

On December 10, 2008 WASHINGTON DC TO BE DECLARED A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY

-IN PROGRESS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) remains a beacon of human values, a powerful instrument that expresses the aspiration and hopes of humanity to belong in community in dignity with others. Yet the Declaration's promise of "freedom from fear and freedom from want", as articulated by Franklin D. Roosevelt remains for too many an unrealized vision. That is why ongoing human rights learning at the community level gives women and men, youth and children a deep understanding of what human rights learning means in their daily lives. They learn that housing, education, food, health, human security, sustainability and livelihoods are human rights that provide the essence of human dignity. Knowledge and action create a powerful tool to pave the road for the full realization of human rights for all.

December 10, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the UDHR. Eleanor Roosevelt, who gathered people from 80 countries to write it, held a firm belief that these principles were the truths for all the people from around the world to live by. On this day, citizens of the nation's capital led by individuals and organizations affirm their commitment to human rights by declaring Washington, D.C. a *Human Rights City*. They will be initiating a process of learning and dialogue among D.C. citizens and take proactive actions towards the realization of human rights in the city. When the universal value of human rights becomes relevant to people's daily lives, they participate as equals in the decision that determine their lives guided by the holistic human rights framework.

A Human Rights City is one whose residents and local authorities, through on going discussions and creative exchange of ideas, come to understand that human rights when widely known as a way of life, assist in identifying the issues and inform the actions in our D.C. communities, for meaningful, positive economic and social change. As a *Human Rights City*, Washington, D.C. will be joining other human rights cities around the world where residents have undertaken ongoing learning and claiming their human rights, bringing forth a viable vision and mission for the 21st Century. .

**On the 10th of December, 2008, Human Rights Day,
The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Community representatives and City officials will be endorsing this historic effort
Washington DC will be declared
A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY
The first Human Rights City in the United States!**

This effort was **facilitated** by: PDHRE, People's Movement for Human Rights Education (www.pdhre.org) and the American Friends Service Committee-D.C. (www.afsc.org) and **endorsed by**: D.C. Office of Human Rights, , Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, DC Jobs With Justice, Stand Up! for Democracy in DC Coalition (Free DC), Hispanic Congregation National City Christian Church, Fellowship of Reconciliation/D.C. Chapter, Washington Peace Center, Sociologists without Borders, Cities for Peace-a project of the Institute for Policy Studies, Global Awareness Project Consulting, Interfaith Worker's Justice of Greater Washington, (Partial list) ...

For more information, please email jikambana@afsc.org or call Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana at (202) 544-0324.