

MODEL Letter to send to local and state public officials: Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local Human Rights Agencies, as well as Tribal and Indigenous leaders.

[Dear ----]

I am writing [*as an advocate/constituent/on behalf of [x] organization*] seeking to build human rights principles into how governments operate in these unprecedented times.

I invite you today to [voice your support for human rights principles](#) and demonstrate human rights leadership at a time when your commitment to justice, equality, and dignity for all couldn't be more important. Human rights principles provide an important framework to shape law, policy, and practice that provide communities the support and resources they need to thrive. Additionally, this statement is timely as the United States' human record is scheduled for review as part of a UN mechanism known as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

I hope that you will [sign-on to this statement](#) and demonstrate your support for human rights principles and global solidarity. The initiative is spearheaded by the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute in coordination with an array of national and local human rights organizations, including the US Human Rights Network, the ACLU Human Rights Project, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation.

It is important for local and state leaders to know that residents here are organizing and ready to work with you to help integrate human rights laws and standards into our public policies. There are currently more than 40 signatories, including mayors from Pittsburgh, PA; Stockton, CA; Austin, TX; Boulder, CO; Dayton, OH, and Huntington, WV, Santa Fe, NM, as well as state representatives from Hawaii. Human rights agencies in Kentucky, Indiana, Pittsburgh have also signed on.

More information can be found on the [Institute's website](#), and [the direct link to sign on is also here](#). Please note that the deadline for signatures is **October 15**.

Sincerely,

[name/organization]

**We are also sharing this [resource guide on the UPR human rights recommendations and Using human rights assessments in local government: A toolkit for state and local human rights commissions](#) for potential local government signatories interested in learning more.*