

IfE

Initiative for Equality

<http://initiativeforequality.org>

14 August 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Three years ago, we decided to build a global network of advocates fighting for greater social, economic and political equality. We weren't sure how we would do it, or if anyone would listen, but we were absolutely determined to succeed.

Looking back, it's clear that *Initiative for Equality* (IfE) had destiny on its side. Over the past three years, the issue of inequality has exploded around the world, becoming one of the defining issues of our time. But IfE's success was not just due to good timing. Our strategic choices, grassroots structure, and empowering of local partners to take action and provide leadership have multiplied our influence at every level.

What did we do with that influence? We negotiated the world's first civil society treaty on inequality. We built the Field Hearings movement, empowering marginalized communities in more than 80 countries to speak out and be heard. We fostered and coordinated a successful global civil society demand for a new Sustainable Development Goal addressing inequalities. And we are developing hands-on projects enabling our members and partners around the world to collaborate on overturning inequalities through systemic social, economic and political change.

Amazingly, all IfE's work of the past three years has been a volunteer effort! We have been so busy building our network and influence that we have not taken time out to establish a financial base to support our ongoing work. This must change now, if we want to continue increasing our strength and influence in the future.

We, IfE's Directors and Advisors, are asking you to make a donation to keep IfE going strong. Each of us has made a donation, and now we need you to join us. Every dollar IfE receives will go toward the costs of hiring a full-time coordinator so we can continue working through our Field Hearings, Equity Action Collaborative, and New Economy Projects, and fighting effectively for equality and empowerment for all.

Please make a donation here – through FJC, IfE's fiscal sponsor – using your credit card. You don't need to sign in or register.

[Yes, I want to support IfE!](#)

Over the past three years IfE's network has been "going viral" – but technology alone does not make this happen. Our powerful global collaboration and influence requires regular meetings and facilitated dialogue, mediation and problem-solving, careful strategic planning and

decision-making, gathering and assessing reliable information, public speaking, joint statements, media attention, and above all, communication – around the clock, 7 days a week. This is why we need to hire a full-time coordinator. Without ongoing global coordination, communications would grind to a halt, opportunities to speak out would be missed, new partners would not be brought into the network, and our influence would diminish.

We can't let that happen. **With your help, we will continue building IfE into a powerful force for equality that can't be stopped!**

We are asking you to stand with us and make a donation – the largest you can – to keep IfE going. We know that many people in our network can't afford to give much. Don't worry: if you can only give a small donation, that still counts as warmly valued support!

[Yes, I want to support IfE!](#)

(Please reply to this email if you need directions for making a donation under \$10 US.)

We greatly appreciate your involvement and support. Let's keep the initiative moving forward, building our strength and influence so we can overturn the inequality paradigm and achieve a more equitable world!

By the way, it would be wonderful if you could also forward this email to others who might be able to donate. Thanks so much.

With warm regards,

Amewu Attah (Ghana)
Caroline Usikpedo (Nigeria)
Daniel Mathews (Australia)
Daniela Antons (Germany)
Deborah Rogers (US)
Diana Garcia (Spain)
Ekin Kocabas (Turkey)
Kaitlin Shilling (US)
Roberto Guimaraes (Brazil)
Shaheen Anam (Bangladesh)
Soren Ambrose (US)
Zhiyuan Song (China/US)

Still not convinced? Read more about our accomplishments. In three years we've had successes that we could not have imagined when we began:

* We convened the world's first negotiated civil society treaty on inequality, summarized in 12 languages, which lays out the causes and consequences of inequality, and the principles and

objectives we stand for.

<https://www.initiativeforequality.org/index.php/get-involved/sign-equity-treaty>

* We built the Field Hearings movement, an unprecedented global phenomenon now in 80 countries: never before have so many marginalized communities around the world been able to speak out collectively.

<https://www.initiativeforequality.org/index.php/equity-sustainability-field-hearings/getting-involved-in-the-field-hearings>

* We presented our Equity Treaty and preliminary Field Hearings report at the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit, influencing their outcome document to include a focus on equity – it's mentioned in more than 20 places!

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/476/10/PDF/N1147610.pdf?OpenElement>

* When the UN's sustainable development "open working group" said they would not include a new sustainable development goal addressing inequalities within and between countries, we coordinated a huge global civil society response – and they backed down and included the goal!

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

* IfE's Field Hearings are setting the standard for participatory input and collaborations across socioeconomic divides. We were recently selected by the UN to write a full-length report on our network as a model for "participatory monitoring for accountability."

<https://www.initiativeforequality.org/images/FieldHearingsPMAInterimReport.pdf>

* Most important of all, IfE's members and partners are working side by side to create systemic change for a better future:

- Our Field Hearings Project enables everyone in our diverse network to speak out collectively in decision-making processes. Our Equity Action Collaborative provides opportunities for global collaboration to fight the causes of inequalities around the world. <https://www.initiativeforequality.org/index.php/equity-treaty-action-collaborative/equity-action-collaborative>
- Our New Economy Project, under development, will empower local communities to develop their own democratic economic enterprises, meeting people's needs in an equitable and sustainable way. <https://www.initiativeforequality.org/index.php/new-economy-project>