

For Immediate Release
Contact: Julie Griff, 212.868.6500, julie@breakthrough.tv



Breakthrough Honors Amartya Sen and John Thornton at Fourth Annual Let's Breakthrough Together Gala

New York – October 22, 2008 – The innovative human rights group, Breakthrough, hosted its fourth annual gala at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City on October 17, 2008. The event was attended by close to 400 guests and raised over \$450,000 that will be used to support Breakthrough's cutting-edge programs in the United States and India. "We are gratified by the continued support for Breakthrough's creative and effective approach to human rights education, particularly in these difficult times," said Mallika Dutt, Executive Director of Breakthrough.

The evening commenced with a brilliant performance by Tony-award winner, Sarah Jones. Shashi Tharoor, author and former UN Undersecretary General presented the annual Breakthrough Inspiration Award to Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen, and former President of Goldman Sachs, John Thornton.

Amartya Sen is Lamont University Professor of Economics at Harvard University and has written extensively on social and economic development, with a focus on inequality, the status of women and the need for education. In his remarks, Dr. Sen proclaimed, "Women's deprivation happens to be one of the gigantic problems that [India] faces. In dealing with this hardened deprivation, what you need is a kind of public movement...Breakthrough does really remarkably good work in this area."

John Thornton has emerged as a leading expert on US-China relations and is the Director of the Global Leadership Program at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Mr. Thornton is a former President of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Dr. Thornton spoke of the enormous need for organizations like Breakthrough in an increasingly interdependent, globalizing world.

Sarah Jones is a Tony Award-winning playwright and performer. Her multi-character solo show, *Bridge & Tunnel* became a critically-acclaimed, long-running hit on Broadway.

The live auction was conducted by Henry Howard-Sneyd - highlights included a stunning tapestry about the story of Sita from leading designer duo, Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla; a luxury vacation package to the Kerala backwaters donated by the Indian Hotels Company Ltd. and Jet Airways; and beautiful art pieces from two New York galleries, Aicon and Sundaram Tagore

Breakthrough uses media and popular culture tools to raise awareness about a range of human rights issues, including women's rights, HIV/AIDS, immigrant rights and racial justice. Breakthrough's multi-media campaigns have reached millions and won several awards.

Breakthrough's most recent campaign in India calls on men and boys to take a stand against domestic violence (www.bellbajao.org). In the U.S., Breakthrough is part of a national campaign to restore due process and fairness to immigration policy. Recent initiatives include its cutting-edge video game *ICED - I Can End Deportation* (www.icedgame.com) and a 3D simulation of detention conditions (www.homelandgitmo.com), which was featured recently in the New York Times.

For more on Breakthrough's human rights programs and the recipients of the Inspiration Award, please visit www.breakthrough.tv.