



JUST

ASSOCIATES

*Advancing equality, rights, and economic justice
through partnerships for strategic thinking and action*

2004 Activities and Accomplishments

Strengthening **leadership + strategies + organization** for social justice

Long-term initiatives

Political capacity-building and “program refocus” with the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** board and staff: defining new strategic directions under the broad areas of economic, environmental and political justice through contextual analysis, recovery and review of organizational history, and consultation with members, to arrive at concrete advocacy, outreach and project plans for this alternative, progressive, faith-based group. (*Jan – Dec 2004*)

Design and facilitate **participatory assessment and strategic planning process** with leadership and staff of **Mott Foundation** grantees committed to reforming the International Financial Institutions. (*Sep 2004 – Sep 2005*)

Ongoing collaborations with **ActionAid International** (AAI) include advising a four-year action-research project on advocacy impact; strategic planning and support for the **ActionAid-USA**; and input on AAI’s next five-year strategy as the organization aims to more fully embrace rights-based approaches to development in practice. (*Aug 2002 – 2005*) Also, designed and conducted 4-day **advocacy and leadership workshop** for partners of **Action-Aid Guatemala**. Peasant’s rights, women’s rights and public education advocates came together to sharpen the organizing and advocacy components of their work. (*May 2004*)

Comprehensive **technical support, training and guidance** to **Catholic Relief Services** staff in the U.S. and worldwide, developing tools and processes to “operationalize the justice mission” and institutionalize **advocacy capacity** throughout the organization. Tasks included advocacy training for field-regional staff and directors, as well US operations staff, refining campaign planning and issue prioritization processes, helping to shift planning procedures to better link advocacy to community development, peace-building and humanitarian assistance, production of a contextual-structural analysis toolkit, guiding the documentation of key campaigns, such as CRS efforts on the Chad-Cameroon pipeline, on conflict diamonds, HIV/AIDS, debt and trafficking. (*Sep 2002 – Sep 2004*)

Co-designed and coordinated a **7-country action-research project, *Linking Rights and Participation***, with the **Institute of Development Studies (IDS)-Participation Group** to explore how different civil society actors perceive and practice rights and participation efforts; research carried out by country teams of activists and educators (including four Just Associates) from social movements, women’s rights and citizen efforts in Brazil, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. JASS’ discourse review, “Rights-based Approaches and Beyond,” traces the emerging shift from needs-based to rights-based development, including ESC rights, among US-based international organizations; IDS publication available in December 04. (*May 2002 – Sep 2004*)

Human Rights Education Associates’ (HREA) human rights advocacy courses taught online by JASS Senior Advisor. (*2003-2005*)

Design **Field Guide on Policy Research and Analysis** for **CARE** staff to use in program planning. Emphasis is on participatory approaches that can engage staff, partners and community members in an active analysis of policies, contexts and structures and in subsequent decisionmaking about strategies to respond to particular problems. (*Apr – Dec 2004*)

Short-term initiatives

Designed and facilitated **advocacy workshop** for student interns in the **Weinberg Tzedek Hillel** program who, over the next year, will be organizing constituencies on their campuses and in their communities to use advocacy to address a range of critical problems. (*Oct 2004*)

ED served as resource person for 3-day workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, *Political Skills and Capacity-Building for Civil Society Organizations*, convened for selected grantees by **Ford Foundation-Indonesia**. (*Sep 2004*)

Advised-participated in the design, facilitation and documentation of 2004 **Civicus World Assembly**. (*Mar 2004*)

Presentation on rights-based approaches at **InterAction** workshop to discuss how-tos and the organizational challenges faced by US-based international development organizations in integrating rights to their work. (*Jul 2004*)

Democratizing economics

Co-coordinate and conduct the **Economic Education for Action** Program, a 2 year multi-level capacity-building effort with trade union federations in the **Balkans**, as part of the **Global Economy Program** of the **Solidarity Center** (the international arm of the AFL-CIO); also supporting similar efforts in South Asia and **expanding to Africa in 2005** to increase trade unionists' understanding of the impact of globalization on workers' rights and conditions and help define national organizing and advocacy strategies. (*Jul 2003 – Feb 2005*) Conducted in-depth **Evaluation of Global Economic Literacy** Training efforts in **Indonesia and Sri Lanka** to shape the design of above programs. (*Jul 2003 – Mar 2004*)

Conducted a scoping study of **Popular Economic Literacy Resources, initiatives, and educators** worldwide jointly with **IDS-Participation Group**. (*Sep – Nov 2004*)

For the European Network on Debt and Development's (**EURODAD**) **Economic Policy Empowerment Program (EPEP)**, designed guidelines for analysis and documentation of economic policy empowerment work; conducted **assessment of EPEP** at the end of the three-year program. (*Jul 2002 – Oct 2004*)

Co-conducted with **ActionAid USA** a partial **scoping study of global civil society economic advocacy initiatives** for the Global Policy Innovations Project of the **Carnegie Council on Ethics**; including a draft **overview paper of lessons and insights** co-written by JASS ED Lisa VeneKlasen and Atila Roque, ActionAid USA, presented at workshop 'Reinventing Globalization: Designing a Collaborative Process for Promoting Policy Alternatives' (*Sep 2004*)

Ongoing collaboration with **International Civil Society Budget Fund of the International Budget Project**, as member of the **Advisory Board** and in planning new initiatives. (*since 2002*)

Promoting women's rights

With **ActionAid International**, developing a **toolkit** on understanding and implementing **rights-based approaches** that also address the **gender dimensions of inequality**; for staff and partners to better understand practical implications of power dynamics for their work. *(Nov 2003 – Jan 2005)*

Ongoing collaborating with the **Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)**; designed-facilitated 3-day **workshop to assess and redirect global women's rights strategies**; produced **background paper** at www.justassociates.org. *(February 2004)*

At the request of the International Women's Health Center, designed and conducted a participatory evaluation of advocacy work carried out over the last decade by the **Nigerian Coalition Against Unwanted Pregnancy (CAUP)**. CAUP's experience addressing abortion through a frame of maternal health offers many strategic insights for other groups working on the issue in similarly restrictive contexts. *(Mar – Nov 2004)*

With the **POLICY Project**, JASS has supported the design and coordination of an initiative aimed at strengthening **Kenyan women's ability to access and enjoy their rights to inheritance and family property**. The initiative aims to support the initial steps of a collaborative advocacy planning process among NGOs concerned with women's inheritance rights, to identify needed changes in law, policy, institutional practice, and popular behavior and belief and begin to set priorities for action. *(Nov 2003 – 2005)*

Prepared a **global situational review** for **CEDPA**, summarizing reports from major multilateral organizations and other key sources on the **needs of women in key areas** (e.g. health, education, politics, etc.) over the next 5-10 years in each of the following regions: Latin America, Asia, Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe. *(May 2004)*

Revised training **manual on Sexual and Reproductive Rights Advocacy** in the context of the South-to-South Program of the **CATALYST Consortium**. JASS' contribution to the manual specifically focused on strengthening the advocacy content and the participatory methodology for the training sessions. *(Mar 2003 – Mar 2004)*

Hosted roundtable discussion on **Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS: Has the world finally re-discovered women?** Zimbabwean associate, Everjoice Win, shared provocative insights on how the pandemic offers some opportunities for putting women's rights back in the center of a global agenda for justice. *(Oct 2004)*

Hosted roundtable on **Strategies for addressing religious and economic fundamentalisms: Perspectives from Indonesia**, with JASS associate Nani Zulminarni. Nani described how grassroots education and organizing work with women has evolved over time with the shifting influence of international as well as national economic and political actors and how groups are working to counter the impact of fundamentalisms on people's lives in Indonesia. *(Apr 2004)*

Creating local & global bridges

Part of our work with faith-based organizations such as **UUSC** and **CRS** focuses on helping them to more effectively **engage their US constituencies and members** on issues of justice, human rights and equality in the US and in solidarity with their partners overseas. Similarly, linkages with US and other northern constituencies are critical for our economic justice work so that analysis and strategies are shared across regions.

The deteriorating conditions of **DC Public Schools** and the impact of the No Child Left Behind act, make **public school reform** a crucial and compelling issue for families across the District of Columbia, and in particular, African-American and Latino families bearing the brunt of these problems. Structural inequalities of race, class and gender and debates about the role of government shape the context and struggle for better public schools. Several groups in the city are involved in fragmented efforts to reform the system but few are using a constituency-building approach that increases participation and leadership of poorer families of color. We are establishing connections with advocacy, student, labor and immigrants' rights groups in a fast-evolving leadership and advocacy effort focused on building low-income, African-American and Latino constituency engagement and a joint agenda to address critical problems within DC public schools. At present, the work will involve **tracking the money** for security and other promised improvements, exploring and introducing a **rights dimension** to the work and a series of workshops for **joint analysis, agenda-setting** and strategizing. While the project's education and action will be issue-focused and local, we see this as a powerful racial justice and governance battle with potential reverberations at the national level. We also plan to link with and create leadership exchange and networking opportunities with the **Global Campaign for Education**. (*August 2004 -*)

Linking with U.S. Activists: Supported by the Ford Foundation, JASS partnered with the US-focused **Grassroots Policy Project (GPP)** with the aim of learning from and building on their strategic support and leadership education initiatives with state-wide citizen coalitions. GPP has also drawn upon and adapted *A New Weave* and other JASS materials and strategies to their work in the US. As a Ford grantee in 2003, JASS participated in a convening of key US social justice leaders and gained insights about the tensions and challenges regarding race, elections, gender and strategic choices among these groups. (*Jun 2003 – Jun 2004*)