

C2C



U.S.–Russia Civil Society to Civil Society Summit – 2010
Американо-Российский Саммит по Гражданскому Обществу

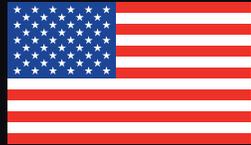
SUMMARY REPORT • NOVEMBER 15, 2010





“I really hope that each and every one of you realizes that you’re performing a great service – an act of true patriotism on behalf of not only your country, but on behalf of a better life that will provide a stronger foundation for a positive, constructive relationship between the United States and Russia.”

Remarks of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 24, 2010.



C2C



U.S.–Russia Civil Society to Civil Society Summit – 2010
Американо-Российский Саммит по Гражданскому Обществу

Washington D.C. • Moscow • St. Petersburg • Petrozavodsk

June and October 2010



IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board) is pleased to present the Summary Report for the 2010 U.S. – Russia Civil Society Summit which summarizes the discussions of this C2C Summit process, highlighting the opportunities for furthering peer-to-peer collaboration between the U.S. and Russian civil society organizations. This report highlights the conclusions, recommendations and action items for the 10 groups that met in June in Washington, DC and in October 2010 in Russia. IREX would like to thank the co-chairs, participants, and innovators that made these productive and collaborative meetings possible and especially the conveners, Paige Alexander of IREX and Andrey Kortunov of the New Eurasia Foundation.

This report is available on IREX's website at: www.irex.org/c2csummaryreport. The Final Report from the June and October 2010 meetings is available at: www.irex.org/c2cfinalreport.

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



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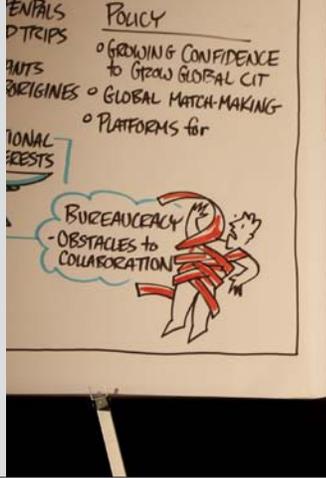
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“The participants strongly support the proposition that a policy-focused, peer-to-peer dialogue allows us to find new ways to address challenges and create opportunities in various sectors of Russian and American societies. It was a pleasure to welcome all the participants to Washington for this year’s Summit.”

Paige Alexander



Overview

The U.S.-Russia Bilateral Commission sponsored by Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev includes a commitment to strengthening ties between Russian and American civil society organizations. Effective collaboration improves the quality of human interaction within both countries and serves to strengthen historically important relationships between Russians and Americans. Running parallel to the June 2010 meetings of the Bilateral Commission, the United States hosted the second U.S.-Russia Civil Society to Civil Society (C2C) Summit on June 23-24, 2010, which was followed by a series of follow-on meetings in Russia in October 2010. This report summarizes the discussions of this C2C Summit process, highlighting the opportunities for furthering peer-to-peer engagement between Russian and American organizations.

As part of the Summit, C2C also included an Innovation Marketplace that provided Summit participants an opportunity to explore how technology can spur innovative approaches to the challenges faced by civil society groups. The Marketplace brought together ten different organizations from the U.S. and Russia to share novel and innovative technology tools used domestically and abroad to serve the

public and advance societal change. The Marketplace benefited from a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton who, in her remarks to C2C Summit participants, that "...the potential [for C2C collaboration] is just enormous and we cannot grow weary making progress together."

For two days in June, and then again in cities across Russia in October, working groups composed of leading Russian and American thought leaders shared ideas on common challenges and best practices in the following ten issue areas:

- Anti-corruption and Institutional Integrity
- Child Protection
- Community Development
- Higher Education
- Human Rights and Law
- New Media
- Primary and Secondary Education and Youth
- Public Health
- Transparency in Government
- Women's Human Rights

These sessions facilitated dialogue and helped to develop a “road map” for future collaboration on agreed-upon themes and achievable goals. While the specific recommendations for each focus area are presented in the Proceedings section of this report, the broad themes that emerged from the Summit included the following:

- While not a panacea, new technology is a potential boon for effective C2C collaboration because it increases participation and lowers costs
- Opportunities for ongoing collaboration need to be institutionalized, with more sophisticated and complete information exchange. Evidence-based data analysis is required in order to formulate more effective social impact methodologies
- Mentoring and information transfer between Russian and American NGOs need to be strengthened. As each country has developed important lessons learned across the spectrum of civil society interest areas, Russian and American groups can, and should, learn from one another
- Greater emphasis needs to be given to public outreach and information campaigns. Citizens in both countries do not always know or understand their obligations or the obligations of government. Improvements in public information can result in more effective collaboration not only among civil society actors but also between civil society and government partnerships
- The bilateral process should continue. High-level support for ongoing civil society interaction between Russian and American organizations is an essential ingredient for fostering long-term change and sustainable development

For further information about the C2C Summit, including a detailed account of all proceedings, please direct inquiries to IREX, www.irex.org.



ANTI-CORRUPTION AND INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev have introduced a new dynamic into U.S.-Russian relations by engaging civil society leaders in both nations to help address the transnational threat of corruption. In response, leading U.S. and Russian civil society organizations have boosted their joint efforts to counter corruption while strengthening U.S.-Russian relations. They have formed the “Working Group on Anti-Corruption and Institutional Integrity” comprised of two U.S. and two Russian organizations, including Transparency International-U.S.A, the Sunlight Foundation, the Center for Business Ethics & Corporate Governance and Transparency International-Russia.

On June 23, 2010, the Working Group adopted principles of C2C cooperation to strengthen governance, maximize opportunities for economic growth and improve delivery of basic social services in both nations. Most importantly, it is incumbent upon civil society to advance the human right of citizens in both nations to open, honest, and responsive government. Working toward this objective, the United States and Russia should strengthen international agreements such as the UN Convention against Corruption and cooperation of national law enforcement

bodies. Both the public and private sectors should improve governance of bi-lateral trade, investment and market access. Through e-governance and other technological tools that facilitate transparency, citizens should be provided a meaningful opportunity to participate in government decision-making and procurement.

The Working Group concluded that C2C cooperation can act as an effective conduit to help citizens of both nations counter corruption and improve governance according to the strategy set forth below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create an “Article 13 Alliance” of U.S. and Russian civil society organizations under the UN Convention against corruption. This Alliance will increase civil society’s capacity to counter the transnational threat corruption based on the exchange of U.S. and Russian best practices; and help the U.S. and Russian governments uphold the UN Convention as well as other pertinent international and bilateral agreements.



Maximize the growth of bilateral trade and investment. U.S. and Russian civil society and business organizations should spur their respective governments to: i) adopt a bilateral investment treaty that prohibits bribery and other forms of corruption; ii) increase cooperation between law enforcement authorities to prosecute bribery in both nations and in global markets; and iii) act together to support Russia's accession to the OECD and adoption of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

Create a web-based C2C community to promote the exchange of U.S. and Russian best practices for: i) countering corruption in government procurement in specific high-risk industries; ii) strengthening entrepreneurs who develop innovative technologies and exemplify integrity; and iii) improving citizen access to information regarding government decision-making and financial disclosure by public officials.

Under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), U.S. and Russian civil society organizations will form an "Article 13 Alliance" to help the U.S. and Russian governments counter the threat of transnational corruption. This Alliance will advance the human rights of citizens in both nations through open and responsive government; increase cooperation of U.S. and Russian law enforcement authorities to prosecute official cases of corruption; and reduce barriers to growth in bilateral trade, investment and market access. In the next six months, the group will establish channels to work with government officials in both countries on UNCAC implementation; expand the core Group of 8 civil society/business organizations to lead the Alliance; identify two issues in which the Alliance can have near-term impact on improving UNCAC implementation, trade and investment. Within 12 months, the Alliance will create an on-line platform to disseminate best practices; create a C2C anti-corruption toolkit; collaborate on raising and resolving specific cases of corruption; and create new metrics to measure U.S. - Russia government C2C cooperation to counter corruption.



CHILD PROTECTION: Crossing Borders to Protect Children

Child protection encompasses the legal economic measures undertaken to support parents and children; it is directed toward the prevention of, and support for, children experiencing child abuse. The working group agreed that there is a need to focus on protecting children's rights and indeed their lives. In the United States, child protection follows a public-private partnership model, whereas in Russia it is based more on government initiative and control. The role of a civilized society is to protect vulnerable individuals and ensure children's rights and their development. Child protection is a balancing act between the rights of children (the rights to be safe and develop) and the rights of parents (the right to raise their children the way they choose). This is also an important issue in Russia, where parental rights often trump children's needs under a patriarchal family structure. U.S. professionals face similar challenges on a daily basis. Thus, in a vibrant civil society the role of child protection is to serve the children whose essential human rights are violated, with human rights defined per the international Convention on Human Rights.

In the United States there has been a trend over the past 20 years to support the role of NGOs in child protection, addressing a multitude of problems. Politically, specialists have come to recognize that government

cannot and should not do everything. This has led to an increase in the number of NGOs and the development of public-private partnerships. Challenges remain, however, including the fact that law enforcement agencies are distrustful of NGOs. It is also necessary to involve government agencies that work within child welfare and protection. In Russia, the most efficient child protection is practiced in the regions where these responsibilities are left at the regional level. There exists, however, a problem of coordination between different governmental agencies – public health, educational, child protection, etc. Technology can be used as a part of the solution. With the emergence of technology and travel, borders do not mean as much as they used to, and technology reduces communication barriers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop online consultations in which specialists in Russia and the United States can discuss specifics of child protection, e.g. protection of children's rights, investigation of child abuse and commercial exploitation, and response to child pornography. Such U.S.-Russia consultations would bring the specialists together via video-conferencing and online dialogue, with particular emphasis on including distant regions of Russia such as Siberia and the Far East.



Russian and American child protection specialists are committed to developing innovative approaches to solving the often complex and multi-dimensional challenges of at-risk children in both countries. They have committed to establishing a mechanism for collaborative on-line consultation, discussion and resolution of family crises that include violations of children's rights related, for example, to family violence and access to education and medical care. A web-based portal will provide opportunities for real-time internet conversations and video conferences among specialists as well as the opportunity to develop an electronic database containing methodological best practices and the latest information and research related to child protection.

Conduct joint research. Ongoing joint university-based research should also include practitioners' research and academic center research as well as joint publications for distribution to the general public.

Support training platforms such as study tours for practitioners. It would be useful to have exchange visits for 3-4 weeks, during which Russian specialists could visit different programs and shadow U.S. colleagues to see how U.S. NGOs collaborate with the government and other NGOs. The Russian delegation should include members of regional governments, officials of various government agencies, and practitioners, especially from NGOs. This will provide cross-sector dialogue and support NGO sustainability in Russia. This initial study-tour experience should be followed by U.S. representatives visiting Russia for on-site training and technical assistance regarding implementation of child protection initiatives and digital videoconferencing sessions.

Mass media should be used to show best practices in the United States and Russia and engage the broader population in the protection of children. Unfortunately, Russian mass media show only negative aspects of international adoption, for example, but this is a challenge in the United States as well. Public information campaigns should be carried out simultaneously in the United States and Russia.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development NGOs depend on federal funding and international donors for financial support. Local NGOs in Russia enjoy popular support but lack the human capacity and resources needed to operate. Russian CSOs are subject to the arbitrary decisions of local authorities, which creates an environment rife with corruption. The level of corruption, in turn, makes local investment riskier and further undermines capital acquisition. Russian NGO leaders, recognizing a lack of capital access as their primary constraint, believe that they would most benefit from the American experience in engaging local businesses, citizens, and government agencies. The Russian experts, however, saw these shortcomings as structurally driven by poor legal foundations and unclear tax status for CSOs rather than by any fundamental cultural differences between the two nations. The civil society sector in Russia is simply at a different stage of maturity than that of the U.S., but it is capable of obtaining the same trajectory and institutional development by including private-public partnerships.

American NGOs are powerful players in social policy at the local and national levels alike and often take the lead in community development activities as well as policy development and implementation. However, the Americans expressed concern that these large organizations have become overly specialized and the sector itself has become siloed. American representatives observed a lack of collaboration across different social issues, which has limited the development of holistic solutions. Consequently, the civil society sector in the U.S. has developed quickly but inconsistently across the nonprofit spectrum, and innovations in one area are not readily transferred to others. The working group identified a number of similarities on which they could build an on-going dialogue, including motivating local governments; engaging local citizens – especially youth; and committing private investment capital – especially in energy conservation. Recognizing that Russian CSOs could learn from the American experience in innovation and government collaboration and American CSOs could benefit from Russian organizations' more holistic and collaborative experiments, the participants agreed that both would benefit from an “on-going dialogue to identify successful strategies and best practices for community development capacity building.”



RECOMMENDATIONS

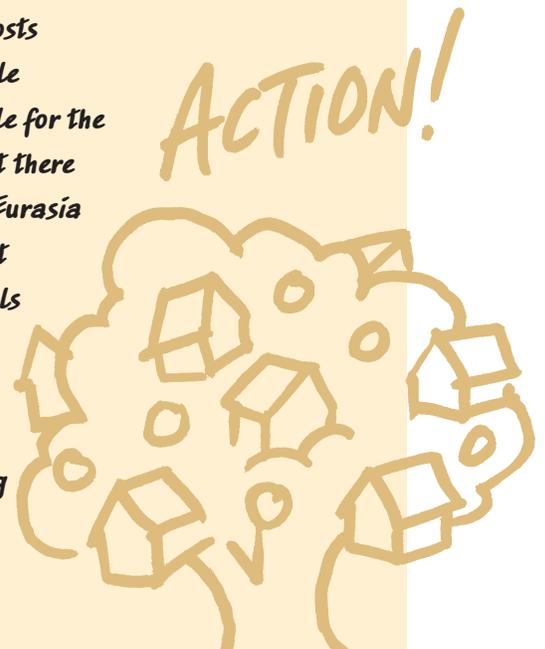
Organize a conference on new models of public-private-civil society collaboration in community development to be held in Russia using new technologies to expand “virtual” participation.

Develop a platform for an online community of practice. The community development conference materials would be used as the starting point for ongoing discussions, which would allow for direct peer-to-peer exchanges in experiences and ideas as well as identification of thought leaders and practices for future conferences and innovation.

Promote NGO/CSO organizational development by publishing resource materials. These should include internal capacity building models and practices as well as external (community-wide) capacity building through collaboration and partnering with private sector firms and public agencies.

Develop pilot projects with U.S./Russian CSO collaboration.

The recession that currently plagues the world economy has placed pressure on the availability of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents in many countries, including Russia and the United States. Traditional forms of homeownership financing is rarely a viable option for many, as housing costs continue to increase faster than income, thus reducing the stock of affordable housing. For many years, public subsidy programs have been the major vehicle for the provision and preservation of affordable housing for low income families but there are few tools currently available to serve low income populations. The New Eurasia Foundation, in partnership with the Institute for Contemporary Development and the Housing Partnership Network, proposes to identify alternative models of affordable public housing and promote their advantages: affordability, security, stability, and citizen engagement. This Russian-American collaboration will be organized through comparative research; shared knowledge and peer consultations using videoconferences; awareness raising through regional roundtables and an internet portal; and presentation of new models at an international conference.





**HIGHER EDUCATION:
Building Deeper Partnerships: Higher
Education, Innovation and a Path to
Future Cooperation between Russia and
the United States**

Higher education institutions are an important component of vibrant civil society growth in both countries. Universities create knowledgeable societies. Students and faculty study and teach issues that are critical to understanding the role of citizens in society. They also are engaged in important research and collaborate on curricula with civil society organizations. Universities can engage with a wide range of activities identified by other C2C groups. Universities should train students to be active members of society, be engaged citizens, and develop skills and opportunities to participate in society. U.S.-Russian university cooperation in the scientific and technological fields is an important component of bi-lateral relations and contributes to global innovative development. Further collaboration between Russian and American institutions of higher education should focus on specific programs, information and analysis, networking and evaluation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create Greater Visibility. On the Presidential Commission, higher education needs its own working group or distinct treatment within either the current working group on Education and Cultural Exchanges or Science and Technology.

Develop international collaborative service learning projects. Establish a framework to promote best methods for in-service learning, facilitate reciprocal and/or third-country collaborative projects between Russian and U.S. institutions and community partners, and use meetings, websites, social networking tools and distance learning technology to facilitate communication and collaboration by teams of students, faculty, administrators and community leaders.

Conduct research and analysis of recent dual degree United States-Russia programs. Evaluate the efficacy and potential scalability of such projects. Identify model projects of joint collaboration. Promote most effective practices. Engage with potential partners.

Develop a clearinghouse website outlining U.S./Russian educational programs (dual degrees, joint research projects, educational exchanges, etc.), potentially in collaboration with other organizations.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW

Protecting fundamental human rights, building strong rule of law, and restoring democracy are fundamentally important for success of reforms in Russia. Hate crime, in particular, is a challenge common to both the U.S. and Russia. Reforms cannot be limited to technological innovations and economic restructuring. Economic reforms will not work, and investment in new technology will be squandered without building strong legal system and independent judiciary, protection of property rights, fighting corruption, creating competitive environment, and ensuring freedom of the media and robust civil society. Russian leadership has recognized the need for fundamental reforms in the legal and political systems. Pressure from civil society will help to move from statements to concrete actions.



Higher education is characterized, especially in Russia, by a lack of participation and human capacity on the part of universities in solving the many difficult problems faced by contemporary society in both countries. Led by the New Eurasia Foundation, representatives of leading Russian and American educational institutions have committed to developing a set of indicators, measures and best practices related to the involvement of universities in community development and to determining how these best practices can be applied to real-life problem-solving. A model for this joint cooperation will be developed and hopefully presented at a public event in mid-2011, perhaps at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

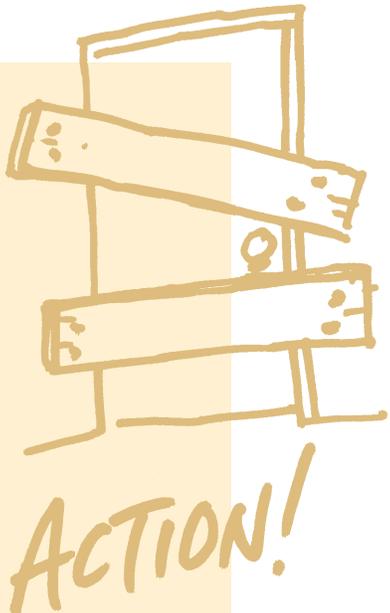
Many of the obstacles to meaningful civil society cooperation will need to be resolved on a government-to-government level, but there is also room for CSO cooperation between the two countries. Such cooperation should employ a two-tiered approach: it should develop cooperative civil society projects, drawing on experiences, know-how, and successful models in both countries. It should also address government practices, identifying priorities for governmental dialogue, pointing at emergency issues, and providing independent expertise. The working group identified a need to have a small, permanent steering committee for the whole process, and the participants noted that the human rights group is already putting together its own coordination system/contact point for permanent interaction. Finally, the group identified the need for secured funding for both concrete projects and regular meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reform the prison system. The Russian government has announced plans for ambitious reform of the penitentiary system. U.S. experiences in managing and reforming its penitentiary system, both negative and positive, could be instrumental in designing Russian prison reform.

Reform the police. Russian leadership has recognized the need for a fast and fundamental police reform, and the first steps have already taken place. Russian NGOs have formed a coalition for the police reform and are trying to engage in dialogue with the government. U.S. experience in reforming its own police system from the 1960s and addressing corruption and brutality in the police force would be quite useful for Russian partners.

Xenophobia, ultra-nationalism, and hate crime is a sociological phenomenon on the rise in many parts of the world, and it is a troubling issue both in Russia and the United States. In Russia, the rise of xenophobia affects two strands of human rights participation: activists working to counter the movement and organizations and think tanks that study the phenomenon. There is little linkage between the two, and a lack of understanding of xenophobia and its causes often leads to ineffective, if not harmful, remedies. This proposed project, led by the Russia-based Youth Human Rights Movement, proposes to streamline the efforts of activists and academics with American human rights NGOs and experts in mass communication, in order to study xenophobia, understand how it develops, and catalog the most effective ways of combating it.



Reform the judiciary. A fair, effective and efficient justice system is a prerequisite not only for democracy, but for making human rights and equal justice a reality throughout the Russian Federation, as mandated in the Russian Constitution. In this regard, civil society and human rights groups play a pivotal role.

Combat hate crime. The problem of violent hate crimes is relevant to both countries. Combating hate crimes requires firm political will and leadership, a strong law enforcement response, and substantial cooperation with civil society.

Shift the security paradigm in fighting terrorism and insurgency from a focus on the military to an emphasis on human security. One of the most successful innovations we have seen in the defense of human rights has been the alliance formed between human rights groups and retired military officers in the United States to persuade the American public that torture and unlawful detention are not only wrong but harmful to the fight against terrorism. More broadly, for pragmatic reasons, many military leaders in the United States have come to believe that winning the fight against terrorists and insurgents depends on protecting civilians from violence and abuse and building legitimate institutions of government.

NEW MEDIA

It is important to protect the right of individuals, families, and organizations to freedom of expression; the security and protection of institutions; and the security and protection of online communications. There are forces trying to prevent dialogue from taking place in online spaces. People and governments try to silence voices by targeting individuals, institutions, and sites. The working group identified possible effective responses to these threats. With respect to individuals, we must create personal protection against the kidnapping and killing of witnesses, especially in the south of Russia, as well as protection against violence linked to efforts to publish in the new media. Institutions, such as web publishers, are largely self-audited, and steps should be taken in the U.S. and in Russia to enact legislation that would limit institutional liability.

In addition to the security concerns noted above, participants discussed the need to foster reality-based dialogue by improving fact-checking and otherwise assuring accuracy in public disclosure.

The third challenge is the need to find and feature greater diversity in online communications. Steps should be taken to incorporate unrepresented voices into the conversation, including regional and ethnic minorities, women, etc. Added support—including mobile platforms—needs to be



provided to those who lack access to, or are not comfortable with, the internet.

Finally, language barriers still exist, and strategies need to be identified to share the conversation with the wider world. Greater use of automatic translation should be achieved, and we might combine machine translation with distributed human translation as a way to making Russian media content more accessible to Americans, and vice-versa.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Protect the ability to talk freely. It is essential to suppress state and non-state actors who attempt to silence individuals, institutions, and websites.

Improve the capacity to check facts. Training, public outreach, and utilizing such mechanisms as www.snoops.com and www.politifact.org amplifies accuracy in public discourse and promotes improved content delivery.

Identify and feature diversity. Steps are required to promote underrepresented populations, including the use of technical platforms such as Global Voices, which will increase the quality of discourse.

Share conversations with the wider world. Combine machine and distributed human translation and explore crowd-sourcing solutions to translation to reach broader audiences.

Bloggers, internet commentators and other new media outlets are important sources of news, information and the free flow of ideas in Russia. The freedom of internet-based media is, in large measure, vulnerable to excessive governmental control and regulation due to a lack of an organized advocacy voice in Russia. By 2011, Caucasian Knot, in collaboration with Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, aims to establish an association for new media in Russia that will leverage the collective strengths of new media interests in the U.S. and Russia and advocate on behalf of open media in the interests of promoting democracy and building healthy societies in both countries.





PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND YOUTH: Preparing Global Citizens through Global Classrooms and Communities

The definition of a “global citizen” centers on three central ideas: global awareness (respect for national diversity and mutual understanding); a sense of global responsibility (and the impact your personal actions have on the world); and a personal set of global relationships and connections. Creating global citizens remains a priority among collaborating U.S. and Russian civil society leaders, and the working group identified important benefits to this goal, including job opportunities and personal economic security; personal intellectual fulfillment; access to information; potential to influence “track II” diplomacy and contribute to broader peace and security efforts; broader personal networks; a broader voice for one’s personal and professional achievements; and mobility.

Important challenges face civil society in the effort to develop the global citizen. In Russia, the country is now focusing on developing a Russian national identity, which raises the question of balancing national pride and global citizenship. There are domestic, cultural, geographic and historical differences between Russia and the United States. There is a misunderstanding of the global citizen concept; a term is needed that is not a direct

definition and could be used across cultures and countries. Technology access and computer illiteracy continue to be a challenge both in Russia and in the United States. Although most schools have computer labs and internet access, there is a lack of technology for advanced-level projects. Furthermore, global citizenship has not been uniformly integrated into the curriculum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Promote the concept of global citizenship and help more conservative actors in both countries feel that being a good global citizen is not detrimental to national identity.

Help invest in and support the matchmaking between schools and youth groups. There is interest, but an uncertainty on where to begin.

Use other related policy initiatives.

For example, this year is the Year of the Teacher in Russia and the UN’s International Year of Youth will begin shortly. Use these celebrations, and others, as a platform to promote global citizenship and connectedness.

Create a “cookbook” guide to make it easier to engage beginners in global citizenship projects ; provide useful links/ resources for those who would like to engage in more advanced projects; share already existing, successful models of both school and community projects.



Use existing social networks such as Facebook, Vkontakte, LinkedIn and others to mainstream the global citizenship concept, push the project ideas, and facilitate dialogue among participants as opposed to creating new platforms from scratch.

Use existing contacts. Start with survey respondents and further expand the working group to organize both virtual and in-person events to match potential partners.

Organize technology road shows with Russian and American participants that demonstrate the most successful models and share expertise with those who are interested in adopting these models.

Participate in planned events like the International Education Week, the virtual faculty meeting in Russia, and other events that are part of the Year of the Teacher in Russia.

Implemented by the U.S.-based Global SchoolNet Foundation and the Russian educational center "Participation," the "Global Citizen Passport" project will build cooperation and understanding between young people in both countries. This will be accomplished through the development of a school-based curriculum designed to promote joint discussion and analysis of issues of importance to "global citizens," including economic, social, cultural, and political challenges that face the international community. This pilot program will include an initial planning meeting, followed by the selection of participating Russian and American schools and collaborative curriculum development. Implementation is scheduled for the 2011-12 school year.





Using mobile telephones to disseminate important information related to health care, the innovative Text4baby program was launched successfully in the United States to promote maternal and child health among vulnerable and underserved women. The Russia-based Health and Development Foundation proposes to team with the American National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition to bring this “texting” health-care methodology to Russia. These groups will initiate a project that brings together governmental, civil society, and commercial organizations to develop and implement Russia-specific solutions to improve the quality of life for women and children. Special emphasis will be placed on raising public awareness about the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles during and after pregnancy, and on increasing the availability of quality health care providers for expectant mothers.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Health across Borders

The United States and Russia face similar challenges in the public health arena, such as an overall lack of healthy behaviors, including abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs, smoking, lack of exercise, and consumption of fast foods. Crosscutting issues also include a need for a health care reform; issues concerning maternal and child health, veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors; infant mortality; and disaster preparedness. Communication strategies should be the overarching theme of collaboration for the lack of communication among individuals, health care providers, and organizations is frequently acts as an obstacle to meeting health challenges.

The group identified several collaborative initiatives in the public health sector in Russia, including a project aimed at improving female and infant health care. One such highlight is an HIV/AIDS project near St. Petersburg that fosters peer-to-peer communication between HIV and TB specialists, primary care providers, and HIV patients. The project also has an ongoing multisite program to train Russian physicians to detect and manage diabetes and hypertension. The American International Health Alliance has also been providing peer-to-peer exchanges of information, skill-based training, programmatic management, and technical assistance across the Eurasian region since 1992.

The working group concluded that the problems affecting youth and adolescents in both the U.S. and Russia—including alcohol and drug addiction, smoking, childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections—may most effectively be addressed through healthy lifestyle messages transmitted via social media and new technologies. Inconsistent support, beyond health care providers, has led to the formation of various civil society organizations that help patients and advocate for policy change related to their interests. In both countries, there are numerous web sites that bring together communities of people with shared experiences, such as cancer survivors, parents of premature infants, diabetics, and consumers seeking information about pharmaceutical products. Finally, the group noted that significant progress has been achieved in collaborative and evidence-based medical research, one of the focal points of the Bilateral Presidential Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Support Text4baby International.

Text4baby International is a nationwide, free mobile information service aimed at promoting maternal and child health among underserved women. It is the first attempt to use mobile technology to support pregnant women and new parents in Russia.

Conduct bilateral conference on health sector reform. Both countries have placed reform high on their recent political agendas and have agreed that they face a common problem: how to maintain and increase access to health care and improve the quality of care, while controlling escalating health care costs.

Institute collaborative social marketing research. Numerous problems affect youth and adolescents in both the U.S. and Russia, including alcohol and drug addiction, smoking, childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections.

Create a cross-national web platform. The creation of a trans-national U.S.-Russian web platform will allow communities of people to come together and benefit from “the wisdom of the crowd,” forming bilateral support groups and channels for sharing information and experiences.

Support medical research. Collaborative medical research is one of the focal points of the Bilateral Presidential Commission Public Health Group. Significant progress has already been achieved in this area and further evidence-based approaches should be supported.

**TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT:
Transparency and Accountability through
Freedom of Information**

Collaborative work between Russian and U.S. NGOs is an ideal way to achieve the common goal of making governments more transparent and responsive to citizens. Freedom of information is essential to solving problems identified by other working groups, including human rights, fighting corruption, education, among others. Access to information enables effective citizen control over government action. Furthermore, reliable access to information creates the necessary basis for economic stability, improves the climate for investment, and otherwise eases the difficulties of the global financial crisis.

There is currently a window of opportunity both in Russia and the United States to advance the freedom of information agenda. A freedom of information law came into force in Russia in January 2010, and this law has already produced results. The U.S. freedom of information law has been strengthened in important ways by the Obama administration. This opportunity, especially historic in Russia, should not be missed, and civil society can play an active role in assisting the governments in advancing this agenda. Despite the extraordinary opportunities, there are challenges in both countries related to implementation of the laws of freedom of information. In Russia,

the general public knows very little about the new law, and even those who are aware of the law have doubts about whether it will be implemented effectively. Government officers often do not know how, or have the tools, to implement it. In the United States, the system of declassification has all but broken down due to the last eight years of enforced secrecy and the huge backlogs at all the agencies. These situations will not change without cooperation between government and civil society. Civil society can be most effective by: 1) providing expertise to government in the area of implementation and 2) educating citizens about the law on freedom of information and their rights under this law.



RECOMMENDATIONS

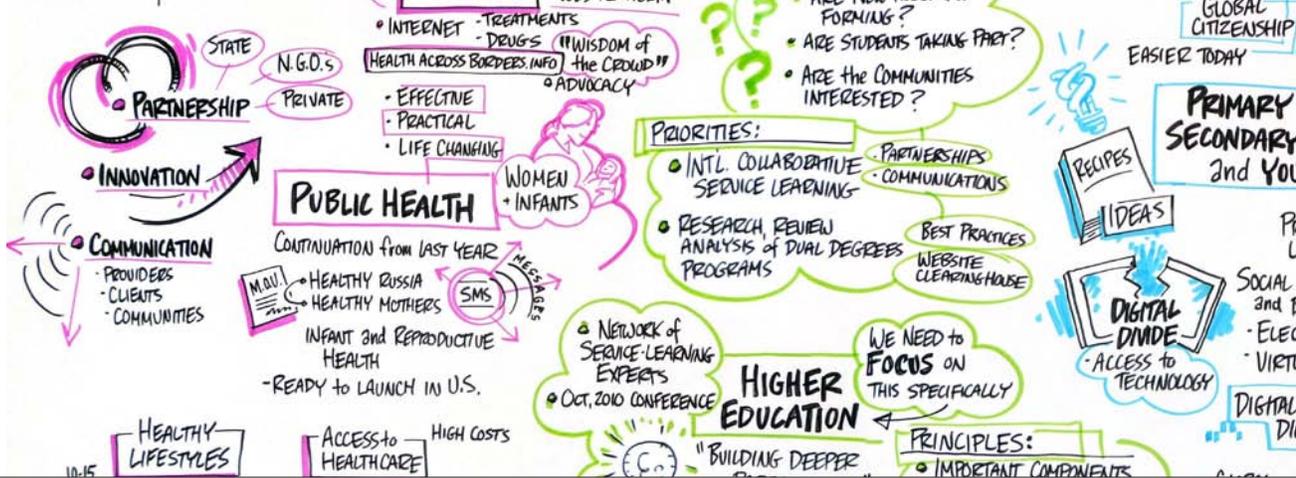
Provide expertise for the government

in the area of freedom of information and transparency implementation. Beginning with the planned freedom of information work in Armenia in July 2010, the NSA and the IIFD will draft a joint universal methodology for evaluating government openness, which can be applied to Russia, the United States, and internationally.

Educate citizens about the law on freedom of information and their rights under this law. The group will collect and evaluate international best practices and disseminate information about them in Russia and the U.S. as well as on the website www.freedominfo.org. The group also developed training seminars and clinics for citizens, government officials, and judges in Russia based on the experience of previous work by the IIFD in Russia and the NSA in Mexico.



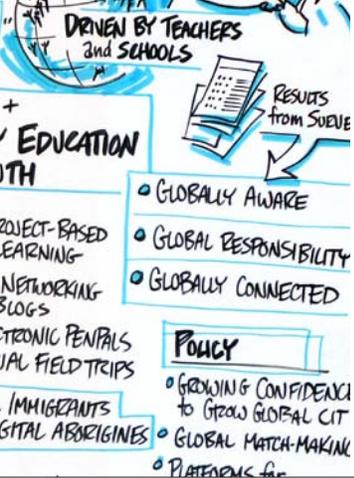
In both the United States and Russia, but especially in Russia, citizens and NGOs often lack the knowledge and skills to utilize legal methods for accessing governmental information, such as through the countries' freedom of information statutes. Under the leadership of the U.S.-based National Security Archive and the Russian organization Institute for Freedom Development, the "Freedom of Information Training for Trainers" project will develop a curriculum, produce training materials, and conduct training seminars for a broad spectrum of Russian citizens, professionals, and organizations in methods for gaining access to official information. Project design and initial training sessions will take place by the end of 2011.



WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

The Women's Human Rights working group identified U.S. legal protections and victims services as models for Russian consideration; in Russia, public outreach and educational programs on domestic violence and trafficking have also been successful and merit emulation by the Americans. One particular practice that has been adopted with success in Russia is an outreach campaign that takes a very basic, definitional approach toward educating citizens about violence directed toward women. Along with this campaign, other programs have successfully raised consciousness and awareness through television messages and other mainstream media. Russia also has successfully begun women's rights awareness campaigns within local communities by working within the tribal or village cultural context. There are among the many ways in which the American NGO community could learn from their Russian counterparts. Russia's collaborative funding model seems to be more effective when compared to the American model where American NGOs have become overly reliant on government funding and are, thus, less innovative.

In the United States, the framework is more established and victories have been achieved on the legislative front, with laws enacted to protect victims of domestic violence and immigrant trafficking victims, such as the T visa program. In addition, the U.S. government and human rights organizations have produced effective educational brochures that explain abusive conditions and inform citizens of their rights generally. In Russia, one of the biggest challenges is that government structures and legislative protections are weak. In response to this lack of regulation, Russia needs to develop legislation as well as a model for how to protect victims, including how to effectively shelter them. While there are greater protections available in the United States, women are still reluctant to leave an abusive relationship. Another challenge in the U.S. is enforcement of immigration laws by local and federal authorities. Immigrants are reluctant to call the police to report an array of crimes for fear of being placed in detention and then deported. Both countries also report racial discrimination as an issue related to human trafficking. Racism is increasing in Russia, especially in the form of anti-immigrant violence against Central Asians. In the U.S., migrant workers, predominately Hispanics, face similar obstacles.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Institutionalize regular video conferencing and information sharing among stakeholders.

Establish an international central phone number, usable on cell phones, coupled with an education campaign so that a trafficked person in a destination country can alert authorities and learn of rights in the destination country. The same strategy was recommended for women subjected to domestic violence.

Develop public outreach strategies. Posters and billboards that advertise help lines are needed in both countries. In Russia, brochures must include a space for NGOs to include numbers of other organizations where help can be found and resources leveraged. For example, trafficking and domestic violence can be added to “know your rights” campaigns.

Women in Russia and the United States suffer in varying degrees from systemic and often culturally based violence. This includes domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and other forms of violence against women. The purpose of this 3- to 5-year “Best Practices in Combating Violence against Women” project is to identify and disseminate the best practices utilized in Russia and the United States to combat this violence in a number of areas, including improving laws and national policies that protect women; conducting information campaigns; improving the capacity of national, regional, and local government bodies to prevent violence; increasing and broadening professional networks; and improving collection and use of evidence-based data. Collaborative approaches will include training; deployment of mobile intervention teams; research; and international, national, and inter-regional exchanges of ideas and information. An internet-based database will be created for cataloging and disseminating best practices.



**Remarks by Secretary of State
Hillary Rodham Clinton**

RENAISSANCE MARRIOTT HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC
JUNE 24, 2010

SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, I want to thank you and everyone who has really seen this vision and is working to realize it. I love the whiteboards on both ends with what looks to be a very comprehensive and complex agenda. And I am very pleased to be here to thank you and to celebrate the work that you and colleagues do every single day to create and sustain strong civil societies in Russia and the United States.

We also had a very important summit today between Presidents Medvedev and Obama. Mike McFaul from the National Security Council is here. And Mike, as you know, is a very longtime supporter of a vibrant civil society in Russia. And, as President Obama said when he met with many of you in Moscow last summer, we recognize the critical nature of civil society to a vibrant democracy, and we want to create those relationships between our two countries and between civil society in each country that can assist in answering questions and solving problems.

Some quick examples that I just saw with the exhibits here this afternoon – we need creative, committed, courageous organizations like you and yours to find

innovative solutions, to expose corruption, to give voice to the voiceless, to hold governments accountable to their citizens, to keep people informed and engaged on the issues that matter most to them.

As part of the Bilateral Presidential Commission that the two presidents established that Foreign Minister Lavrov and I are coordinating, we launched a Working Group on Civil Society. And I was privileged to meet with civil society leaders. I don't know if anybody – was anybody here at the meeting that I had at Spaso House last – yeah, yeah, good – last October? And I was extraordinarily impressed and moved by the stories and the level of commitment and connection.

And we want to keep building on these relationships. We want to share best practices. We want to find new avenues for collaboration. We want to disseminate new technologies. We want to expand and strengthen your work. For example, following the U.S.-Russian Innovation Dialogue last February, Russian and American NGOs signed an MOU to promote the Text4Baby model, which uses mobile service technology to provide health information to pregnant women and new mothers. And I think we saw maybe a reference to that up on the board there.

And when I saw some of the creative ways that you can use a technology to educate people about elections, to fight child exploitation, to link groups together,



to promote human rights, expand access to libraries and vital health services, I was very encouraged. Because we are going to continue to focus on this area and to empower people with the tools that they need to chart their own lives and to take stands wherever necessary.

We have a dedicated group inside the State Department focused on how to use technology in the 21st century. We call it 21st Century Statecraft. I saw Jared Cohen when I came in. I don't know if Alec Ross is here or not. But who else is – anybody else here from your team, Jared? We have a great team of really dedicated young people – primarily young people – who care deeply about connecting people up. And I'm very proud of the work they're doing. They have been everywhere from Mexico to the Democratic Republic of Congo to Syria to Russia, and every place in between. And we want to be a facilitator to help empower you in this area.

In one of my early discussions with Minister Lavrov, he said, well, you know, we don't like it when you have so many NGOs coming to Russia. And I said, well, send Russian NGOs to the United States. We'll be happy to have them. And I really mean that. I think the more exchange and the more cross-fertilization the better.

I am one who believes that despite different historical experiences, different cultural backgrounds, there is so much that connects

the United States and Russia. I think that President Medvedev saw that firsthand in Silicon Valley over the last 36 or so hours. And I think he understands the necessity of modernizing not just the Russian economy, but the Russian political system as well. And I was very excited to hear reports from Mike and others about how well-received the president was at Stanford and some of the other stops he made, and to meet with some of the many thousands of Russians who live in Silicon Valley. And I think it's great that Russia is looking to try to create that kind of center for technology and growth right outside Moscow, and we want to help because we think that it's in everyone's interest do so.

But there is another element to our agenda. By shining a spotlight on the work of civil society groups like yours, we think we can help protect activists whose work can make them a target of abuse and violence. In particular, as I said last year, the United States remains deeply concerned about the safety of journalists and human rights activists in Russia. Among others, we remember the murdered American journalist Paul Klebnikov; the Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in pre-trial detention last year. We continue to urge that justice be delivered in these cases. We're committed to working with you to find ways to reduce threats and protect the lives of activists.

So there's a lot that we have done in this past year, and there's more still to do in the so-called "reset" of the U.S.-Russian relationship. Our countries still have and will always have differences. There are not two countries that will agree on everything. There are not two people who will agree on everything. But we are speaking very openly, honestly and frankly about our areas of disagreement, and we're looking to narrow those and then try to make progress across the board.

At a summit like the one just concluded between our presidents, it's not only bringing presidents together. We think it is also symbolically bringing communities together. And that's what you're doing in real time here because you're helping to intertwine Americans and Russians. Under this bilateral commission that we have set up, we've had more than a hundred meetings. There is a very long report that's going up on State.gov of the report of the work of the bilateral commission. I invite all of you to look at it. We've really done some extraordinary things together, and there's a lot more that lies ahead.

So I want to thank you. Thank you for your energy, your creativity, your passion, your commitment to building a better life for yourselves, your families, and for your fellow citizens. And I really urge you to continue to take on the issues that have such a big impact on people's lives. And as you do that, we want you to know that you not only

will have the support of the United States Government, but you'll have the support of organizations like IREX. You'll have the support of other NGOs, of academics, of the American private sector, but most significantly, the American people.

We will continue to seek ways to support and expand your work on behalf of the Russian people. And we are very excited and very hopeful about what we can do together. I think that the potential is just enormous, and we cannot grow weary making progress together. It sometimes seems for those of you who are on the front lines of any movement for change, that it is just excruciatingly slow and disappointing and frustrating. But if you look at the great sweep of history, the changes that have occurred – not just in Russia, but in the world, literally, in the last two, three decades – have been breathtaking.

So I see it from the position of how much has already happened, and then I think about how much energy we have behind what we need to be doing now and in the future. And I really hope that each and every one of you realizes that you're performing a great service – an act of true patriotism on behalf of not only your country, but on behalf of a better life that will provide a stronger foundation for a positive, constructive relationship between the United States and Russia.

Thank you all very much.



IREX served as the convener of the C2C Summit meetings in 2010. IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$62 million and a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 50 countries.

U.S.- Russia Civil Society Summit Co-Chairs

Paige Alexander, *Vice President, IREX*

Yvonne Marie Andres, *President & CEO, Global SchoolNet Foundation*

Irina Arzhanova, *Executive Director, National Training Foundation (NTF)*

Roman Badanin, *Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Gazeta.ru*

Elena Baibarina, *Deputy Director of Scientific Work, Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Perinatology, Russian Academy of Medicine*

Jonathan Becker, *Dean of International Studies, Bard College*

Tom Blanton, *Director, National Security Archive, George Washington University*

Tom Bledsoe, *Chief Executive Officer, Housing Partnership Network*

Nancy Boswell, *President & CEO, Transparency International - U.S.A*

Denise Brennan, *Professor, Georgetown University*

Elena Dmitrieva, *Director, Healthy Russia Foundation*

Nancy Dube, *Executive Vice President & COO, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)*

Yuri Dzhibladze, *President, Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights*

Marina Egorova, *President, National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPC) Russia*

Anastasia Ermolaeva, *Director, Nizhny Novgorod Women Crisis Center*

Ted Gerber, *Director, Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

Marsha Gilmer-Tullis, *Director, Family Advocacy Division, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children*

Evgeny Gontmakher, *Management Board Member, Institute for Contemporary Development*



Hope M. Harrison, *Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, George Washington University*

Andrei Kortunov, *President, New Eurasia Foundation - Russia*

Paul LeGendre, *Director, Fighting Discrimination Program, Human Rights First*

Dmitry Makarov, *Program Coordinator, Youth Human Rights Movement*

Tom Malinowski, *Director, Human Rights Watch - D.C.*

Marina Mikhaylova, *Director, Arkhangelsk Social Technologies Center "Garant"*

Olga Moshkova, *Executive Director for Programs and Operations, New Eurasia Foundation*

Matthew Murray, *Chair of the Board, Center for Business Ethics and Corporate Governance*

Chris Newlin, *Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) Alabama*

Ivan Ninenko, *Deputy Director, Transparency International - Russia (TI-R)*

Ivan Pavlov, *Board Chair, Institute for Information Freedom Development (IIFD)*

Marina Pisklakova-Parker, *Chair of the Board, Association No to Violence (ANNA)*

Denis Rogatkin, *Director, Youth Union "Doroga"*

Sergey Safronov, *Chairman of the Board, League of Education*

Grigory Shvedov, *Editor-in-Chief, Caucasian Knot*

Ivan Sigal, *Executive Director, Global Voices*

Anna Soloveva, *President, Protecting Children from Abuse, OZON*

Kavitha Sreeharsha, *Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Momentum*

Tad Stahnke, *Director, Policy and Programs, Human Rights First*

Roman Strongin, *President, University of Nizhny Novgorod (UNN)*

Larry Swanson, *Executive Director, ACTION-Housing*

Tatyana Tolsteneva, *Member of Regional Committee, Russian Youth Union*

Judyth Twigg, *Professor, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Joyce Warner, *Director of Education Programs, IREX*

John Wonderlich, *Policy Director, Sunlight Foundation*

Donald Zeigler, *Director, Prevention and Health Promotion, American Medical Association*

Ethan Zuckerman, *Co-founder, Global Voices and Senior Researcher, Berkman Center for Internet and Society*

Innovation Marketplace Participants

ArrivedOK Inc. – Civil society and IT sector interaction, including cell phone U.S.SD/ SMS applications used in Russia and other parts of the world to report on corruption, feed real time election results, fight diseases, among other things. Presenter: Ivan Komarov

Ashoka – Encouraging youth to become change-makers/social entrepreneurs in their communities and becoming a part of the Changemakers.com global online -community. Presenter: Tyler Spalding

Atomic Learning – Educational resources for teachers for improving IT skills. Presenter: George DeBakey

EastBanc Technologies – Using mobile phones and Facebook to allow citizens to submit service requests. Presenter: Victor Shilo

ePals Inc. – Collaborative technology for schools. Presenter: Bob Woolard

Jim Shields, Technology Integration – Innovative approaches in the classroom that benefit how youth learn about healthy habits, as well as increase their physical activity. Presenter: Jim Shields



John Blyberg, *Library Innovation* – 21st-century library-service models, digitalization and community development. Presenter: John Blyberg

Microsoft, Inc. – Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) and other Microsoft innovations. Presenter: Colin Nurse

MobileActive – Journalists' use of cell phones and other mobile tools and ensuring secure mobile communications for human rights workers. Presenter: Katrin Verclas

Tech Age Girls – Empowering young women with technology. Presenter: Swathi Balasubramanian

Issue-area Rapporteurs

Keith Henderson, *American University* (Human Rights and Law)

Bradford P. Johnson, *Johnson Law Group Intl* (Anti-corruption and Institutional Integrity; Rapporteur Coordinator)

Liliya Kholod, *IRES* (Child Protection)

Amy R. Novick, *Haynes Immigration Law Firm* (Migration and Combating Human Trafficking)

Richard O'Sullivan, *Change Management Solutions* (Community Development)

Maria Ruchina, *IRES* (Primary and Secondary Education and Youth)

Svetlana Savranskaya, *National Security Archive* (Transparency in Government)

Elena Sotnikova, *Johnson Law Group Intl* (Public Health)

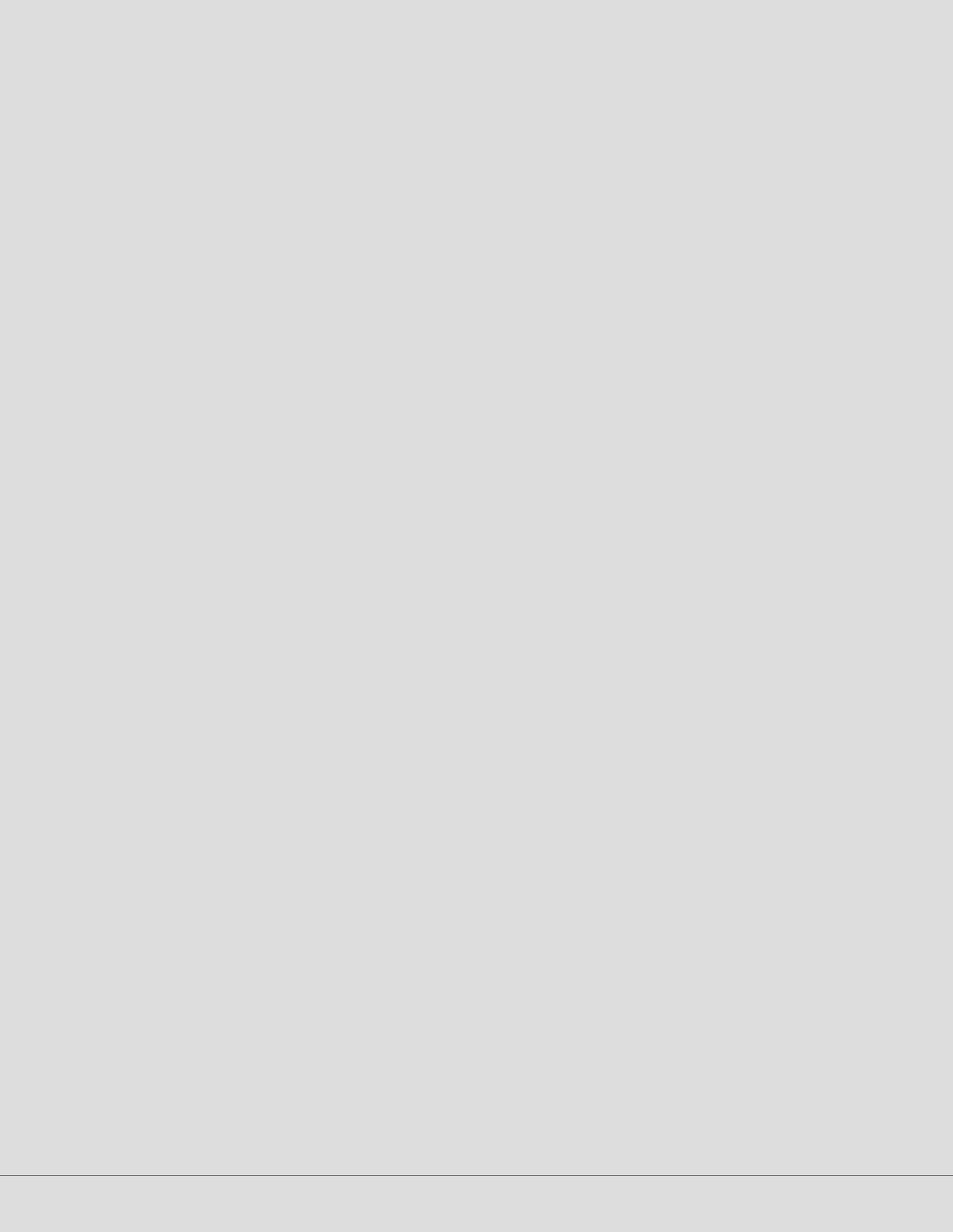
Jennifer Ryan Tishler, *University of Wisconsin--Madison* (Higher Education)

Photographs: Keith Mellnick, IRES

Graphics: Jim Nuttle, Crowley & Co.

Translation:

Report produced by Larry Birch, Brad Johnson, and Michael Mirny.





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