



*Invitation*  
**Civil Society Building Knowledge Programme  
Seminars**

*The Power of Civil Society:  
Lessons from Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and India*

**16:00 – 18:15 Thursday 27 November 2008  
and  
16:00 – 18:15 Tuesday 9 December 2008**

**Institute of Social Studies**

**Introduction**

Since 2005 Hivos and ISS have been working together in a Civil Society Building Knowledge Programme. At the core of this collaboration is the interaction between practitioners and researchers to facilitate innovative research, improve policies and programmes and strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations. The Knowledge Programme focuses on three main questions:

1. How can we understand the *dynamics of civil society formation* and the role of local actors in this process?
2. How do *external actors* contribute to this process?
3. How does civil society building as a process contribute to *structural changes* in unequal power balances in society?

**Aim**

The aim of these seminars is to better understand the power of civil society to influence the state around issues such as HIV/AIDS, women's rights, reproductive rights, and intellectual property rights. The four case studies in Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and India explore the diversity of roles and strategies employed by civil society organizations based on the recent field research of four ISS MA students supported by the Knowledge Programme in 2008.

The reflection and discussions during the seminar will be guided by, firstly, the general, underlying questions of the Knowledge Programme and the contributions of these research projects to answering these questions and, secondly, the value of collaboration between a knowledge-based organisation (ISS) and a practice-based organisation (Hivos).

**Registration**

Please register on-line at [www.iss.nl/civilsociety](http://www.iss.nl/civilsociety) by 24 November 2008.

**Directions to ISS**

Kortenaerkade 12, 2518AX Den Haag <http://www.iss.nl/About-ISS/Contact-directions>

## **Programme Thursday 27 November, 2008**

15:45 Registration (room 4.14, Institute of Social Studies)

16:00 – 16:10 Welcome

16:10 – 17:00 **Relevance of ICTs for Civil Society Participation in Policy Advocacy: How Does the Online Come Offline?**

Speaker: MA candidate Karoline Kemp, ISS (*15-20 mins*)

Discussants: Margreet van Doodewaard, Hivos (*10 mins*)  
Ria Brouwers ISS (*10 mins*)

Discussion: (*10 mins*)

17:10 – 18:00 **Framing and Claiming Reproductive Rights in Tanzania: Opportunities and Challenges of Civil Society Actors**

Speaker: MA candidate Rebecca Davidson, ISS (*15-20 mins*)

Discussants: Marijke Mooi, Hivos (*10 mins*)  
Jeff Handmaker, ISS (*10 mins*)

Discussion: (*10 mins*)

18:00-18-15 **Synthesis**

Drawing key lessons and priorities for research and practice (*10 mins*)

18:15-19:00 Drinks

## **Programme Tuesday 9 December, 2008**

15:45 Registration (room 4.14 Institute of Social Studies)

16:00 – 16:10 Welcome

16:10 – 17:00 **Citizens with HIV/AIDS: The Challenges for Participation and civil society in the Global Fund in Peru**

Speaker: MA candidate Henry Armas, ISS *(15-20 mins)*

Discussants: Mirjam Musch, Hivos *(10 mins)*  
Rosalba Icaza, ISS *(10 mins)*

Discussion: *(10 mins)*

17:10 – 18:00 **Transnational Networks and Grassroots Peasant Movements in Uttar Pradesh, India**

Speaker: MA candidate Jasper Hootsmans, ISS *(15-20 mins)*

Discussants: Josine Stremmelaar, Hivos *(10 mins)*  
Kees Biekart, ISS *(10 mins)*

Discussion: *(10 mins)*

18:00-18:15 **Synthesis**

Drawing key lessons and priorities for research and practice *(10 mins)*

18:15-19:00 Drinks