

September 10, 2009

Letter of Support – Global Disability Rights Library



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To Whom It May Concern:

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF), a new grantmaking collaborative, encompassing multiple donors and international disability rights activists, is writing this letter of support for the Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL) project submitted jointly to USAID by the University of Iowa and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD).

As outlined in the project proposal, USICD will draw on established international linkages to identify and work with stakeholders in developing countries. DRF, whose executive director is a USICD Board member, has been doing grantmaking since 2008 in several of the countries to be targeted by the GDRL project (Bangladesh, Ghana, Peru, and Uganda). In these countries, DRF has numerous grantees at local and national levels. These grantees are either national-level umbrella Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) with advocacy capacity at policy levels or local, community-based DPOs, often representing the more marginalized sectors of the disability community. DRF grantees represent a broad spectrum of the disability community, including persons with physical and sensory impairments and psycho-social and intellectual disabilities.

If the GDRL project is successful, DRF will support the project by providing links to these grantees and to other key stakeholders (such as governmental entities, like National Councils on Disability, National Human Rights Institutions, and others) in our target countries.

USICD is doing important work to connect U.S.-based resources and knowledge in the disability arena to persons with disabilities in other parts of the world. To ensure that people with disabilities around the world are able to achieve their rights, such information sharing is critical.

DRF supports this application, and would be pleased to respond to any inquiries, as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diana Samarasan".

Diana Samarasan
Director