

Civil Society Law Reform

Inaugural UN Report on the Freedoms of Assembly and Association

On June 20, 2012, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Maina Kiai, presented his inaugural report to the UN Human Rights Council. This represents the culmination of years of work by ICNL and its partners to embed civil society legal issues into UN human rights mechanisms. ICNL is also pleased to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur through a number of activities, including hosting an ICNL Research Fellow who reports to the UN Special Rapporteur. ICNL's President and Vice President of Legal Affairs are currently at the UN Human Rights Council for the roll-out of Mr. Kiai's report. In addition, on June 22, 2012, ICNL will co-sponsor an event with the UN Special Rapporteur on these issues. At this event, ICNL and the World Movement for Democracy will also present an updated version of the *Defending Civil Society* report, previously endorsed by Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, the late Vaclav Havel, and other luminaries. View the UN Special Rapporteur's [report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council. You can also view the [Defending Civil Society](#) report and its accompanying [Toolkit](#).

News from the Sector

Seminar on Effective Giving and Inspiring Giving Stories

TUSEV, in partnership with Yapı Kredi Private Banking, organized a seminar on “Effective Giving and Inspiring Giving Stories” on June 18th in Istanbul. Seminar speakers were Dame Stephanie Shirley, the founder of Shirley Foundation and the Founding Ambassador of the Ambassadors of Philanthropy, and Haldun Taşman, the founder of Turkish Philanthropy Funds and Bolu Community Foundation. Philanthropy consultant Roberta d' Eustachio moderated the seminar aiming to inspire Turkish donors not only to give more but also to give strategically. Haldun Taşman emphasized the role of philanthropy as way to create wealth in society while Dame Stephanie Shirley underlined the importance of sharing with others unique stories of putting money to good use. The seminar was organized under the framework of TUSEV's Philanthropy Infrastructure Development Project. Please visit [here](#) for further information.



New rules to simplify access to EU funds

The European Parliament and the Council have agreed on new rules aimed at equipping the EU budget with simpler financial rules while securing sound treatment of European taxpayers' money.

As an example of simplification, beneficiaries of EU funds will no longer be obliged to open a separate bank account to receive an upfront payment at the start of a project and to return to the Commission any interest yielded by this money while it stays on this account. The regime of grants will be shifted from a real-cost based management (inputs) towards a performance-based scheme (outputs). This move is expected to simplify significantly the procedural and documentary requirements for the benefit of beneficiaries. The financial regulation will become applicable the same day as the rules of application, probably on 1 January 2013, a year before the start of the new multiannual financial framework 2014-2020. Please visit [here](#) for further information.

The International Social Entrepreneurship Conference's Report Published

Organised by TUSEV, British Council, and TACSO Project, the International Social Entrepreneurship Conference took place in Istanbul on 29 February-1 March 2012. The strategic partner of the Conference was the Vodafone Turkey Foundation, while the Kadir Has University was the host. This conference gathered 150 participants from the Western Balkans, Turkey, Ukraine and Georgia and United Kingdom. A detailed Conference report is available at [here](#).

Applications Open for Generation of Change: Young Armenian-Turkish Social Entrepreneurs Program

HasNa Inc. in partnership with the Habitat Center for Development and Governance (Istanbul, Turkey), Civic Development and Partnership Foundation (Yerevan, Armenia), Young Social Entrepreneur Leaders' Academy (Istanbul, Turkey), and Youth Initiative Centre (Gyumri, Armenia) will implement in late 2012 the inaugural year of Generation of Change: Young Armenian-Turkish Social Entrepreneurs Program. The overall program goal is to create and support a continuously growing network of young, skilled, and ambitious Armenian and Turkish social entrepreneurs working together for the benefit of their communities and their region. Through the program, 6 rising social entrepreneurs from Turkey and 6 rising social entrepreneurs from Armenia will gain the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate closely and increase their social impact. Program participants will include emerging social entrepreneurs from Armenia and Turkey, age 20-30, with various levels and types of experience. The deadline for submitting the application is July 31, 2012. Please visit [here](#) for further information and application form.

Highlights from Amnesty International 2012 Report's Turkey Section

Amnesty International Report 2012 documents specific restrictions on free speech in at least 91 countries as well as cases of people tortured or otherwise ill-treated in at least 101 countries – in many cases for taking part in demonstrations. According to the Turkey section of the report, promised constitutional and other legal reforms did not occur. Instead, the right to freedom of expression was threatened and protesters faced increased police violence. Thousands of

prosecutions brought under flawed anti-terrorism laws routinely failed fair trial standards. Bomb attacks claimed the lives of civilians. No progress was made in recognizing the right to conscientious objection or in protecting the rights of children in the judicial system. The rights of refugees and asylum-seekers and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people remained unsecured in law. Preventive mechanisms to combat violence against women remained inadequate. Please visit [here](#) for country reports including Turkey. Full report and more information are available [here](#).



Foundation Council of Europe launched to move advocacy agenda forward

Representing some 6,000 foundations, the Foundation Council of Europe was officially launched on 6 June. The Council for the first time brings together in one collective voice the members of the European Foundation Centre (EFC) and those of the Donors and Foundations Networks of Europe (DAFNE). This new framework gives European foundations a stronger advocacy basis at the level of the European institutions. The launch took place at the EFC's 23rd Annual General Assembly and Conference in Belfast. The primary objective of this body is to advocate for a better legal and fiscal environment for foundations in Europe. The first job of the Foundation Council will be to convince the European Parliament and national governments to approve the European Commission's recently released legislative proposal for a European Foundation Statute (EFS) by no later than 2014. Once passed, the Statute will allow foundations that have a public-benefit purpose and that wish to work cross-border to become a "European Foundation". This form of foundation would be additional and complementary to existing national forms; would be legally recognised in all Member States; and would operate under the same set of conditions across the EU. Please visit [here](#) to read the full statement.

News from Our Members

TEMA wins the Land for Life Award

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced three winners for its first Land for Life Award, shining a spotlight on organizations that show tangible evidence combating land degradation. The announcement also marked the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June. One of the three recipients of the award is the Turkish Foundation

for Combating Soil Erosion (TEMA). TEMA Foundation was found worthy of this award particularly due to its active role in the preparation and the approval of the 'Law on Soil Conservation and Land



Improvement' and the 'Law on Grazelands', winning 79 of the 152 legal cases it opened or intervened in for the protection of agriculture and forest land within its advocacy work so far, for its rural demonstration projects, planting of more than 10 million saplings and 690 million oak acorns across the country and by reaching 450,000 volunteers all over Turkey. Please visit [here](#) for more information.

Apply for Umut Foundation Cartoon Competition on Individual Disarmament

Umut Foundation aims at attracting attention to the social dimension of increasing individual armament by questioning reasons, results and dangers of it by making use of the power and opportunities of the art of animation in social communication and to increase awareness of the public in this regard by using challenging, determining and underlining images. Competition aims at giving the message that peace can spread among the society first beginning between two people and contrary to violence emerging with individual armament, individual disarmament, to give it to the society with peaceful images of individual disarmament. The application deadline is 15 August 2012, Wednesday until 17:30. More information about the application and selection can be reached [here](#).



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