

## DC HUMAN RIGHTS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

### Our History

On December 10, 2008, Human Rights Day, at the urging of the PDHRE, the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning and the American Friends Service Committee DC Peace and Economic Justice Program, joined by the City Office of Human Rights and more than 20 community organizations(\*), individuals, churches and colleges, the D.C. City Council proclaimed the District of Columbia a Human Rights City to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Washington, D.C. has joined a successful worldwide movement that includes more than 17 cities in 6 countries.

### Our Purpose

The purpose of the D.C. Human Rights People's Movement is:

- (1) To facilitate a process for human rights learning and framing of our various issues and struggles using the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- (2) To facilitate a bottom-up process of coordinated actions and movement building for realizing human rights for all D.C. residents.

The D.C. Human Rights People's Movement is formed by and is open to organizations, movements, and individuals involved and interested in realizing human rights.

### Value Added

- We are part of something bigger than our individual organizations or issue-based struggles.
- Overall framing of our issues and struggles as part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brings us under a "big tent."
- Lifting up and referring to D.C. as the first Human Rights City in the U.S. offers a process to hold our local officials accountable to what they have already agreed to.

### Role of the Steering Committee

The role of the steering committee is to facilitate the D.C. Human Rights People's Movement through communication, education, organization, and documentation.

### Objectives

- Work together to expand the learning of human rights at the community level, leading to sustained and social transformation.
- Work together with local groups, movements, and individuals to identify the specific human rights needs of the people in D.C. and support the work they are doing already to help realize these human rights.
- Develop priorities, take actions, and deepen relationships and movements toward achieving equality, peace and justice guided by the holistic human rights framework in freedom and dignity for all.

## Methods of action

Among others:

- Coalition and relationship building
- Human rights actions and campaigns
- Public and popular education
- Testimonies to city council, input to and drafting of legislation
- Participatory budgeting through a human rights lens
- Participation in the US Social Forum process
- Monitoring of DC government policies and practices through a human rights lens

## What is a human rights city?

A Human Rights City is one whose residents and local authorities, through learning about the relevance of human rights to their daily lives, join in ongoing learning, discussions, systemic analysis and critical thinking at the community level, to pursue a creative exchange of ideas and the joint planning of actions to realize their economic, social, political, civil, environmental and cultural human rights.

## **Current partner organizations (Partial list):**

- *American Civil Liberty Union-DC*
- *American Friends Service Committee-DC*
- *American University International Human Rights Clinic*
- *American University Human Rights Council*
- *Committee 2 Save Franklin*
- *Cities For Peace-a project of the Institute for Policy Studies*
- *DC Chapter of Earth Charter*
- *DC Interfaith Worker's Justice Coalition*
- *DC Statehood Green Party*
- *DC Jobs With Justice Coalition*
- *DC Office of Human Rights*
- *DC Metro Social Forum*
- *Empower DC*
- *Fair Budget Coalition*
- *Fellowship of Reconciliation-DC*
- *Global Awareness Project Consulting*
- *Hispanic Congregation National City Christian Church*
- *Jews United For Justice-DC*
- *Robert Kennedy Center for Human Rights and Justice*
- *Sociologists Without Borders*
- *Stand Up! for Democracy in DC Coalition,*
- *Washington Peace Center*