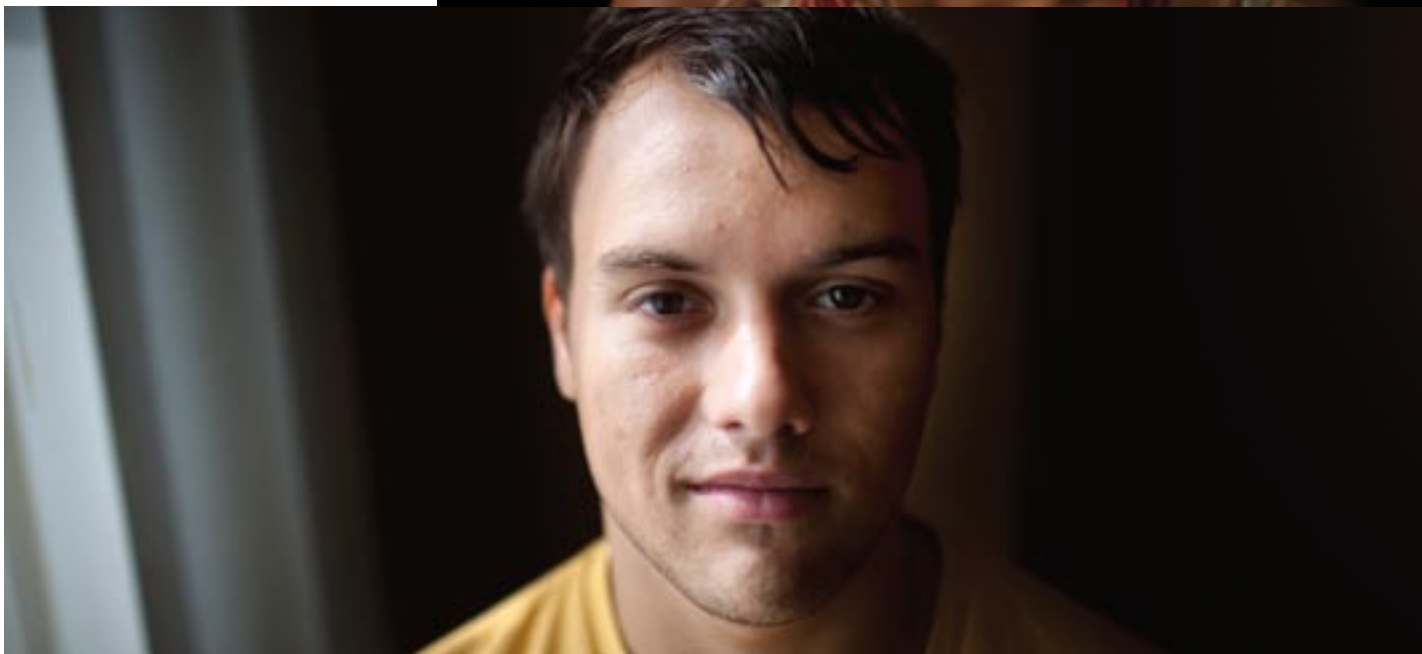
OSI ONLINE

View videos of Dionisio and other Dominicans of Haitian descent telling their personal stories of discrimination, identity, love, and fear.

www.soros.org/ar08/dominicans

Roma health scholars, studying to become doctors, nurses, and pharmacologists, will help transform health care, shattering stereotypes while combating the discriminatory treatment of Roma patients.

WE
ROMA ARE





At a camp before the start of medical school classes, Roma health scholar applicants learn to become effective advocates for Roma rights in health care settings.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAMELA CHEN



Roma health scholars listen to Lacatus Codrea, the *bulibasa*, or elder, of Vanatori, Romania, describe the hardships endured by Roma in his community.



Roma Health Scholars Learn to Help Their People

DURING HIS DECADES as the elder, or *bulibasa*, of a community of about 250 Roma living in the eastern foothills of Romania's Carpathian Mountains, 60-year-old Lacatus Codrea has gathered many insights tempered by adversity.

Codrea saw a mob torch his community, chase the people into a forest, and use automobiles to raze every structure the flames had spared. "We were not allowed to rebuild our homes," he said. Fifteen years passed as he pleaded with local officials to issue the Roma building permits so they could improve the dirt-floored shanties they had clapped together to shelter themselves and their children.

For decades, Codrea watched helplessly as neighbors succumbed to violence and alcohol abuse. He saw children grow to adulthood without being vaccinated, and pregnant Roma women go without visiting a doctor. He still sees the confused gazes of undernourished Roma infants.

Codrea has looked into the dazed eyes of his own 13-year-old granddaughter, Adina, who was partially paralyzed for hours after touching a live power cable; and he erupted in anger at doctors and nurses who refused to examine and treat her.

Yet, despite all he has seen, Codrea has helped convince the people of his

community to emerge from behind walls of mistrust.

On a September morning in 2008, Codrea shared his experiences and insights with participants in an unprecedented new initiative of the Open Society Institute and the Roma Education Fund to improve medical care for Roma in Central and Eastern Europe by addressing the paucity of Roma medical professionals. In the autumn semester of 2008, the Open Society Institute began funding scholarships for 35 Roma students pursuing degrees in medicine, nursing, pharmacology, and related disciplines at accredited schools and universities in Romania.

On that dreary September morning, the program brought scholarship applicants and their mentors to Vanatori to meet and take counsel from Codrea and others in the Roma community. Partners of the Open Society Institute's Roma Health Project considered it critical for the students to visit Roma settlements like Vanatori. With few exceptions, the scholarship applicants were Roma who had schooling and jobs, and who resided in integrated neighborhoods in towns and cities.

The students had to learn firsthand about the hardships endured by less-fortunate Roma who huddle in substandard housing

on the fringes of the greater society. They resort to begging or toil in the lowest-paying jobs. They lack educational opportunities and navigate the world through the fog of illiteracy. They lack health insurance and the money to pay doctors the informal “gratuity” the doctors have come to expect, and depend upon, to augment their low salaries.

In some countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the average life expectancy for the Roma is 10 years less than the average for the majority population, and the infant mortality rates for Roma are twice as high. Throughout the region, Roma suffer disproportionate rates of tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, viral hepatitis, Type-2 diabetes, coronary artery disease, adult obesity, malnutrition, anemia, dystrophy, and childhood rickets. Human rights groups have even documented instances of emergency services failing to respond to calls for help from places inhabited by Roma.

A crucial element of the Open Society Institute’s effort to help break down the barriers that keep the Roma from accessing health care services is the Roma Health Project, a part of OSI’s Public Health Program. With other programs and grantees in the Soros foundations network, the Roma Health Project is fostering the development of sound public health policies across Central and Eastern Europe—and especially in six priority countries, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. It has initiated programs to respond to the challenges of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and drug addiction.

Bringing Harm Reduction to a Roma Community

The Roma Health Project helped a nongovernmental organization launch Bulgaria’s first methadone program in a

Suing to Improve Health Care

The European Committee of Social Rights in 2008 announced that it would take up a complaint filed by an OSI partner, the European Roma Rights Centre, alleging that Bulgaria has systematically denied Roma access to health care. The complaint charges that the Bulgarian government has violated EU regulations by, among other things, not taking any measures to end widespread discriminatory practices against Roma by doctors and other health care practitioners. “The Bulgarian government, like the governments of other countries with large Roma populations, has taken on many obligations in joining the European Union,” said Robert Kushen, managing director of the European Roma Rights Centre. “But they have yet to live up to these obligations.”

Roma community. “This is important, because drug use in the Roma community is taboo, and it is problematic even to talk about HIV prevention and sexually transmitted diseases,” said Eva Foldes, program coordinator of the Roma Health Project. “Until now, Roma have not had access to a culturally tailored harm reduction program.

This program brings harm reduction right into their community.”

Righting the Wrong of Coerced Sterilization

The Roma Health Project is supporting an advocacy campaign aimed at obtaining justice and compensation for Roma women who have been victims of coerced sterilization. The campaign was launched at the 2008 Women’s World Congress, where activists organized a panel discussion on the issue and promoted efforts to contact officials in Hungary and the Czech Republic. Roma activists subsequently met with government officials in the two countries and urged them to support the amendment of laws on sterilization and provide compensation for victims of coerced sterilization.

Raising Awareness of the Grim Realities of Roma Health

The Roma Health Project in 2008 worked to raise awareness in the English-speaking world about the deplorable health care problems faced by so many Roma in Romania by supporting the translation and distribution of investigative articles commissioned from a number of Romanian newspapers in collaboration with the Center for Independent Journalism in Bucharest.

The newspaper *Ziarul de Vrancea*, for example, discovered that, due to a lack of medical personnel and infrastructure, Roma living in Romania’s Vrancea County—who suffer a high rate of infant mortality and a relatively high incidence of measles, tuberculosis, lice, and chronic diseases—have difficulty gaining access to public health services. In another article, *Dacii Liberi* focused on a Roma health mediator in Nocrich working to improve

the Roma community’s access to health care by organizing courses to train new health mediators as liaisons between the Roma community and local health care providers.

Roma Health Mediators

The Open Society Institute and its partners have in recent years helped broaden the skill sets of Roma health mediators in Romania and introduce the Roma health-mediator concept to Ukraine and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. These mediators inform Roma of their rights, and document cases of discrimination in health care settings. They help Roma obtain necessary documents that give them access to state health care services. They help effect vaccination campaigns. They calm tempers when disagreements arise between Roma and medical professionals.

One health mediator, Carmen Andrei, called upon the bulibasa, Lacatus Codrea, in an attempt to enroll the Roma of Vanatori in a mass vaccination program. Andrei pleaded with the Roma for over a year, and they did not respond. It was a matter of mistrust and, Codrea said, miscommunication.

Even though Andrei was herself a Roma, Vanatori’s Roma considered her a *gajo*, someone from outside the Roma community. Codrea said, “The first time she came in, she started talking and didn’t stop for half an hour. Back then, when someone tried to give me advice that was good for me, I would ask myself, ‘Why is he giving me this advice?’ I had no trust.” Codrea said the change came when Andrei learned to listen. Andrei said a measles outbreak convinced the Roma of Vanatori to have their children vaccinated and to get vaccinated themselves.

“Now, if she speaks,” Codrea said, “it is impossible for people not to listen to her. Now the local general practitioner knows

all of us. The women go to the doctor. The children are vaccinated. The problem now lies with the hospital. The doctors in nearby hospitals expect to be paid a tip, *baksheesh*, to provide care. If you don't have the money, you die outside."

Medical Scholarships for Roma Students

One goal of the Roma Health Scholarship Program is to increase significantly the presence of Roma doctors in Romania's hospitals, not just to treat patients, but to combat discrimination and human rights abuses. Greater interaction with Roma doctors and nurses can counter negative stereotypes among health professionals about the Roma, and the Roma themselves will feel more comfortable seeking health care.

The recipients of the first Roma Health Scholarship were selected on the basis of academic merit, professional motivation, and leadership skills. The applicants attended Open Society Institute-supported training programs to help them become effective advocates for Roma rights in health care settings. The field trip of scholarship applicants to Vanatori was a part of this training, and it included resident physicians participating as mentors. They too crowded into the sitting room to hear the bulibasa. Most of them had also never visited a Roma settlement like Vanatori.

The students and residents listened in silence as the bulibasa told of Andrei's communication problem, of the lack of vaccinations, and of how, two years earlier, he had come upon his granddaughter Adina lying still on the ground next to the power cable. Codrea took her in a horse cart to a nearby clinic. In the clinic's car they went to a hospital, then to a pediatric center, and then back to the hospital. "The first doctor didn't

want to touch me," said Adina. "I was sick to my stomach and my feet and hands were paralyzed. He did not want to touch me."

Codrea argued with a doctor and finally took Adina into a room and put her on a table. "The doctor was unhappy," he said. "He was threatening. And I think I spoke badly, but the child was worse and worse, and I had waited for two hours." Adina spent several weeks in the hospital recovering from electrocution.

Codrea advised the students and mentors that they had to adjust the way they speak when dealing with Roma: "This is a group that gets angry easily. When they talk loud, it doesn't mean that they are bad. They think this is the way to get action. You have to be patient. You have to listen. If you don't, the person will conclude that you have something against them."

After several hours, the students and mentors left. "I have heard of places like this," said Corina Stanciu, a medical student from the city of Ploesti. "I have seen Roma begging on the streets, but I haven't seen Roma like these. Where I live, Roma have houses, not like this."

"I could not want to be a doctor any more than I want to be one now."

OSI ONLINE

Read more about barriers to health care for Roma in articles by investigative journalists in Romania.
www.soros.org/ar08/romafellows

WE ARE BRITISH

Muslims are a long-standing and integral part of the fabric of European cities such as Leicester in the United Kingdom, yet many experience discrimination and suspicion. The Open Society Institute is monitoring conditions in multicultural communities to promote inclusion and equality.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAREN ROBINSON





“I do feel integrated because I feel comfortable and I feel I belong here.

Malaysia sort of tugs at the heart strings when I go there, but I know I don't fit in there. Even here in Leicester, which is cited as a city where integration has been fairly successful, you can see clearly that there are still silo communities.” **PARVIN ALI**, founder and chief executive officer of the **FATIMA Women's Network**







“Yes, I am new compared to others. But I feel that I have lived in Leicester forever. I would define myself as **European, Somali, Muslim**—you know, a lot of definitions. In Leicester, no matter your background, whether you’re black, or white, or Asian, or Muslim, or Christian, or Sikh, people have respect for you.” **JAWAAHIR DAAHIR**, managing director of the Somali Development Services



“Do we take a snapshot and freeze it in time and say, this is what it’s like to be British? I believe to be British is fluid. What is British today, in 20 years will change again. But as long as we have a common vision for the country and for all its inhabitants, that to me is to be British.” **SULEMAN NAGDI**, community activist with St. Philip’s Centre and the Muslim Burial Council





“I am from Lancashire, born and raised in Lancashire. So I consider myself a Lancashire lass. Other people may have an issue with seeing me as British. But that’s their issue, not mine. Even if I migrate to the other side of the world, I would never question my Britishness.”

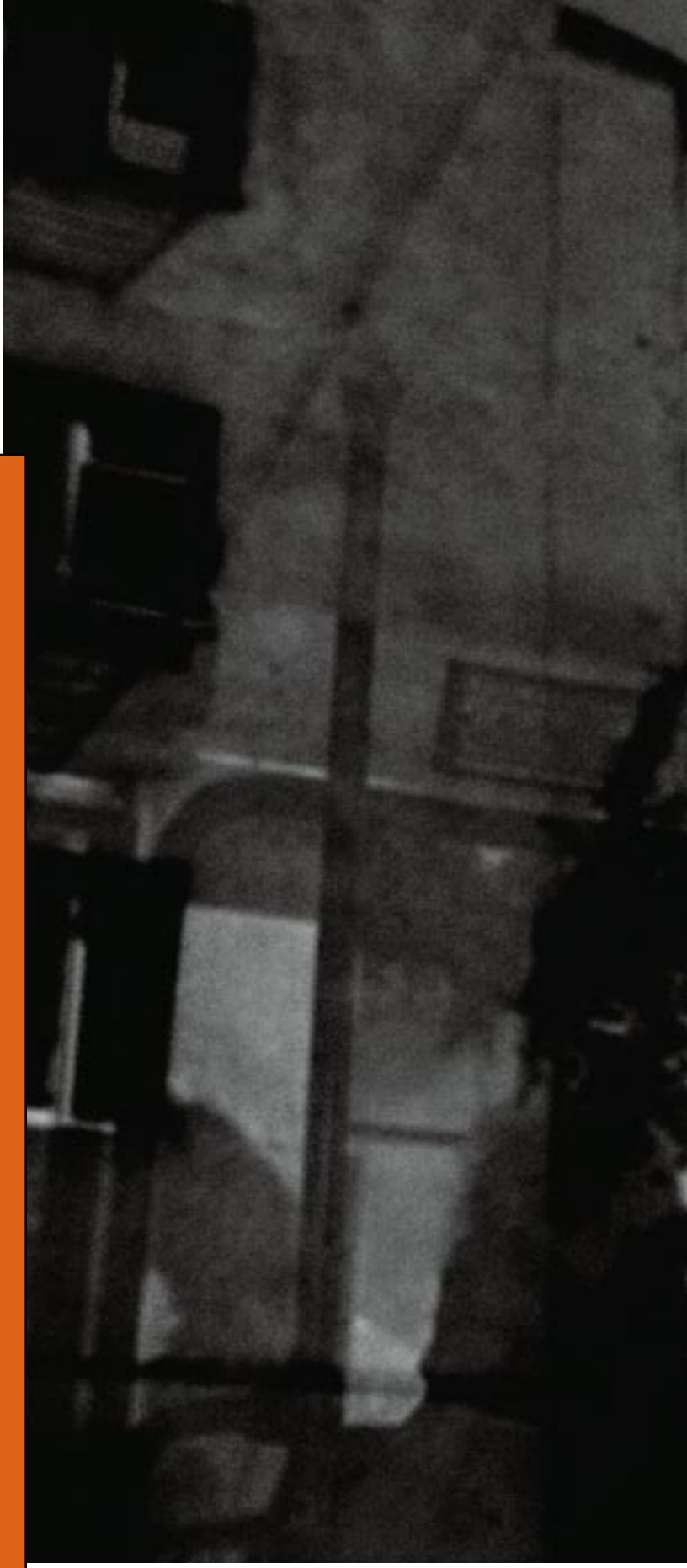
SUGHRA AHMED, researcher, Islamic Foundation

Human Rights and Justice

The protection of human rights and the pursuit of justice are priorities for the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. OSI programs deal with a range of rights issues, working to increase access to information and international justice, prohibit the arbitrary use of pretrial detention, promote the inclusion of Roma, and reduce discrimination and violence against women.

Rights and Justice

Through litigation, legal advocacy, technical assistance, and the dissemination of knowledge, the Open Society Justice Initiative works to advance freedom of information and expression, anticorruption efforts, international justice, equality and citizenship, and national criminal justice.





A woman displaced by fighting in Gori, Georgia | MARCUS BLEASDALE

The Justice Initiative's report *The Price of Silence: The Growing Threat of Soft Censorship in Latin America* found rampant government interference with press freedom in seven Latin American countries, including evidence of direct government payments to journalists in Colombia and Peru. After a four-year campaign by the Justice Initiative and a local partner, Chile adopted a law that recognizes the public's right to information held by government entities and requires officials to respond to requests within 20 days.

In its efforts to uncover resource corruption, the Justice Initiative helped file a complaint in Spain against officials of Equatorial Guinea who used millions of dollars of oil revenues to purchase Spanish real estate while the majority of their country's people live on less than \$1 a day.

The Open Society Institute is a longtime proponent of international justice—the process of prosecuting high level perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities. In 2008, the Justice Initiative launched a website to cover the trial of Thomas Lubanga, accused of recruiting child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lubanga's trial, which began in early 2009, is the first before the International Criminal Court.

On any given day, an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide are held in pretrial detention. The excessive and arbitrary use of pretrial detention violates individual rights and threatens public health, a message that OSI presented at the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.

The Justice Initiative continued to combat discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities, including

the increase in government policies denying or stripping away citizenship rights through mass expulsion, arbitrary administrative action, and insurmountable bureaucratic requirements.

Work on criminal justice reform is complemented by Justice Initiative efforts to bolster legal capacity through support for university-based legal aid clinics and national legal aid programs.

Rights and Governance

The Human Rights and Governance Grants Program in 2008 developed over 150 projects and issued grants that helped promote human rights, accountability, and rule of law in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia. Two grantees, Mental Disability Rights International and the Hungarian Mental Health Interest Forum, worked with disability rights NGOs to draft and prompt the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The convention is the first legally binding document that recognizes the rights to inclusion and nondiscrimination of people with disabilities. Green Salvation, a grantee in Kazakhstan, filed a successful lawsuit in the nation's Supreme Court that gave the NGO access to information about atmospheric emissions at a Kazakh oil and gas field. The court recognized UN standards on access to information, public participation in decision making, and environmental justice matters as mandatory in its ruling.

The rights of people with disabilities, public access to information, and criminal justice are also priority issues for OSI's Special Initiatives Fund, which in 2008 provided funding for groups that

helped promote the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

OSI's Global Drug Policy program, launched in early 2008, advocates for drug policy reform based on human rights and public health principles. A priority for the program in 2008 was helping grantees participate in policy discussions and conduct advocacy activities, including demonstrations, leading up to the UN High Level Meeting on Drugs in March 2009.

OSI also supported democratic and effective governance through its Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative. The initiative's policy advocacy trainings increased in 2008 and expanded to West Africa. It supported efforts to advance political decentralization in South Eastern Europe and to generate projects for Roma inclusion with EU funding in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia.

Roma

OSI's Roma Initiatives seeks to increase the ability of Roma to participate in public life, to advocate for systemic policy changes prohibiting discrimination, and to challenge negative images and stereotyping of Roma.

Roma Initiatives in 2008 continued to support internships, training, and fellowships to increase the skills of Roma. These included internships at the European Commission and other government entities, policy writing and advocacy trainings, scholarships for English language training, and an arts and culture mentoring project. In Macedonia, a management fellow mentored by foundation staff became an advisor to the country's minister without portfolio for the Decade of

Roma Inclusion.

Work to advance the Decade remained a major priority. Roma Initiatives provided support for DecadeWatch, which issued online monitoring reports that revealed problems in national action plans for Roma inclusion. Funding to increase Roma women's participation in society went to Roma NGOs working on assistance for Roma refugees and displaced women and children, access to health services and reproductive rights, and access to the labor market.

Roma Initiatives supported media, arts, and culture projects to promote dialogue and challenge negative attitudes toward Roma. OSI funded *Looking for My Gypsy Roots*, broadcast by the BBC, and documentaries about Roma issues on Hungary's Duna TV. Five Roma journalists who interned at Hungarian Public Television and Radio received jobs at major Hungarian TV stations as reporters, writers, or anchors.

OSI supported a recruitment drive to increase the number of Roma in law enforcement in Hungary. To draw international attention to the plight of Roma in Italy, OSI and partner organizations documented mistreatment of Roma by Italian authorities at OSCE, European Commission, and European Union meetings.

Women

The International Women's Program, working mostly in conflict or postconflict countries, seeks to reduce discrimination and violence against women, strengthen women's access to justice, and increase women's role as decision makers and leaders.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, the program supported the creation of the

Women's Law Center to provide legal aid to women affected by the conflict; monitor court trials; and conduct trainings for lawyers, judges, state attorneys, and law enforcement agencies. Women for Women International, a grantee in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, trained men who are influential community leaders to understand their roles in protecting and reintegrating survivors of rape and sexual violence.

Advocacy by KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation, an OSI grantee in Lebanon, helped bring about an unprecedented government statement pledging to end violence against women by working for legislation in favor of women's rights. *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo*, supported by the program, helped raise international awareness about the issue; a research project helped organizations develop effective policies against sexual violence.

The program also supports initiatives that increase judicial responsiveness to women's rights and reduce the obstacles that prevent women from accessing justice. OSI grantee medica mondiale helped strengthen the interaction of courts, women's groups, and victim organizations to achieve justice for war rape survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

To advance the role of women as leaders, OSI supported the participation of women in peace talks for northern Uganda and the attendance of NGO representatives at the annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. After a two-year advocacy campaign, the Soros foundation in Kyrgyzstan helped win a parliamentary quota for women, making the legislative body one-quarter female.

Investigating CIA-run Black Sites in Poland

The Justice Initiative and partner organizations in Europe are using freedom of information requests to investigate rights abuses related to the U.S. "war on terror." In Poland, these efforts paid off in 2008 when the chief prosecutor opened an official investigation into the existence of CIA-run "black sites" in the country and the possible complicity of Polish agents in torture and other rights abuses.

OSI ONLINE

Read reporting and commentary on the trial of Thomas Lubanga, who is accused of conscripting child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
www.lubangatrial.org



HIV-positive patients at temporary treatment shelter in Rangoon, Burma | CHRISTIAN HOLST



Public Health

The Open Society Institute's Public Health Program seeks to build societies committed to inclusion, human rights, and justice, in which health-related laws, policies, and practices reflect these values and are based on scientific evidence. The program works to advance the health and human rights of people in marginalized communities by strengthening civil society organizations and leaders, and advocating for greater accountability and transparency in health policy and practice.

Harm Reduction

With nearly one in three new HIV infections outside of Africa resulting from injecting drug use, the International Harm Reduction Development program worked in 20 countries of Eastern Europe and Asia to ensure that drug users have equitable access to HIV prevention and treatment, and protection from abuse at the hands of police or medical personnel. The program has led an international effort to denounce human rights violations committed in the name of drug treatment, such as flogging drug users or chaining them to hospital beds. It supported new projects in Russia to provide people who use illegal drugs with the same standard of AIDS treatment that other HIV-positive people receive.

The program supported national efforts to raise awareness about effective, evidence-based treatment, and conducted trainings and presentations at regional and international AIDS conferences to counter the misconception that HIV-positive drug users are incapable of adhering to antiretroviral medications. With support from the Canadian International Development Agency, the program piloted harm reduction services for women in Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine.

Palliative Care

The International Palliative Care Initiative worked in resource-poor countries to establish palliative care as a fundamental part of health care and to ensure the availability of essential drugs for pain relief and symptom management. The initiative helped pave the way for national palliative care plans in Romania and Ukraine, and organized a seminar

for nurses from Central and Eastern Europe and workshops in Namibia, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

Law and Health

The Law and Health Initiative promoted the integration of legal services into diverse health care settings to advance human rights, human dignity, and open society. In collaboration with others, the initiative supported a project in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda that links palliative care providers with legal experts to ensure that legal barriers facing patients, including restrictions on pain medications, are adequately addressed.

An investigation into patients' rights in Kyrgyzstan, involving interviews with people with physical and mental disabilities, sex workers, and people who use drugs, revealed shocking evidence of widespread human rights violations and abuses in hospitals and clinics. A publication opposing the criminalization of HIV transmission or exposure outlined why criminalization is ineffective, and harmful to public health and the human rights of people living with HIV, especially women.

Mental Health

In an unprecedented agreement with the Open Society Mental Health Initiative, the government of Macedonia agreed to move people with intellectual disabilities out of institutions and into supported housing to live as equal citizens in local communities. Similarly, in Serbia, the initiative's technical and financial support has helped make community-based housing a viable alternative to institutional placement.

In Moldova, the initiative supported

projects aimed at preventing the institutionalization of children with disabilities by providing inclusive education services and fostering greater community support for families with disabled children, thus creating alternatives to placing children in institutional care. In Romania, the initiative supported the development of a model employment program that has successfully ensured employment on the open market for more than 60 people with intellectual disabilities.

Roma Health

The Roma Health Project promoted the equal access of Roma to appropriate and quality health care services. Working with the European Roma Rights Centre, the project developed an advocacy training program on the right to health care, and held the first training workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria, focusing on the health rights of Roma women. Responding to the lack of Roma in medical professions, OSI and the Roma Education Fund launched a scholarship program helping Roma students across Central and Eastern Europe to pursue medical and nursing studies. For more on Roma health issues, including the scholarship program, see pages 34–37.

Sexual Health and Rights

Sex workers in Cambodia joined together to demand an end to police violence and extortion with support from the Sexual Health and Rights Project, which aims to advance the health and health-related rights of sex workers and sexual and gender minorities. The project launched efforts in eastern and southern Africa

to address health and human rights issues critical to sex workers and sexual minorities. It helped produce an HIV prevalence study of men who have sex with men in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa, showing that no resources are allocated to this at-risk population.

Tuberculosis and HIV

The Public Health Watch project worked to strengthen meaningful and sustained engagement by affected communities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of TB, HIV, and TB/HIV policies, programs, and practices. It launched a new grant initiative to support monitoring and advocacy to reduce the burden of TB on people living with HIV in eastern and southern Africa. With project support, migrant workers in southern Africa met with government officials and health experts to press for TB prevention and treatment programs for the mining industry. Public Health Watch participated in the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which for the first time addressed important links between TB and HIV, and organized a briefing for UN representatives prior to the first-ever HIV-TB Global Leaders Forum.

The Public Health Program also supports efforts to increase access to drugs and diagnostics to treat neglected diseases in developing countries, and works with the media to increase public awareness of health and human rights issues, especially those involving marginalized populations. It supports budget analyses by civil society groups to strengthen advocacy campaigns on mental health, palliative care, Roma health, and harm reduction. It also works to strengthen civil society involvement in the decision-making processes of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and to increase the fund's investments in projects focused on HIV prevention, care, and treatment for women, girls, and sexual minorities.

Bringing Human Rights to the Center of the AIDS Response

At the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, the Public Health Program and its partners raised awareness of the critical need to include human rights in the global AIDS response. OSI and a coalition of human rights and AIDS organizations held the first global rally on human rights and HIV and AIDS, which brought together more than 1,000 activists and people affected by the epidemic. During the rally, the OSI-produced declaration “Human Rights and HIV/AIDS: Now More Than Ever,” endorsed by over 600 organizations worldwide, was presented to high-level officials. The declaration calls on governments and international donors to protect the human rights of stigmatized groups, including sexual minorities, people who use drugs, sex workers, and incarcerated persons.

OSI ONLINE

*View **A Light in the Dark**, a multimedia piece about a mobile clinic for drug users in St. Petersburg, Russia. www.soros.org/ar08/light*



A school teacher reviews student work in Narok, Kenya | MARVILACAR



Education, Information, and Media

Expanding access to education and information and promoting quality, independent journalism are priorities for the Open Society Institute. In 2008, OSI supported debate programs in the Middle East, copyright exemptions for online materials benefiting the visually impaired, and news coverage of Cyclone Nargis in Burma.

Education

The education programs of the Open Society Institute work to promote the inclusion of children from marginalized communities, advance higher education in the humanities and social sciences, and empower young people to become active citizens.

The Early Childhood Program works globally to promote human development, parent and community engagement, and government accountability in early childhood development. The program continues to work throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States to promote accessibility and quality of services for vulnerable children. In 2008, the program initiated a multiyear evaluation of its *Getting Ready for School* initiative, which has been piloted in 10 countries and seeks to improve home learning environments for children who do not attend formal preschools.

The program launched postgraduate programs in child development at BRAC University in Bangladesh, and supported the analysis and development of policies for young children by the Ministry of Education in Liberia.

The Education Support Program collaborated with Soros foundations to advocate for the special education needs of vulnerable children. The program helped develop standards for curricula that included civic education and human rights in Armenia and produced a guide on inclusive educational practices in Serbia. Soros foundations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan reviewed national policies on children with special education needs and supported demonstration projects.

A project in Lubombo, Swaziland, helped orphans and vulnerable children, particularly those affected by HIV and AIDS, access education.

The program worked directly with the Ministry of Education in Liberia to assist efforts to reconstruct the primary education system, including the creation of an efficient funding mechanism. In Mongolia, an education center established by the Mongolian Education Alliance provided computer and sign language training to deaf and hard of hearing children and helped launch the country's first college course for educating deaf students and the first curriculum for deaf kindergarten children.

Studies supported by the program revealed how informal payments contribute to educational inequality in seven countries, and highlighted the educational exclusion of migrant and marginalized communities in Europe.

The International Higher Education Support Program, which promotes the advancement of higher education within the humanities and social sciences—primarily across Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia—provides financial and technical assistance to a network of institutions, ranging from undergraduate universities to doctoral programs and centers for advanced study. In 2008, the program expanded the work of its Academic Fellowship Program with 64 new returning scholars joining the 105 scholars who had previously renewed their work with the fellowship program. OSI's Network Scholarship Programs and the Higher Education Support Program started an effort to help academic institutions and scholars in Africa respond to climate change.

The Network Scholarship Programs continued to assist outstanding students in pursuing their studies in different academic settings, and then returning to contribute to their home countries. Hossain Ali Ramoz, executive director of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the program's first Afghan communications grantee, used televised open lectures at the University of Ottawa, Canada, to raise awareness about the human rights situation in Afghanistan. To support the projects of alumni, the program funded social work program graduates Altantsetseg Batsukh and Oyut-Erdene Namdaldagva to correct the lack of recognition of issues related to HIV, AIDS, and other STIs in academic social work programs in Mongolia.

The Open Society Institute Youth Initiative supports debate programs for young people, funds youth-designed projects, and promotes youth as partners in all aspects of OSI's work. The Network Debate Program, which has developed debate programs in over 50 countries, continued to expand its work by targeting Arabic-speaking youth in the Middle East and North Africa and creating a Mandarin debate program for Chinese university students.

The Youth Initiative awarded small grants to projects in Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Nepal, Russia, Serbia, and Uganda. In Uganda, funding went to projects ranging from the protection of the country's wetlands to the promotion of technology in remote areas. In Istanbul, Turkey, the program supported an international BarCamp, where participants used the web to discuss issues in an interactive, open

setting. The camp brought together OSI programs, foundations, grantees, consultants, and young activists to share their work on topics such as creating web communities for marginalized youth, and advocating for national youth policies.

Information

OSI's Information Program works to increase public access to knowledge, facilitate civil society communication, and protect civil liberties and the freedom to communicate in the digital environment. The program gives particular attention to the information needs of disadvantaged groups and less developed parts of the world.

The Information Program helped develop an Access to Knowledge advocacy coalition, which in 2008 concentrated on persuading the World Intellectual Property Organization to establish copyright exemptions that allow the creation of large nonprofit collections of online materials for the benefit of developing nations and disenfranchised populations such as visually impaired people.

The program worked with the Shuttleworth Foundation to launch the Cape Town Open Education Declaration to build a global movement for textbooks and other educational resources that can be freely translated and adapted around the world. It funded BarCamps that brought together social activists and technologists to address the technological needs of NGOs in Central Asia, the Baltics, and the Caucasus. And it promoted open information policies by working with both corporations and human rights groups to create the Global Network Initiative for protecting the rights of information technology users.

Media

The Media Program continued to promote quality, independent journalism for the crucial role it plays in functioning democracies and for the standards and content it can provide to evolving communications technologies. The Media Program and OSI's Burma Project supported two media outlets that supplied the world with television footage and news stories about the devastating impact of Cyclone Nargis in Burma and the authoritarian government's failed response.

The program also supported emergency legal aid and other forms of protection for Pakistani journalists, and an international press freedom mission and safety training for freelancers in Mexico. In the Philippines and Russia, the program assisted efforts to combat impunity for those who intimidate or kill journalists.

The Media Program supported investigative journalism through a number of regional and international events, including a meeting of Latin American journalists and media support organizations to discuss strengthening investigative journalism, and a meeting of an Arab investigative journalists' network.

A coproduction fund for Roma and non-Roma media outlets generated high quality TV and radio programs on Roma issues that have been seen by approximately 5.5 million viewers since 2007. The Media Program and OSI's EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program issued follow-up reports on nine countries covered in an earlier report, *Television across Europe*. The new reports found an increase in channels but reductions in media independence in almost all the countries examined.

New Admissions Test in Ukraine Improves Access to University

Ukraine implemented independent testing for university admissions for the first time at the national level, capping years of work by the International Renaissance Foundation and other NGOs to develop independent testing of graduating students' educational achievement. The new system significantly reduces corruption in the admissions process and improves equal access to higher education. Upon completion of the testing, the Ministry of Education and Science decreed that all higher educational institutions will use independent assessment results for admissions.

OSI ONLINE

Read the personal stories and views of OSI scholars studying abroad in issues of *ScholarForum*.
www.soros.org/ar08/scholarforum



Other Programs

A patient at the Louisiana State Penitentiary's hospice program is greeted by a fellow inmate | LORI WASELCHUK

The Open Society Institute operates programs that focus on the roles that art, photography, independent intellectual inquiry, and exchanges of people from different countries can play in establishing tolerant, democratic societies.

The Arts and Culture Network Program supported Roma arts and culture in the Balkans, Central Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe, and helped develop independent cultural activities in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Mongolia, and Turkey. *Everything's OK*, a film about street children produced by a program grantee in Kyrgyzstan, received positive reviews at the Rotterdam international film festival and then toured the Netherlands. To fight stereotypes and build the self-esteem of young Roma, the program supported Roma painters, musicians, and other cultural professionals who mentored ethnically mixed children and youth groups at schools and community centers.

OSI's Documentary Photography Project uses exhibits, workshops, grantmaking, and public programs to explore how photography can shape public perception and effect social change. The project's Moving Walls exhibition series works to depict societies in transition and promote democratic values. From 2006 to 2008, the project, in partnership with OSI's Middle East and North Africa Initiative, supported a touring exhibition of seven past Moving Walls photographers to cities in the region. At each venue, a local photographer was included in the exhibit and the project organized photography workshops for local professionals and young people. The Documentary Photography Project's various grants supported a number of activities, including the publication of *The Useful Image: Using Images to Change Today's World* and a Louisiana and Mississippi correctional facilities tour of Lori Waselchuk's photographs documenting inmate

volunteers at the Angola Prison hospice program in Louisiana.

To facilitate the sharing of information to further reform and social change, the East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program uses exchange programs to foster collaboration among civil society organizations in more than one country. A long-term initiative in Poland helped analysts and civil society activists monitor EU member state visa policies toward neighboring non-EU countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia, the program brought together civil society activists and organizations to develop strategies to advance the EU accession process in South Eastern Europe. The program worked with Soros foundations in the Czech Republic and Ukraine on reform and European integration issues, and with foundations in Slovakia and Tajikistan to organize exchanges of experts working on housing policy and civic engagement.

The Open Society Fellowship, launched in 2008, supports individuals who develop innovative solutions to pressing social and political challenges. The program aims to shape policy and inspire critical debate among activists, intellectuals, and decision-makers; it also works to sharpen OSI's thinking about significant political and social issues. The program's first seven fellows came from Australia, Belarus, Colombia, South Africa, and the United States and focused on issues ranging from new technologies in authoritarian societies and the AIDS epidemics in Russia and South Africa to the mixed results of international advocacy on Darfur.

OSI's Think Tank Fund supports

independent policy centers that help strengthen democracy by identifying and analyzing policy options, advocating recommendations, and consulting with governments. In 2008, the fund issued 27 institutional grants and 14 project grants in more than 20 countries. In Kosovo, the Institute for Advanced Studies used an institutional grant to support NGOs that organized televised debates on local government policies and priorities in 25 municipalities. The fund's project grants supported 14 initiatives that responded to issues including minority integration in Latvia and Estonia, civil oversight of security agencies in the Czech Republic, and political party financing in Hungary.

OSI ONLINE

See how six documentary photographers depict abuse of power at Abu Ghraib and in North Korea, HIV education in Lesotho, industrial pollution in Bangladesh, daily life in Azerbaijan, and the separation wall between Mexico and the United States. www.soros.org/ar08/movingwalls

U.S. Programs

The Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs supports individuals and organizations that nurture the development of a more open society, a society that allows all people to participate actively and equitably in political, economic, and cultural life; encourages diverse opinions and critical debate; protects fundamental human rights, dignity, and the rule of law; and promotes broadly shared prosperity and human security.

The 2008 election process represented a number of advances for open society in America: increased levels of civic engagement, renewed respect for the power of grassroots activism, and a milestone in the struggle for racial justice. Yet much work remains to be done for the United States to live up to its potential as an open society.





Crowd watching U.S. presidential election returns in New York | ERIC BOUVET

Transparency and Integrity

The Transparency and Integrity Fund seeks to increase government transparency and accountability at the federal and state levels. In 2008, OSI and its grantees strengthened and coordinated the field of nonpartisan organizations working to reform the voting system and protect all votes on and before Election Day. Successes included an executive order in Florida extending the hours for early voting, advocacy that stopped voter suppression in Michigan where voters whose homes had been foreclosed on faced residency challenges, and legal action remedying flawed voter purges in many contested states.

OSI grantees developed a *Change for America* blueprint to help guide the government in a new, more progressive direction, a comprehensive “Right-to-Know Agenda” to enhance transparency and accountability and increase citizen engagement with government, and a Bailout Watch to demand greater fiscal transparency around the government’s bailout of the financial sector.

Democracy and Power

The Democracy and Power Fund expands on OSI’s longtime support of efforts that inspire and motivate people of color, young people, immigrants, and low-income communities. Over 20 OSI grantees registered more than 1.5 million new and updated voters nationwide before the U.S. presidential election. OSI emphasized support for community-based nonprofit organizations that enfranchised and inspired new voters, such as young people, people of color, and new citizens

from Arab-American, Asian, and Latino communities. Grants made by the fund in 2008 included one to a network promoting an urban agenda on housing, jobs, policing, and gentrification issues, and another to a collaborative project advancing a public investment and equal opportunity agenda.

Equality and Opportunity

The Equality and Opportunity Fund’s mission is to eliminate barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life in the United States. Among other objectives, the fund focuses on reversing institutional policies and practices that contribute to racial inequality, strengthening the civil and human rights of immigrants, supporting policies that advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, and elevating women’s issues and leadership within larger progressive movements.

In a legal victory involving an OSI grantee, a U.S. appeals court ruled that federal immigration authorities may not treat simple drug possession offenses, which are misdemeanors under state law, as “drug trafficking” aggravated felonies to secure mandatory deportation of immigrants. In another victory, a district court upheld the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, which requires certain states and localities to submit changes in voting procedures to the federal government for approval.

OSI launched its Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative in response to the subprime lending and foreclosure crisis, funding outreach, counseling,

and legal assistance to stem the crisis in New York City.

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Fund seeks to reverse policies and practices that criminalize race, poverty, mental illness, and drug and alcohol dependency, and confront the destructive and costly impact of these policies on individuals and communities. With help from an OSI grantee, the state of Kansas averted nearly \$80 million in new prison construction and operating costs over the next five years by adopting measures to reduce its prison population. OSI convened advocates to brainstorm litigation strategies to combat the continued plague of racial profiling, and helped host a public forum to discuss how to create a criminal justice system structured neither by race nor by economic inequality.

Black Male Achievement

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement was launched in 2008 as a three-year, cross-program campaign to provide expanded resources to address, and help reverse, the ways in which African American boys and men are stigmatized, criminalized, and excluded from full participation in economic, cultural, and political life in the United States. In its first year, the program made grants to organizations in the areas of youth media and civic engagement, faith-based organizing and capacity building, education equity and reform, strengthening families through responsible fatherhood, economic opportunity, and community leadership and organizing.

National Security and Human Rights

With one year remaining of the Bush administration, OSI and The Atlantic Philanthropies launched the National Security and Human Rights Campaign to take advantage of the opportunities that a changed political environment could offer to promote progressive national security policies that respect human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law.

OSI's grantees mobilized broad opposition to U.S.-sponsored torture, organizing faith-based communities in denouncing the use of torture on moral grounds; building grassroots support on college campuses; enlisting the military, intelligence, law enforcement, and foreign policy communities in the movement against torture; exposing the ethical issues raised by the participation of psychologists in abusive interrogations; and documenting the physical and psychological harms from the use of torture.

Strategic Opportunities

The Strategic Opportunities Fund enables U.S. Programs to respond quickly to urgent situations, as well as to support grant strategy research and explore emerging areas of interest. OSI prioritized location-based philanthropy, with New Orleans and the broader Gulf Region as a focus of further research and the development of cross-program strategies. Exploratory grantmaking included support for groups that utilize art and culture to advance organizing, advocacy, and social change.

Open Society Institute–Baltimore

The Open Society Institute–Baltimore made substantial progress on three of the most difficult challenges facing the city—inadequate drug addiction treatment, poorly performing schools, and unacceptably high rates of incarceration.

OSI helped Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, the agency responsible for the city's public drug addiction treatment system, introduce performance-based contracting and use data to change traditional funding allocations, ensuring higher utilization of treatment services. The agency launched a cooperative effort that provided buprenorphine treatment for heroin addiction to over 1,100 patients in 2008. OSI grantees began working to remove barriers for Medicaid patients and providers using buprenorphine. Under the leadership of OSI-Baltimore, a policy team has developed a program that will provide eligible prisoners with addiction treatment in prison and parole them to treatment and support services in the community.

OSI-Baltimore's collaborative initiative to reform school suspension and expulsion practices resulted in the drafting of a new student code of conduct, which the school district is now implementing. The new code supports programs, including several launched by OSI in 2007 as pilots, that teach appropriate behavior, use suspension and expulsion as a last resort, and add enriching and/or physical activities that attract children to school. OSI released three white papers addressing the issue of student absences in public schools with recommendations to remedy the problem.

Guantánamo Detainees Win Right to Judicial Review

Among the year's most important legal decisions was the Supreme Court's ruling that foreign nationals held as "enemy combatants" at Guantánamo have a constitutional right to file a writ of habeas corpus in U.S. courts requesting release from unlawful detention. The 5-4 ruling speaks to the efforts of OSI's grantees to reverse the Bush administration policy of detaining individuals indefinitely without judicial review. OSI joined an amicus brief filed in the case.

OSI ONLINE

View *Trouble the Water*, a documentary film codirected and coproduced by OSI fellow Tia Lessin, which was nominated for the 2008 Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary. Lessin was one of six filmmakers who received an OSI Katrina Media Fellowship in 2006. www.soros.org/ar08/trouble



Open Society in Eastern Europe



Since the creation of the first foundation in Hungary 25 years ago, the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations have made education reform and inclusion a major priority in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Support for programs from early childhood to higher education continues today with the goal of helping all young people become informed and active citizens.

Young women participating in local group that provides language and art classes and counseling, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia | MARIA STEEN

The Open Society Institute since 1995
has supported hundreds of programs
in Eastern Europe to reduce HIV and
other harms related to injecting drug use.

It advocates for drug policy reforms to
increase the availability and quality of needle
exchange, drug dependence treatment,
and treatment for HIV.





Returning used syringes to a mobile needle exchange van, St. Petersburg, Russia | LORENA ROS



The struggle to eliminate discrimination against minorities has gained ground over the years, with more and more people willing to publicly show their support. With hard times bringing new episodes of discrimination and violence, the Open Society Institute is increasing its efforts to fund education and legal responses to the problem.

Participants march in a nonpartisan, peaceful demonstration against discrimination and violence, Budapest, Hungary, 2008 | FERENC ISZA

To strengthen democracy in Eastern Europe, the Open Society Institute continues to support measures to ensure free and fair elections. During election campaigns, the Soros foundations focus attention on crucial open society issues, provide the public with information about candidates, and monitor voter registration and vote counting.





A subway stop in Belgrade, Serbia, spattered with graffiti sprayed during protests in 2008 against Kosovo's independence | ROGER LEMOYNE



Europe

Priorities for the Soros foundations in Europe included good governance issues such as democratic elections and open, corruption-free institutions, and the human rights and living conditions of minorities, migrants, mentally disabled people, and other marginalized groups. Many foundations worked on strengthening the candidacy and participation of their countries in the European Union. OSI's EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program focused on the integration of Muslim communities in European cities, the role television plays in European democracy, and the dire educational situation of Roma children.

Elections

Foundations in a number of countries used election campaigns to focus attention on open society issues such as the transparency of public funds and access to public health. The foundation in Moldova supported projects monitoring voting lists and providing the public with information about candidates. The foundation's efforts in Albania helped prompt the election agency to prepare recommendations for reform, addressing procedures for vote counting, ballot administration, and political party financing. The foundation in Poland also funded the development of recommendations for election campaign financing.

After a brutal government crackdown following Armenia's presidential elections, the foundation helped the human rights community document abuses and report on conditions before and after the elections. It organized legal representation for victims of the violence.

Corruption

In its long-term efforts against corruption, the country's biggest problem, the foundation in the Czech Republic helped develop new legal provisions to promote transparency, establish a legal counseling center, and create materials for tracking budget expenditures.

The foundation in Bulgaria produced a report on informal payments in the health care system that showed general practitioners were evading taxes on a large scale. A study of the judiciary in Kosovo, supported by the Kosovo foundation, revealed a lack of political will to prosecute certain corruption cases

and institute reforms.

A Polish court gave a significant victory to whistle blowers when it ruled in favor of a former national park employee who claimed he had been fired for exposing managers who allowed parks to be used as illegal waste dumping sites. Responding to a watchdog coalition, authorities in Serbia disclosed information on 38 cases that raised questions about whether the use of public funds was in compliance with public procurement laws. A watchdog project examined shortcomings in the use of Montenegro's access to information law to obtain data on environmental protection.

In Azerbaijan, the foundation supported monitoring of state social assistance spending that prompted reforms, increasing the number of eligible recipients of state social assistance by 60 percent.

Natural resource revenues also came under scrutiny. Pressured by the foundation, other NGOs, and the state, more oil companies in Azerbaijan began to disclose their payments to the government in greater detail, making it easier for the public to monitor how the government is using these revenues. The foundation in Romania organized meetings of employers, workers, officials, and others to make the mining industry more receptive to socially and environmentally responsible operating methods.

Roma

Access to quality education for the Roma was an important focus for OSI and the Soros foundations, including those in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. EUMAP advocated for improvements

based on its findings that Roma children continued to be assigned to separate and unequal classes and schools. A review of education reform found that government policies in Bulgaria had actually increased Roma dropout rates and many rural schools had closed.

In Macedonia, an education program developed by OSI and funded by USAID graduated 198 Roma students from high school—an initial graduation rate of more than 75 percent, considerably higher than the national Roma secondary school completion rate of 56 percent. The foundation in Turkey assisted in establishing a program that awarded scholarships to 20 Roma university students and 10 high school students preparing for university entrance exams.

The foundation in Romania organized a regional conference of Roma activists and OSI and foundation staff to share successful grassroots organizing strategies, while the foundation in the Czech Republic campaigned for a national antidiscrimination act and supported lawsuits that contributed to a decrease in discrimination against the Roma. Roma candidates were elected to legislative bodies in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the foundation trained Roma leaders in election law.

A survey on student attitudes toward minorities, supported by the foundation in Slovakia, showed that most students had strong prejudices and little knowledge of multiculturalism and minorities. Among the foundation's efforts to improve the situation was a high school contest using music and drama to explore diversity and tolerance.

Mentally Disabled People

The foundation in Moldova and its partners, including the government, agreed to end any further institutionalization of mentally disabled children and to develop community-based services instead. Efforts supported by the foundation in Turkey prompted numerous changes in the treatment of mentally disabled people, from increased patient access to outdoor activities and improvements in hospital food, to a ban on the use of electroshock therapy without anesthesia.

European Union

In Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia, the foundations promoted the value of integrating policies and institutions into the European Union. The foundation in Latvia encouraged democratic reform in other Eastern European countries, particularly Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia. In Poland, the foundation worked to make the EU more accessible to Eastern European citizens by advocating for fairer and more reasonable EU visa policies and border-crossing procedures.

Recognition of Kosovo as an independent state by a majority of EU members in 2008 triggered a political crisis in Serbia. The foundation in Serbia responded by helping mobilize civil society groups to defend democratization and EU integration. Its efforts helped shape the European Commission's recommendations on how Serbian authorities could speed up reforms and better harmonize policies with EU standards.

The foundations in Europe, often in collaboration with OSI programs, also worked on a whole range of other open society issues, from advocating for better HIV and AIDS treatment in Turkey, to providing indigent criminal defendants with legal assistance in Moldova, to protecting the rights of vulnerable immigrant workers in Romania, to securing equal opportunities for women in the Czech Republic.

The Soros foundation in Georgia responded to the 2008 conflict in the South Ossetia region by working with civil society groups to provide food, medication, and clothing to displaced civilians. In the aftermath of the fighting, the foundation focused on human rights issues facing internally displaced people, and supported efforts to ensure transparent allocation and use of a \$4.5 billion international aid package to rebuild Georgia's economy and infrastructure.

A study funded by the foundation in Estonia exposed poor living conditions at refugee camps in Georgia: only 3 to 4 percent of people displaced by the conflict were receiving food, clothing, and medical assistance. The foundation's campaign resulted in improving conditions, including the closing of a number of camps.

A mentoring program created by the foundation improved the Estonian language skills of Russian-speaking teachers by pairing them with Estonian-speaking colleagues.

Years of education work by the Ukrainian foundation and other NGOs came to fruition when Ukraine implemented external testing of students' educational achievements. The new system reduces corruption in admissions and improves equal access to higher education.

Restoring Power to Roma

A public-private partnership restored electricity for 35,000 residents in the Roma settlement in Stolipinovo, Bulgaria. The community's deep debts to the electricity provider had created an ugly cycle of power cuts followed by illegal electricity taps. The foundation brought together electricity providers, local authorities, and a microfinance institution to invest 1.5 million euros in improving the electricity grid and to create a plan allowing residents to pay off their debts while receiving electricity.

OSI ONLINE

Learn why changes in ownership and viewing habits are threatening the independence of television broadcasting in OSI's 2008 reports, *Television across Europe*. www.soros.org/ar08/television



Asia

OSI programs and Soros foundations in Asia made significant efforts to defend and improve human rights, particularly for migrants, children, and victims of conflict. Many foundations and programs responded to governance and development issues by promoting election reform, democratic institutions, and use of natural resources that benefits the public and respects the environment.

Uzbek women weed a cotton field in southern Tajikistan | CAROLYN DRAKE

OSI's Central Eurasia Project addressed a number of key human rights and governance issues by supporting activities ranging from helping develop coalitions challenging forced child labor in Uzbekistan's cotton industry to working with civil society and Soros foundations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to promote accountability in the management of water and electricity. Several foundations and programs also focused on public health and information and media issues.

Human Rights

The foundation in Mongolia responded to the government's violent postelection crackdown on opposition parties and demonstrators by supporting documentation of human rights abuses, media monitoring, and legal aid for those arrested. The Kazakhstan foundation supported efforts documenting rights violations and discrimination experienced by the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

In May, Cyclone Nargis hit Burma, disrupting more than 2.4 million lives and, according to Burma's military junta, causing at least 140,000 fatalities. OSI's Burma Project responded to the junta's interference with aid efforts by supporting groups inside the country that provided shelter, food, and medicine to cyclone victims. The project's media grantees sent uncensored news and images of the junta's ineffective disaster response to the outside world and back into Burma. An international campaign led by Burma Project grantees aimed to free Burma's political prisoners, particularly those imprisoned after the army's violent crackdown against participants in

monk-led protests in 2007.

Malaysian NGOs funded by the Southeast Asia Initiative used monitoring and advocacy to protect the human rights of migrant workers abused by quasi-government organizations charged with enforcing travel regulations.

Working with the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Southeast Asia Initiative helped support the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia by funding civil society groups that informed people about the tribunal, justice issues, and government accountability. The initiative also developed radio programming and a web portal that provided news about the tribunal in Khmer and English. OSI's Afghanistan office and a number of partners organized a conference on documenting war crimes, sharing lessons from the Cambodia experience.

The Tifa Foundation in Indonesia supported successful efforts to pass a law protecting the rights of migrant laborers and worked with Microsoft to establish 10 migrant worker resource centers.

The Chinese government's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Disabled in 2008 bolstered OSI's continuing support for civil society efforts to strengthen disability rights protections.

Governance and Development

The Central Eurasia Project supported a network of scholars and experts to monitor the implementation of the EU's Central Asia strategy, which seeks to share European experience on regional integration and aid the development of stable, prosperous, democratic societies in Central Asia.

In Kyrgyzstan, the foundation used

EU funds for election reform projects that produced recommendations used by the parliament for new amendments to election legislation. The foundation also used EU support for a study tour to Brussels that familiarized Kyrgyz officials with EU electoral best practices, and for a project to develop legal mechanisms combating domestic violence.

A civil society coalition supported by the foundation in Mongolia monitored legislative elections and helped reveal substantial irregularities that undermined the integrity of the elections. The monitoring results gave new momentum to electoral reform efforts.

Prodemocracy activists supported by the Burma Project responded to the junta's flawed constitutional referendum by organizing campaigns in over 250 townships throughout Burma to raise awareness about the illegitimate constitution.

Local groups working with the foundation in Indonesia created a "People's Charter" to hold elected officials in Jakarta accountable to their campaign promises. The city's mayor responded by participating in public discussions with city residents about accountability issues. The foundation also helped train citizen groups that monitored regional water privatization proposals and government spending of revenues from water use fees.

In Turkmenistan, the project collaborated with a coalition of independent experts to sponsor research on environmental degradation and promote policies for progressive development. OSI's Pakistan office, established in 2008, helped civil society monitor reconstruction efforts following the massive earthquake of 2005.

Information

Bloggers in Kazakhstan used mobile technology training from OSI and the foundation to do online civic journalism that targeted and engaged young people. Kazakhstan's prime minister started his own blog and encouraged ministers and representatives to use blogs to communicate with their constituents.

In Tajikistan, the foundation helped establish a Linux center to develop free and open software for civil society groups. The center also developed a web portal to unite civil society organizations across the country. Regional information agencies established by the foundation provided accurate alternative information to areas that were previously out of broadcast range or only received foreign or state-controlled media. In Pakistan, OSI provided safety training for journalists and supported independent media.

A viewer-based TV rating and monitoring project supported by the Tifa foundation allowed TV viewers in Indonesia to express their preferences more clearly than the widely used Nielsen system. The project used viewer responses to organize local discussions about making TV more responsive to community needs and interests. Tifa also helped a civil society coalition prompt the government to adopt a freedom of information act in 2008. In Nepal, OSI focused on support for developing a radio network and content syndication system to bring reliable, independent news and information to large numbers of Nepalese underserved by other media. By the end of 2008, the network provided local stations with a mix of news and feature

programs that covered 80 percent of Nepal's territory.

Public Health

In a major breakthrough for public health reform, the Tajik parliament adopted amendments to bring existing laws into line with international standards for providing access to HIV prevention and treatment. The foundation worked with international agencies to analyze regulations and advise advocates on developing HIV treatment policies.

Local civil society groups monitoring mental health care budgets in Kyrgyzstan revealed significant misuse of government assets at the national center for psychiatry. The foundation helped the groups use the findings to stop this misuse, improve the center's financing, and increase pay for psychiatric health care workers. The foundation also implemented an HIV and AIDS program supported by the government that provided harm reduction and rehabilitation services for drug users in prisons. In Kazakhstan, the foundation worked to advance citizens' health rights and access to medicine, particularly for the terminally ill.

Soros foundations and programs in Asia supported numerous other activities addressing issues important to open society, including establishing transparent higher education admissions systems in Tajikistan, helping develop a national juvenile justice system in Kazakhstan, supporting independent filmmakers in Tajikistan, and helping arrange training and concert exchanges among symphony orchestras in Central Asia and Russia.

Businesses Join Campaign Against Uzbekistan's Forced Child Labor

An international campaign supported by OSI helped prompt major European and U.S. retailers and trade associations, including Wal-Mart, to demand that the government of Uzbekistan stop using child labor to harvest cotton. Cotton picked primarily by children in Uzbekistan generates almost \$1 billion in export revenues, which are controlled by three state companies not publicly accounted for in the government's budget. A global coalition of rights advocates, socially responsible investors, companies, governments, and international organizations have stepped up pressure on Uzbekistan to renounce these practices.

OSI ONLINE

"Missed Opportunities—How the West 'Lost' Central Asia." Listen to OSI Fellow Alex Cooley discuss why recent United States and European policies toward Central Asia have done little to improve governance in the region.
www.soros.org/ar08/cooley



Middle East and North Africa

OSI's Middle East and North Africa Initiative, with its Arab Regional Office in Amman, focuses on governance and rights, media and information, youth, and education.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the regional office supported the monitoring of human rights violations by both Israeli forces and the Palestinian National Authority. For example, OSI helped human rights activists monitor Israeli troops' treatment of Palestinian civilians at security checkpoints in the West Bank.

In Israel, OSI sought to reduce the inequalities facing Palestinian citizens. The Galilee Society received funding for its efforts to achieve equitable health, environmental, and socioeconomic conditions, particularly in areas inhabited by

Israel's Arab minorities. Other groups worked to develop legal challenges to state discrimination and promote equality in Israeli cities with sizeable Arab and Jewish populations.

OSI funded efforts by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights to improve individual liberties, including freedom of religion and rights for people with mental disabilities, and supported organizations in Lebanon and Jordan that defended the rights of migrant and foreign workers. With OSI's International Women's Program, the regional office supported initiatives to counter violence against women in conflict and postconflict situations, particularly in Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Association for Freedom

of Thought and Expression in Egypt used funding from OSI to promote media creativity and reduce censorship. OSI financed media outlets that achieved significant operational and editorial independence by broadcasting over the Internet. The regional office provided Radio Al-Balad in Jordan with additional funding for a community program targeting the Iraqi refugee population in Amman.

The Arab Regional Office partnered with OSI's Early Childhood Program to support preschool programs for children in Nazareth, and increase parental involvement in their children's education in northern Israel, and supported an association of public libraries in Lebanon that worked to bring children and teenagers together across sectarian divides.

Iraqi civilians stare through window of U.S. Army vehicle in Abu Gharib, Iraq | BENJAMIN LOWY



Internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the forest near their refugee camp | LYNSEY ADDARIO



Africa

Whether it was supporting democratic struggles of citizens against corrupt despots in Zimbabwe and Swaziland or responding to a political crisis in Kenya, the promotion of democracy and good governance in Africa remained a priority for the Open Society Institute in 2008.

As a world increasingly hungry for oil, gas, and minerals pursued new ventures in Africa, OSI programs and Soros foundations worked to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of the continent's natural resource wealth. Many OSI programs and foundations in Africa also addressed issues such as defending and strengthening human rights, responding to HIV and AIDS, and improving public access to information.

Governance and Justice

OSI's AfriMAP monitoring project published a report on the judiciary in Senegal that revealed a judicial commission's lack of independence from the executive branch. Senegalese officials promised that the report's conclusions would inform public discussions and judicial sector reforms.

In Kenya, the Open Society Initiative for East Africa funded a civil society group that challenged the country's endemic political corruption with publicly distributed commentaries and analytical blogging. The group's website documented Kenya's election crisis and received nine million hits between December 2007 and January 2008. The initiative also worked with civil society groups to bring Kenya's postelection crisis and the continent-wide problem of statelessness to the attention of African Union policymakers.

OSI helped democracy advocates in Zimbabwe call for international responses to the Mugabe regime's election rigging and continued repression of the democratic political opposition. The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa also

worked with church groups and trade unions to stop the delivery of a Chinese arms shipment to Zimbabwe.

OSI activities in Swaziland—a country decimated by HIV and AIDS and extreme poverty—helped citizens challenge the country's deeply corrupt monarchy with boycotts, work stoppages, protests, and legal actions. In South Africa, the foundation worked to strengthen democratic political processes and freedom of expression by supporting independent journalists covering parliament and the build-up to elections in 2009.

Natural Resources and Transparency

With OSI support, NGOs in Uganda developed environmental abuse databases that bolstered efforts to get regional and national leaders to reform natural resource management policies. Strategic litigation supported by the East Africa initiative helped NGOs monitor transparency in the extraction of recently discovered oil resources.

In Angola, a group of parliamentarians responded to an OSI-supported transparency and budgets conference by forming MPs for Transparency, which aims to improve the legislature's monitoring of public spending.

In Sierra Leone, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa developed a resource management strategy that helped the country become a candidate for participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. The West Africa initiative also worked with a monitoring group to develop review policies for diamond mining contracts, strengthen citizen monitoring of the industry,

and increase the public benefits of diamond mining for all of Sierra Leone's citizens.

Human Rights and Justice

To address human rights violations in northern Uganda, OSI supported International Criminal Court trainings for Ugandan law professors and recent law school graduates. An East Africa initiative grantee developed position papers to help Uganda's proposed special war crimes court use international, domestic, and traditional law to achieve justice and reconciliation.

OSI's Southern Africa initiative led a solidarity mission of African feminists and activists to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mission aimed to draw attention and support to women in the east of the country struggling against sexual violence, sex trafficking, poverty, and HIV and AIDS.

Two Angolan human rights organizations supported by the Southern Africa initiative challenged government reports on living conditions in Angola by submitting shadow reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the United Nations.

The Open Society Foundation for South Africa protected refugees and asylum seekers from xenophobic attacks in South Africa by helping evacuate them from black townships to places of safety. The foundation promoted public discussion about the xenophobic violence through journalism fellowships that supported reporting on South Africa's refugee communities. The foundation's prison sentencing project demonstrated that the South African government's overemphasis on

imprisonment has done little to reduce crime. A civil society coalition used the project's results to promote alternatives to imprisonment.

Public Health

Working with OSI's Public Health Program, the East Africa initiative supported human rights and health service training for caregivers at 10 health facilities. The project gave people living with HIV and AIDS training on how to get officials to challenge discrimination and meet their health care needs.

The foundation in South Africa also worked with the Public Health Program to address the government's inability to manage deepening HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics by continuing to support NGOs like the Treatment Action Campaign and Health Systems Trust.

Media and Information

Preliminary findings from a 12-country AfriMAP and OSI Media Program survey showed a large public broadcasting gap between South Africa and the rest of the continent and confirmed the importance of state and public broadcasting, particularly radio, due to the expense or inaccessibility of TV, print publications, and the Internet. The survey also indicated that many Africans could benefit from further development of mobile phones to access radio broadcasting.

NGOs in Uganda supported by the East Africa initiative worked to improve implementation of the national freedom of information law by conducting public surveys and outreach campaigns to increase people's interest in using the law. The initiative also helped launch and

sustain public affairs TV programs in Uganda and Kenya that held officials accountable by featuring panels of politicians, lawyers, and activists taking unscripted questions from the public about politics, economics, and culture.

OSI Helps Lead Kenya Past Election Fraud and Political Violence

The Open Society Institute responded to Kenya's fraudulent presidential elections in December 2007 and the violence that followed by supporting initiatives to mediate solutions and pursue justice and reconciliation. With support from the Open Society Initiative for East Africa, the Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice coalition gathered evidence to document human rights violations. Coalition appeals to Europe, the United States, and the African Union helped the development of the African Union mediation process that brought an end to the violence. The coalition documented the election fraud that precipitated the violence and worked to ensure the inclusion of excluded groups in the mediation process. It also spearheaded ongoing efforts to ensure accountability for victims of violence, resettlement of internally displaced persons, and constitutional reform.

OSI ONLINE

View *Gasping for Air* and other multimedia pieces on OSI efforts to address the needs of people infected with drug-resistant TB and HIV in Africa. www.soros.org/ar08/gasping



Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean—regions largely marked by revitalized or emerging democracies bearing the legacies of authoritarian rule and colonial exploitation—the reinforcement of human rights and democratic governance have been key priorities for the Open Society Institute.

In 2008, OSI's Latin America Program, the Soros foundations in Guatemala and Haiti, and many OSI initiatives pursued projects ranging from helping communities in Haiti get clean drinking water to increasing the role of Mayan women in local governance to bringing together former presidents and civil society leaders to contemplate the region's enduring challenges and possibilities.

Human Rights and Justice

Three grantees supported by the Latin America Program led a coalition that advocated for the U.S. government to withhold free trade agreements

People in Haiti walk through flood waters after Hurricane Gustav | JACOB SILBERBERG

and \$110 million in military aid to Colombia until government protection of human rights and labor rights improved. Activities by civil society and other groups have made human rights a key issue in U.S.-Colombia relations and as of the end of 2008 no trade agreement had been signed. The program also provided grants to two groups in Peru that raised international and domestic awareness about the trial of former President Alberto Fujimori and provided crucial legal support to the prosecution.

To address public concerns in many Latin American countries over increasing petty and organized crime, the program financed the establishment of the Civil Society Center for Monitoring and Evaluating Violence in El Salvador, a country with one of the highest homicide rates in the region. In the violence-plagued and impoverished Mexican state of Guerrero, OSI funded a civilian police monitoring project to document police practices, analyze the impact on citizen security and human rights, and mediate between public security officials and the local population. The Soros foundation in Guatemala challenged violent groups that operate with impunity by helping establish a government-approved commission to work with the UN in investigating illegal groups and clandestine forces that commit political violence in Guatemala.

Working with Mayan communities devastated by conflict and historically marginalized by Guatemalan society, the foundation helped legal activists and communities integrate traditional approaches to justice into mainstream legal practices. To address long-simmering land rights abuses and issues, the Guatemala foundation

helped bring together representatives from civil society, government, the private sector, and indigenous communities to pursue mediation to create clear and peaceful solutions to land conflicts.

Governance

Working with OSI's Global Drug Policy program, the Latin America Program funded the work of the high-level Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy, comprised of three former presidents and prominent social leaders. The commission produced a highly publicized report on drug policy failures in Latin America and made recommendations for viable regional alternatives.

In Venezuela, the program sponsored an ongoing study by the Universidad Central de Venezuela assessing the effectiveness of government social services funded by oil profits. OSI's foundation in Haiti used water supply and purification projects in Haitian neighborhoods and rural villages to strengthen community governance and organizing.

Information and Media

The Latin America Program continued to work with OSI's Open Society Justice Initiative to promote freedom of information legislation throughout the region. Advocacy efforts financed by the program and involving several Central American organizations influenced the passage of freedom of information legislation in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

A new television cartoon series supported by the Guatemalan foundation helped children understand issues of identity and culture, tolerance, human rights, and environmental preservation.

Civil Society

In Haiti, the Soros foundation worked with the European Union to fund the development of a 17-acre park in the midst of an impoverished neighborhood in Port-au-Prince. The project uses the creation of green space to anchor neighborhood projects run by European NGOs that address gang violence, improve sanitation and water treatment, provide education and professional training, and foster microenterprises.

In the aftermath of the September hurricanes in Haiti, youth involved with the Soros foundation helped keep the foundation's library and community center open and used the space to provide shelter and assistance to others.

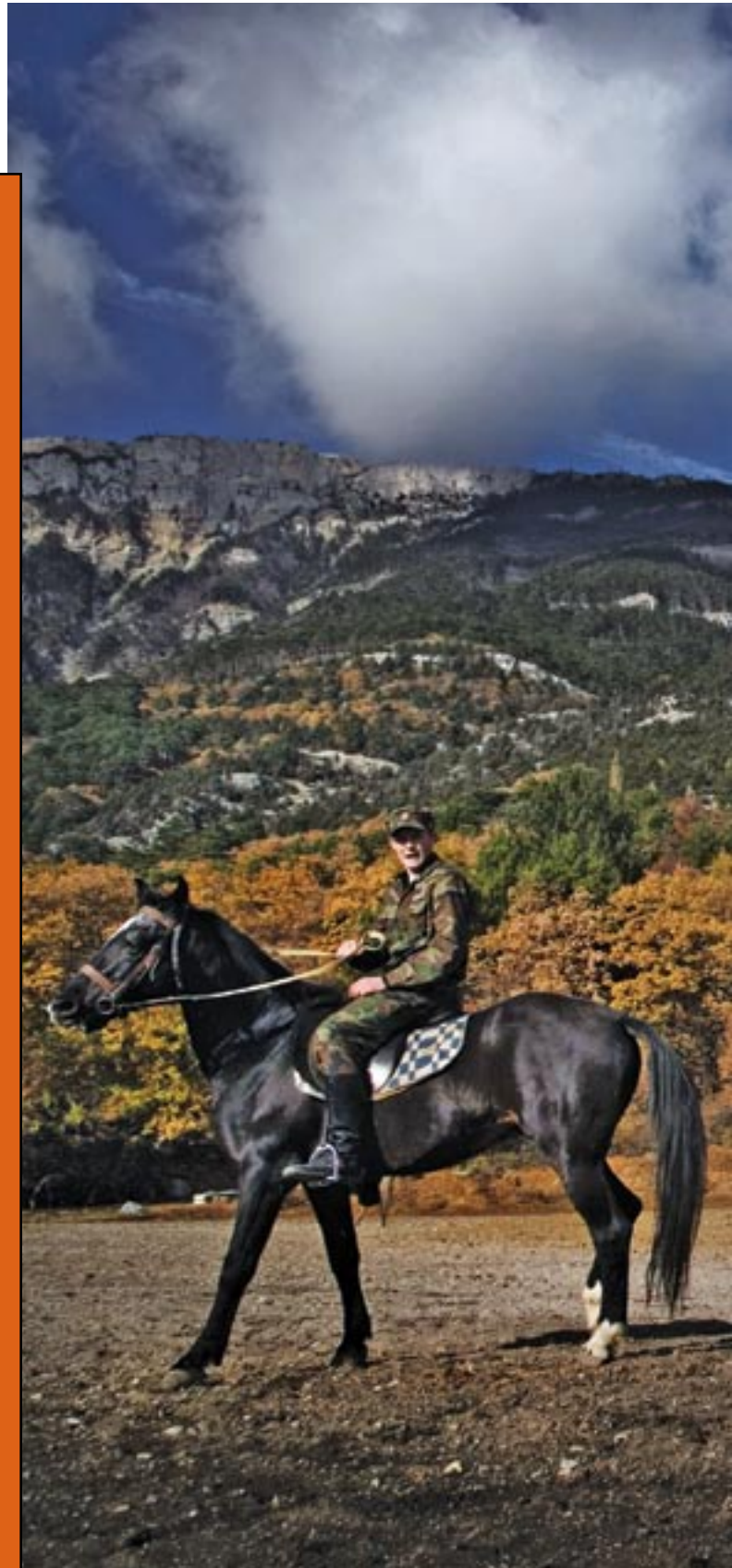
Citizen's Council Fights Corruption in Panama

Citizens in Panama exposed the illegal sale of communal property to tourism developers and uncovered thousands of dollars worth of faulty or incomplete equipment in a community aqueduct project. With OSI support, the Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño trained citizens and helped them form an anticorruption council that discovered these scandals. The council went on to make sure that public officials were held accountable and that companies reimbursed the money they received for the construction contracts.

Open Society Institute

The Open Society Institute works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Open societies are characterized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; market economies in which business and government are separate; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check.

To achieve its mission, OSI seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI builds alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. OSI places a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.





A cadet trains at a military school in Crimea, Ukraine. | JUSTYNA MIELNIKIEWICZ

OSI and the Soros foundations network, which was started by investor and philanthropist George Soros in 1984, operate throughout the world, with offices and foundations encompassing the United States and more than 60 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. OSI and the Soros foundations have given away nearly \$7 billion to build open, democratic societies, including \$540 million in 2008. OSI has offices in New York, Brussels, Budapest, London, Paris, and Washington, D.C.

New York

The Open Society Institute's office in New York is the headquarters for both OSI and the Soros foundations network. It provides the other OSI offices, affiliated organizations, and Soros foundations with administrative, financial, and technical support. It is also the hub of communications for the entire network and the main grant-giving center.

OSI administers a number of large initiatives from New York, including the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Public Health Program, the Central Eurasia Project/Middle East and North Africa Initiative, the Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative, the Scholarship Programs, the International Women's Program, the Open Society Fellowship, and U.S. Programs. The office is also home to independent organizations supported by OSI, such as the Revenue Watch Institute and the Soros Economic Development Fund. The New York-based OSI Russia Project supports civil society and human rights groups, access to information efforts, and public debate and discussion initiatives.

Brussels

The Open Society Institute–Brussels represents the Soros foundations network to partners in Western Europe. It facilitates collaboration between the network and various European Union institutions, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as bilateral donors and nongovernmental organizations. OSI-Brussels works to influence EU policies and raise awareness in European institutions, governments, and opinion-making circles about issues of concern to the network.

In 2008, for example, the Brussels office supported a campaign to stop ethnic profiling and attacks on Roma in Italy, Kenyan civil society advocacy to strengthen the EU's response to the postelection crisis in that country, and efforts to establish visa free travel from neighboring countries into the EU. The office also organized meetings and debates in Brussels on issues such as forced child labor in Uzbekistan; the postelection crisis in Armenia; legal aid in Turkey; and the education of migrant, minority, and marginalized children in Europe.

Budapest

In addition to providing administrative support to the network, the Open Society Institute–Budapest houses the following initiatives: Arts and Culture Network Program, the International Higher Education Support Program, the Human Rights and Governance Grants Program, the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, the Think Tank Fund, and Roma Initiatives.

London

The Open Society Foundation–London is an independent UK charity that houses initiatives such as the East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program, the Media Program, the Information Program, the Early Childhood Program, Muslims in EU Cities, the Public Health Program's Mental Health Initiative, the Justice Initiative's Equality and Citizenship Program, some of the staff of the Scholarship Programs and the Central Eurasia Project, and OSI's International Advocacy office.

The Open Society Foundation hosts independent initiatives supported by OSI, including Publish What You Pay, a global civil society coalition working on accountability for natural resource revenues, the European Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank addressing European foreign policy issues, and the Media Legal Defence Initiative, a new organization that trains lawyers in media law and helps journalists defend their rights. The office facilitates contacts between the Soros foundations network and donor and NGO partners in the United Kingdom.

Paris

The Open Society Institute–Paris serves as a liaison and resource office for the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. It also acts as the OSI board liaison office, helping Soros foundations implement appropriate board rotation procedures. The Belarus Project, operated by OSI-Paris since 1997 when the OSI foundation in that country was forced to close, supports the development of open society in

Belarus by enhancing civic culture and preparing the country for a democratic future.

Washington, D.C.

The Open Society Institute—Washington, D.C. office works in collaboration with the Soros foundations network to raise the profile of OSI priorities and to encourage the United States government to adopt policies that support open societies. Domestic priorities include criminal justice reform, encouraging humane immigration policies, and supporting civil liberties. OSI-D.C.'s engagement on international issues includes advancing OSI's public health agenda, promoting human rights and international justice, and supporting the development of civil society.

In 2008, with the increase in news about the CIA's use of torture, OSI-D.C. helped educate legislators, U.S. officials, journalists, and others about torture and called upon the CIA to follow the U.S. Army's ban against it. Internationally, OSI played a key role in the coalition against child labor in Uzbekistan and in coordinating a response to the election crises and their aftermaths in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Open Society Policy Center

The Open Society Policy Center, a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) public policy organization funded directly by George Soros, works to advance legislation on key U.S. and international issues, focusing on protecting civil liberties, encouraging multilateralism and economic development, and promoting human rights, and criminal justice reform. In 2008, the center helped pass

the Second Chance Act, a bill that helps people released from incarceration reintegrate into society, fought for legislation banning torture, and worked to eliminate the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine.

Chairman's, Presidential, and Institutional Grants

Chairman's and presidential grants totaled over \$14 million in 2008. Funding was committed or went to, among others, the following: 1,383,493 British pounds over three years to the London School of Economics to support a new Global Policy Centre; \$250,000 to the International Senior Lawyers Project to promote and place pro-bono assistance to NGOs and governments across the world; and \$250,000 to the International Center for Transitional Justice for their work helping countries deal with war crimes and mass human rights abuses committed during conflict or by authoritarian regimes.

Large institutional grants were also given to longtime OSI grantees Human Rights Watch (\$1 million), the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (\$1 million), and the International Crisis Group (\$2 million). The Soros Humanitarian Foundation commissioned the Overseas Development Institute to do a review of the Millennium Villages Initiative and paid out \$10 million for the third year of a five-year \$50 million commitment to address the problem of extreme poverty in Africa.

Donor and NGO Partnerships

Partnerships with other donors contribute to the work of the Open Society Institute and the Soros

foundations network. Another form of partnership of enormous importance to the Soros foundations is that of the relationships with grantees that have developed into alliances for pursuing crucial parts of the open society agenda. A list of some of our donor and NGO partners can be found at www.soros.org/ar/partners. The Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations are deeply grateful to all our partners and thank them for their role in building open societies.

OSI Ombudsman

The OSI ombudsman addresses complaints from within and outside the Soros foundations network about acts or practices that appear to constitute abuses of authority by Soros foundations, by OSI-Budapest, or by those parts of OSI in New York that serve the network. More information can be found at www.soros.org/ar/ombudsman.

The ombudsman may be contacted at:

Irena Veisaite
OSI Ombudsman
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Application Information

Potential applicants should consult the Grants, Scholarships, and Fellowships section of the OSI website, www.soros.org, to determine their eligibility and access appropriate application guidelines. Soros foundations award grants principally to local organizations and individuals; potential applicants should contact individual foundations for information about their application procedures.

Expenditures

Soros Foundations

Open Society Foundation for Albania	\$ 3,235,000
Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia	2,478,000
Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Azerbaijan	3,297,000
Open Society Fund–Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,471,000
Open Society Institute–Sofia (Bulgaria)	2,737,000
Open Society Fund–Prague (Czech Republic)	1,641,000
Open Society Initiative for East Africa	7,435,000
Open Estonia Foundation	3,129,000
Open Society Georgia Foundation	4,303,000
Fundación Soros–Guatemala	4,134,000
Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (Haiti)	4,460,000
Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan	3,367,000
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society	2,184,000
Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan	2,686,000
Soros Foundation–Latvia	2,052,000
Open Society Fund–Lithuania	966,000
Foundation Open Society Institute–Macedonia	7,268,000
Soros Foundation–Moldova	4,440,000
Open Society Forum (Mongolia)	1,346,000
Foundation Open Society Institute–Representative Office Montenegro	1,676,000
Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)	6,816,000
Soros Foundation–Romania	3,654,000
Russia Project	5,711,000
Fund for an Open Society–Serbia	5,175,000
Open Society Foundation–Bratislava (Slovak Republic)	2,202,000
Open Society Foundation for South Africa	7,497,000
Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa	20,652,000
Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Tajikistan	3,105,000
Open Society Foundation (Turkey)	1,828,000
International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine)	7,687,000
Open Society Initiative for West Africa	20,207,000
TOTAL SOROS FOUNDATIONS	\$151,714,000

Note: The above expenditures of \$151,714,000 include the following; \$131,498,000 of the Soros foundations network plus \$20,216,000 against third party contributions. In order to fully reflect foundation expenditures, the Soros Foundations information above also includes OSI program expenditures against allocations made by the various network programs of OSI. However, the Network Programs section also reflects these expenditures, therefore resulting in a double count. This double count is accounted for as a deduction in the Interorganization Elimination indicated in the summary on the following page.

International Initiatives

OSI–Paris Belarus Support	1,891,000
Burma Project/Indonesia/Southeast Asia Initiative	10,296,000
Central Eurasia Project/Middle East and North Africa Initiative	11,349,000
China Grants	3,981,000
Global Drug Policy	3,915,000
Latin America Regional Initiatives	11,968,000
Nepal and Bhutan Initiatives	1,151,000
Other African Initiatives	9,515,000
Other International	23,747,000
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES	\$ 77,813,000

Note: The above expenditures of \$77,813,000 include the following; \$76,440,000 of the Soros foundations network plus \$1,373,000 against third party contributions.

Network Programs

AfriMAP	\$ 1,535,000
Arts and Culture Network Program	2,070,000
Early Childhood Program	3,906,000
East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program	5,911,000
Education Support Program	6,376,000
EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program	1,786,000
Information Program	5,127,000
International Higher Education Support Program	19,307,000
International Women's Program	6,286,000
Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative	10,559,000
Media Program	10,666,000
Open Society Fellowship	977,000
Open Society Justice Initiative	12,162,000
Public Health Program	28,234,000
Roma Initiatives	9,575,000
Scholarship Programs	18,402,000
Think Tank Fund	2,541,000
Youth Initiative	2,582,000
TOTAL NETWORK PROGRAMS	\$148,002,000

Note: The above expenditures of \$148,002,000 include the following; \$144,753,000 of the Soros foundations network plus \$3,249,000 against third party contributions. In order to fully reflect foundation expenditures, the Soros Foundations section also includes OSI program expenditures against allocations made by the various network programs of OSI. However, the Network Programs information above also reflects these expenditures, therefore resulting in a double count. This double count is accounted for as a deduction in the Interorganization Elimination indicated in the summary below. The Early Childhood Program expenditures exclude a returned grant in the amount of \$423,802.

U.S. Programs

Criminal Justice Fund	12,559,000
Equality and Opportunity Fund	9,006,000
Democracy and Power Fund	17,386,000
Transparency and Integrity Fund	9,252,000
National Security and Human Rights Campaign	9,000,000
Campaign for Black Male Achievement	2,001,000
Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative	3,644,000
Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap	7,010,000
Strategic Opportunities Fund	3,870,000
Other U.S. Initiatives	13,836,000
OSI-Baltimore	6,498,000
OSI-Washington, D.C.	2,883,000
TOTAL U.S. PROGRAMS	\$ 96,945,000

Note: Other U.S. Initiatives include grants related to cooperative global engagement (\$1,000,000) and global warming (\$10,024,450). OSI-Baltimore expenditures include \$245,000 of prior year accruals and \$4,253,303 in third-party funds raised from other donors.

Soros Foundations Network

Soros Foundations	151,714,000
Network Programs	148,002,000
International Initiatives	77,813,000
U.S. Programs	96,945,000
All Other Organization, Programs, and Costs	97,929,000
Interorganization Elimination	(31,514,000)
TOTAL SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK EXPENDITURES	\$540,889,000

Note: The above expenditures of \$540,889,000 include the following; \$539,542,000 of the Soros foundations network plus \$32,861,000 against third party contributions minus \$31,514,000 in Interorganization Elimination. In order to fully reflect foundation and network program expenditures, the Soros Foundations section includes OSI program expenditures against allocations made by the various network programs of OSI. However, the Network Programs section also reflects these expenditures, therefore resulting in a double count. Thus, there is a double count of, \$31,514,000, which is accounted for as a deduction in the Interorganization Elimination category indicated above.

Directory

(as of July 2009)





Villagers along a canal near the border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan | CAROLYN DRAKE

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Sandra Dunsmore (Washington, D.C.)

**Southern Africa, West Africa,
South Africa**

Julie Hayes (New York)

Southeast Asia

Maureen Aung-Thwin, *Director of the
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(New York)

**Afghanistan, Pakistan,
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and North Africa**

Anthony Richter, *Director of the Central
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and Tajikistan**

Michael Hall (New York)

**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia,
Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro,
Serbia, and Slovenia**

Beka Vuco (New York)

Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine

Leonard Benardo (New York)

Turkey

Annette Laborey (Paris)

OSI Initiatives

(Initiative and network program personnel can be contacted at OSI offices as indicated)

AfriMAP–Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project

Ozias Tungwarara, *Director* (Johannesburg)

Pascal Kambale, *Deputy Director* (Washington, D.C.)

Bronwen Manby, *Senior Program Adviser* (London)

Mugambi Kiai, *Program Officer* (Nairobi, OSIEA)

Arts and Culture Network Program

Andrea Csanadi, *Senior Program Manager* (Budapest)

Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative

Maureen Aung-Thwin, *Director* (New York)

Central Eurasia Project/Middle East and North Africa Initiative

Anthony Richter, *Director* (New York)

Documentary Photography Project

Amy Yenkin, *Director* (New York)

Early Childhood Program

Sarah Klaus, *Director* (London)

East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program

Mary Frances Lindstrom, *Director* (London)

Education Support Program

Hugh McLean, *Director* (London)

EUMAP–EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program

Katy Negrin, *Project Manager* (Budapest)

Miriam Anati, *Advocacy and Communications* (Budapest)

Nazia Hussain, *Project Director, Muslims in EU Cities* (London)

Global Drug Policy Program

Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch, *Director* (Warsaw)

Human Rights and Governance Grants Program

Yervand Shirinyan, *Program Director* (Budapest)

Information Program

Darius Cuplinskas, *Director* (London)

International Higher Education Support Program

Rhett Bowlin, *Director* (Budapest)

Katalin Miklos, *Deputy Director* (Budapest)

International Women’s Program

Maryam Elahi, *Director* (New York)

Sarah Wikenczy, *Advocacy Project Director* (New York)

Latin America Program

Sandra Dunsmore, *Regional Director* (Washington, D.C.)

Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative

Adrian Ionescu, *Director* (Budapest)

Scott Abrams, *Deputy Director* (Budapest)

Robert Ebel, *Chair of LGI Steering Committee* (USA)

Kristof Varga, *Manager of Local Government Information Network (LOGIN)* (Budapest)

Media Program

Gordana Jankovic, *Director* (London)

Biljana Tatomir, *Deputy Director* (Budapest)

Algirdas Lipstas, *Deputy Director* (London)

Open Society Fellowship

Leonard Benardo, *Director* (New York)

Open Society Justice Initiative

James Goldston, *Executive Director* (New York)

Robert Varenik, *Director of Programs* (New York)

Zaza Namoradze, *Director* (Budapest)

Public Health Program

Françoise Girard, *Director* (New York)

Marine Buissonnière, *Deputy Director* (New York)

Shari Turitz, *Director of Programs* (New York)

Daniel Wolfe, *Program Director, International Harm Reduction Development* (New York)

Rebecca Tolson, *Deputy Director, International Harm Reduction Development* (New York)

Judith Klein, *Program Director, Mental Health Initiative* (Budapest)

Kathleen M. Foley, MD, *Medical Director, International Palliative Care Initiative* (New York)

Mary Callaway, *Project Director, International Palliative Care Initiative* (New York)

Jonathan Cohen, *Project Director, Law and Health Initiative* (New York)

Heather Doyle, *Project Director, Sexual Health and Rights Project* (New York)

Cynthia Eyakuze, *Project Director, Public Health Watch* (New York)

Roma Initiatives

Bernard Rorke, *Director* (Budapest)

Scholarship Programs

Martha Loerke, *Director* (New York)
Alex Irwin, *Deputy Director* (New York)
Audrone Uzieliene, *Deputy Director*
(London)

Special Initiatives

Emily Martinez, *Director* (Washington,
D.C.)

Think Tank Fund

Goran Buldioski, *Director* (Budapest)

Youth Initiative

Noel Selegzi, *Director* (New York)

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(The Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs are headquartered in New York, except for OSI-Baltimore)

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Nancy Youman, *Deputy Director, U.S. Programs*

Erlin Ibreck, *Director, Strategic Opportunities Fund*

Laleh Ispahani, *Director, Transparency and Integrity Fund*

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Stephanie C. Behrens, *Director of International Human Resources*
Ricardo A. Castro, *General Counsel*
Tawanda Mutasah, *Director of Programs*
Anthony Richter, *Associate Director and Director of the Central Eurasia Project/ Middle East and North Africa Initiative*
Laura Silber, *Director of Public Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor*
Yalan Teng, *Chief Information Officer*
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OSI International Advisory Board

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