**Int Civil Society Center – discussion about sexual misconduct**

21 Feb 2018

Abby Maxman, OXFAM – 2011 report on Haiti incident publically released this week. Painful in many ways – failure to recognize harm done. Doing everything can to investigate and root out what happened. Power imbalance. Announced plan to bring together women’s rights leaders – review Oxfam culture and practice. Comprehensive plan. Safeguarding. Independent high-level commission – looking into everything. Scope on culture and investigative side. Doing retrospective review. All affiliates looking at records/files. 3rd party investigators. New global database of referees. No references until this is in place. Co-chair of InterAction safeguarding task force. Share what we’re doing – US, UK. Financial and other resources to safeguarding processes. More than doubling resources. Improve culture within Oxfam to prevent this ever happening again. Ethics Point, whistleblowing processes. Harassment by and with staff. PSEA. Working to ensure stakeholders, peers are informed.

Burkhart – whole sector is now under review. ICSOs under pressure. Where is common ground we should explore. Own safeguarding mechanisms s/b in place.

Abby – InterAction – CEOs were previously working as coalition of the interested. We were working on pledge of commitment. Same going on in UK. How we give references. Opportunity in the sector to look at how we can find our own commitments to global standards/pledges. Adapted to legal operating environments, etc. Referrals, internal learning. Share policies and standards. Refine commitments.

Oxfam will share key learnings as they emerge.

Patrick Watt, StC Int – StC in media spotlight. Have problems of our own. Implications for operational NGOs. Risks attached to decisions between head office decisions and people working with on the grounds. Distinct set of risks in humanitarian settings. Humanitarian settings heighten risks. To what extent existing processes pick up these issues. Core humanitarian standards already exist. We should map them and build on them.

Janet Dalziell, Greenpeace – management and response needs to be better coordinated in humanitarian/development community. Would like to think about getting more proactive. How do we start communicating that this transparency is good. Not set up expectation that orgs w/b hauled across the coals periodically. Feels defensive at the moment.

Nick Roseveare, Oxfam GB – v. actively engaged with others in UK environment to address “passporting” or “accreditation” – prohibition lists is difficult way to go. Affirmative accreditation of people’s skills – a small group in UK is going to develop a prototype for this. Small scale solution at first – go global eventually. Will experiment with it. Membership of ICSC will be critical. Hard to think now of widespread global.

Abby – case for aid. Difficult. Transgression of our principles. Need to pivot – make sure we in no way does this eclipse our mission. Extreme global crises. Our work is essential. Dark mark on Oxfam. Not a dark mark on everything we’ve done, on aid generally. Largest humanitarian crisis since WW2.

Attacks on aid overall. Advocate for aid. Will work with local partners to provide aid and support.

Stuart ?, SOS Children’s Villages – should we together prepare a joint statement across out sector. Stand against any form of abuse. Preparing to fight it. How do we use existing safeguarding conventions/networks. How subscribe to them with greater ambition? Keeping Children Safe Coalition – external standards. Help us with independent reviews when things go well – do an audit. All of us go through existing things and where there are gaps make changes. External monitoring. Commit to comply with existing external frameworks.

Patricia Moreira – Transparency International – commitment to report on more formal basis – annual reports. Standard reporting mechanism. Could we agree to this? More of a common practice/standard. Transparency – how many cases, what kind of cases? Global issue – not just ourselves. The more we can lead to make situation visible, it is benefit for society as a whole.

Michael Stambaugh, Women for Women Int. Former job, relied on each other. Transparency and sharing among organizations. Important. Cross-organizational/peer quality control audits. Feedback from peer org. Forthright and candid feedback.

Wolfgang – new director of ICSC – concrete suggestions (Greenpeace and Transparency Int) – proactive about our responses and making case for aid. Relate communications to something that’s happening currently. How quickly will processes that are being developed in UK be done?

Nick R (Oxfam) – topic area under discussion for ages. Idea to do it among a small # of orgs is new. Not yet off the grounds. No deadline for that. Issue of referencing as a sector issue – how to develop different practice? Don’t have timelines on them. Oxfam Int – working on putting timelines on initiatives.

Burkhart – focus on joint statement – issue of civic space, justification of aid, how to react to a situation where have made grave mistakes, and enemies are using it to try to hurt us. Can’t just feature as victims of campaign. Urgently need joint statement. About mistakes, and about mission. Recommend we agree to this.

Review of standards and setting of standards. Should look at different standards and see if need to compile something out of that. Esp. around SEA. Agree to reporting against standards. Integrate into annual reports. Idea of mutual auditing against standards.

Third area – shrinking civic space and justification of aid. We are under attack because we’re a critical voice. People try to reduce aid and take our role out of the picture. Need to look at our sector’s role in society and work together to defend that role. Need to be better prepared for the next scandal.

Shivani Wadwha – WWF – should review standards around all aspects of ethical behavior, not just SEA.

Malayhi Harper ? – how we position the joint statement is very important. Need to be proactive in commitment to gender equality. How we work tirelessly around gender.

Abby – have to be careful of duplication. Integrating. Coordination is key right now. Don’t want disjointed approach.

Delphine Moralis, Tdh – acknowledge that feminist agenda is being challenged. By being transparent we are helping address the problem.

Patrick Watt, StC – joint statement – feel that it works best if statement by operational/humanitarian NGOs, not ALL NGOs. Need to be propositional. Playing out differently in different markets and for different orgs. Civic space/justification of aid is different from this and diff in diff markets. Organizational humility is needed. Will lose some convening power. Need to rebuild it.

Nick, Oxfam – worth thinking beyond the present. It’s SEA now. Attacks and constant probing for areas of failure will continue. May be a large fraud scandal, or major humanitarian failing, etc. Need to look at ensuring frequency of reporting is increased in our orgs, and transparent reporting to other orgs. Core humanitarian standards, Accountable Now, etc. There are places where we report these issues externally. Redouble our efforts to be true to ourselves. May be better than organizational peer review.

Biggest win for sector is how we transact business among ourselves. Open ourselves up to examination. How pass staff among ourselves.

Burkhart – concrete outcome.

1. Propose we agree to a joint statement – less than a week. By end of this week.

Meg – good idea. Would support the recommendation.

Philip, CEO, ESO – UK executives. Bond (UK convening body) – joint statement by end of week. Coordinate with ours?

Nick – already tremendous amount going on in UK environment – a lot of media. Extreme stretch for getting swift sign-off.

Burkhart – UK in midst of turbulence. Germans, Americans, also discussing it. Want statement not specifically about DfID, UK, etc. Need to say things differently from Bond. Broader.

Philip – Bond statement will be high-level global statement. If can coordinate with Bond, will elevate statement. May be quicker way to get sign-off.

Burkhart – will you link us up with Bond?

Delphine – in favor of statement. EU is taking action – want 208 orgs to explain how preventing abuse.

Burkhart – piggyback on Bond exercise.

Patrick – start with Bond statement. May need tweaking for other markets. Through Bond wouldn’t get it out globally. Be clear about channel management. ICSC work with Bond on tweaking for a global audience.

Meg – good proposal.

Kirsty – CBM – good idea if we can tread path between appearing too defensive. Align with Bond statement. Other agencies similar to Bond. Australia agency like Bond. Include them.

Burkhart – under time pressure. Need to move quickly. Will produce sth in cooperation with Bond and others who are interested.

Andrew Morley, WVI – support statement if goes out soon.

Abby – want to make sure we consult internally. Happy to share our statement. InterAction. Oxfam will let you know later today.

Burkhart – do we want to also review the standards? Accountable Now (new CEO).

Rocio, Acc Now. Yes, can help review standards.

Burkhart – will send outcome document. Draft statement.