# International Geneva Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

# Oak Foundation | OAK

## http://www.oakfnd.org/

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#### **BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. With offices in Europe, Africa, India and North America, it makes grants to organisations in approximately 40 countries worldwide. Oak Foundation is family-led and reflects the vision and values of its founders. In all its work Oak pursues rights-based approaches, gender equality and partnership with the organisations it funds. It supports civil society as a pillar of democracy and justice and nurtures innovation and visionary leadership within it. Oak Foundation was formally established in 1983. Early grants were made in Denmark to organisations supporting single mothers and torture victims.

#### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Children health and rights
- Environmental determinants of health
- Homelessness and marginalized groups

#### **HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Oak's capacity building and organisational development support enables grantees to have the greatest possible impact by improving their leadership and management skills and developing a more robust structure to better address issues of global, social and environmental concern. Oak Foundation, through its grant-making, addresses a wide range of social justice issues and, with this Policy, commits to ensuring that through all its programmes, it will strive to prevent abuse and promote the safety, protection, wellbeing and development of children.

In the Environment Programme, OAK grant-making focuses on three main areas: safeguarding a clean climate future for children; cleaning up our oceans; and strengthening conservation efforts to ensure the safety of endangered wildlife. In the Housing and Homelessness Programme, Oak focuses on preventing homelessness by funding sustainable solutions that improve the economic and social wellbeing of marginalised youth, adults and families. Grants within the programme are toward organisations working both nationally and locally in Boston, New York and many other cities in the US and in the UK. Regarding women, Oak supports organisations that work to end patterns of violence and exploitation that disrupt women's lives by ensuring that rights-based laws and policies guarantee an environment free from violence.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

Oak Foundation is governed by a six-member Board of Trustees - Caroline Turner, Chair; Kristian Parker, Vice Chair; Natalie Shipton, Vice Chair; Christopher Parker, Jette Parker and Alan Parker. An Advisory Panel also supports the Foundation's work on a range of grant-making issues. Current members are Douglas Griffiths (President of Oak Foundation), William Norris, Julie Sandorf and Barbra Rothschild.

#### **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

During the 2018 calendar year, Oak Foundation's total net amount granted was USD 357.19 million. This figure includes 352 programme grants, 7 Special Initiative grants, discretionary grants, refunds and cancellations. Overall, Oak provided programme and Special Initiative grants to 338 organisations based in 36 countries. The work of these organisations is carried out throughout the world. Not including the Special Initiative grants, the size of grants varied from approximately USD 25,000 to USD 10 million, with an average of USD 644,000.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Publications, guidelines and strategic documents can be accessed at http://www.oakfnd.org/publications.html

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