

New Haven Declaration On Human Rights and Financial Integrity

Human rights and international financial integrity are intimately linked. Where poverty is pervasive, civil, political, and economic rights often go unrealized. Today, large outflows of illicit money - many times larger than all development assistance - greatly aggravate poverty and oppression in many developing countries.

Illicit money leaves poorer countries through a global shadow financial system comprising tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, disguised corporations, anonymous trust accounts, fake foundations, trade mispricing, and money-laundering techniques. Much of this money is permanently shifted into western economies.

Reducing these illicit outflows requires greater transparency and integrity in the global financial system. Achieving this is a prerequisite to creating an economic framework that is open, accountable, fair, and beneficial for all.

We call upon the United Nations, the G8, G20, WTO, IMF, World Bank, and other international fora, as well as on national governments, world leaders, faith groups and civil society organizations to recognize the linkage between human rights and financial transparency. We further call for decisive steps to ensure that developing countries can retain their resources for sustainable growth and poverty alleviation, which they must achieve if the human rights of all people are to be realized.

The undersigned individuals and organizations shall be working together in the coming months to pursue this agenda and look to add additional voices to this effort.

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- Oxfam
- Basel Institute on Governance
- European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
- Global Financial Integrity
- Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics
- Open Society Institute Justice Initiative
- Asia Initiatives
- Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development
- Tax Justice Network
- Global Witness
- Christian Aid
- National Council of Churches
- Center for Economic and Social Rights
- Center for Concern
- Harrington Investments, Inc.
- Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia
- Thomas Pogge, Yale University
- Robert Hockett, Cornell University
- Frank Pasquale, Seton Hall