Welcome to our webinar! We’ll begin soon.
Please mute your microphones and cameras.

Website: http://humanrightscities.us  USHRN UPR Task Force: https://www.upr2020.org/
Email: uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org
Organizers in communities across the United States are mobilizing local consultations to assess the state of human rights in their communities. We are identifying both achievements and pitfalls & generating and promoting recommendations for strengthening human rights protections in the United States, working at both local and national levels.
Human Rights & Covid 19: It’s Time to Clamor!

U.S. Civil Society Virtual Briefing: Universal Periodic Review of the United States to UN Geneva Missions April 15, 2020

Click to view agenda
Click to view full presentation slides
Click to view briefing recording
UPR Cities USA-“The 3 Cs": Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

1) **Collect** local testimony about human rights.

2) **Compile** summary reports of local human rights conditions. Name key problems/challenges as well as positives/progress. Use this to report to local officials and press for local responses.

3) **Clamor!** Publicize the final UPR report and press local governments to implement recommendations. (September 2020)
The UPR Process

Domestic Consultation and Reporting Period

Country Appears before HRC Working Group in Geneva

UPR Working Group Report is Drafted

Human Rights Council Considers and Adopts Report

Implement + Review

Local: Collect local human rights accounts & analysis
Compile UN UPR reports (Oct. 3)

*We are here

Winter 2020 through Fall 2020

Local: Collect and compile local human rights reports.

Clamor: Educate community members and local officials about UN processes and local conditions.

GLOBAL: UPR Lobbying

“Keep Clamoring!”

“Clamor some more!”

Local: Clamor: Use UPR Report

Educate public and local officials

Winter 2021-Onward

Postponed: Winter 2021?
The Growth of Corporate Influence in Sub-National Political and Legal Institutions Undermines U.S. Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations

Overview of National Stakeholder Report

Key areas where corporate influence affects human rights

• Local democracy
• Affordable housing
• Privatization and right to water
• Militarism and gun violence
• Environment and health
• Racial equity
Other Cities UPR Reports & Action Plans*

- **City of New Orleans** highlights racial discrimination, environmental justice, and housing & economic justice.
- **Racial inequity at the core of human rights challenges in Pittsburgh**
- **Washington DC** cites lack of statehood and voting rights, entrenched inequality, and affordable housing
- **Southern Mayors’ Human Rights Agenda**
- **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** highlights housing, criminal punishment system, immigrant rights and racial inequities
Recommendations:

• Enhance the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Responsible Business Conduct to comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

• Promote and implement national legislation and international mechanisms on corporations, including the Draft treaty to regulate the activities of transnational corporations & other business enterprises.

• Advance/Pass national legislation: “Corporate Human Rights Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Mitigation Act of 2019.”

• Link federal funding to local and municipal policies that ensure and protect residents’ rights to be consulted about economic developments that impact their communities.

• Ensure that cities are provided the resources they need: Shift spending priorities away from militarism and towards greater support for human needs.
Recommendations (Continued):

• Strengthen **U.S. participation in all international human rights treaties** and establish a **national human rights commission** (Paris principles)
  • *Include division to monitor the human rights of people of African descent*

• Ensure **accountability for police violence** against people of African descent: by improving reporting, independent investigations and enforcement

• **Pass H.R. 40** — the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act
Bringing Human Rights Home

Contact us: uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org
Human Rights Resources
Knowledge & Advocacy Tools

• Health is a Human Right!: Click here for resources on how human rights principles and international law relate to today's work to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. Human rights protections can both improve our capacities for managing this crisis while helping prevent future crises like that we're seeing today.

• Human Rights & Covid 19: U.S. Civil Society Briefing to Geneva Missions April 15, 2020

• People Centered Human Rights: May 1st General Strike: Claiming People(s)-Centered Human Rights for the Working Class Ajamu Baraka Black Agenda Report 29 April 2020

• People(s)-Centered Human Rights (PCHR) are those non-oppressive rights that reflect the highest commitment to universal human dignity and social justice that individuals and collectives define and secure for themselves through social struggle.

• From Essential Workers to Essential Needs Recorded Webinar: Partners for Dignity and Rights, (April 30, 2020)

• Human rights organizations in signing this letter to the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, urging her to “ensure that the rights of people who are living in poverty, and of people experiencing homelessness, are explicitly referenced in the draft Human Rights Council resolution on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 crisis.”

• On April 22, 2020, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights issued a statement warning that many States’ responses to COVID-19 have had devastating effects on people living in poverty.

• On March 24, 2020, the Chairpersons of the ten U.N. Treaty Bodies called on States “to adopt measures to protect the rights to life and health, and to ensure access to health care to all who need it, without discrimination.”