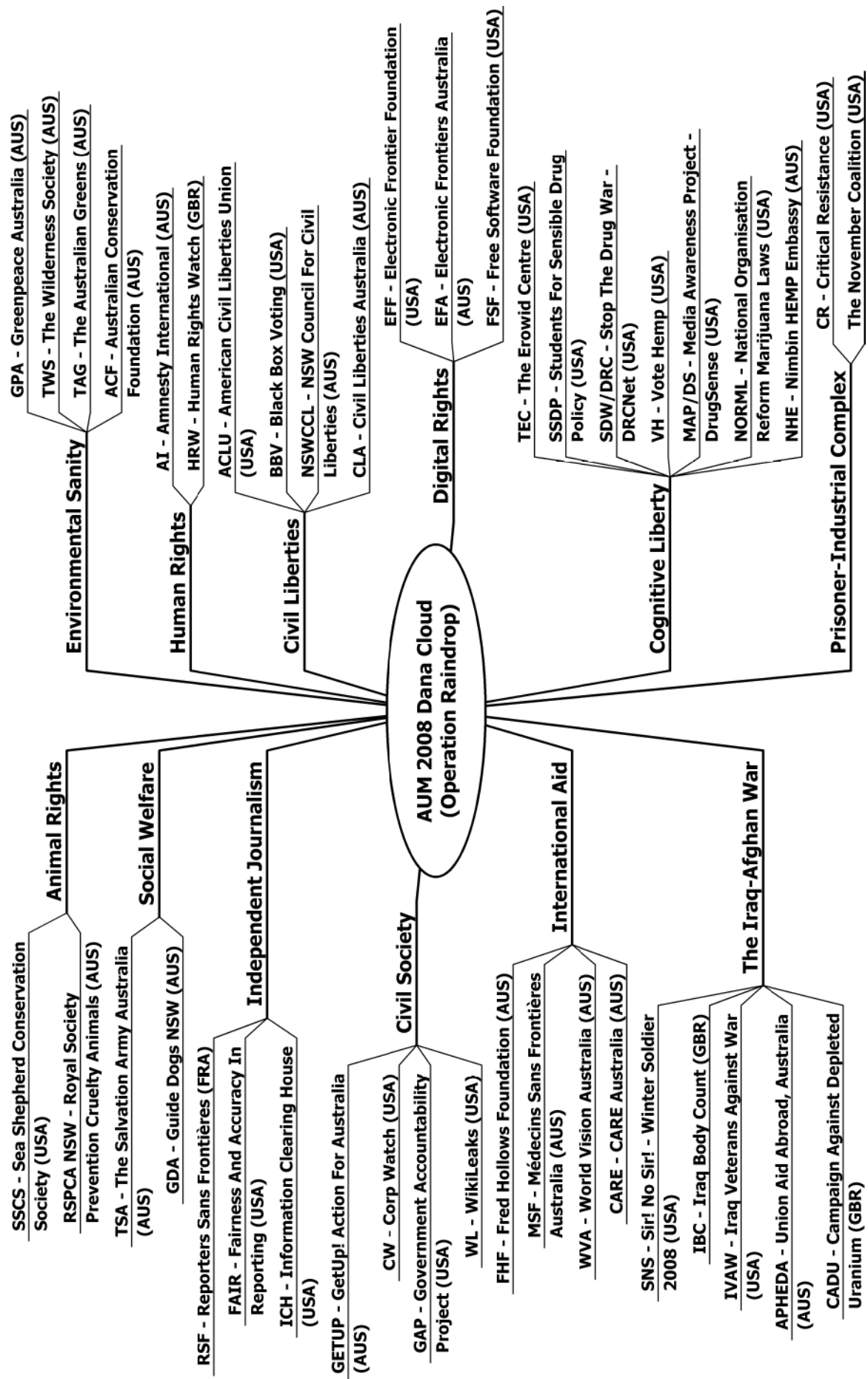


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AUM 2008 Dana Cloud (Operation Raindrop)

1. Environmental Sanity

1.1 GPA - Greenpeace Australia (AUS)

<http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/>
<http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/about/>

Our Mission:

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organisation that uses non-violent direct action to expose global environmental problems and to force solutions which are essential to a green and peaceful future.

Greenpeace's goal is to ensure the ability of the earth to nurture life in all its diversity.

Greenpeace believes that violence in any form is morally wrong and accomplishes nothing. No one gets hurt during a Greenpeace non-violent direct action because activists are fully trained prior to any direct action involvement.

Greenpeace's core values are:

- Independence: we do not accept money from governments, corporations or political parties because it would compromise our core values.
- Bearing witness: we follow the Quaker tradition of bearing witness. Philosophically and tactically. Our peaceful protests work to raise awareness and bring public opinion to bear on decision-makers.
- Non-violent direct action: we strongly believe that violence in any form is morally wrong and accomplishes nothing. Greenpeace takes non-violent direct action at the point of an environmental crime to expose an environmental problem.

1.2 TWS - The Wilderness Society (AUS)

<http://www.wilderness.org.au/>
<http://www.wilderness.org.au/about-us>

The Wilderness Society is a community-based environmental protection organisation. We work to safeguard our sources of clean water and air, to tackle devastating climate change, to create a safe future for life on Earth, and to give a better world to our children. The majority of our work is in Australia, with a strong focus on natural environments and the role they play in keeping our world safe.

We were born in 1976, and our first major victory was Australia's most famous environmental campaign - saving the Franklin River. Since then, with the support of thousands of concerned people across the country, we've worked to protect millions of hectares of our greatest wild places.

How does The Wilderness Society achieve its goals?

Do not be fooled into thinking that governments save the environment. Almost without exception, they will be dragged, kicking and screaming, to the right decision, by a concerned, determined community.

The Wilderness Society has a long history of encouraging and empowering the community to have a say in the future protection of Australia's natural environment.

We undertake a range of peaceful activities to protect our wild places. These include:

Research:

- Work with scientists to determine what nature needs to survive for the long term.

- Understand environmental impacts of activities such as logging, clearing, mining, fishing, and the nuclear industry.
- Study the industries which rely on using natural resources and identify ways to avoid or reduce their impact .
- Document problems and solutions through reports, photos and videos.

Raising community awareness:

- Prepare materials to explain issues easily.
- Talk to people on the streets, at stalls, markets, community events.
- Create activities and events to publicise the issues such as marches and rallies, street theatre, parades and festivals, art exhibitions and media stunts.

Work with the media:

- Influence the community and decision makers through the media.
 - Issue news releases, launch reports, provide media comment, hold press conferences, run community radio shows, make films.
 - Brief journalists.
 - Run ads on television, radio and newspapers.
- Use government processes and the legal system
- Prepare submissions and provide advice to governments.
 - Promote new and improved laws to help protect the environment.
 - Use the courts if companies or governments are not complying with the laws.

Lobby politicians and other decision makers:

- Visit and speak with members of parliament.
- Encourage people to write, phone or visit through letter writing stalls, postcards, phone ins, actions outside offices of members of parliament.
- Attend shareholder meetings of relevant companies.
- Meet with unions involved in industries of interest.
- Build alliances with like-minded organisations and industries.

1.3 TAG - The Australian Greens (AUS)

<http://greens.org.au/>

The Greens - Peace and Non Violence, Grassroots Democracy, Social and Economic Justice, Ecological Sustainability

History:

The Australian Greens is a federation of eight state and territory parties which grew out of Australian environment

movements in the 1970s and 1980s. The campaign to save Lake Pedder led to the formation of the United Tasmania Group in 1972. This was the first 'green party' in the world.

The 1980s were a time of enormous growth and professionalism in green movements, resulting in the election of Australia's first green member of parliament. In 1984 a national conference was called and Greens parties were formed in Queensland and New South Wales. The NSW Greens stood candidates in the 1984 state election. In the same year Jo Vallentine was elected to the Senate for Western Australia as a member of the Nuclear Disarmament Party, before leaving to form her own. In 1990 this group merged with others to form the WA Greens.

Throughout the 1980s forest campaigns in Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania strengthened and developed the green movement. At the end of the decade, the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill campaign saw three more Greens (Christine Milne, Di Hollister and Lance Armstrong) elected to the Tasmanian Parliament in 1989. With Bob Brown and Gerry Bates (who had been elected in 1986) they formed an alliance called The Green Independents. They held the balance of power, and the ALP governed with their support as a minority government until 1992.

The 1990s began with serious efforts to form a national Green political party. By the end of 1992, both the Australian Greens and a Victorian Greens party were established. In the national parliament, Jo Vallentine retired in 1992 and Christobel Chamarette filled her WA Greens Senate seat. In the 1993 federal election another WA Greens senator, Dee Margetts, was elected to the Senate, and she and Christobel Chamarette held the balance of power.

The new century brought increasing promise. The 2001 federal election saw Bob re-elected in the Senate for Tasmania and joined by Kerry Nettle for New South Wales. In a federal by-election in 2002, Michael Organ from Illawarra, NSW, became the first Greens member of the House of Representatives, but he lost the seat at the next general election.

In 2004, the Greens increased their Senate representation to four when Bob Brown and Kerry Nettle were joined by Christine Milne from Tasmania and Rachel Siewert from Western Australia.

At the 2007 Federal election, more than a million Australians voted Green. Bob Brown was resoundingly re-elected, but Kerry Nettle was not, despite an increase in her vote. Sarah Hanson-Young (SA) and Scott Ludlam (WA) will join Bob, Christine and Rachel in the Senate in July 2008.

At state level, the Greens have fifteen elected members of parliament: four in Tasmania, four in New South Wales, three in Victoria, two in Western Australia one in South Australia and one in the ACT. More than 80 Greens have been elected to local councils around the country.

The Australian Greens is part of the Global Greens network, with around 70 Greens parties established world-wide. In 23 nations Greens have been elected to public office, and in European countries such as Germany, Latvia and France, Greens parties are part of governing coalitions. Find out more about the Global Greens at <http://www.globalgreens.org>

1.4 ACF - Australian Conservation Foundation (AUS)

<http://www.acfonline.org.au/>
http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp?section_id=231

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is committed to inspiring people to achieve a healthy environment for all Australians.

For 40 years we have been a strong voice for the environment, promoting solutions through research, consultation, education and partnerships. We work with the community, business and government to protect, restore and sustain our environment.

ACF is Australia's leading national not-for profit environment organisation and is funded almost entirely by individual membership and donations.

Since 1966, we have focussed on the most important and urgent environmental problems, seeking change with lasting political, economic and social support. ACF has played a key role in increasing protection for some of Australia's most outstanding natural assets including the Franklin River, Kakadu, the Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.

http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=339

Philosophy

The Australian Conservation Foundation:

Reveres the enormous sweep and splendour of life on earth which has evolved over billions of years.

Values and promotes in all Australians a love for this ancient island continent, its seas and waters and its unique life forms and landscapes.

Recognises that we share the earth with many other living things that have intrinsic value and warrant our respect, whether or not they are of benefit to us.

Seeks to protect biological diversity; the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part and their potential to evolve.

Recognises that human society and economic activity depends upon the sustainability of the planet's natural systems.

Seeks a society that changes our relationship to the earth to one of harmony with the environment: from one of dominance to partnership; from fragmentation to connection; from insecurity to interdependence.

Believes that each generation holds the earth's natural values in trust for present and future generations.

Values and respects the custodianship and the continuing and special relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples to their traditional lands and waters.

Values and works co-operatively with those who advocate for and take action to protect the environment.

Believes that social equity and justice are fundamental to sound environment outcomes. Believes that strong environmental policies help to achieve society's goals of improved quality of life, good health and a sound economy.

Values participatory democracy and will work to defend the rights and enhance the role of all people in protecting the environment.

Will pursue positive solutions to environmental issues, which include consideration of social and cultural impact.

2. Human Rights

2.1 AI - Amnesty International (AUS)

<http://www.amnesty.org.au/>
http://www.amnesty.org.au/wiki/Brief_History/

Our Mission

We are part of the global movement defending human rights and dignity. We work with people in Australia and our region to demand respect for human rights and protect people facing abuse. To do this, we mobilise people, campaign, conduct research and raise money for our work. We are promoting a culture where human rights are embraced, valued and protected.

Amnesty International Australia's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International is concerned solely with the impartial protection of human rights.

Brief History

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people campaigning to protect human rights. We have a vision of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When those human rights are violated, we:

- Search out the facts
- Expose what is happening
- Mobilise people to put pressure on governments and others to stop the abuse

Around the world we play a vital role, protecting people and communities who come under attack, encouraging governments and others to respect human rights and raising awareness of the international standards that protect us all.

Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by Peter Benenson, a London barrister. He was outraged at reports that a group of students in Portugal had been jailed for raising a toast to "freedom" in a café. So he issued an appeal for the "forgotten prisoners" who were languishing in jails around the world for their non-violent beliefs. And he called on people everywhere to join a mass letter-writing campaign to pressure governments to set them free.

Within months, people in Australia formed groups and joined the worldwide movement, helping create Amnesty International.

Today, it is the world's largest human rights organisation: a global movement of 2.7 million people across 150 countries - 82,000 in Australia - working to defend human rights and dignity.

Traditionally, Amnesty International worked to defend civil and political rights, focused on prisoners of conscience, torture and the death penalty. We have responded to changes in the world, and in the human rights environment around the world, and expanded our area of work to encompass work on economic, social and cultural rights.

In 1977 Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work.

"I count the number of times you have saved my life and made our work possible."

-- Wangari Maathai, leader of Kenya's Greenbelt Movement and winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Amnesty International members have taken action to defend her on five separate occasions.

In Australia

Amnesty International Australia is part of this global movement. We work with people across the country and throughout Asia and the Pacific, defending the victims of human rights violations and promoting a culture where all of our human rights are protected.

Across Australia, our members and supporters donate their time, money and expertise to build a stronger voice for human rights. They take part in campaigns, write letters, join groups and networks, have their democratic say in the organisation's direction and raise awareness of human rights in their communities.

2.2 HRW - Human Rights Watch (GBR)

<http://www.hrw.org/>

<http://www.hrw.org/en/about>

Human Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world.

We stand with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and to bring offenders to justice.

We investigate and expose human rights violations and hold abusers accountable.

We challenge governments and those who hold power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law.

We enlist the public and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.

Human Rights Watch is an independent, nongovernmental organization, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly.

WHO - More than 240 dedicated professionals work for Human Rights Watch around the world. We are lawyers, journalists, academics, and country experts of many nationalities and diverse backgrounds. We often join forces with human rights groups from other countries to further our common goals. A growing cadre of volunteers supports us.

WHAT - Human Rights Watch is the largest human rights organization based in the United States. Human Rights Watch researchers conduct fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in all regions of the world. Human Rights Watch then publishes those findings in dozens of books and reports every year, generating extensive coverage in local and international media. This publicity helps to embarrass abusive governments in the eyes of their citizens and the world. Human Rights Watch then meets with government officials to urge changes in policy and practice -- at the United Nations, the European Union, in Washington and in capitals around the world. In extreme circumstances, Human Rights Watch presses for the withdrawal of military and economic support from governments that egregiously violate the rights of their people. In moments of crisis, Human Rights Watch provides up-to-the-minute information about conflicts while they are underway. Refugee accounts, which were collected, synthesized and cross-corroborated by our researchers, helped shape the response of the international community to recent wars in Kosovo and Chechnya.

WHEN - Human Rights Watch started in 1978 as Helsinki Watch, to monitor the compliance of Soviet bloc countries with the human rights provisions of the landmark Helsinki Accords. In the 1980's, Americas Watch was set up to counter the notion that human rights abuses by one side in the war in Central America were somehow more tolerable than abuses by the other side. The organization grew to cover other regions of the world, until all the "Watch" committees were united in 1988 to form Human Rights Watch.

WHERE - Human Rights Watch is based in New York, with offices in Brussels, London, Moscow, Paris, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Tashkent, Toronto, and Washington. We often set up temporary offices in regions where we're conducting intensive investigations, and our researchers regularly travel to the countries they cover, unless security concerns prevent it. In cyberspace, Human Rights Watch is located at www.hrw.org. Human Rights Watch tracks developments in more than 70 countries around the world. We also follow issues in women's rights, children's rights, and the flow of arms to abusive forces. Other special projects include academic freedom, the human rights responsibilities of corporations, international justice, prisons, drugs, and refugees.

Any and all parties to conflict may find themselves the target of Human Rights Watch. We have exposed abuses by governments and rebels; by Hutu and Tutsi; by Serb, Croat, Bosniak Muslim, and Kosovar Albanian; by Israelis and Palestinians; by Christians and Muslims in the islands of Indonesia and the sands of the Sudan. We frequently call on the United States to support human rights in its foreign policy -- but we also report on human rights abuse inside the United States, such as prison conditions, police abuse, the detention of immigrants, and the death penalty.

WHY - Human Rights Watch believes that international standards of human rights apply to all people equally, and that sharp vigilance and timely protest can prevent the tragedies of the twentieth century from recurring. At Human Rights Watch, we remain convinced that progress can be made when people of good will organize themselves to make it happen.

3. Civil Liberties

3.1 ACLU - American Civil Liberties Union (USA)

<http://www.aclu.org/>

<http://www.aclu.org/about/index.html>

"So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy."

-- ACLU Founder Roger Baldwin

The ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

The ACLU Mission:

The American system of government is founded on two counterbalancing principles: that the majority of the people governs, through democratically elected representatives; and that the power even of a democratic majority must be limited, to ensure individual rights.

Majority power is limited by the Constitution's Bill of Rights, which consists of the original ten amendments ratified in 1791, plus the three post-Civil War amendments (the 13th, 14th and 15th) and the 19th Amendment (women's suffrage), adopted in 1920.

The mission of the ACLU is to preserve all of these protections and guarantees:

- Your First Amendment rights - freedom of speech, association and assembly; freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.
- Your right to equal protection under the law - equal treatment regardless of race, sex, religion or national origin.
- Your right to due process - fair treatment by the government whenever the loss of your liberty or property is at stake.
- Your right to privacy - freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into your personal and private affairs.

We work also to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including Native Americans and other people of color; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; women; mental-health patients; prisoners; people with disabilities; and the poor.

If the rights of society's most vulnerable members are denied, everybody's rights are imperiled.

The ACLU was founded by Roger Baldwin, Crystal Eastman, Albert DeSilver and others in 1920. We are nonprofit and nonpartisan and have grown from a roomful of civil liberties activists to an organization of more than 500,000 members and supporters. We handle nearly 6,000 court cases annually from our offices in almost every state.

The ACLU has maintained the position that civil liberties must be respected, even in times of national emergency. The ACLU is supported by annual dues and contributions from its members, plus grants from private foundations and individuals. We do not receive any government funding.

3.2 BBV - Black Box Voting (USA)

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/>

ABOUT BLACK BOX VOTING

Black Box Voting is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan elections watchdog group.

- Founded: 2004

- A national organization based in Renton, Washington (suburb of Seattle)
- Closest network TV taping location: Fisher Pathways, Seattle WA
- Mission: The mission of Black Box Voting is to ensure fair and accurate elections through citizen oversight.

Black Box Voting investigates election problems, communicates the problems to the citizenry, and teaches citizens how to manage their own government -- which means teaching citizens how to identify elections problems and providing citizens with the tools to oversee elections. Black Box Voting takes the position that being a citizen means taking an active role in government oversight.

Elections procedures must be fair, they must be inclusive, they must prevent voter disenfranchisement, they must protect each individual's vote by reducing the ability to tamper or miscount. Systems do not achieve quality automatically -- citizen oversight is the key ingredient to fair and accurate elections.

Because We, the People are the owners of our government, we citizens should expect to take an active role in managing the quality of the government systems we have created.

- Citizen's Tool Kit: Black Box Voting provides a concise Citizen's Tool Kit to help citizens learn how to oversee elections.
- One-on-one consultation: Black Box Voting provides individualized one-on-one assistance to citizens throughout the U.S. to help them learn to oversee their own elections.
- National Hand Count Registry: Black Box Voting hosts a national registry for citizens willing to volunteer to hand count elections, should their services be needed in any jurisdiction.
- Research: Black Box Voting is the first organization to sponsor "hack" research and demonstrations using real voting machines under the supervision of local election officials. Research on voting machine security by Black Box Voting has been validated by a GAO Report, a report by the Brennan Center for Justice, and reports by the EAC and the state of California. procedures.
- Evidence collection: Black Box Voting helps citizens collect evidence in the form of videotaped, public records, internal documents and photographic evidence pertaining to election integrity issues.
- Annual budget: Approximately \$350,000 per year, funded entirely by small citizen donations. Black Box Voting does not accept funding from any voting machine manufacturer, political party, or government agency.
- Founded by: Bev Harris, author of the book Black Box Voting (an expose on electronic voting).

3.3 NSWCCCL - NSW Council For Civil Liberties (AUS)

<http://www.nswccl.org.au/>
<http://www.nswccl.org.au/about/index.php>

About the NSW Council for Civil Liberties

The NSW Council for Civil Liberties (NSWCCCL) was founded in 1963 and is one of Australia's leading human rights and civil liberties organisations. Our aim is to secure the equal rights of everyone (as long as they don't infringe the rights and freedoms of others) and oppose any abuse or excessive power by the State against its people.

To this end NSWCCCL attempts to influence public debate and government policy on a range of human rights issues. We try to secure amendments to laws, or changes in policy, where civil liberties are not fully respected.

We also listen to individual complaints and, through volunteer efforts, attempt to help members of the public with civil liberties problems. We prepare submissions to government, conduct court cases defending infringements of civil liberties, engage regularly in public debates, produce publications, and conduct many other activities.

Our achievements

Recent projects and activities include:

- Federal Court cases on the rights of asylum seekers, including Australia's obligations under the Convention against Torture.
- Many submissions to federal and state parliaments on issues such as human rights, anti-terrorism legislation, same-sex marriage and Australia's mandatory detention system.
- Campaigns for prisoner exchange programs with foreign countries.
- Organisation of a national Bill of Rights campaign in association with other interested parties.

3.4 CLA - Civil Liberties Australia (AUS)

<http://www.cla.asn.au/>

<http://www.cla.asn.au/page/about.php>

Background:

Civil Liberties Australia (CLA) is a national organisation based in Australia's capital city, Canberra, which "stand(s) for people's rights, and go(es) in to bat for everyone's civil liberties". It is non-party political and independent of other organisations, as well as being funded by its members and donations.

CLA monitors police and security forces, and the actions and inaction of politicians. It reviews proposed legislation to make it better, and keeps watch on government departments and agencies, according to its website, www.cla.asn.au

The organisation aims to "keep Australia the free and open society it has traditionally been, where you can be yourself without undue interference from 'authority'."

CLA was formally registered on 10 December 2003 as Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) Incorporated, Association Number 04043 in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) register of associations. Current office bearers are located under the 'The Board' tab associated with this page.

At 30 June 2007, CLA had approximately 200 members. There were about 160 full members and 40 student members.

In 2004 through 2006, CLA concentrated on ensuring civil liberties and human rights were affected as little as possible by more than 50 pieces of anti-terrorism legislation introduced by the Australian Government as a result of the 11 September 2001 aircraft attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, USA.

CLA is analysing the civil liberties/human rights status of 12 Pacific Island nations, including Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, with a view to offering help to form civil society groups if requested.

A major internal project is to identify and promulgate the precise rights of Australians to protest outside their national Parliament House, and other Parliament and executive buildings.

CLA has proposed a worldwide 10/10 For Life campaign, asking nations to declare a 10-year moratorium on the death penalty from 10 October 2010. It is asking the Australian Government, which is opposed to state execution, to lead an anti-death penalty campaign in the Asia-Pacific region.

Within Australia, CLA is campaigning for more community involvement in setting guidelines for police, in particular in use of Taser stun guns and 'hot' pursuits in vehicles. The organisation is also lecturing to Australian Defence Force cadets on human rights and working with others to establish better safeguards for 'whistleblowers' (people who make 'public interest disclosures').

CLA has facilitated ANU Law School internships studies on emerging issues in recent years:

- 2006: an analysis of international human rights law in relation to climate and environment change; and
- 2007: an analysis of the impact of the post-11 September 2001 laws on Australian society, and recommendations for how the nation can return to the traditional rule of law.
- 2007: analysis and recommendations on personal and proxy medical consent laws;
- 2007-8: research and recommendations for new national laws and regulations in relation to DNA.

History:

CLA is the second civil liberties group formed in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). From about the mid-1970s to the late 1990s, a locally-based organisation called the ACT Council for Civil Liberties (ACTCCL) held regular meetings under the presidency for many years of barrister Laurie O'Sullivan, and then in its final years of lawyer Jon Stanhope, who later was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly and subsequently became Chief Minister, introducing on 1 July 2004 the first Human Rights Act ('Bill of Rights') in any Australian jurisdiction.

Other noted personalities involved in the earlier ACTCCL were Forbes Gordon, a lawyer and grazier from Braidwood who was instrumental in the founding of the group, and Jennifer Saunders, a prominent female barrister who was President when it ceased to operate around 2000-2001.

4. Digital Rights

4.1 EFF - Electronic Frontier Foundation (USA)

<http://www.eff.org/>
<http://www.eff.org/about>

About the EFF:

From the Internet to the iPod, technologies are transforming our society and empowering us as speakers, citizens, creators, and consumers. When our freedoms in the networked world come under attack, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is the first line of defense. EFF broke new ground when it was founded in 1990 - well before the Internet was on most people's radar - and continues to confront cutting-edge issues defending free speech, privacy, innovation, and consumer rights today. From the beginning, EFF has championed the public interest in every critical battle affecting digital rights.

Blending the expertise of lawyers, policy analysts, activists, and technologists, EFF achieves significant victories on behalf of consumers and the general public. EFF fights for freedom primarily in the courts, bringing and defending lawsuits even when that means taking on the US government or large corporations. By mobilizing more than 50,000 concerned citizens through our Action Center, EFF beats back bad legislation. In addition to advising policymakers, EFF educates the press and public.

EFF is a donor-funded nonprofit and depends on your support to continue successfully defending your digital rights. Litigation is particularly expensive; because two-thirds of our budget comes from individual donors, every contribution is critical to helping EFF fight -and win-more cases.

A History of Protecting Freedom Where Law and Technology Collide:

The Electronic Frontier Foundation was founded in July of 1990 in response to a basic threat to speech. The United States Secret Service conducted a series of raids tracking the distribution of a document illegally copied from a BellSouth computer that described how the emergency 911 system worked, referred to as the E911 document. The Secret Service believed that if "hackers" knew how to use the telephone lines set aside for receiving emergency phone calls, the lines would become overloaded and people facing true emergencies would be unable to get through.

One of the alleged recipients of the E911 document was the systems operator at a small games book publisher

out of Austin, Texas, named Steve Jackson Games. The Secret Service executed a warrant against the innocent Jackson and took all electronic equipment and copies of an upcoming game book from Steve Jackson Games's premises. Steve Jackson panicked as he watched the deadline come and go for his latest release and still hadn't received his computers back. He was forced to lay off nearly half of his staff. In the end, the Secret Service returned all of Steve Jackson's computers and decided not to press charges against the company, since they were unable to find any copies of the E911 document on any of the computers.

In the meantime, Steve Jackson's business was nearly ruined. And when he and his employees had the opportunity to investigate the returned computers, they noticed that all of the electronic mail that had been stored on the company's electronic bulletin board computer, where non-employee users had dialed in and sent personal messages to one another, had been individually accessed and deleted. Steve Jackson was furious, as he believed his rights as a publisher had been violated and the free speech and privacy rights of his users had been violated. Steve Jackson tried desperately to find a civil liberties group to help him, to no avail. Unfortunately, none of the existing groups understood the technology well enough to understand the import of the issues.

In an electronic community called the Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link (now WELL.com) several informed technologists understood exactly what civil liberties issues were involved. Mitch Kapor, former president of Lotus Development Corporation, John Perry Barlow, Wyoming cattle rancher and lyricist for the Grateful Dead, and John Gilmore, an early employee of Sun Microsystems, decided to do something about it. They formed an organization to work on civil liberties issues raised by new technologies. And on the day they formally announced the organization, they announced that they were representing Steve Jackson Games and several of the company's bulletin board users in a lawsuit they were bringing against the United States Secret Service. The Electronic Frontier Foundation was born!

The Steve Jackson Games case turned out to be an extremely important one in the development of a proper legal framework for cyberspace. For the first time, a court held that electronic mail deserves at least as much protection as telephone calls. We take for granted today that law enforcement must have a warrant that particularly describes all electronic mail messages before seizing and reading them. The Steve Jackson Games case established that principle.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation continues to take on cases that set important precedents for the treatment of rights in cyberspace. In our second big case, *Bernstein v. U.S. Dept. of Justice*, the United States government prohibited a University of California mathematics Ph.D. student from publishing on the Internet an encryption computer program he had created. Years before, the government had placed encryption, a method for scrambling messages so they can only be understood by their intended recipients, on the United States Munitions List, alongside bombs and flamethrowers, as a weapon to be regulated for national security purposes. Companies and individuals exporting items on the munitions list, including software with encryption capabilities, had to obtain prior State Department approval.

Encryption export restrictions crippled American businesses and damaged the free speech rights of individuals. Critical for e-commerce, companies use encryption to safeguard sensitive information, such as credit card numbers, which they send or receive over electronic networks. Companies also secure access to software programs and provide system security using encryption. By limiting the export of encryption, technologies and methods, the U.S. government drove development of security software overseas, where American companies were unable to compete.

The State Department was unsympathetic to Bernstein's situation and told Bernstein he would need a license to be an arms dealer before he could simply post the text of his encryption program on the Internet. They also told him that they would deny him an export license if he actually applied for one, because his technology was too secure.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation pulled together a top-notch legal team and sued the United States government on behalf of Dan Bernstein. The court ruled, for the first time ever, that written software code is speech protected by the First Amendment. The court further ruled that the export control laws on encryption violated Bernstein's First Amendment rights by prohibiting his constitutionally protected speech. As a result, the government changed its export regulations. Now everyone has the right to "export" encryption software -- by publishing it on the Internet -- without prior permission from the U.S. government. Once again, the Electronic Frontier Foundation led the charge to establish important cyberspace rights.

Today's Issues:

While early threats to our right to communicate came from the government, current threats come also from industry, as it seeks to control and expand current revenue sources at the expense of traditional fair use. The trend has been for industry to use a combination of law and technology to suppress the rights of people using technology. Nowhere is this more evident than in the world of copyright law, where the movie and recording studios are trying to dumb down technology to serve their "bottom lines" and manipulate copyright laws to tip the delicate balance toward intellectual property ownership and away from the right to think and speak freely.

4.2 EFA - Electronic Frontiers Australia (AUS)

<http://www.efa.org.au/>
<http://www.efa.org.au/about/>

Who We Are:

Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc. (EFA) is a non-profit national organisation representing Internet users concerned with on-line freedoms and rights. EFA was established in January 1994 and incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act (S.A.) in May 1994.

EFA is independent of government and commerce and is funded by membership subscriptions and donations from individuals and organisations with an altruistic interest in promoting online civil liberties.

Our major objectives are to protect and promote the civil liberties of users and operators of computer based communications systems such as the Internet, to advocate the amendment of laws and regulations in Australia and elsewhere (both current and proposed) which restrict free speech and to educate the community at large about the social, political, and civil liberties issues involved in the use of computer based communications systems.

EFA members and supporters come from all parts of Australia and from diverse backgrounds. They are people who recognise that preserving freedoms and rights always depends on the willingness of people to defend them and that combatting the threats posed by the anti-civil libertarian forces, the radical right agenda and ill-informed reports in the media requires constant vigilance and support.

What we do:

EFA has the honour of serving an aspiration both timeless and immediate in working for online freedoms and rights. It is a timeless aspiration because the defence of liberty is a daily endeavour, history demonstrating that freedoms and rights lost are hard to regain. It is an immediate aspiration because the global Internet offers all people the right to communicate without interference, and governments have the chance to embody Internet freedoms and rights into law, custom and practice for generations to come.

Since 1994, on a shoestring budget and without business premises, EFA has led campaigns within Australia and overseas. Each year EFA spokespersons respond to hundreds of media and public enquiries about Internet regulation.

They present oral testimony to Parliamentary Committees; attend meetings with members of Parliament and political staffers to explain the need for policy reform and have been keynote speakers and lecturers in Australia and overseas.

Given the limited understanding of politicians and bureaucrats regarding Internet issues when EFA was formed in 1994, EFA can be justifiably proud of achieving a change in Government opinion in relation to censorship, ISP liability and telecommunications policies, and widespread support for EFA's views among key stakeholders and the general public.

For detailed information about EFA's activities and work (present and past), see the Annual Reports of the EFA Board and/or the chronological listing on the EFA Projects page.

4.3 FSF - Free Software Foundation (USA)

<http://www.fsf.org/>
<http://www.fsf.org/about/>

Free Software and the GNU Operating System:

The Free Software Foundation (FSF) is a 501(c)3 donor supported charity founded in 1985 and based in Boston, MA, USA. The FSF has a worldwide mission to promote computer user freedom and to defend the rights of all free software users.

What is free software and why is it so important for society?

Free software is software that gives you the user the freedom to share, study and modify it. We call this free software because the user is free.

To use free software is to make a political and ethical choice asserting the right to learn, and share what we learn with others. Free software has become the foundation of a learning society where we share our knowledge in a way that others can build upon and enjoy.

Currently, many people use proprietary software that denies users these freedoms and benefits. If we make a copy and give it to a friend, if we try to figure out how the program works, if we put a copy on more than one of our own computers in our own home, we could be caught and fined or put in jail. That's what's in the fine print of the license agreement you accept when using proprietary software.

The corporations behind proprietary software will often spy on your activities and restrict you from sharing with others. And because our computers control much of our personal information and daily activities, proprietary software represents an unacceptable danger to a free society.

The GNU Operating System and the Free Software Movement:

What if there were a worldwide group of talented ethical programmers voluntarily committed to the idea of writing and sharing software with each other and with anyone else who agreed to share alike? What if anyone could be a part of and benefit from this community even without being a computer expert or knowing anything about programming? We wouldn't have to worry about getting caught copying a useful program for our friends because we wouldn't be doing anything wrong.

In fact, such a movement exists, and you can be a part of it. The free software movement was started in 1983 by computer scientist Richard M. Stallman, when he launched a project called GNU, which stands for "GNU is Not UNIX", to provide a replacement for the UNIX operating system-a replacement that would respect the freedoms of those using it. Then in 1985, Stallman started the Free Software Foundation, a nonprofit with the mission of advocating and educating on behalf of computer users around the world.

There are now many variants or 'distributions' of this GNU operating system using the kernel Linux. We recommend those GNU/Linux distributions that are 100% free software; in other words, entirely freedom-respecting.

Today, free software is available for just about any task you can imagine. From complete operating systems like GNU, to over 5,000 individual programs and tools listed in the FSF/UNESCO free software directory. Millions of people around the world - including entire governments - are now using free software on their computers.

Our Core Work

The FSF maintains the Free Software Definition - to show clearly what must be true about a particular software program for it to be considered free software.

The FSF sponsors the GNU project the ongoing effort to provide a complete operating system licensed as free software. We also fund and promote important free software development and provide development systems for

GNU software maintainers, including full email and shell services and mailing lists. We are committed to furthering the development of the GNU Operating System and enabling volunteers to easily contribute to that work, including sponsoring Savannah the source code repository and center for free software development.

The FSF holds copyright on a large proportion of the GNU operating system, and other free software. We hold these assets to defend free software from efforts to turn free software proprietary. Every year we collect thousands of copyright assignments from individual software developers and corporations working on free software. We register these copyrights with the US copyright office and enforce the license under which we distribute free software - typically the GNU General Public License. We do this to ensure that free software distributors respect their obligations to pass on the freedom to all users, to share, study and modify the code. We do this work through our Free Software Licensing and Compliance Lab.

The FSF publishes the GNU General Public License (GNU GPL), the worlds most popular free software license, and the only license written with the express purpose of promoting and preserving software freedom. Other important licenses we publish include the GNU Lesser General Public License (GNU LGPL), the GNU Affero General Public License (GNU AGPL) and the GNU Free Document License (GNU FDL). Read more about our free software licensing and related issues.

The FSF campaigns for free software adoption and against proprietary software. Threats to free software include Digital Restrictions Management (DRM), Software Patents and Treacherous Computing. Find out more about our campaigns, and ways to volunteer.

The FSF also provides important resources to the community including the FSF/UNESCO free software directory.

5. Cognitive Liberty

5.1 TEC - The Erowid Centre (USA)

<http://www.erowid.org/>
<http://www.erowid.org/general/about/about.shtml>

Our Mission:

Erowid is a member-supported organization providing access to reliable, non-judgmental information about psychoactive plants and chemicals and related issues. We work with academic, medical, and experiential experts to develop and publish new resources, as well as to improve and increase access to already existing resources. We also strive to ensure that these resources are maintained and preserved as a historical record for the future.

Our Vision:

We imagine a world where people treat psychoactives with respect and awareness; where people work together to collect and share knowledge in ways that strengthen their understanding of themselves and provide insight into the complex choices faced by individuals and societies alike. We believe that truth, accuracy, and integrity in publishing information about psychoactives will lead to healthier and more balanced choices, behaviors, and policies around all psychoactive medications, entheogens, herbs, and recreational drugs. Erowid's vision is to facilitate and create resources that are part of the evolution towards this goal.

http://www.erowid.org/general/about/about_faq.shtml

THE ORGANIZATION

What is Erowid?

Erowid is a small non-commercial organization that operates in the controversial and politically challenging niche of trying to provide accurate, specific, and responsible information about how psychoactives are used in the United States and around the world. We are committed to protecting the privacy of contributors and reporting on the topic non-judgmentally. Although our primary focus is on the Erowid.org web site, we also provide research and data for other harm reduction, health, and educational organizations.

Who runs Erowid?

Erowid was founded in October 1995 by Fire and Earth Erowid. The site was a part-time project until October 1999 when it became large enough for Fire to begin working on it full-time. Earth joined her working full-time in March 2000. The site was run as a non-commercial business through 2007. As of January 2008, operation of the site was taken over by the newly formed non-profit Erowid Center. Erowid Center now has four primary staff members, two part-time staff, and dozens of valuable volunteers who help process incoming data, seek out new resources, and/or help keep the site up-to-date.

What does "Erowid" mean?

The word Erowid is a created word based on indo-european roots meaning approximately "Earth Wisdom". This question was answered more fully in the article The Etymology of Erowid published in Erowid Extracts No 2, from December 2001.

Where is Erowid located?

Erowid does not have an office but is generally based in Northern California. The server is in San Francisco, California and all of the work is done remotely from staff and volunteers' homes in various parts of the world.

What is Erowid's History?

The word Erowid was created in late 1994 / early 1995. The Erowid domain name (Erowid.com at the time) was registered in April 1995. We began building webpages about "entheogens" in the late summer of 1995. By October, we had developed a small site which was publicly available, but hadn't yet been announced or submitted to search engines. In March 1996, we began submitting the site to search engines and the traffic began to grow.

THE SITE

What is Erowid.org?

Erowid.org is an online library of information about psychoactive plants, chemicals, and related topics. The site is cross between a library and a journal, both archiving older historical documents and information as well as publishing new articles.

Why was Erowid started?

Although the risks and problems of psychoactives are widely discussed, it's also clear that psychoactive plants and chemicals have played a positive role in many people's lives. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of balance in the information provided by many resources.

As our culture struggles with integrating the increasing variety and availability of these substances into its political and social structures, new educational models are clearly needed. Erowid is founded on the belief that a healthy relationship with psychoactives is one grounded in balance, where use is part of an active, intellectual, physical, and spiritual life. We believe that access to information is key to creating these healthier relationships with psychoactives.

Is Erowid legal?

The short answer is "yes, of course." Erowid does not violate any federal or state law and we work to be as meticulous with our financial accounting as we can be. Some people are concerned that simply providing controversial and diverse information about controlled substances (aka 'illegal drugs') could be a violation of the law. The issues are more complicated than a simple yes-no answer can provide, but generally there are two major components: first, 'illegal drugs' are not 'illegal' in all cases, and second, it is legal to talk about them as long as one is not otherwise committing, facilitating or encouraging the commission of a specific criminal act.

Many people need information about psychoactive drugs including doctors, lawyers, law-enforcement personnel, parents and educators, not to mention those most likely to be affected by their use. Controlled substances such as

LSD, cocaine, and heroin are used for research and in a variety of other circumstances (drug testing, forensic analysis, etc.). Many substances are illegal in some cases and not in others: GHB is currently listed as a Schedule I drug (only allowed for highly-controlled licensed research) and also a Schedule III medicinal drug (currently being investigated as a treatment for narcolepsy). The issue of when and how drugs are actually illegal is something we try to educate the public about.

The First Amendment of the United States is a very strong shield against censorship. Just because the content we publish is disliked by some does not make publishing it a violation of the law. The main thing that we strive to avoid and try to train all our volunteers to avoid is providing specific advice to individuals that could be used in the commission of a crime. Although this limits our ability to offer direct harm reduction recommendations, we believe that it is important for our staff to conservatively follow the laws of the United States.

5.2 SSDP - Students For Sensible Drug Policy (USA)

<http://ssdp.org/>
<http://ssdp.org/about/>

Mission Statement:

Students for Sensible Drug Policy is an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact drug abuse has on our communities, but who also know that the War on Drugs is failing our generation and our society.

SSDP mobilizes and empowers young people to participate in the political process, pushing for sensible policies to achieve a safer and more just future, while fighting back against counterproductive Drug War policies, particularly those that directly harm students and youth.

Values Statement:

Students for Sensible Drug Policy neither encourages nor condemns drug use. Rather, we seek to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies. As young people, we strive toward a just and compassionate society where drug abuse is treated as a health issue instead of a criminal justice issue.

We recognize that the very real harms of drug abuse are not adequately addressed by current policies and we advocate measures that would effectively help those who develop drug problems. Yet, we also believe that individuals must ultimately be allowed to make decisions for themselves as long as their actions do not infringe upon anyone else's freedoms or safety.

Because the War on Drugs has historically been justified as necessary to protect youth, it is our responsibility as young people to stop this harmful war from being waged in our names any longer. As scholars, we seek solutions to society's drug problems through focused research, honest dialogue, and informed debate, instead of unquestioned extremism, punishment, and propaganda.

SSDP's Structure as a Grassroots Organization:

SSDP is comprised of student chapters all across the country. Any student anywhere can start a chapter. While SSDP has a variety of national campaigns and actions that everyone can participate in, chapters are also encouraged to work on those issues that have the most traction in their own communities.

Annually SSDPers convene for a national conference. There, students acquire essential activist knowledge and skills. Also, chapters elect students to serve on SSDP's Board of Directors. The Board in turn selects and oversees SSDP's executive director, who is responsible for tending to both the day-to-day operations of the organization, as well as its long-term direction.

An important duty of the executive director is to hire and manage staff. Currently, besides an executive director, SSDP has a government relations director, a national field director, a national outreach director, and a webmaster. Ultimately, the SSDP staff exists to serve and represent SSDP's chapters and activists.

Legally, SSDP consists of two separate, distinct entities - Students for Sensible Drug Policy Foundation and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Inc.

The former, as a 501(c)3 organization, engages in education and outreach. Donations to SSDP Foundation are tax-deductible.

SSDP Inc, as a 501(c)4 organization, engages in advocacy, or attempts to effect change to law and policy. Accordingly, donations to SSDP Inc are not tax-deductible.

5.3 SDW/DRC - Stop The Drug War - DRCNet (USA)

<http://stopthedrugwar.org/>
<http://stopthedrugwar.org/about>

About DRCNet:

About the Drug Reform Coordination Network:

Stop the Drug War (DRCNet) calls for an end to drug prohibition (e.g. some form of legalization), and its replacement with some sensible framework in which drugs can be regulated and controlled instead.

Founded in 1993 by executive director David Borden, DRCNet has from the beginning called unambiguously for an end to prohibition; we are the largest "full-purpose" national membership organization with a wide range of programs to hold that position.

DRCNet is the acknowledged leader in the field of online educational publishing in drug policy reform. Our educational programs are global in scope; currently the primary ones include the acclaimed weekly online newsletter Drug War Chronicle, and now the "Stop the Drug War Speakeasy" blogosphere network. Drug War Chronicle is a major resource used extensively by activists, media and leaders in a range of relevant professions to empower their work.

DRCNet's "Prohibition in the Media" campaign, which is organized as a part of the "Speakeasy," seeks to have mainstream media outlets recognize the consequences of prohibition as such in their reporting.

In 2003 DRCNet organized an educational Latin American drug legalization summit in Mexico, in which legislators from six nations including a Colombian senator and former supreme court chief justice participated, a record level of high-level political participation for a drug reform conference.

DRCNet is also a "support" organization that uses our 32,000+ online network and publishing venues to build, support and amplify the work of all the other organizations in the movement -- DRCNet in fact directly started or enabled the founding of three other organizations, including Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Flex Your Rights and Drugsense.

Finally, DRCNet is an advocacy organization that works for concrete policy reform in the US at both the federal and state level. DRCNet is the organization that launched the campaign to repeal the drug provision of the Higher Education Act, a law which delays or denies financial aid to would-be students because of drug convictions. This campaign scored a major victory with the scaling back of the law in February 2006. DRCNet founded and coordinates the Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform, which has broadened the effort to also target the inadvertent denial of state financial aid that this federal law has caused.

In 2002 DRCNet organized a CHEAR press conference outside the US Capitol which set another record for drug policy reform by drawing the participation of ten members of Congress. DRCNet also disseminates "action alerts" urging our supporters to lobby Congress and other policymaking bodies in support of positive reforms such as sentencing reductions, medical marijuana and needle exchange and in opposition to new mandatory minimum sentences and escalation of the drug war in Colombia, and many other issues.

A DRCNet program that straddles advocacy, education and charity is the John W. Perry Fund, a program assisting students who have lost federal financial aid because of drug convictions with scholarships. The Perry Fund has

distributed more than \$20,000 in scholarships to 15 students, several of whom have gone on to do interviews with major media outlets.

DRCNet's National Perry Fund Campaign has held receptions featuring several members of Congress as well as other political leaders, celebrities and prominent advocates. The Perry Fund was responsible for locating two of the three student plaintiffs in a pending lawsuit organized by the ACLU that is challenging the drug provision on constitutional grounds.

DRCNet opposes the prison-building frenzy and supports rational policies consistent with the principles of peace, justice, freedom, compassion and truth. Each of these has been compromised in the name of the Drug War.

5.4 VH - Vote Hemp (USA)

<http://www.votehemp.com/>
http://www.votehemp.com/about_overview.html

Mission and Goals:

Vote Hemp is a national, single-issue, nonprofit organization dedicated to the acceptance of and free market for low-THC industrial hemp and to changes in current law to allow U.S. farmers to once again grow this agricultural crop. We educate people on the issues surrounding hemp, register voters, and build coalitions to fulfill our mission.

Vote Hemp is working to shift federal regulation of industrial hemp farming out of the hands of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and back to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) or get hemp farming regulated on the state level.

Vote Hemp also works to defend against any new laws, regulations or policies that would prohibit or restrict hemp commerce or imports.

Vote Hemp was founded in May 2000 by members of the hemp industry and was incorporated in the District of Columbia as a non-profit 501(c)4 organization. Since then Vote Hemp has emerged as the unquestionable lead political activist organization of the hemp industry. We have demonstrated that Vote Hemp is a strategic organization working for meaningful change in Washington, DC, a necessary precursor to expanding the hemp industry in the U.S. and worldwide.

To get a deeper understanding of the mission of Vote Hemp please read The Vote Hemp Treatise: A Renewal of Common Sense: The Case for Hemp in 21st Century America, written by Erik Rothenberg, President of Atlas Corporation and a former Director of Vote Hemp.

<http://www.votehemp.com/overview.html>

Overview

Vote Hemp seeks the full normalization of and a free market for industrial hemp in America. Vote Hemp's mission is to educate consumers, business owners, farmers and legislators about the many benefits of industrial hemp and to mobilize voters to elect pro-hemp politicians.

Hemp is one of the few issues on the national debate that enjoys tremendous bipartisan and cross-cultural support. Democrats and Libertarians, Greens and Republicans, farmers and hippies, global corporations and small mom-and-pop businesses are all part of the broad coalition in favor of industrial hemp.

They all have one thing in common: an education in the facts.

5.5 MAP/DS - Media Awareness Project - DrugSense (USA)

<http://www.drugsense.org/>
<http://www.drugsense.org/pages/mission.htm>

Goals and Objectives:

DrugSense and its largest project MAP combine to form a 501 c3 non-profit corporation. We exist to provide accurate information relevant to drug policy in order to heighten awareness of the extreme damage being caused to our nation and the world by our current flawed and failed "War on Drugs." We aim to inform the public of the existence of rational alternatives to the drug war, and to help organize citizens to bring about needed reforms.

To further those objectives, and in recognition of the critical role played by the media and the public, we:

- Call attention to factual errors and excesses of policy as reported by the working press and broadcast news organizations.
- Promote debate and discussion by encouraging citizens to communicate their views directly to the media and the public.
- Provide on-line and technical support for a wide range of reform organizations, large and small, including but not limited to providing free email chat lists, news information feeds, and web site creation and support. See our site map for a list of the organizations we support.
- Create and maintain a growing, easily searched, library of news and opinion as a research and educational tool.

We believe that public policy has nothing to fear from the truth. Effective policies require a clear understanding of their results.

We believe that prohibition is a system which unleashes powerful forces, most notably the illegal drug markets, that inevitably make the underlying drug problem worse while adding a series of costly unintended side effects, including damage to the very values upon which free nations have been founded.

We believe that a public well informed about the death, disease and social blight produced by current US drug policy must inevitably seek to reform it.

5.6 NORML - National Organisation Reform Marijuana Laws (USA)

<http://norml.org/>
http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3379

NORML Mission Statement

NORML's mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

Adopted by the NORML Board of Directors, February 27, 1999.

What is NORML and what does the organization stand for?

NORML is a nonprofit, public-interest lobby that for more than 30 years has provided a voice for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition. We represent the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly and believe the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana should no longer be a crime.

NORML supports the removal of all criminal penalties for the private possession and responsible use of marijuana by adults, including the cultivation for personal use, and the casual nonprofit transfers of small amounts. This model, similar to that recommended to Congress by President Nixon's esteemed Shafer Commission in 1972, is called "decriminalization."

NORML additionally supports the development of a legally controlled market for marijuana, where consumers could purchase it from a safe, legal and regulated source. This model is referred to as "legalization."

NORML believes that marijuana smoking is not for kids and should only be used responsibly by adults. As with

alcohol consumption, it must never be an excuse for misconduct or other bad behavior. Driving or operating heavy equipment while impaired from marijuana should be prohibited.

NORML strongly supports the right of patients to use marijuana as a medicine when their physician recommends it to relieve pain and suffering. NORML has advocated for the legal use of medicinal marijuana since 1972.

Lastly, NORML supports the right of farmers to commercially cultivate the non-psychoactive strain of cannabis known as hemp for industrial purposes, such as food and fiber production.

What does NORML do?

NORML lobbies Congress and state legislatures for more rational and cost-effective marijuana policies. We provide expert witnesses for legislative hearings in support of marijuana reform legislation and to provide testimony to assist defendants charged with marijuana offenses.

NORML also serves as a marijuana-law reform advocate with the media nationwide, publishes a periodic newsletter, and maintains a comprehensive web site, which includes a 50-state legislative tracking system, where visitors can inform themselves about the issue and send a free fax or an e-mail to their state and federal elected officials.

In addition, we maintain a legal committee comprised of 350 criminal defense attorneys nationwide who specialize in the defense of individuals charged with marijuana-related offenses.

Because NORML lobbies state and federal elected officials, contributions to the organization are not tax deductible.

5.7 NHE - Nimbin HEMP Embassy (AUS)

<http://www.hempembassy.net/>
<http://www.hempembassy.net/hempe/index.html>

JUST SAY NO TO PROHIBITION

1.0 Introduction

Nimbin Hemp Embassy was established in 1992. The Embassy's prime activities are promoting drug law reform by educating the community in general, and promoting a more tolerant and compassionate attitude to people in general.

The Embassy supports other various community groups. The Hemp Embassy is supported by many influential community figures. We try to remain a "grass roots" organisation, and try to avoid being compromised in our message by any sponsorship arrangements or agreements. Naturally this means we are often "running on empty" and are definitely open to spontaneous donations.

2.0 Finance and Management Structure

The Nimbin Hemp Embassy is a non-profit association incorporated under the name "Nimbin Hemp". The Embassy is under stable and reliable management. Accurate and honest bookkeeping is maintained, and may be viewed by arrangement.

The Tomato Sauce, a heritage building, has been kept in good repair by the Embassy, and regular inspections are made to ensure the building remains so. There is close to 24-hour presence on the property for security.

3.0 The Hemp Embassy Shop

The Hemp Embassy generates some of its operating costs by running the Hemp Embassy Shop. We provide a retail outlet for local clothing designers, artists, candle makers, soap makers, potters and woodworkers. We aim to support local arts and crafts people in our promotions, and provide drug information to those who seek it. The

Embassy does not sell any drugs. That trade is quite adequately catered for on the street. We are drug law reform advocates.

The Hemp Embassy actively participates in watching the street outside for disturbances and emergencies. A stretcher is kept on the premises for transporting drug overdose victims to the hospital, but its use has declined in the last couple of years as patterns of street drug behaviour have shifted.

We provide a phone service for drug education and referral.

4.0 MardiGrass

The Nimbin Hemp Embassy sponsors the annual Nimbin MardiGrass festival. MardiGrass is one of the best organised and most peaceful festivals in Australia. MardiGrass has become a respected forum for seminars on industrial hemp, medicinal cannabis, and drug law reform. MardiGrass is a major boost to the local economy and a huge drawcard for Australian and international tourists.

5.0 Historical considerations:

Nimbin Hemp Embassy provides the Nimbin community with a tangible presence of the Aquarius Age which initially brought so many to live and visit our community. Tourists and local people alike have a colorful and dynamic reminder of the origins of counter-culture and the plethora of other socio-political issues that have evolved as a result of the increase in awareness.

The Tomato Sauce building has been part of alternative Nimbin since the Aquarius Festival. It was inhabited by Graeme Dunstan and Vi Tourle for a period during and after the Aquarius festival, which it also figured in, and was later sold to the Community School at a nominal price. It became the Community School Annexe, and then a Youth Club. Since the Nineties it has been the Nimbin HEMP Embassy. Many people who were involved in Aquarius also support the Embassy's aims, and some are members.

The downstairs room, having been the Hemp Embassy and MardiGrass headquarters for many years, is wallpapered with irreplaceable posters and newspaper articles, and is in fact a historical site for drug law reform activism in Australia.

6.0 Educational Projects:

The Hemp Embassy is constantly adding to an already large and definitive reference library on a range of issues such as: industrial hemp, medicinal usage, law reform issues.

Medicinal Cannabis

The Embassy runs Seminars on medicinal cannabis, supported by doctors and psychiatrists like Dr David Helliwell and Dr Harry Freeman. During Mardi Grass '99 the Hemp Embassy sponsored the visit of Dennis Peron, leading Californian politician and medical cannabis activist.

The Hemp Embassy is actively researching medicinal cannabis use in collaboration with Dr David Helliwell, and Andrew Kavalas has published "Medical Uses of Cannabis -Information for Medical Practitioners".

Multi-media learning facility

The Hemp Embassy provides visitors and researchers of all ages a variety of sources with current information and networking facilities. This information is accessed via books, an extensive video/DVD library, an up-to-date news clipping collection and computer-based learning facilities such as the Hemp Embassy website, which is constantly updated and disseminates information locally and internationally.

6. Prisoner-Industrial Complex

6.1 CR - Critical Resistance (USA)

<http://www.criticalresistance.org/>

<http://www.criticalresistance.org/article.php?list=type&type=5>

Our Mission:

Critical Resistance seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure.

As such, our work is part of global struggles against inequality and powerlessness. The success of the movement requires that it reflect communities most affected by the PIC. Because we seek to abolish the PIC, we cannot support any work that extends its life or scope.

Our Vision:

THE CRISIS OF THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Prisons and policing are destroying us. In the past two decades, the number of people in prison in the U.S. has risen 400%. The system is filled with 68% people of color. One in three Black males born today will end up in a cage. And an additional 4 million former prisoners in the U.S. are left without hope or resources - barred employment opportunities, disenfranchised, and often prohibited from getting federal loans, applying for public housing, or getting services.

In neighborhoods where people are most affected by mass imprisonment and policing, we see the direct effects of our society's \$50 billion per year investment in prisons and policing: schools are closing, homelessness is rampant, basic health care remains out of reach, and poverty remains an entrenched reality in the richest country on earth.

The prison industrial complex, or PIC, affects everyone. There have been huge increases in police and court powers over all our lives. Poor people of color continue to lose power. And prisons have failed to cut crime. They have instead led to more racism, poverty, and sexism. Our communities only become weaker when we use punishment to solve our problems.

CRITICAL RESISTANCE'S VISION

Critical Resistance's vision is the creation of genuinely safe, healthy communities that respond to harm without relying on prisons and punishment.

We call our vision "abolition", and take the name purposefully from those who called for the abolition of slavery in the 1800's. Abolitionists believed that slavery could not be fixed or reformed - it needed to be abolished. As PIC abolitionists today, we also do not believe that reforms can make the PIC just or effective. Our goal is not to improve the system; it is to shrink the system into non-existence.

We don't believe that we need the PIC to keep us safe. Instead, we work to build safe and healthy communities, where the basics are provided, such as food, shelter, and self-determination. We also work to create and promote alternatives to the current system.

Critical Resistance (CR) is building a member-led and member-run grassroots movement to stop using punishment to "cure" complicated social problems. We know that more police and prisons will not make our communities safer. Instead, we know that things like food, housing, and freedom are what creates lasting safety. We work to prevent people from being arrested or locked up in prison. In all our work, we organize to build power and to stop the devastation that the reliance on prisons and policing have brought to ourselves, our families, and our communities.

CREATING ALTERNATIVES

Even today, when so many rely so heavily on the prison industrial complex to respond to harm, alternatives are being tested inside and outside the U.S. Within the US, neighbors are setting up alternative neighborhood watches (or shifting the agendas of existing ones) to support each other and provide safe living environments without involving local police.

Conferencing circles and mediation are increasingly being used to resolve disputes. Some organizations that work closely with survivors of sexual violence have begun to reject intervention by the police while developing their own community-based alternatives for safety and conflict resolution. Alternative schools have been established that provide practical alternatives to the juvenile justice system.

The goal of abolition pushes us to broaden our options in responding to harm. Creating a wider spectrum for economic and political participation; making affordable, quality housing for everyone a priority; or understanding substance use as a health issue can help us challenge some of the assumptions on which the prison industrial complex is based upon.

While in the long run we seek abolition; in the short run we seek alternatives to cage based punishment and to reduce the number of prisoners and prisons. Today, we are taking practical, small steps that will move us toward abolition.

Not So Common Language:

THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The United States uses prisons and policing as a failed "solution" to social, political and economic problems. We call this system the "prison industrial complex," or PIC. As a result our communities are being destroyed.

The PIC depends upon the oppressive systems of racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia. It includes human rights violations, the death penalty, industry and labor issues, policing, courts, media, community powerlessness, the imprisonment of political prisoners, and the elimination of dissent.

The United States currently imprisons around 2 million people. About 6.5 million people are presently under some form of supervision within the criminal justice system. Women represent the fastest rising prison population. Since 1980, the number of women imprisoned in the U.S. has risen by almost 400 percent.

Racism continues to be a major factor in the United States, illustrated by policies and programs that sustain white supremacy. Racism, as it is used through criminal laws that target people of color, is essential to the PIC, not accidental.

The PIC is also fueled by dramatic and racist reporting about "crime," "delinquency," and "rebellion," creating a culture of fear. As a result, people (primarily people of color, youth, and the economically disadvantaged) are locked in cages for longer and longer in the interests of "public safety." The way the many parts of the PIC interact is exactly what makes it so powerful and destructive. In order to fight this system, we have to recognize what drives and shapes it.

ABOLITION

Critical Resistance's vision is the creation of genuinely safe, healthy communities that do not rely on prisons and policing to respond to harm. We call our vision "abolition". We take the name "abolitionists" purposefully from those who called for the abolition of slavery in the 1800's.

Abolitionists believed that slavery could not be fixed or reformed - it needed to be abolished. We believe that prison is not an answer to drug addiction, poverty, or the harms our communities suffer. This system of locking people in cages cannot be fixed or reformed; it must be abolished.

The end goal of abolition is to reduce harm in our communities by creating lasting alternatives to punishment and prisons, investing in the things that truly build safe communities such as education, housing, and employment, thus eliminating the "need" for the prison industrial complex.

Organizing against the PIC is as much about building something as it is about fighting what is destroying our communities. Our organizing is also an ongoing effort to create alternatives, not only to imprisonment, but to the culture of punishment with which we've become familiar.

We know that abolition is a long term goal, one we may not see in our lifetimes. Today, that means we work to develop practical strategies for taking small steps toward abolition. These steps include shrinking the system by stopping prison expansion and promoting policies that reduce the number of people in prison or the reliance on policing; creating alternatives such as the Plan for a Safer Oakland or our reprinting of the book *Instead of Prisons*; shifting public opinion and public policy through media and public education; and building and supporting leadership by the people prisons impact most. Ultimately, we hope to build a grassroots movement for abolition.

HARM

What is considered a crime is determined by the societies in which we live. Because we have seen over and over again that locking more people in cages does not reduce crime, we must understand the power relationships that lead society to lock up only certain people.

Since prisons do not stop problems like poverty, racism, or drug addiction, we cannot expect them to stop crime. In fact, we see the impact prisons make on particular communities as harmful, or in the vocabulary of the PIC, criminal.

We define harm both as something one person does to hurt another, and as the oppression or violence caused by the prison industrial complex in our communities. We see our work as harm reduction: recognizing that the prison industrial complex has failed to reduce harm in our communities, we seek to reduce the harm caused by the prison industrial complex.

ACCOUNTABILITY

As abolitionists, we nonetheless believe in accountability. However, we do not believe that locking people in cages produces accountability. True accountability means that individuals and society must be held accountable for harms that occur and for providing community needs.

Accountability means providing support for both the persons harmed and the persons who cause harm. It means repairing the harm that has been done and preventing future harms.

6.2 The November Coalition (USA)

<http://www.november.org/>
<http://www.november.org/aboutus/novembercoalition.html>

November Coalition Mission Statement:

Working to end drug war injustice:

Founded in 1997, the November Coalition is a growing body of citizens whose lives have been gravely affected by our government's present drug policy. We are prisoners, parents of those incarcerated, wives, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, uncles and cousins. Some of us are loving friends and concerned citizens, each of us alarmed that drug war casualties are rising in absolutely horrific proportions.

The November Coalition is a non-profit organization of grassroots volunteers educating the public about the destructive increase in prison population in the United States due to our current drug laws.

We alert our fellow citizens, particularly those who are complacent or naive, about the present and impending dangers of an overly powerful federal authority acting far beyond its constitutional constraints. The drug war is an assault and steady erosion of our civil rights and freedoms by federal and state governments.

The drug war does not reduce drug use. Choosing to wage a 'war' on drugs stimulates a violent, underground economy, an economy which would collapse if drug prohibition ended. Our country, our world should be safer, not simply less free.

"Love and honor all people who suffer under repression. Know one's deeper motives for doing this work, and continue to study history from diverse views. Be prepared for sacrifice of old ways of thinking and doing, and stay

flexible ideologically. Identify white superiority as a dynamic feature of racist repression driving foreign and domestic policy. Act as if there will be no tomorrow, as if humanity hangs in the balance, and be scrupulously honest and scientific in consideration of developing new support for the human rights movement. Wherever you may live, be involved in your government."

-- Nora Callahan, quoted from *Light Among Shadows: A Celebration of Orlando Letelier, Ronni Karpen Moffitt, and Heroes of the Human Rights Movement* (The Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards)

7. The Iraq-Afghan War

7.1 CADU - Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (GBR)

<http://www.cadu.org.uk/>
<http://www.cadu.org.uk/intro.htm>

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium

What is Depleted Uranium?

The misnamed 'Depleted' Uranium is left after enriched uranium is separated from natural uranium in order to produce fuel for nuclear reactors. During this process, the fissionable isotope Uranium 235 is separated from uranium. The remaining uranium, which is 99.8% uranium 238 is misleadingly called 'depleted uranium'. While the term 'depleted' implies it isn't particularly dangerous, in fact, this waste product of the nuclear industry is 'conveniently' disposed of by producing deadly weapons.

Depleted uranium is chemically toxic. It is an extremely dense, hard metal, and can cause chemical poisoning to the body in the same way as can lead or any other heavy metal. However, depleted uranium is also radiologically hazardous, as it spontaneously burns on impact, creating tiny aerosolised glass particles which are small enough to be inhaled. These uranium oxide particles emit all types of radiation, alpha, beta and gamma, and can be carried in the air over long distances. Depleted uranium has a half life of 4.5 billion years, and the presence of depleted uranium ceramic aerosols can pose a long term threat to human health and the environment.

Depleted Uranium at War

In the 1950's the United States Department of Defense became interested in using depleted uranium metal in weapons because of its extremely dense, pyrophoric qualities and because it was cheap and available in huge quantities. It is now given practically free of charge to the military and arms manufacturers and is used both as tank armour, and in armour-piercing shells known as depleted uranium penetrators. Over 15 countries are known to have depleted uranium weapons in their military arsenals - UK, US, France, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Pakistan, Thailand, Iraq and Taiwan - with depleted uranium rapidly spreading to other countries.

Depleted uranium was first used on a large scale in military combat during the 1991 Gulf War, and has since been used in Bosnia in 1995, and again in the Balkans war of 1999.

A sub-commission of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights appointed a 'rapporteur' to investigate the use of depleted uranium weapons among other types of weapons, after passing a resolution which categorised depleted uranium weapons alongside such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, napalm, and cluster bombs as a 'weapon of indiscriminate effect'.

Depleted Uranium at Home

Depleted uranium is also used in civilian products. For example, it is used as ballast in aeroplanes (having disastrous consequences in 1992 when an El-Al jet crashed into flats near Amsterdam - depleted uranium was also involved in the recent Stansted Korean Air crash - see CADU News issue 3 for full report). It is also used in some hospital equipment. The alarming Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community) objective which will allow the 'recycling' of low-level radioactive waste in to consumer goods has also raised concerns that depleted uranium may be used in this way.

Deadly Recycling

Making weapons and other items out of the waste products of the nuclear business is a very 'convenient', very cheap, but potentially deadly way to get rid of the nuclear waste.

7.2 APHEDA - Union Aid Abroad, Australia (AUS)

<http://www.unionaidabroad.org.au/>

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA

Help to Make Life Fair Everywhere

"It is no longer possible to protect workers' rights in one country, while in neighbouring countries with whom we trade, workers face exploitation and sweatshop conditions. The fight for workers' rights in one country has to be a fight for workers' rights in every country. I urge you to sign up as a regular donor to Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, as a part of the Make Life Fair Everywhere campaign."

-- Sharan Burrow, ACTU President.

Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA) was created in 1984 as the overseas aid agency of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA was established to contribute directly to countries and regions of the world where men and women workers are disadvantaged through poverty, a lack of workplace, denial of labour and human rights, civil conflict and war.

Union Aid Abroad is committed to justice and solidarity and to self reliance, not charity. It builds self-reliance through support to educational and training projects for workers and their organisations in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Southern Africa and the Caribbean.

Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA is supported by individual union members, the ACTU, unions, workplaces, AusAID and the Australian public.

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA is an Incorporated Association (Y1103419) and endorsed as a deductible gift recipient with the Australian Taxation Office, (ABN 76 425 451 089). Donations of \$2 or more to the "APHEDA Overseas Project Fund" are tax deductible. Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA is fully accredited with the Australian Government's overseas aid agency, AusAID, and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development's Code of Conduct.

7.3 IVAW - Iraq Veterans Against War (USA)

<http://ivaw.org/>

About IVAW

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) was founded by Iraq war veterans in July 2004 at the annual convention of Veterans for Peace (VFP) in Boston to give a voice to the large number of active duty service people and veterans who are against this war, but are under various pressures to remain silent.

From its inception, IVAW has called for:

- Immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq;
- Reparations for the human and structural damages Iraq has suffered, and stopping the corporate pillaging of Iraq so that their people can control their own lives and future; and
- Full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women.

Our membership includes recent veterans and active duty servicemen and women from all branches of military service, National Guard members, and reservists who have served in the United States military since September 11, 2001.

IVAW's strategy is to mobilize the military community to withdraw its support for the war and occupation in Iraq. Therefore, IVAW is leading the movement of veterans and GIs who are working to bring the troops home now.

Today, IVAW members are in 48 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and on numerous bases overseas, including Iraq. IVAW has chapters around the country and in Canada. IVAW members educate the public about the realities of the Iraq war by speaking in communities and to the media about their experiences. Members also dialogue with youth in classrooms about the realities of military service. IVAW supports all those resisting the war, including Conscientious Objectors and others facing military prosecution for their refusal to fight. IVAW advocates for full funding for the Veterans Administration, and full quality health treatment (including mental health) and benefits for veterans when they return from duty.

<http://ivaw.org/faq> (Many more links at site!)

Q: Why are veterans, active duty, and National Guard men and women opposed to the war in Iraq?

(1) The Iraq war is based on lies and deception.

The Bush Administration planned for an attack against Iraq before September 11th, 2001. They used the false pretense of an imminent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons threat to deceive Congress into rationalizing this unnecessary conflict. They hide our casualties of war by banning the filming of our fallen's caskets when they arrive home, and when they refuse to allow the media into Walter Reed Hospital and other Veterans Administration facilities which are overflowing with maimed and traumatized veterans.

(2) The Iraq war violates international law.

The United States assaulted and occupied Iraq without the consent of the UN Security Council. In doing so they violated the same body of laws they accused Iraq of breaching.

(3) Corporate profiteering is driving the war in Iraq.

From privately contracted soldiers and linguists to no-bid reconstruction contracts and multinational oil negotiations, those who benefit the most in this conflict are those who suffer the least. The United States has chosen a path that directly contradicts President Eisenhower's farewell warning regarding the military industrial complex. As long as those in power are not held accountable, they will continue...

(4) Overwhelming civilian casualties are a daily occurrence in Iraq.

Despite attempts in training and technological sophistication, large-scale civilian death is both a direct and indirect result of United States aggression in Iraq. Even the most conservative estimates of Iraqi civilian deaths number over 100,000. Currently over 100 civilians die every day in Baghdad alone.

(5) Soldiers have the right to refuse illegal war.

All in service to this country swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. However, they are prosecuted if they object to serve in a war they see as illegal under our Constitution. As such, our brothers and sisters are paying the price for political incompetence, forced to fight in a war instead of having been sufficiently trained to carry out the task of nation-building.

(6) Service members are facing serious health consequences due to our Government's negligence.

Many of our troops have already been deployed to Iraq for two, three, and even four tours of duty averaging eleven months each. Combat stress, exhaustion, and bearing witness to the horrors of war contribute to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a serious set of symptoms that can lead to depression, illness, violent behavior,

and even suicide. Additionally, depleted uranium, Lariam, insufficient body armor and infectious diseases are just a few of the health risks which accompany an immorally planned and incompetently executed war. Finally, upon a soldier's release, the Veterans Administration is far too under-funded to fully deal with the magnitude of veterans in need.

(7) The war in Iraq is tearing our families apart.

The use of stop-loss on active duty troops and the unnecessarily lengthy and repeat active tours by Guard and Reserve troops place enough strain on our military families, even without being forced to sacrifice their loved ones for this ongoing political experiment in the Middle East.

(8) The Iraq war is robbing us of funding sorely needed here at home.

\$10.3 billion per month is spent on a war which could have aided the victims of Hurricane Katrina, gone to impoverished schools, the construction of hospitals and health care systems, tax cut initiatives, and a host of domestic programs that have all been gutted in the wake of the war in Iraq.

(9) The war dehumanizes Iraqis and denies them their right to self-determination.

Iraqis are subjected to humiliating and violent checkpoints, searches and home raids on a daily basis. The current Iraqi government is in place solely because of the U.S. military occupation. The Iraqi government doesn't have the popular support of the Iraqi people, nor does it have power or authority. For many Iraqis the current government is seen as a puppet regime for the U.S. occupation. It is undemocratic and in violation of Iraq's own right to self-governance.

(10) Our military is being exhausted by repeated deployments, involuntary extensions, and activations of the Reserve and National Guard.

The majority of troops in Iraq right now are there for at least their second tour. Deployments to Iraq are becoming longer and many of our service members are facing involuntary extensions and recalls to active duty. Longstanding policies to limit the duration and frequency of deployments for our part-time National Guard troops are now being overturned to allow for repeated, back-to-back tours in Iraq. These repeated, extended combat tours are taking a huge toll on our troops, their families, and their communities.

Q: Why do Iraq Veterans Against the War call for the immediate withdrawal from Iraq?

(1) The reasons and rationale given for the invasion were fraudulent.

There were no Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq during the time of the invasion according to US officials and former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix. The idea that Al Qaeda and the 9/11 terrorist attacks were connected to Saddam Hussein and the Baath party were proven false in the 9/11 Commission Report. Members of the Bush Administration have admitted that they "misspoke" in the run up to the war.

(2) The presence of the US military is not preventing sectarian violence.

The US occupation of Iraq has proven to be unable to prevent sectarian violence and halt an escalation towards a civil war. Despite having an average of 140,000 troops in country since the occupation began, internal violence and attacks against civilians and Iraqi security forces have been on a steady incline.

(3) The occupation is a primary motivation for the insurgency and global religious extremism.

The insurgency can be broken down into many individually named factions with various goals, beliefs, and techniques. However, our membership of veterans believe that the occupation of Iraq is the primary thing encouraging the insurgency and giving it legitimacy in the eyes of many Iraqis. Likewise, other people of the Islamic faith are encouraged to resist America's policies internationally based on how they perceive our military operations in the Middle East.

(4) We can no longer afford to fight this war of choice.

The financial burden is destroying our domestic programs that could be used to protect us from natural disasters, provide medical programs, or help improve education. We are jeopardizing the US economy and putting strains on the budgets of important government agencies like the Veterans Affairs Department.

(5) National security is compromised.

Funds that could be used to protect our ports and transportation are being stripped away while our National Guard units are on constant deployments instead of being used to protect and defend us here at home.

(6) The world is becoming more dangerous.

International terrorist attacks have increased and it has become more dangerous for Americans to travel abroad. Approval for US policy has decreased and the dislike of Americans has increased.

(7) Our national "moral authority" is being undermined.

The US has lost credibility to much of the world as the defender of liberty and freedom and our national identity is eroding. We can no longer deploy our armed forces for peace keeping measures with the good faith of the international community. We need to regain the respect and faith of the global community. This begins by withdrawing our troops from Iraq and helping the Iraqi people rebuild their country and society.

(8) The majority of American citizens, Iraqi citizens and US military would like to see an immediate end to the war in Iraq.

If we are truly a democracy and we aim to create a democracy in Iraq our leaders will represent the will of the citizens and lead according to their wishes.

(9) The military is broken.

We are abusing the small population of armed service members with multiple deployments while using inadequate vehicles and equipment. Less than one half of a percent of the American population is serving in the active armed forces, which is the least amount in the last century. Only 25% of the troops in Iraq are there for their first tour, while 50% are there on their second tour, and the remaining 25% are there three times or more. We continue to involuntarily extend soldiers with Stop-Loss, recall them repeatedly for additional service using the Individual Ready Reserve, and send soldiers with diagnosed medical problems into combat.

7.4 IBC - Iraq Body Count (GBR)

<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>
<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/about/>

About the Iraq Body Count project

Iraq Body Count (IBC) records the violent civilian deaths that have resulted from the 2003 military intervention in Iraq. Its public database includes deaths caused by US-led coalition forces and paramilitary or criminal attacks by others.

IBC's documentary evidence is drawn from crosschecked media reports of violent events leading to the death of civilians, or of bodies being found, and is supplemented by the careful review and integration of hospital, morgue, NGO and official figures.

Systematically extracted details about deadly incidents and the individuals killed in them are stored with every entry in the database. The minimum details always extracted are the number killed, where, and when.

Confusion about the numbers produced by the project can be avoided by bearing in mind that:

- IBC's figures are not 'estimates' but a record of actual, documented deaths.

- IBC records solely violent deaths.
- IBC records solely civilian (strictly, 'non-combatant') deaths.
- IBC's figures are constantly updated and revised as new data comes in, and frequent consultation is advised.

IBC builds on innovative uses of new technologies without which this citizens' initiative would be impossible. The project was founded in January 2003 by volunteers from the UK and USA who felt a responsibility to ensure that the human consequences of military intervention in Iraq were not neglected.

Finally, IBC could not exist without the journalists and media support workers, Iraqi and international, who labour to report war's daily carnage at the risk, and all too often the cost, of their health or their lives.

For more on IBC's principles and objectives see the Rationale.

For a more detailed description of IBC's working methodology and inclusion criteria, see the Methods section.

For technical, research and media contacts, conditions of use, as well as a listing of IBC personnel, see Contacts/Staff.

7.5 SNS - Sir! No Sir! - Winter Soldier 2008 (USA)

<http://www.sirnosir.com/>
<http://www.sirnosir.com/BuyForGI.html>
<http://thisiswherewetakeourstand.com/>

Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan

Eye witness accounts of the occupation

This year, a scrappy, determined band of soldiers and veterans turned this country on its head.

On March 13-16, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) held Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan / Eyewitness Accounts of the Occupations in Washington, DC. Over one hundred active duty soldiers and veterans publicly testified from their own experience about what they consider to be the immoral and illegal nature of those occupations. They demanded immediate and unconditional withdrawal, and intend to force this issue onto the national stage.

Displaced Films and Northern Light Productions are producing the only documentary film that will be made about this historic moment, and the intense battle leading up to it. If you liked Sir! No Sir! you will love this new film. Winter Soldier/Iraq and Afghanistan will answer the question "Can a new GI Movement happen today?" with a resounding "Yes!"

The Winter Soldier Investigation was by any account a powerful, explosive, and controversial antiwar event, timed to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq five years ago. No one who witnessed it could come out the same. But just as importantly, it transformed everyone involved in profound and unexpected ways. That transformation, both large-scale and deeply personal, is the subject we explore in our film.

<http://thisiswherewetakeourstand.com/>
<http://ivaw.org/wintersoldier/>

Veterans reveal the truth about Iraq and Afghanistan in a six-part web series by

David Zeiger, Director of Sir! No Sir!, and Bestor Cram, Director of Unfinished Symphony.

For the first time in history, women have combat and other front-line roles in the U.S. military, yet the military today is rife with sexual harassment, as Wendy Barranco reveals. Is this progress? Is it inevitable? Human

nature? Or perhaps it's the sign of a deeper malignancy. For Wendy, her treatment was "the last thing I would have imagined from my own peers and comrades."

This is Where We Take Our Stand - The Series

Where's the debate?

Are we watching passively while Barack Obama carries out the same policies as George W. Bush?

When an American bombing raid this May killed over two hundred civilians in a village in Afghanistan, it was met with a deafening silence. When Obama's promised "withdrawal" from Iraq leaves 130,000 troops there for at least two more years and 50,000 permanently, it's hailed as an end to the occupation. And who is demanding to know just what the mission really is when 30,000 more troops are sent to Afghanistan?

Where's the debate?

In March of 2008, two hundred and fifty veterans and active duty soldiers marked the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by gathering in Washington, DC, to testify from their own experience about the nature of the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. It was chilling, horrifying, and challenging for all who witnessed it. Against tremendous odds, they brought the voices of the veterans themselves into the debate. That was then.

This is now. Today, we present to you This is Where We Take Our Stand, the inside story of those three days and the courageous men and women who testified. And we present this story today, told in six episodes, because we believe it is as relevant now as it was one year ago. Maybe more.

Here is our challenge to you: Watch the series; spread it far and wide; and ask yourself is this about the past, or the present and future. Then add your voice.

If you are a veteran or active duty, present your own testimony. If you are not, but you are still a living, breathing member of the human race, then do whatever you can to join and fan the flames of debate.

David Zeiger, Director of Sir! No Sir! <http://www.sirnosir.com>
Bestor Cram, Director of Unfinished Symphony <http://www.nlprod.com/>

8. International Aid

8.1 CARE - CARE Australia (AUS)

<http://www.careaustralia.org.au/>
<http://www.careaustralia.org.au/Page.aspx?pid=208>

Who is CARE Australia?

CARE Australia is unique. We are the largest non-political non- religious overseas aid organisation in the country, providing humanitarian assistance across the globe.

We reject discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age and political or religious beliefs.

CARE Australia is directly responsible for the design and implementation of our own programs and management and contractual control of all projects. This means we have a high degree of accountability and transparency.

CARE Australia was formed in 1987 by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. We are a member of the CARE International federation and work wherever there is a need and wherever we can assist.

Australians are known for their no-nonsense, commonsense approach to crises. CARE Australia has built an international reputation on its ability to respond quickly to emergency situations in countries as diverse as Sudan and Afghanistan. CARE is also renowned for the creativeness and effectiveness of our long-term development projects.

CARE gives an Australian face to overseas aid and provides ordinary Australians with a means of directly helping those most in need in the developing world.

We are primarily dependant on support from the Australian public to carry out our work. Throughout CARE Australia's history more than 90 per cent of our total revenue has been spent on our work in the field, rather than on administration overheads.

Core values

We respect and value diversity.

We respect, value and seek to enhance local capacities.

We value and support the central role of women in development.

We recognise and value the professionalism, skills and experience of our staff, and their contribution to institutional learning and development.

We value CARE's dynamism, adaptability and resilience.

We value the support of our donors and program partners.

We value the operational freedom which stems from being a not-for-profit Australian agency which is independent of any religious or political affiliation and which does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion or politics.

Our vision

We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

As a member of the CARE International federation, we will become a global force and partner of choice within a worldwide movement dedicated to ending poverty.

We will be known everywhere for our unshakeable commitment to the dignity of people.

Our mission

CARE's mission is to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world. Drawing strength from our global diversity, resources and experience, we promote innovative solutions and are advocates for global responsibility.

We facilitate lasting change by:

- strengthening capacity for self-help
- providing economic opportunity
- delivering relief in emergencies
- influencing policy decisions at all levels and
- addressing discrimination in all its forms.

Guided by the aspirations of local communities, we pursue our mission with both excellence and compassion because the people whom we serve deserve nothing less.

8.2 WVA - World Vision Australia (AUS)

<http://www.worldvision.com.au/>
<http://www.worldvision.com.au/AboutUs.aspx>

About us

World Vision is Australia's largest charitable group. World Vision helps over 20 million people every year, thanks to the support of more than 400,000 Australians.

World Vision provides relief in emergency situations and works on long-term community development projects. Together, these address the causes of poverty and help people move towards self-sufficiency.

<http://www.worldvision.com.au/AboutUs/FAQsAboutWorldVisionAustralia.aspx>

What is World Vision and what does it do?

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty.

Inspired by Christian values, World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We provide help on the basis of need and serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Over a billion people in poor countries around the world live in poverty and struggle every day simply to survive. World Vision's work helps improve the lives of those children, families and communities living in poverty.

World Vision is Australia's largest charitable group. More Australians entrust more money to World Vision than any other charity in the country. With the support of over 400,000 Australians, World Vision helps over 20 million people every year. As well as providing relief in emergency situations, we work on long-term community development projects that address the causes of poverty and help people move towards self-sufficiency.

We depend on the support of the Australian public for funding, with the majority of income coming from child sponsorship. Other avenues include emergency relief appeals, Government grants, cash donations and the 40 Hour Famine Appeal.

Our History:

World Vision was founded in the USA by Bob Pierce during the 1950s. It all began after a life changing trip to China and Korea in 1947. A missionary, he saw that words alone were not necessarily good news to those without food, clothing, shelter or medicine.

Bob's concern for children was strengthened by his experiences in Korea during the Korean war (1950-54). Orphanages were set up in South Korea to look after children who were abandoned or orphaned.

When he returned to the US, Bob started to raise money to help other families and orphans in Asia. The response was so great that he could not administer it alone, so in September 1950, World Vision was established with Bob Pierce as its president.

In the 1960s World Vision expanded its operations to meet the needs of refugees in Indochina and of people recovering from disasters in Bangladesh and in several African countries. Where long-term assistance was needed, children began to be sponsored by Americans, Australians and others. World Vision Australia began in 1966.

In the 1970s World Vision's focus broadened from assisting the individual child to include community development. Since the 1980s, the "welfare" approach has gradually changed to a more collaborative relationship. Poor, marginalised people and communities work with World Vision to improve their lives and take control of their futures.

8.3 MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières Australia (AUS)

<http://www.msf.org.au/>

<http://www.msf.org.au/about-msf.html>

Médecins Sans Frontières is the world's leading independent organisation for medical-humanitarian aid. Annually, more than 3,000 volunteer doctors, nurses and support staff work in trouble spots around the world helping those living on the edge of human tolerance.

Médecins Sans Frontières teams are currently in over 60 countries, working with more than 25,000 locally recruited national staff in conditions that are always challenging, sometimes dangerous.

Wherever our teams are working their goal is the same: to provide essential medical-humanitarian aid to those who need it most, regardless of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

We provide relief after natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes. We help victims of conflict. We run emergency feeding programs during nutritional crises. We tackle neglected diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and Kala Azar; and we organise mass vaccination programs to prevent epidemics spreading. We are also involved in health projects that train local medical staff and put in place safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Médecins Sans Frontières was formed in 1971 by a group of French doctors who had previously worked with famine victims caught in the Biafra conflict (the civil war of Nigeria 1967-1970). The doctors were frustrated by the bureaucracy they encountered and by the degree of government interference in humanitarian aid.

They aimed to establish a lean, independent organisation that would focus on emergency medicine, speak out about the causes of human suffering and cut through red tape to deliver aid fast and effectively. And so Médecins Sans Frontières was born and, with it, a new vision for humanitarian response to crises and a new voice to speak out on behalf of the people in need of our assistance.

Médecins Sans Frontières is an international movement with a network of sections in 18 countries. Our teams on the ground are made up of people with backgrounds that include everything from: medicine, nursing, logistics, engineering and administration - all skills essential in restoring health care to communities torn apart by natural disasters, epidemics, famine or conflict.

In 1999 Médecins Sans Frontières was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL-HUMANITARIAN AID

Médecins Sans Frontières, or MSF, is as much about a specific attitude to aid work, as it is about emergency medical care. Of crucial importance is the organisation's independence.

Because we wish to remain as independent as when we first began, we limit the amount of funding we accept from governments. More than 80% of our budget internationally comes from private donations, and in Australia 100% of our budget comes from private sources.

This funding structure is not just a symbolic expression of our independence; it also means that MSF teams on the ground can be free to define operational priorities. Our interventions are based on needs alone, not on political, economic, religious or social agendas. MSF does not take sides or intervene according to the demands of governments or warring parties.

Thanks to our independence and impartiality, we are able to provide health care to people who otherwise would not receive it.

Another feature of MSF is our willingness to speak out and express publicly positions on the plight of the people we help, and to describe our experiences in the field. This has become one of our trademarks, to the point that the separation of "témoignage" from our operations has now disappeared. Témoignage is a French term that means, "to bear witness", and today this is a core function of MSF's medical- humanitarian operations.

ABOUT THE TERM "VOLUNTEER"

The recruitment and deployment of human resources is a crucial element of our field operations at Médecins Sans Frontières.

The quality of our programs is directly related to our capacity to identify, recruit, train and subsequently retain both medical and non- medical professionals with the skills and experience required to go on assignment in one of the nearly 70 countries worldwide in which we work and where populations are in crisis.

MSF Australia seeks and recruits individuals in Australia and New Zealand who are medical and non-medical professionals of the highest calibre and who go beyond the minimum essential requirements.

They must also embody the principles of independent medical- humanitarian action and adhere to the fundamental MSF value of voluntarism.

It is in that spirit of voluntarism that as a rule in MSF publications our staff deployed in the field are referred to as volunteers.

Although other terms are sometimes employed, the practice of using the term "volunteers" is maintained on this website.

MSF volunteers frequently work in the most remote or dangerous parts of the world. When crises unfold, they make themselves and their skills available on short notice, usually dedicating six to twelve months to each assignment.

Their expenses are covered and they receive a modest monthly salary.

Among the additional benefits offered are comprehensive insurance, transportation and accommodation for the mission and reimbursement of mission-specific vaccinations.

MSF teams in the field are composed of international volunteers and skilled national staff.

8.4 FHF - Fred Hollows Foundation (AUS)

<http://www.hollows.org/>

http://www.hollows.org/About_us/

Together, we are dedicated to overcoming avoidable blindness around the world.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is inspired by work of the late Professor Fred Hollows, whose vision was for a world where no one was needlessly blind.

Working to continue Fred's vision, The Fred Hollows Foundation in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, have come together to form a global network to increase our collective impact in eradicating avoidable blindness around the world.

Through this new network, together, we will be able to enhance Foundation operations and programs in the countries where we work and bring funding bodies and program entities in a truly equal partnership.

Collectively working in over twenty countries world-wide, with the help of our supporters, we hope to build on our record of restoring sight to well over one million people.

9. Civil Society

9.1 WL - WikiLeaks (USA)

<http://wikileaks.org/>

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/Wikileaks:About>

"The first ingredient of civil society is the people's right to know, because without such understanding no human being can meaningfully choose to support anything, much less a political system. Knowledge is the creator of every political process, every constitution, every law and every regulation. The communication of knowledge is without salient analogue. It demands recognition as the founding guide of civilization."

Wikileaks is developing an uncensorable Wikipedia for untraceable mass document leaking and analysis. Our primary interest is in exposing oppressive regimes in Asia, the former Soviet bloc, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, but we also expect to be of assistance to people of all regions who wish to reveal unethical behavior in their governments and corporations. We aim for maximum political impact. Our interface is identical to Wikipedia and usable by all types of people. We have received over 1.2 million documents so far from dissident communities and anonymous sources.

We believe that transparency in government activities leads to reduced corruption, better government and stronger democracies. All governments can benefit from increased scrutiny by the world community, as well as their own people. We believe this scrutiny requires information. Historically that information has been costly - in terms of human life and human rights. But with technological advances - the internet, and cryptography - the risks of conveying important information can be lowered.

Wikileaks opens leaked documents up to stronger scrutiny than any media organization or intelligence agency can provide. Wikileaks provides a forum for the entire global community to relentlessly examine any document for its credibility, plausibility, veracity and validity. Communities can interpret leaked documents and explain their relevance to the public. If a document comes from the Chinese government, the entire Chinese dissident community and diaspora can freely scrutinize and discuss it; if a document arrives from Iran, the entire Farsi community can analyze it and put it in context. Sample analyses are available here.

In its landmark ruling on the Pentagon Papers, the US Supreme Court ruled that "only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government." We agree.

We believe that it is not only the people of one country that keep their government honest, but also the people of other countries who are watching that government. That is why the time has come for an anonymous global avenue for disseminating documents the public should see.

Volunteer to help. Almost everyone can be of some assistance.

What is Wikileaks? How does Wikileaks operate?

Wikileaks is an uncensorable version of Wikipedia for untraceable mass document leaking and analysis. It combines the protection and anonymity of cutting-edge cryptographic technologies with the transparency and simplicity of a wiki interface.

Wikileaks looks like Wikipedia. Anybody can post comments to it. No technical knowledge is required. Whistleblowers can post documents anonymously and untraceably. Users can publicly discuss documents and analyze their credibility and veracity. Users can discuss the latest material, read and write explanatory articles on leaks along with background material and context. The political relevance of documents and their veracity can be revealed by a cast of thousands.

Wikileaks incorporates advanced cryptographic technologies to ensure anonymity and untraceability. Those who provide leaked information may face severe risks, whether of political repercussions, legal sanctions or physical violence. Accordingly, sophisticated cryptographic and postal techniques are used to minimize the risks that anonymous sources face.

For the technically minded, Wikileaks integrates technologies including modified versions of MediaWiki, OpenSSL, FreeNet, Tor, PGP and software of our own design.

Wikileaks information is distributed across many jurisdictions, organizations and individuals. Once a document is leaked it is essentially impossible to censor.

Why "wikify" leaking?

See also Why is Wikileaks so important?

Principled leaking has changed the course of history for the better; it can alter the course of history in the present; it can lead us to a better future.

Consider Daniel Ellsberg, working within the US government during the Vietnam War. He comes into contact with the Pentagon Papers, a meticulously kept record of military and strategic planning throughout the war. Those papers reveal the depths to which the US government has sunk in deceiving the population about the war. Yet the public and the media know nothing of this urgent and shocking information. Indeed, secrecy laws are being used to keep the public ignorant of gross dishonesty practiced by their government. In spite of those secrecy laws and at great personal risk, Ellsberg manages to disseminate the Pentagon papers to journalists and to the world. Despite criminal charges against Ellsberg, eventually dropped, the release of the Pentagon papers shocks the world, exposes the government, and helps to shorten the war and save thousands of lives.

The power of principled leaking to embarrass governments, corporations and institutions is amply demonstrated through recent history. The public scrutiny of otherwise unaccountable and secretive institutions forces them to consider the ethical implications of their actions. Which official will chance a secret, corrupt transaction when the public is likely to find out? What repressive plan will be carried out when it is revealed to the citizenry, not just of its own country, but the world? When the risks of embarrassment and discovery increase, the tables are turned against conspiracy, corruption, exploitation and oppression. Open government answers injustice rather than causing it. Open government exposes and undoes corruption. Open governance is the most effective method of promoting good governance.

Today, with authoritarian governments in power around much of the world, increasing authoritarian tendencies in democratic governments, and increasing amounts of power vested in unaccountable corporations, the need for openness and transparency is greater than ever.

Wikileaks is a tool to satisfy that need.

Wikileaks reduces the risks of truth tellers and improves the analysis and dissemination of leaked documents.

Wikileaks provides simple and straightforward means for anonymous and untraceable leaking of documents.

At the same time, Wikileaks opens leaked documents up to a much more exacting scrutiny than any media organization or intelligence agency could provide: the scrutiny of a worldwide community of informed wiki editors.

In place of a couple of academic specialists, Wikileaks provides a forum for the entire global community to examine any document relentlessly for credibility, plausibility, veracity and validity. The global community is able to interpret documents and explain their relevance to the public. If a document is leaked from the Chinese government, the entire Chinese dissident community can freely scrutinize and discuss it; if a document is leaked from Somalia, the entire Somali refugee community can analyze it and put it in context.

In an important sense, Wikileaks is the first intelligence agency of the people. Better principled and less parochial than any governmental intelligence agency, it is able to be more accurate and relevant. It has no commercial or national interests at heart; its only interest is the revelation of the truth. Unlike the covert activities of state intelligence agencies, Wikileaks relies upon the power of overt fact to enable and empower citizens to bring feared and corrupt governments and corporations to justice.

Wikileaks will aid every government official, every bureaucrat, and every corporate worker, who becomes privy to embarrassing information that the institution wants to hide but the public needs to know. What conscience cannot contain, and institutional secrecy unjustly conceals, Wikileaks can broadcast to the world.

Wikileaks will be the forum for the ethical defection and exposure of unaccountable and abusive power to the people.

Who is behind Wikileaks?

Wikileaks was founded by Chinese dissidents, journalists, mathematicians and startup company technologists, from the US, Taiwan, Europe, Australia and South Africa.

Our public Advisory Board, which is still in formation, includes courageous journalists, representatives from refugee communities, ethics and anti-corruption campaigners, including a former national head of Transparency International, human rights campaigners, lawyers and cryptographers.

There are currently over 1,200 registered volunteers, but we need more people involved at an organizational level.

9.2 GAP - Government Accountability Project (USA)

<http://www.whistleblower.org/>
<http://www.whistleblower.org/about/index.cfm>

Mission: The Government Accountability Project (GAP) is a 30-year-old nonprofit public interest group that promotes government and corporate accountability by advancing occupational free speech, defending whistleblowers, and empowering citizen activists.

We pursue this mission through our Nuclear Safety, International Reform, Corporate Accountability, Food & Drug Safety, and Federal Employee/National Security programs. GAP is the nation's leading whistleblower protection organization.

About GAP

The Government Accountability Project's mission is to protect the public interest by promoting government and corporate accountability through advancing occupational free speech and ethical conduct, defending whistleblowers, and empowering citizen activists. Founded in 1977, GAP is a non-profit, public interest organization that receives funding from foundations, individuals, and legal fees.

GAP is the nation's leading whistleblower organization. GAP promotes accountability by advocating occupational free speech, litigating whistleblower cases, publicizing whistleblower concerns, and developing policy and legal reforms of whistleblower laws.

GAP's major program initiatives focus on both government and corporate accountability related to nuclear oversight, food and drug safety, worker health and safety, international reform and national security. We develop whistleblower laws and policy reform domestically and internationally.

GAP also conducts an accredited legal clinic for law students, and offers an internship program that for undergraduates and law students year-round. GAP's national office has been located in Washington, D.C. since the institution's inception. We opened a Seattle office in 1992, subsequently the office broke off as an independent organization earlier this year, and GAP will continue to operate its national Nuclear Oversight Program out of its Washington, D.C. office .

GAP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with an operating budget of slightly over \$2 million. Gifts to GAP are tax-deductible. The majority of our funds come from grantmaking foundations such as the Ford Foundation, the CS Fund and the Rockefeller Family Fund and from as many as 8,000 generous individuals.

The rest of GAP's budget comes from legal fees, settlement awards, and services provided. We are grateful for this widespread recognition of the critical importance of our work. Please click below to view our current Internal Revenue Service 990 Report.

What is a Whistleblower?

Every year, thousands of Americans witness wrongdoing on the job. What they witness may jeopardize the health, safety or lives of others. They may see managers at a nuclear facility violate a safety code, a chemical company dump hazardous waste unlawfully, or a food processing plant attempt to sell contaminated and dangerous meat to consumers.

Most employees remain silent. Others choose to bear witness and speak out. They seek to make a difference by blowing the whistle on unethical conduct in the workplace. Our composite definition of whistleblower taken from combined state, federal and international cases is an employee who exercises from speech rights to challenge corporate and government abuses of power that betray the public trust.

Blowing the whistle may include:

- (a) reporting wrongdoing or a violation of the law to the proper authorities such as a supervisor, a hotline or an Inspector General
- (b) refusing to participate in workplace wrongdoing
- (c) testifying in a legal proceeding
- (d) leaking evidence of wrongdoing to the media

Is all retaliation by an employer whistleblowing?

No. Whistleblowing seldom includes an employer's retaliation for complaints about personal dislikes or issues that affect only a single person (However, laws governing equal employment and prohibiting discrimination do address personal discrimination).

Rather, whistleblower complaints focus on conduct prohibited by a specific law and that may cause damage to public safety, waste tax dollars, or violate public trust in an honest, accountable government.

Under the Whistleblower Protection Act, whistleblowing is defined as disclosing information that an employee reasonably believes is evidence of illegality, gross waste or fraud, gross mismanagement, abuse of power, or a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

9.3 CW - Corp Watch (USA)

<http://www.corpwatch.org/>
<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11314>

CorpWatch - Holding Corporations Accountable

Our Mission

CorpWatch: Non-profit investigative research and journalism to expose corporate malfeasance and to advocate for multinational corporate accountability and transparency. We work to foster global justice, independent media activism and democratic control over corporations.

We seek to expose multinational corporations that that profit from war, fraud, environmental, human rights and other abuses, and to provide critical information to foster a more informed public and an effective democracy.

Our guiding vision is to promote human, environmental, social and worker rights at the local, national and global levels by making corporate practices more transparent and holding corporations accountable for their actions.

As independent investigative researchers and journalists, we provide critical information to foster a more informed public and an effective democracy.

We believe the actions, decisions, and policies undertaken and pursued by private corporations have very real impact on public life - from individuals to communities around the world. Yet few mechanisms currently exist to hold them accountable for those actions. As a result, it falls to the public sphere to protect the public interest.

In many cases, corporate power and influence eclipses even the democratic political process itself as they exert disproportional influence on public policy they deem detrimental to their narrow self-interests. In less developed

nations, they usurp authority altogether, often purchasing government complicity for unfair practices at the expense of economic, environmental, human, labor and social rights.

Yet despite the very public impact of their actions and decisions, corporations remain bound to be accountable solely to their own private financial considerations and the interests of their shareholders. They have little incentive, nor requirement, for public transparency regarding their decisions and practices, let alone concrete accountability for their ultimate impact.

Guiding Principles

CorpWatch is part of a diverse global movement for human rights, social justice, environmental sustainability, peace, corporate transparency and accountability.

We believe that all people deserve:

- The power to make decisions over their own resources, environment and working conditions
- Fair and sustainable trade that rewards workers with just wages and a clean, sustainable environment
- Public services such as education, healthcare, water or electricity available at an affordable price. No institution should be allowed to profit unjustly out of the provision of such basic services
- Access to local jobs and services

We oppose:

Violations of human rights such as torture, discrimination, political repression, or union-busting

Ecologically unsustainable business practices, including those that have an adverse impact on local communities or the global environment

Secret and unaccountable corporate and government activities

Economic rules that adversely impact communities, national governments and entire regions of the world, such as free trade, privatization and outsourcing of local jobs.

Finally, we support the right of people, communities and countries to be compensated for human rights violations, and environmental and economic impacts caused by damaging corporate, government or multi-lateral institutional behavior. Corporations must abide by international law and be directly accountable to those directly impacted, whether a local community or a national government to redress damage.

Crocodyl -- Collaborative Research On Corporations

In September 2007, we launched the Wiki project <http://Crocodyl.org>, in partnership with the Center for Corporate Policy and the Corporate Research Project.

Crocodyl.org puts the power of public oversight into the hands of the people themselves. As a public platform for change and accountability, it serves as a global resource to aggregate research among NGOs, journalists, activists, unions, whistleblowers and academics from around the world in order to develop publicly available profiles of the world's most powerful corporations, particularly multinationals.

The result is an evolving compendium of critical research, posted to the public domain as an aid to activist campaigns and anyone working to hold corporations increasingly accountable.

Crocodyl's goal is to create social change through democratizing often hard to find and disparate information on corporations and the impacts of their operations.

Historical Highlights

Since 1996, San Francisco Bay Area-based CorpWatch has been educating and mobilizing people through the CorpWatch.org website, articles and publications, and numerous action-campaigns. The organization is a project of the Tides Center and it is guided by a six-member Executive Committee of our Advisory Board. In addition, we are an affiliate member of Friends of the Earth International.

Throughout its history CorpWatch has provided journalists, activists, policy makers, students and teachers with key informational resources on issues related to corporate accountability.

The foundation from which the organization emerged and evolved was the book, *The Corporate Planet: Ecology and Politics in the Age of Globalization*, written by CorpWatch's founder Joshua Karliner, and published by Sierra Club Books in 1997. The scope of our investigations reflects our commitment to pursuing issues of corporate accountability and malfeasance in any manifestation, anywhere in the world -- whether the rights in question are economic, environmental, human, political or social rights.

Human Rights, Economics, the Environment and Transparency

- * Corpwatch launched its first major shot across the corporate bow in 1997 when it blew the whistle on working conditions in Nike's operations in Vietnam, ultimately leading to greater oversight of their factories and changes in their corporate practices.

- * In 1998, CorpWatch had the foresight to start investigating the Enron Corporation, three years before the company's collapse.

- * Our Climate Justice Initiative, organized from 1999-2002 around the CorpWatch report, *Greenhouse Gangsters vs. Climate Justice*, successfully redefined climate change as an environmental justice and human rights issue, and helped mobilize communities already adversely impacted by the fossil fuel industry.

- * In 1999, we broke the story of the United Nations growing entanglement with corporations, known as the UN Global Compact.

- * We published "Earth Summit.biz: The Corporate Takeover of Sustainable Development," in collaboration with Food First Books in 2002.

- * We also co-produced five live one-hour radio broadcasts from the WTO Ministerial meeting and protests in Seattle in 1999 and from Cancun in 2003.

- * In May 2007 we exposed the human and environmental cost of gold mining with *Barrick's Dirty Secrets: Communities Respond to Gold Mining's Impacts Worldwide*.

- * In September 2007 we launched the Wiki project *Crocodyl.org*, in partnership with the Center for Corporate Policy and the Corporate Research Project.

- * In May 2009 we contributed to *The True Cost of Chevron: An Alternative Annual Report*, led by author Antonia Juhasz. This jointly-produced report documents negative impacts of Chevron's operations around the globe, in stark contrast to the message sent by the company's ubiquitous "Human Energy" advertising campaign.

War and Disaster Profiteering: Afghanistan, Iraq and Katrina

- * In the spring of 2002 and 2003, CorpWatch began to track companies like Bechtel, Dyncorp and Halliburton, profiting out of the so-called "war on terrorism." This has led to our fielding several investigative journalistic teams to investigate the out-sourced reconstruction in Iraq. Some of the footage CorpWatch obtained in Iraq was used in Michael Moore's film *Fahrenheit 9-11*.

- * In May 2004, CorpWatch began a series of alternative annual reports on Halliburton, along with Global Exchange, HalliburtonWatch and others. The first was dubbed *Houston, We Have a Problem*. The 2005 alternative annual report was titled, *Houston, We Still Have A Problem*, and one in 2006, *Hurricane Halliburton: Conflict, Climate Change and Catastrophe*. We published the fourth and final in the series in spring 2007, as Halliburton off-

shored its headquarters Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, called Goodbye, Houston.

* In November 2004, CorpWatch released *Iraq, Inc., A Profitable Occupation* - the first book-length on-the-ground account of Year One of the occupation of Iraq. Authored by executive director Pratap Chatterjee, and published by Seven Stories Press, Matt Swibel of Forbes Magazine said, "Iraq, Inc. will introduce you to the entrepreneurs who really understand war profiteering and the price the rest of us will have to pay."

* In May 2006, CorpWatch published *Afghanistan, Inc.*, authored by Afghan-American writer Fariba Nawa, which details the bungled reconstruction effort in Afghanistan.

* Turning our sights closer to home, next was *Big, Easy Money: Disaster Profiteering on the American Gulf Coast* by Rita J. King, published in August 2006, on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's devastation.

* We followed this up with *Casualties of Katrina: Gulf Coast Reconstruction Two Years after the Hurricane* in September 2007, written by Eliza Strickland and Azibuike Akaba.

* In late April, 2008, we released a ground-breaking report on the impact of U.S. intelligence and translation contracting, *Outsourcing Intelligence in Iraq: A CorpWatch Report on L-3/Titan*. Authored by Pratap Chatterjee, we released the report on the eve of L-3's shareholder meeting. We re-released this report in December 2008, with recommendations from Amnesty International.

9.4 GETUP - GetUp! Action For Australia (AUS)

<http://www.getup.org.au/>

<http://www.getup.org.au/about/faq/>

About:

GetUp is an independent, grass-roots community advocacy organisation giving everyday Australians opportunities to get involved and hold politicians accountable on important issues.

Whether it is sending an email to a member of parliament, engaging with the media, attending an event or helping to get a television ad on the air, GetUp members take targeted, coordinated and strategic action.

GetUp does not back any particular party, but aims to build an accountable and progressive Parliament - a Parliament with economic fairness, social justice and environment at its core.

GetUp is a not-for-profit and receives no money from any political party or the government. We rely solely on funds and in-kind donations from the Australian public.

FAQ:

Why do we need GetUp?

Political parties and institutional politics have too often failed to inspire people or offer meaningful opportunities for participation, yet despite years of economic good times, many Australians remain deeply concerned about the political direction of our country. It has not been a good decade for Australia's progressives - those of us who share a commitment to the values of social justice, cultural diversity, ecological sustainability and economic fairness.

GetUp.org.au is providing Australians with the tools to fight back, and take innovative and effective action on important issues facing our country. GetUp members are building a ground-up movement of real people who are putting the participation back into our democracy.

What do GetUp.org.au members do?

GetUp.org.au members take action. By signing up for updates, GetUp.org.au members receive emails alerting them to new campaigns and providing ways of affecting positive change. Whether it is sending an email to a

member of parliament, engaging with the media, attending an event or helping to get a television ad on the air, GetUp members are always only ever asked to take targeted, coordinated and strategic action.

Who runs GetUp?

GetUp has a core team of staff and volunteers in Sydney, who conduct research on new campaigns, develop the website, prepare GetUp email updates and raise awareness of our campaigns in the media.

In September 2008, after two years as Executive Director, Brett Solomon left GetUp to move to Avaaz.org and a new National Director, Simon Sheikh was appointed alongside a Director of Operations, Meredith Turnbull to take GetUp into 2009.

GetUp was founded in 2005 by Jeremy Heimans and David Madden, two young Australian graduates of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government who have worked at the intersection of technology, new media and politics in the United States. David and Jeremy are now co-founders of Avaaz.org, a new global online political community inspired by the success of GetUp and the US group MoveOn.org.

GetUp has a board that advises the staff. The board includes GetUp's co-founders, community organiser Amanda Tattersall, and environmental leader Cate Faehrmann. GetUp will soon announce additional board members to replace entrepreneur Evan Thornley and union leader Bill Shorten who recently stepped down as they are now pursuing their own party-related political activities.

Ultimately, the real work and impact of GetUp is achieved through our members, who make the calls, send the emails and supply the financial support.

How can I volunteer or work at GetUp?

GetUp has volunteers and interns in our Sydney office assisting with a range of tasks such as research, administration, website work, and event coordination. If you're interested, please check out our Volunteers section of the website or send us a short email at volunteer@getup.org.au explaining how you think you could help and attach a brief resume.

Who funds GetUp?

GetUp receives no government or political party funding. Instead we're largely supported by thousands of individuals who may not have a lot of time or money, but who care about the issues and want to have a say. We also receive support from organisations, unions and community groups. With a secure online credit card transaction you can instantly donate to our campaigns, or designate an amount to chip in automatically on a regular basis.

When you donate to GetUp, you're joining thousands of everyday Australians who are working together to make progressive voices, values and priorities heard again.

How does GetUp decide what issues to campaign on?

GetUp identifies campaigns based on the interests and input of our members, and we welcome your feedback and ideas to help shape GetUp's direction. All GetUp campaigns are focused around shared progressive values such as social justice, economic fairness and environmental sustainability. Because there are many important issues facing our country at any given time, GetUp looks for opportunities to focus national attention and action where our contribution will be most effective.

Can I suggest an issue to campaign on?

Yes, we welcome the ideas and suggestions of GetUp members to help shape our actions on important national issues. We receive a large volume of emails, so to help us consider your suggestion, please write to campaigns@getup.org.au and tell us briefly:

- In one or two lines, what is your campaign about (what problem are you seeking to address)?

- What is the desired political outcome (what, specifically, are you trying to achieve)?
- Who has the power to make change happen, or at least influence the political result (should we be targeting dissenting MPs, the media, the Prime Minister)?
- What's the campaign's message (i.e. Fund our ABC, or No child belongs in detention)?
- What should the campaign ask GetUp members to do (sign a petition, call talkback radio, attend a rally, email their Federal MP)?
- Is there a target audience for this campaign (university students, mums and dads, Australians affected by drought)?
- What is the timing of this issue (why should we run a campaign about this now, or later)?

What has GetUp achieved?

In its 3 years of operation, GetUp has grown to over 300,000 members and achieved a considerable number of successes from bringing David Hicks home, changing the laws on media ownership, continued campaigning for equal rights for same-sex couples and supporting the Parliamentary Apology to the Stolen Generations.

For the full details of campaigns achievements both current and past, see our Achievements page.

Does being a GetUp member mean I endorse all your specific campaigns?

No. For each campaign we operate, GetUp will send out a message alerting members to the issue at hand and an opportunity to take action, but we respect every member's choice to "opt-in" on campaigns as you see fit.

How do I contact GetUp for an interview for a media story?

Please contact us by phone at (02) 9264 4037 or on 0408 662 575 (strictly media calls only), or by email at media@getup.org.au

Are you a non-profit organization?

Yes, GetUp is registered as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Our ABN number is 99114027986.

Are donations to GetUp tax-deductible?

Under the current laws, similar to other political campaigning organisations, donations to GetUp are not tax-deductible as we wish to remain independent of government funds for our advocacy and campaign work.

Are you affiliated with any political parties?

No. GetUp has no affiliations with any political parties.

GetUp brings together progressive people from all political backgrounds and parties, but is independent of all parties. It is GetUp's political independence that allows us to work with and critique all political parties without fear or favour.

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10. Independent Journalism

10.1 ICH - Information Clearing House (USA)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/>

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/who.htm>

What and Who is Information Clearing House

This web site is:

- An independent media source.
- One person's effort to correct the distorted perceptions provided by commercial media.
- This web site is non-commercial (no advertising no pop-up windows) and funded by readers contributions.
- This web site grew out of my personal frustration and anger at the failure of traditional commercial media to inform the American public, especially as it relates to US foreign policy.
- A source of unreported (or under reported) news from around the globe.
- An effort to provide more depth and understanding to current issues.
- This web site is the work of one person.
- I am a private individual.
- I am not affiliated with any particular political party.
- I am not funded by any group.
- I pay for all services associated with this site from my personal funds and readers' donations.
- I am not independently wealthy.
- I work and live in Southern California.

Please consider becoming a monthly supporter. A monthly contribution will enable me to plan for improved web site hosting on a more secure server and reduce the number of successful hacking attacks on the website.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/intent.htm>

Purpose and Intent of this website:

This website does not suggest that it contains the "truth". The truth is a combination of all information and all facts relating to a topic. It is therefore unachievable (in my opinion) for anyone to say "I know the truth."

If you came to this site in search of "the truth" you will be disappointed. That is also true of CNN, FOX , ABC etc. If you came to gather information you may find it a useful resource.

Gibran says in the "Prophet" Say not, "I have found the truth," but rather, "I have found a truth."

That brings me to my first point:

John Adams said "Liberty can not be preserved without general knowledge among people" this statement points to the absolute necessity of an informed citizenry if our nation is to remain a functioning free society.

This means that each citizen has a civic responsibility to inform himself and share that information with others. The corporate media pumps information into our homes and does a great job of providing the information that our government wants us to know. It has in my opinion become the propaganda arm of government, and a great number of those who call themselves journalists are in fact nothing less than prostitutes.

Those who wish to inhibit free access to information are in my opinion a great danger to our nation. Why would any adult interfere with the right of fellow citizens to inform themselves?

There is a war going on for the minds of America, those waging this war are determined to control the American people by taking possession of our minds and by controlling our sources of information.

Truth is indefinable. Information is unlimited.

PUBLIC RELATIONS = PROPAGANDA

10.2 FAIR - Fairness And Accuracy In Reporting (USA)

<http://www.fair.org/>
<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=100>

FAIR - Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting

What's FAIR?

FAIR, the national media watch group, has been offering well-documented criticism of media bias and censorship since 1986. We work to invigorate the First Amendment by advocating for greater diversity in the press and by scrutinizing media practices that marginalize public interest, minority and dissenting viewpoints.

As an anti-censorship organization, we expose neglected news stories and defend working journalists when they are muzzled. As a progressive group, FAIR believes that structural reform is ultimately needed to break up the dominant media conglomerates, establish independent public broadcasting and promote strong non-profit sources of information.

Uniquely, FAIR works with both activists and journalists. We maintain a regular dialogue with reporters at news outlets across the country, providing constructive critiques when called for and applauding exceptional, hard-hitting journalism. We also encourage the public to contact media with their concerns, to become media activists rather than passive consumers of news.

FAIR publishes Extra!, the award-winning magazine of media criticism, and produces the weekly radio program CounterSpin, the show that brings you the news behind the headlines. In addition, we have a thriving listserv through which we distribute regular Action Alerts to our international network of activists -- as of September 2004, the FAIR list has over 55,000 recipients, with more signing on every day.

<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=101>

What's Wrong With the News?

Independent, aggressive and critical media are essential to an informed democracy. But mainstream media are increasingly cozy with the economic and political powers they should be watchdogging. Mergers in the news industry have accelerated, further limiting the spectrum of viewpoints that have access to mass media. With U.S. media outlets overwhelmingly owned by for-profit conglomerates and supported by corporate advertisers, independent journalism is compromised.

Ultimately, FAIR believes that structural reform is needed to break up the dominant media conglomerates, establish independent public broadcasting, and promote strong, non-profit alternative sources of information.

Check out these links for more of FAIR's analysis of the media business:

- Corporate Ownership
- Advertiser Influence
- Official Agendas
- Telecommunications Policy
- The PR Industry

- Pressure Groups
- The Narrow Range of Debate
- Censorship
- Sensationalism

10.3 RSF - Reporters Sans Frontières (FRA)

<http://www.rsf.org/>
<http://www.rsf.org/Introduction.html>

"Don't wait to be deprived of news to stand up and fight for it"

In some countries a journalist can be thrown in prison for years for a single offending word or photo. Jailing or killing a journalist removes a vital witness to events and threatens the right of us all to be informed. Reporters Without Borders has fought for press freedom on a daily basis since it was founded in 1985.

Investigate, expose and support

Reporters Without Borders:

- defends journalists and media assistants imprisoned or persecuted for doing their job and exposes the mistreatment and torture of them in many countries.
- fights against censorship and laws that undermine press freedom.
- gives financial aid each year to 100 or so journalists or media outlets in difficulty (to pay for lawyers, medical care and equipment) as well to the families of imprisoned journalists.
- works to improve the safety of journalists, especially those reporting in war zones.

Before taking action, Reporters Without Borders researchers, who each handle a region (Africa, the Americas, Asia/Pacific, Europe and the former Soviet bloc, Middle East/ North Africa) or a topic such as the Internet, compile reports of press freedom violations. After checking the information, the researchers and the organisations' correspondents send protest letters to the authorities to put pressure on governments which do not respect the right to inform and to be informed, and send releases to the media to drum up support for the journalists under attack.

Sometimes gathering information is not enough. A Reporters Without Borders fact-finding mission is then sent to investigate on the spot the working conditions of journalists, as well as cases of imprisoned or murdered journalists, and also to meet with the authorities in the country concerned.

Publicity campaigns conducted with the help of public relations firms aim to inform people and try to give countries which do not respect this basic right a bad name in the eyes of international institutions, the media and governments that have ties with them.

Reporters Without Borders is funded by the sale of its twice-annual albums of photographs as well as calendars, by auctions, small and large donations, member dues, public grants and partnerships with private firms.

An international organisation

Reporters Without Borders is present in all five continents through its national branches (in Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland), its offices in Bangkok, London, New York, Tokyo and Washington, and the more than 120 correspondents it has in other countries. The organisation also works closely with local and regional press freedom groups that are members of the Reporters Without Borders Network, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burma, Colombia, Democratic Congo, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Somalia, the United States and Tunisia.

Reporters Without Borders is registered in France as a non-profit organisation and has consultant status at the

United Nations.

In 2005, the organisation won the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

A constantly-updated website

All the organisation's press releases and publications are available online in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Persian) at its website www.rsf.org which keeps a daily-updated list of journalists killed or imprisoned around the world. It also contains detailed reports on special cases and invites the public to sign online petitions for the release of jailed journalists.

Press freedom events

As well as its daily press releases, fact-finding mission reports and regular publications, Reporters Without Borders stages several annual events to highlight the issue of press freedom.

- The round-up of press freedom in the world In January, the organisation summarises the previous year, with the number of journalists arrested, threatened, physically attacked or killed and media censored.
- World Press Freedom Day On this day (May 3), Reporters Without Borders publishes its list of the predators of press freedom, as well as a book of photographs which is sold to raise money for the organisation to continue its work.
- The Worldwide Press Freedom Index Issued in October, measuring the degree of freedom journalists and media have in more than 160 countries.
- Jailed Journalists Support Day Reporters Without Borders has lobbied media and journalists since 1989 to "adopt" journalists imprisoned for doing their job and to publicise their plight on this day each November so they are not forgotten. A second book of photographs is also published on the day to raise money to help imprisoned journalists.
- The Reporters Without Borders - Fondation de France Prize In December. This honours a journalist who, by work, attitude or principled stands, has shown strong belief in press freedom, a media outlet that exemplifies the battle for the right to inform the public and to be informed, a defender of press freedom and a cyber-dissident spearheading freedom of expression online.

11. Social Welfare

11.1 GDA - Guide Dogs NSW (AUS)

<http://www.guidedogs.com.au/>
<http://www.guidedogs.com.au/Guide-Dogs-at-a-glance.html>

Guide Dogs at a glance

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT exists to enhance the quality of life of people living with blindness or impaired vision, by assisting in their achievement of independence through access and mobility. We believe people living with impaired vision have equal rights to other people, and respect their right for human dignity.

When your name is Guide Dogs, everyone naturally assumes that you train Guide Dogs for people who are blind or vision impaired. Which, of course, we do. But it's not all that we do.

We train people who are vision impaired to use canes, canines and electronic aids to improve their mobility and thus independence and quality of life.

We train companion dogs for children and adults who are disabled or disadvantaged owing to age, isolation or ill health.

And we advocate on behalf of the people we assist to make the community an easier place in which to live and

work.

We do not charge for our services. We don't receive government funding. Everything we achieve is made possible by the generosity of our donors, bequestors and volunteers.

In New South Wales and the ACT (Australia), there are around 100,000 people with a vision impairment severe enough to cause problems with daily living. Our services are there for all of them.

Last year alone, our instructors travelled over three quarter of a million kilometres to make sure that, wherever possible, mobility skills are taught in the environment in which they will be used.

We also work with local government, architects, transport authorities and businesses on ways to improve facilities for people with a vision impairment.

11.2 TSA - The Salvation Army Australia (AUS)

<http://salvos.org.au/about-us/>

<http://salvos.org.au/about-us/overview/our-mission.php>

Our Mission:

Part of The Salvation Army's mission involves meeting human need wherever it occurs - without discrimination.

The Salvation Army has an international mission statement that sets the identity and direction for every command and centre that the Army operates. Some territories also have an internal mission statement that 'speaks the language' of their local area.

The international mission statement of The Salvation Army is as follows:

"The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

Our Services:

It has been said The Salvation Army offers caring support for every problem "from the cradle to the grave." Our services are as wide- ranging and diverse as the areas of need in the community, like an umbrella over Australia's social problems.

Because we have such tremendous scope in our service provision, each program is able to link with other services in the network, thus enhancing our capacity to help those in need.

Here is a snapshot of how our caring work is helping to change lives for the better and, in so doing, making this world a better place for us all.

- Aged Care
- Chaplaincies
- Children's Services
- Community Care Ministries
- Community Services
- Court & Prison Services
- Crisis & Supported Accommodation
- Disabled Persons
- Emergency Services
- Employment Services
- English Speaking Classes
- Family Tracing
- Financial Counselling

- Outback Flying Service
- Professional Counselling
- Recovery Services
- Red Shield Defence Services
- Suicide Support
- Telephone Counselling
- Youth Support

12. Animal Rights

12.1 RSPCA NSW - Royal Society Prevention Cruelty Animals (AUS)

<http://www.rspcansw.org.au/>

Who We Are:

The RSPCA is Australia's pre-eminent animal welfare organisation. We provide a strong voice for all animals who experience cruelty and neglect. The RSPCA is committed to the care and welfare of animals, providing extensive professional facilities, including fully equipped veterinary hospitals and our state-wide shelter network, with 200 staff across NSW to care for animals.

The RSPCA NSW has its origins with the formation in 1824 of the RSPCA in Britain (which is not connected to RSPCA Australia). The RSPCA NSW was founded, under a different name, in Sydney in 1873 - see History.

The RSPCA Yagoona Shelter in Sydney is the largest animal shelter in the southern hemisphere, caring for 900 dogs and 200 cats. We are also home to a variety of farm animals, including sheep, cattle, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits, chicken and ducks.

The RSPCA NSW works with local councils, state and federal governments and other interested groups-including community organisations, wildlife authorities, farmers and professional associations.

Shelters:

The RSPCA has nine shelters in NSW which provide comfort, shelter and the best possible care to lost, abandoned, surrendered, neglected, unwanted, sick or injured animals. Each year, the RSPCA offers shelter to almost 40,000 animals in New South Wales. Please contact your nearest shelter for more information about our services.

Branches:

Branches are the backbone of the RSPCA's work in regional NSW. They play an important role in foster care, finding permanent homes, fundraising, desexing programs and support for animals in their local communities. The RSPCA has 25 branches in regional areas in NSW.

Inspectors:

RSPCA inspectors investigate complaints against all kinds of animals in all kinds of situations. The most common complaint is about people who don't feed their animals properly, do not provide them with veterinary treatment, leave them without water or allow them to suffer extremes of temperature without adequate shelter. Inspectors also investigate pet shops, the treatment of animals at saleyards, people who abandon their animals, the suffering of farm animals during drought, people who have more animals than they can look after and those who intentionally harm animals.

Veterinary Hospitals:

The RSPCA operates four veterinary clinics at Yagoona (Sydney), Broken Hill, Rutherford (Hunter region) and Tighes Hill (Newcastle). These hospitals provide medical services to both shelter animals who have no owners, injured strays and to the pets of private clients. RSPCA hospitals also treat the victims of cruelty and provide medical evidence for the prosecution of cruelty cases.

Publications:

RSPCA NSW Publications include Animals magazine and the Annual Report.

Humane Education:

One of the RSPCA's most important priorities is in educating the community about kindness to animals. Our specialist staff and volunteers are devoted to teaching children to develop empathy with animals and become responsible pet owners. Each year RSPCA humane education staff visit hundreds of schools and community groups and provide educational resources for teachers.

12.2 SSCS - Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (USA)

<http://www.seashepherd.org/>
<http://www.seashepherd.org/who-we-are/>

Who We Are - Sea Shepherd's Mission Statement

Established in 1977, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) is an international non-profit, marine wildlife conservation organization. Our mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species.

Sea Shepherd uses innovative direct-action tactics to investigate, document, and take action when necessary to expose and confront illegal activities on the high seas. By safeguarding the biodiversity of our delicately-balanced ocean ecosystems, Sea Shepherd works to ensure their survival for future generations.

<http://www.seashepherd.org/who-we-are/our-history.html>

A Brief Overview

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was formally incorporated in the United States in 1981 in the state of Oregon. Previous to this, the idea of Sea Shepherd was formed when Captain Paul Watson founded the Earth Force Society in 1977 in Vancouver BC, Canada. The original mandate of both organizations was marine mammal protection and conservation with an immediate goal of shutting down illegal whaling and sealing operations, but Sea Shepherd later expanded its mission to include all marine wildlife.

In 1978, with financial support from Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals, the Society purchased its first ship (a British sea trawler Westella) and renamed it the Sea Shepherd. Its first mission was to sail to the ice floes of Eastern Canada to interfere with the annual killing of baby harp seals known as whitecoats. In the same year, the Sea Shepherd hunted down and rammed the notorious prolific pirate whaler the Sierra in a Portugal harbor ending its infamous career as the scourge of the seas.

Since those early days, Sea Shepherd has embarked on over 200 voyages covering many of the world's oceans and defending and saving defenseless marine life all along the way.

<http://www.seashepherd.org/who-we-are/mandate.html>

Mandate

Sea Shepherd's primary mandate is to assume a law enforcement role as provided by the United Nations World Charter for Nature.

This charter was adopted by the United Nation's General Assembly on November 9, 1982.

Sea Shepherd is guided by the UN Charter World Charter for Nature and cites Section 21 under the heading of Implementations as the Society's authority to act on behalf of international conservation law.

World Charter for Nature: Implementations

21. States and, to the extent they are able, other public authorities, international organizations, individuals, groups and corporations shall:

(a) Co-operate in the task of conserving nature through common activities and other relevant actions, including information exchange and consultations

(b) Establish standards for products and other manufacturing processes that may have adverse effects on nature, as well as agreed methodologies for assessing these effects

(c) Implement the applicable international legal provisions for the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment

(d) Ensure that activities within their jurisdictions or control do not cause damage to the natural systems located within other States or in the areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction

(e) Safeguard and conserve nature in areas beyond national jurisdiction

22. Taking fully into account the sovereignty of States over their natural resources, each State shall give effect to the provisions of the present Charter through its competent organs and in co-operation with other States.

23. All persons, in accordance with their national legislation, shall have the opportunity to participate, individually or with others, in the formulation of decisions of direct concern to their environment, and shall have access to means of redress when their environment has suffered damage or degradation.

24. Each person has a duty to act in accordance with the provisions of the present Charter, acting individually, in association with others or through participation in the political process, each person shall strive to ensure that the objectives and requirements of the present Charter are met.

This UN Charter was upheld in 1995 when Captain Paul Watson cited the Charter as his authority to order Spanish and Cuban drag trawlers off the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Captain Watson had been arrested in this area, outside of the Canadian 200 mile limit, by Canadian authorities and was charged with felony mischief.

During the court proceedings, the jury was advised by the Judge that Canada was a signatory to the World Charter for Nature, and as such, they must take the Charter into full account.

Captain Watson was acquitted "by reason of colour of right," and at the same time established a Canadian precedent for using the Charter to defend actions of intervention against illegal fishing activities.

Note: Colour of Right is a common law defense defined as "an honestly held belief in entitlement to property" (Source: Jurist Canada)