

NEEDS STATEMENT

At a time when social injustice and inequality are on the rise, political representation is diminishing for the bottom eighty percent of society. The cause is the loss and delegitimization of progressive research to foster progressive social movements. Major obstacles include elitist and corrupt government, reactionary institutions of higher education and public policy production, and the accumulation of telecommunications and media outlets by corporate conglomerates. There is no major independent organization that can nurture and disseminate progressive research on a massive scale, nor do existing organizations have the financial means to employ scholars to re-legitimize progressive democratic ideology. TSI is an institution that will foster direct action through mass social movements to retake existing political institutions from the power elite and empower local communities and citizens. Existing institutions have fundamentally failed to address and alleviate the misery and inequality faced by most people. The government is incapable of resolving the crises of our time as can be seen in the Katrina disaster, rising poverty and inequality, job insecurity, the Great Collapse of 2008-09, and the almost complete lack of social services. The United States is the greatest embarrassment to human progress and we wish to address global warming and help bring peace rather than war to the world. We seek no less than the transformation of social institutions to achieve political and economic democracy beginning at the community level.