**To: Russia Strategy Meeting participants, November 16, 2012**

**Re: Summary of HRGGP work in Russia, providing overview of strategic priorities, summary of tools, and established directions for 2013**

The strategic priorities for HRGGP in Russia in 2012-2013 remain consistent with the previous years. In 2013 HRGGP will continue providing core and project support to watchdogs across the region, giving priority to local rather than international organizations. Targeted and multi-faceted capacity building of our partners and work across thematic lines will form a crucial part of our work. We continue to maintain that long-term support to our partners is fundamental as it enables longer term strategic planning and can enhance their impact. HRGGP believes it is these groups that normally form the main voice in pushing for stronger rule of law and rights protection, as well as in specific topics they focus on. Most operational work done by OSF would hardly be possible without the presence of these organizations.

HRGGP’s ongoing core support in 2012 supports strategic litigation and legal advocacy in Russia. Grants in the portfolio cover impunity, torture, right to fair trial, human rights in places of detention, ethnic discrimination, disability rights, rights of citizen soldiers, women’s rights and LGBTI rights. In addition to core support for the human rights movement the program has some geographic depth in the North Caucasus. HRGGP supports Freedom of Information Foundation, and engages in monitoring of the security issues and technology needs for grantees in Russia. In addition to core support for lengthy litigation processes, our work in Russia has targeted the following objectives identified for 2012:

1. Regional support for targeted work on disability rights: Arkhangelsk and Perspektiva. In 2013 we anticipate a review of disability funding in Russia, to include these two and the Independent Psychiatric Association, and a longer-term strategy in anticipation of the ratification of CRPD.
2. Funding for monitoring implementation of judgments domestically, which several organizations are exploring in 2012, including the Russia Justice Initiative and JURIX. 2013 will see further work in this area.
3. HURIDOCS support for work with information and data management for NGOs, and expansion of core funding for that organization’s work in Russia via the Oak Foundation and integration in core proposals.
4. Support for a women’s rights litigation training program, established via a grant to Anna Center, for 2013
5. Expansion of LGBTI work to include a shared person with Rights Initiative and a more in-depth strategy
6. Growth of the Solidarity Platform and its activation as a center of collaboration, advocacy and information.
7. Funding through the Prison strategy for advocacy work on access to places of detention, implementation of judgments, prisoner health, and public monitoring boards

The program has not been able to consider thoroughly the following issues flagged at the beginning of the year: rethinking Chechnya and North Caucasus grantmaking in light of ongoing challenges, and research into citizenship/residency questions, which remain an issue.

HRGGP considers its primary tools to be long-term support for clearly-defined watchdog strategies; evaluations and capacity-building for the human rights movement both on management and on international advocacy strategy; support for opportunities (such as the Solidarity Platform) to amplify the message of local watchdog organizations we support, raise the profile of inter-organizational collaboration on a larger scale, give groups the access to international advocacy channels, and help direct some of our capacity-building assistance.

HRGGP’s grantee response to the new NGO laws has been mixed, and an incomplete and draft document is attached tracking their responses. Since the drafting of that document, some grantees have asked to receive early payments, and others have requested addenda to contracts specifying the nature of the work.