



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

### AUSTRALIA—LAW REFORM COMMISSION REVIEWS FOI LAWS

The [Australian Law Reform Commission](#) will examine existing [Commonwealth, State and Territory](#) freedom of information laws and practices with a view to providing advice on how to harmonize those laws and practices, says a [press release](#) from the office of the [Attorney General](#). According to a news article posted by [THE AUSTRALIAN](#), the ALRC will undertake widespread consultations with the public and key stakeholders. It is scheduled to complete its work by 31 December 2008.

### BANGLADESH—ARTICLE 19 EMBARKS ON AN ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROJECT

[Article 19](#) is embarking on a new three-year project on access to information as a tool for development and poverty eradication in Bangladesh. According to an [A-19 newsletter](#), the project aims to work with all sectors of society from the government to grassroots communities to create an enabling environment for freedom of information as a robust tool for development. Specifically, the project will work with the media and civil society towards the adoption of progressive right to information (RTI) legislation and an effective implementation strategy.

### CAYMAN ISLANDS—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW PASSED

The Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly [passed](#) the [Freedom of Information Bill](#) into law, according to a news article published by [CARIBBEAN NET NEWS](#). The [law](#) will take effect on 1 January 2009. This 14-month roll-out period is aimed at ensuring that all government departments are prepared to respond to requests for information from the public. The [bill](#) was [approved by the cabinet](#) in October 2005 and was [sent to the Legislative Assembly for debate](#) in August 2007. Coverage on the development of this FOI law in the Cayman Islands is available in [previous issues of IJCSL-Newsletter](#).

### INDIA—INFORMATION COMMISSION RULES THAT THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT DOES NOT APPLY TO JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The [Right to Information Act](#) will not apply to the furnishing of information on judicial proceedings in courts or tribunals, the Central Information Commission has ruled. According to a news article published by [THE HINDU](#), the Commission rejected the plea by appellant, who wanted certain information including the notes or minutes of the proceedings maintained by members of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal before the pronouncement of the order, inspection of case records, and a copy of the decision in a particular case. The Commission ruled that “the jottings and notes made by the judges while hearing a case can never, and by no stretch of imagination, be treated as final views expressed by them on the case. Such noting cannot therefore be held part of a record ‘held’ by the public authority.”



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

## FISCAL MATTERS

### **MEXICO—NEW TAX LAW APPROVED WITH BENEFITS FOR CHARITIES**

On 13 September 2007, the Mexican Congress approved a new tax law called the *Impuesto de Contribución Empresarial de Tasa Única* (IETU), which is a tax that organizations and individuals may pay on business activities as an alternative to the income tax. [El Universal](#) reported that when the Ministry of Hacienda first proposed the law in June (then called the CETU), it did not include tax deductions for donations to charitable organizations and taxed the sale of goods and the provision of services by them. The legislation as passed includes deductions for donations and exempts the sale of goods and services by charities.

### **SINGAPORE—SEPARATE SET OF ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR CHARITIES TO BE INTRODUCED SOON**

With the [Parliament](#) having passed a bill to set up the Accounting Standards Council, Singapore is moving to have a separate set of accounting standards for charities. According to a news article published by [CHANNEL NEWS ASIA](#), currently a charitable organization may be set up as a company, a society, or a trust, before registering with the Commissioner of Charities as a charity. In future, a charity, regardless of the legal vehicle it uses, will have to comply exclusively with the accounting standards for charities.

### **UNITED STATES—**

- **2007-2008 PRIORITY GUIDANCE PLAN RELEASED**

The [U.S. Department of Treasury](#) and [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS) released the joint [2007-2008 Priority Guidance Plan](#) on 13 August 2007. According to an [IRS press release](#), the Plan contains 303 projects to be completed over a twelve-month period, from July 2007 through June 2008. It includes a number of [projects of particular interest to tax-exempt organizations](#).

- **IRS INVESTIGATION OF CHURCH “ELECTIONEERING” CONCLUDED**

On 10 September 2007, All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, CA learned that the IRS investigation of its tax exempt status was ended. It received a letter from the IRS that closed the dormant examination (which never actually took place) by concluding without explanation that the sermon in question constituted intervention in the 2004 Presidential election but without challenging the Church’s tax-exempt status. This has left the Church in an unsettled position, and it has asked that the IRS be investigated. More information is available on the [Church’s website](#).



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

### BURMA—PUBLIC GATHERINGS VIOLENTLY QUELLED

Despite the military government's ban on public gatherings of more than five people, tens of thousands of citizens joined the marches led by Buddhist monks in what became the [largest demonstration](#) in the country since 1988. On September 26 and 27 the military junta cracked down. There were raids on Buddhist monasteries, tear gas, beatings and volleys of gunfire in the streets of the country's main city, Yangon, according to witnesses and news agency reports from inside the closed nation. Witnesses said soldiers fired automatic weapons into a crowd of protesters. State television in reported that nine people had been killed and that 11 demonstrators and 31 soldiers had been wounded, but exile groups said they could be much higher. President Bush asked countries in the region with influence on Myanmar's authorities to urge them to cease using force, and the Treasury Department imposed economic sanctions on 14 identified senior Myanmar government officials.

### CANADA—SUPREME COURT RULES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The [Supreme Court of Canada](#) has ruled that collective bargaining rights are protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees freedom of association, reports the [Canadian Labour Congress](#) in its [press release](#) on 8 June 2007. The ruling came out of [Health Services and Support – Facilities Subsector Bargaining Assn. v. British Columbia](#) case in which the Court ruled that the Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act, passed by the British Columbia government in 2002 trampled on the rights of health care workers in that province, in particular their right to freedom of association as guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

### YEMEN—DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED WITHOUT OFFICIAL PERMISSION BANNED

The Ministry of Interior has banned unauthorized protests and demonstrations. According to a news article published by [JAVNO](#) on 31 August 2007, protests and demonstrations can be held only after the organizers obtain permission from the government. Those who fail to obtain official permission will face legal action by the Ministry.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

### INDIA—FIRST EVER NEWSMAGAZINE FOR SEX-WORKERS LAUNCHED

*Red Light Dispatch*, India's first newsmagazine for sex-workers, is brought out exclusively by sex-workers from an office located within a brothel in Mumbai's Kamathipura district, according to a news article published by [INFOCHANGE](#) in



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

September 2007. The magazine is currently being distributed free amongst Indian sex-workers. The monthly carries first-person accounts of torture and harassment meted out to commercial sex-workers. Besides discussing their problems and dreams, topics like sex-workers' health, human and legal rights, and personal stories are also part of the magazine's editorial agenda.

## **IRAQ—REPORT OUTLINING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

### **RELEASED**

[Article 19](#) has recently released a report entitled "[Free Speech in Iraq: Recent Developments,](#)" [August 2007](#) outlining the legal status of free speech in Iraq, current progress, and other areas of concern. (Read in [Arabic](#) version)

## **MALDIVES—"PRESS FREEDOM LEGISLATION," ONE STEP CLOSER TO LEGAL IMPLEMENTATION**

Information Minister, Mohamed Nasheed, is defending his package of proposed media reforms in parliament, as Majlis members voted to send the controversial legislation to committee, which puts it one step closer to legal implementation, according to a news article published by [MINIVAN NEWS](#). Commenting on the media bill, the [Article 19 analysis](#) concludes that while the Bill, in its present form, contains some positive safeguards for freedom of expression, these are outweighed by numerous broad and vaguely worded restrictions that may be abused to control the media. According to critics, the Bill needs to be amended to offer real protection for press freedom. (For previous coverage on the media reform package see [August 2006 issue of IJCSL-Newsletter](#))

## **MALAYSIA—SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DECLARED VOID**

An Islamic court in Malaysian court has ordered a couple to separate, declaring their marriage a same-sex union as the husband was a woman, according to a news article posted by [REUTERS](#) on 4 September 2007. [The court has the authority to annul same-sex marriage under Section 11 of the Islamic Family Law \(Melaka\) Enactment 2002.](#) The couple had 14 days to appeal. Same-sex relationships are not recognized in Malaysia. The country also bans Muslim transsexuals from changing their gender.

## **NEW ZEALAND—ELECTORAL FINANCE BILL WOULD ERODE FREE SPEECH, ALLEGE RIGHTS GROUPS**

The [Electoral Finance Bill](#) would erode New Zealanders' right to freedom of speech, according to a news article published by [BUSINESS NZ](#). The article alleges that the meaning of 'election advertising' is too broad, and would result in free speech being deemed a 'corrupt practice.' The bill limits third party advertising and extends the electioneering period to a year before an election. It widens the definition of political advertising to capture any person or group that takes a position on a proposition taken by a political party or candidate. The [Human Rights Commission believes](#) that as currently drafted this Bill will infringe certain human rights – not only the freedom of



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

expression but also the right of all citizens to participate in the election process. The [Law Society has also opposed](#) the Bill, saying the proposed law will stifle public debate during periods when discussion should be particularly encouraged.

## **THAILAND—CYBER CRIME LAW ENTERS INTO FORCE**

Thai authorities are using the recently passed [2007 Computer Crime Act](#) to [arrest citizens](#) for alleged offensive comments posted on the Internet about the country's revered monarch. [REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS](#) and other press freedom advocates have [raised serious concern](#) about the new [Act that took effect](#) on 18 July 2007. They claim that it allows the police to seize the computer and online files of persons suspected of disseminating insulting or pornographic content. The Act also [requires](#) Internet service providers (ISPs) to keep log records of bandwidth consumption and Internet traffic of individual users for 90 days.

## **UNITED STATES—ILLINOIS GOVERNOR SIGNS COLLEGE CAMPUS PRESS ACT**

### **PROVIDING GREATER FREEDOMS OF SPEECH TO COLLEGE STUDENT JOURNALISTS**

[Illinois Governor, Rod Blagojevich](#), has signed the College Campus Press Act -- an anti-censorship bill providing greater freedoms of speech to college student journalists. According to a news article published by [FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER](#), the new law ([S.B. 0729](#)) states that any campus media outlet “produced primarily by students at a state-sponsored institution of higher learning is a public forum for expression by the student journalists and editors.” Under the Act, college student journalists in the state are responsible for all publication content, including advertisements. Media advisers cannot be fired or disciplined for refusing to suppress college journalists' free expression. Also, state schools will have immunity from lawsuits arising against student media. The law becomes effective in January 2008.

## **FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF**

### **CHINA—OLYMPIC VILLAGE TO HAVE MULTI-FAITH WORSHIP CENTER**

[Beijing 2008](#) organizers plan to build a multi-faith worship center in the [Olympic Village](#), according to a news article posted by INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. Construction of such a facility in the Olympic Village is a notable development in a country that heavily restricts all religious activity. Services and facilities will be scheduled and made available in accordance with practices adopted in other Olympic host cities.

### **GLOBAL—U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S 2007 ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RELEASED**

The U.S. State Department has released the [International Religious Freedom Report 2007](#), according to a September 14th [press briefing](#). The purpose of the report is to document the actions of governments—those that repress religious expression,



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

persecute innocent believers, or tolerate violence against religious minorities, as well as those that respect, protect, and promote religious freedom. The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the [Department of State](#) in compliance with Section 102(b) of the [International Religious Freedom Act \(IRFA\) of 1998](#). The report includes individual country chapters on the status of religious freedom worldwide and covers the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

## **IRAN—GOVERNMENT BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CULTURAL AND SPORTS COMPLEX FOR JEWISH MINORITY IN CENTRAL TEHRAN**

Iran has started the construction of a huge new cultural and sports complex for the Jewish minority in central Tehran. According to a news article posted by [MIDDLE EAST TIMES](#), the total cost for the project is 30 billion riyals (\$3.2 million) and the building will extend for 6,800 square meters (73,194 square feet), about half of which will be devoted to sport, and half to cultural activities. It is expected to be finished in two-and-a-half years. Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians are the only officially recognized religious minorities in Iran, all of whom are represented in the parliament. Iran's Jewish community numbers around 20,000 people, and remains the largest in the Middle East after Israel.

## **KENYA—NEW ISLAMIC BANK LICENSED**

The [Central Bank of Kenya](#) (CBK) has licensed a new bank that will operate on Islamic banking laws. According to a news article published by [THE STANDARD](#), on 15 September 2007, the Gulf African Bank will be the first financial institution in Kenya to operate on Sharia principles. The bank will operate to meet the religious requirements of the Muslim community and offer an alternative banking system that is more transparent, ethical and user friendly to non-Muslims as well.

## **MALAYSIA—RELIGIOUS GUIDELINES FOR MUSLIM ASTRONAUT RELEASED**

Malaysia's first astronaut will blast off into space in October armed with guidelines from Muslim authorities on how to pray, wash and even be "buried" in space, according to a news article published by [AFP](#) on 20 September 2007. The guideline booklet, released by [Department of Islamic Development Malaysia](#) (JAKIM), covers Islamic washing rituals required before prayer, saying that if water is not available the astronaut can symbolically "sweep holy dust" onto the face and hands "even if there is no dust" in the space station. There are also suggestions on how to pray in a zero-gravity environment! "During the prayer ritual, if you can't stand up straight, you can hunch. If you can't stand, you can sit. If you can't sit, you should lie down," according to the booklet. Muslims are required to eat food that is [halal](#), which rules out pork and its by-products, alcohol and animals not slaughtered according to Koranic procedures are forbidden -- but again in Space there is flexibility. "If it is doubtful that the food has been prepared in the [halal](#) manner, you should eat just enough to ward off hunger," the booklet said. In the unlikely event the Muslim astronaut dies in space, the religious directives said his body should be brought back to Earth for the usual burial rituals. If that's not possible, he should be "interred" in



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

Space after a brief ceremony, though the guidelines failed to explain how that should be done.

## SCOTLAND—STUDY TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS LAUNCHED

A team of experts at the [University of Glasgow](#) will lead one of the first detailed studies into the effects of religious education in schools, according to a news article published by [BBC NEWS](#) on 6 September 2007. Academics will examine the topic in the different contexts of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. A conference to present and discuss the findings of the project will be held at the University of Glasgow once the study is completed in December 2010.

## UNITED STATES—COURT RULES STATE CANNOT RESTRICT SEMINARIES

The Texas Supreme Court ruled State restrictions on what unaccredited religious institutions can call themselves violate the [First Amendment](#). In [HEB Ministries v. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#), the court said the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) violated the constitutional rights of the institutions by preventing them from issuing degrees in theology and calling themselves seminaries, according to a news article posted by [DALLAS MORNING NEWS](#) on 31 August 2007. The court ruled that banning [Tyndale Theological Seminary](#) in Fort Worth from using the term "seminary" in its name violates the Constitution. Tyndale was cited for violating a law that requires seminaries to be accredited and bars unaccredited institutions from awarding degrees. It was fined \$173,000.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### PALESTINE—GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE 103 CHARITY ASSOCIATIONS

[Palestinian authority](#) has decided to revoke the licenses of hundreds of charity associations and civil institutions, according to a news article published by [THE JERUSALEM POST](#). The decision will result in closure of 103 Islamic charities and associations in the [West bank](#). Prime Minister [Salam Fayyadh](#) is [reported to have said](#) that the decision is taken for legal reasons and that the government will compensate needy individuals harmed by the closures.

### PERU -- CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULES PORTIONS OF “NGO LAW” UNCONSTITUTIONAL

In an opinion rendered on August 29, 2007 and [published on the website of the Constitutional Court in September](#), the Constitutional Court of Peru has held unconstitutional in part the Law on NGOs or ONGs (Ley No. 28875, creating the Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional (APCI) -- “On creation of a national system of centralized cooperation” ). The law would have required that NGOs register with the APCI to be able to carry out projects within Peru. The constitutional



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

challenge was brought by Luis Miguel Sirumbal Ramos and 8,438 citizens and members of Congress.

## **UNITED KINGDOM—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SEEKS VIEWS ON THE DRAFT CHARITY TRIBUNAL RULES 2007**

The [Ministry of Justice is consulting](#) on the [Rules governing the practice and procedure of the Charity Tribunal](#). The tribunal, which will hear appeals against Charity Commission decisions and official reference of wider questions to help clarify or develop charity law, is expected to start operation in early 2008. The [consultation](#) will end on 7 November 2007.

## **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

### **GLOBAL—INTERNATIONAL RIGHT TO KNOW DAY CELEBRATED**

On 28 September 2007 the [International Right to Know Day](#) was celebrated around the globe. The aim of [Right to Know Day](#) is to raise awareness of every individual's right of access to government-held information: the right to know how elected officials are exercising power and how the tax-payers' money is being spent.

### **TURKEY—NEW GOVERNMENT WORKS TO OVERHAUL THE CONSTITUTION**

The ruling Justice and Development (AKP) party plans to unveil its draft for a new constitution by the end of the year, reports [SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN TIMES](#) quoting a senior party official in a news article published on 4 September 2007. The new charter will uphold human rights and civil liberties. AKP vows that the new constitution [promises](#) the [removal of restrictions](#) in such areas as freedom of religion and conscience, the definition of Turkishness, the official language and mother tongue, and the headscarf. While the AKP might be able to secure the 367 votes needed in parliament for adoption of the new constitution, it plans to call a referendum so that voters can decide in a direct ballot.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GLOBAL—**

- **DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ADOPTED**

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) has adopted a non-binding declaration outlining the rights of the world's estimated 370 million native peoples and outlawing discrimination against them – a move that followed more than two decades of debate, according to UN [press release](#) on 13 September 2007. The [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) sets out the individual and



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues.

- **SURVEY OF THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY, VOLUME 2 RELEASING SOON**  
[CIVICUS Global Survey of the State of Civil Society, Volume 2](#) is expected to be published in December 2007. According to [Kumarian Press](#), the [CIVICUS Global Survey of the State of Civil Society, Volume 2](#) offers a wide-ranging analysis of key issues facing civil society worldwide with contributions from prominent researchers and civil society practitioners. Composing 24 chapters, the book draws on the information collected by the CIVICUS Civil Society Index project in more than 45 countries to explore issues such as civil society's accountability, its relations to the state and corporate sector and its role in governance and development. It also includes regional overviews of the state of civil society in different continents. By bringing together a diversity of perspectives and themes, this book offers one of the most comprehensive and engaging analyses of civil society worldwide.

- **MERGER OF GUIDESTAR UK AND CIVIL SOCIETY SYSTEMS ANNOUNCED**  
[GuideStar UK](#) and Civil Society Systems have announced their merger. The union of the two charities will be known as GuideStar International. According to 21 September 2007 [press release](#), the [GSI](#) seeks to illuminate the work of every civil society organization (CSO) in the world. A GuideStar system provides a highly searchable and comprehensive library of reports on a country's CSOs, enabling them to communicate their work effectively and easily to national and international audiences.

## UNITED STATES—ANNUAL WESTERN CONFERENCE ON TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

Co-sponsored by Loyola Law School and [IRS Exempt Organizations](#), the annual [Western Conference on Tax Exempt Organizations](#) will be held on 15 -16 November in Los Angeles, California. The two-day seminar is useful for attorneys, accountants, and executives of tax-exempt organizations.

## RESOURCES

### ARAB WORLD—THE AMMAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES RELEASES REPORT ON MEDIA FREEDOMS IN THE ARAB WORLD

“[Taqrir al-nesf al-awal min 2007 hawl al-hurriyat al-i'lamiya fi al-alam al-Arabi](#)” (Report on Media Freedoms in the Arab World for the First Half of 2007) has been published by the [Amman Center for Human Rights Studies](#). The report documents limitations on press freedoms and cases of assault on journalists in eighteen Arab countries.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

## **“CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL NGOS: GUIDANCE MANUAL FOR GOOD PRACTICE”**

[Capacity Building for Local NGOs](#), published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations, is aimed at grassroots organizations in developing countries. The book consists of eight chapters, covering a remarkable range of subjects including: organizational principles, the role of trustees, meetings, strategic planning, accounting systems, staff development, project management, filing and record keeping, and external relations and publicity.

## **CODE OF GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE CODE OF GOVERNANCE FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR**

Aimed at trustees, chief executives and staff working with trustees in voluntary and community organizations large and small, the [toolkit](#) shows what a well governed organization looks like and the practical steps you can take to achieving good governance.

### **GLOBAL—**

- **COUNTRIES AT THE CROSSROADS 2007 RELEASED**

[FREEDOM HOUSE](#) has released the 2007 edition of [Countries at the Crossroads](#). [Countries at the Crossroads](#) is an annual survey of government performance in 60 strategically important countries worldwide that are at a critical crossroads in determining their political future. According to Freedom House [press release](#) on 25 September 2007, the countries examined in this year’s report are: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Laos, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Russia, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and Zambia. The detailed governance assessment in [Countries at the Crossroads](#) looks at four core areas of democratic governance: anti-corruption and transparency; rule of law; civil liberties; and accountability and public voice.

- **BOOKLET EXAMINING CHANGING PRESS FREEDOM ENVIRONMENT PUBLISHED**

Based on its [February conference](#), the [World Association of Newspapers](#) has published a booklet entitled “[New Media: The Press Freedom Dimension](#).” The booklet examines the changing press freedom environment in the context of the Internet and other new media.

### **UNITED KINGDOM—**

- **A HANDBOOK ON COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

[Bassac](#) has launched [CHANGECHECK](#), a practical guide that helps community organizations to assess their impact on the wider community. More information can be obtained at [ChangeCheck website](#).



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

## • NEW CHARITY SRI WEBSITE LAUNCHED

To help charities make socially responsible investments in line with their missions, the [Ethical investment research organization, EIRIS](#), has launched a new website - [Charity SRI](#). According to EIRIS [press release](#) on 19 September 2007, the [Charity SRI](#), is an online resource packed with full of useful tools, information and practical advice to help charities of all sizes understand how to incorporate charitable concerns within investments. The site has been developed to boost the work of a charities project run jointly by [EIRIS](#) and the ethical investment umbrella group, the [UK Social Investment Forum](#).

## LATIN AMERICA—FORTHCOMING BOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

“[Mobilizing for Human Rights in Latin America](#)” – a forthcoming book authored by [Edward Cleary](#) and published by [Kumarian Press](#) will be out in October 2007.

According to [book reviews](#), this volume reflects the full spectrum of Latin America's contemporary reality and continuing struggle for human rights. Its focus on empowerment and attention to women, indigenous peoples, and the poor shed light on the politics of possibility for the most marginalized citizens in the hemisphere. The book also shows that the struggle for human rights in Latin America did not disappear after the end of military rule and a return to democracy in the 1980s. The movement has expanded its agenda and now numbers over a million NGOs. The author gives a succinct and balanced summary of the achievements and limitations of these new organizations and their invaluable contributions to strengthening civil society in Latin America.

## EGYPT—EOHR RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT 2006

[The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights](#) (EOHR) announced the release of its 17th Annual Report 2006. According to [EOHR press release](#) on 2 September 2007, the report contains monitoring and documentation of human rights situation in Egypt during 2006. The report is divided into three main parts: Part One is an evaluation and assessment to legislative developments and judicial decisions related to human rights; Part Two is the core of the report representing the outcome of monitoring and documenting of the human rights situation; and Part Three is the statistical demonstration of [EOHR](#)'s activities. The report also puts forth several recommendations related to the rights addressed therein.

## UNITED KINGDOM—ON-LINE GUIDE TO COMMON LEGAL STRUCTURES LAUNCHED

A [guide](#) to the common legal structures available to organizations, including newer forms ([Community Interest Companies and Charitable Incorporated Organisations](#)) outlined in the Charities Act 2006 is now available at the [Governance Hub](#) website. The guide is in response to the demand of many trustees and management committee members who want greater reassurance and access to practical information about legal structures. The [Governance Hub](#) commissioned [Co-operatives UK](#) to produce this [on-](#)



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11

OCTOBER 2007

[line guide](#). The [Governance Hub](#) aims to improve the quality of governance within the voluntary and community sector across England.

---

**IJCSL Newsletter** is a publication of the [International Center for Civil Society Law](#). Karla W. Simon, *Chairperson*; Leon E. Irish, *President*. © 2003 - 2006 by ICCSL. All rights reserved. The trademarks IJCSL and IJCSL Newsletter are owned by the International Center for Civil Society Law. Readers are encouraged to use the **IJCSL Newsletter** for all noncommercial purposes (including circulating it or excerpts from it to friends and colleagues) with full credit given to the source. To the extent that the **IJCSL Newsletter** includes links to other publications and news sources, ICCSL is only providing access to sources publicly available on the World Wide Web and is not responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in the linked sources. As a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of a legal enabling environment for civil society, ICCSL does not permit third parties to present its content with advertising, logos, mastheads, or other content unrelated to the ICCSL. For further information, please contact [malinda.baehr@gmail.com](mailto:malinda.baehr@gmail.com). Ms Nasira Razvi, who can be contacted at [nrazvi@law.gwu.edu](mailto:nrazvi@law.gwu.edu), is the *Editor* of the **IJCSL Newsletter**. To unsubscribe to the **IJCSL Newsletter**, please send a blank e-mail to Ms. Malinda Baehr, *Managing Editor*, at [malinda.baehr@gmail.com](mailto:malinda.baehr@gmail.com). All questions with regard to use of the email list should be addressed to ICCSL's webmaster at [Sonya@dawnrising.org](mailto:Sonya@dawnrising.org).

**FAIR USE NOTICE.** This monthly digest contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. ICCSL makes such material available as part of its effort to advance understanding of civil society, democracy, human rights, social justice issues, etc. Because the material in this digest is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes, ICCSL believes that this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in Title 17 USC, Section 107, the US Copyright Law.