Bring Human Rights Home!
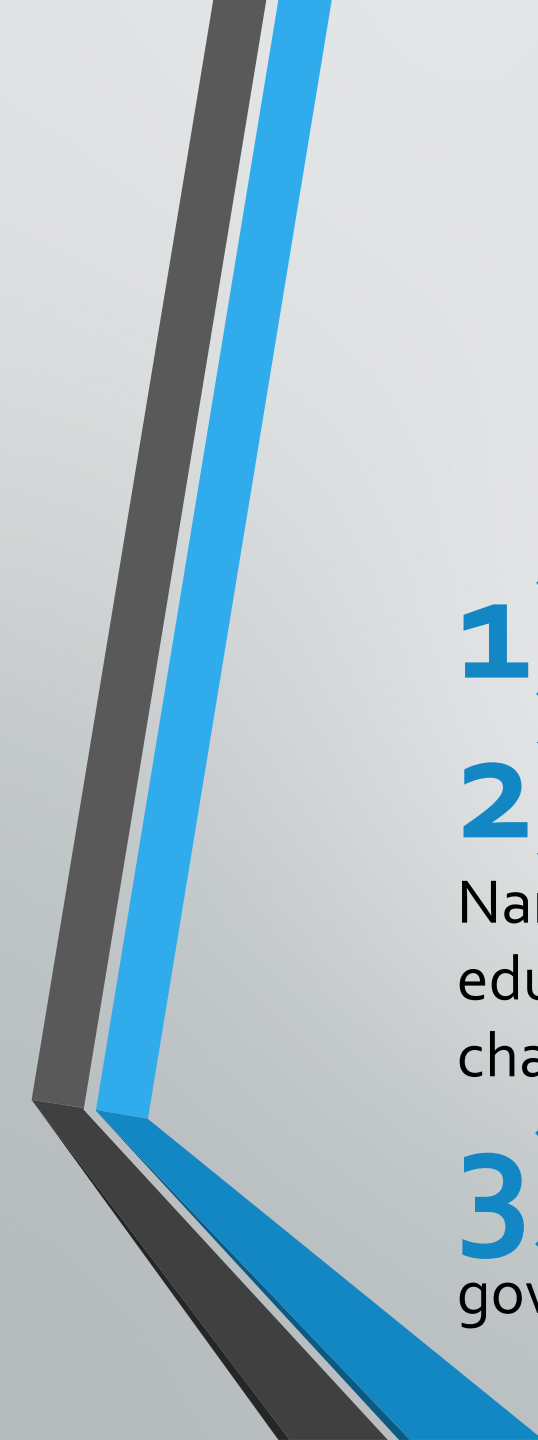
UPR Cities Webinar #3:

Bringing the UPR to your community: Examples from city organizing around the country

US Human Rights Cities Alliance

wiki.humanrightscities.mayfirst.org

Contact us: uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org

UPR Cities USA-"The 3 Cs":
Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

1) Collect local testimony and data about human rights.

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

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

The Right to the City:
Addressing Habitat & Human Rights Links

- **Emphasis on spatial exclusion as barrier to realizing human rights:**
  - Right to the City "[minimizes] social and spatial injustices stemming from the commodification of the city and of its public spaces."

Global Platform for the Right to the City. 2015. "What's the Right to the City? Inputs for the New Urban Agenda."

The Right to the City:
Addressing Habitat & Human Rights Links

- **Shifting political agency & power**:

  "this pillar lessens the relatively high control by capital and state elites over decisions regarding the organization and management of the city and its spaces, and reconfigures urban space, land, and property *in a manner that maximizes use-value for all inhabitants.*

Global Platform for the Right to the City. 2015. "What's the Right to the City? Inputs for the New Urban Agenda."

People-Centered Human Rights*

- Seeks *social transformation* by addressing historical and current **power** inequities

- Starts from the **standpoint of oppressed groups**—Bottom-up, participatory methods

- Human rights result from *social (not just legal) struggle*

  - Rights are not limited to formal laws: they are defined by communities' experiences and needs

*Ajamu Baraka "People-centered" human rights as a framework for social transformation"; US Human Rights Cities Alliance, *Human Rights City Principles*; **"Malcolm X and Human Rights in a Time of Trumpism" Ajamu Baraka*

Step #1: Collect
"It's not just about data"

- Helping residents **know their rights**
  - We're not just "naming and shaming" we're "*framing & claiming*"
  - Build understandings of **intersecting human rights**
- **Acknowledging** residents' experiences as violations of human rights and dignity.
  - Promotes truth-telling, healing and reconciliation
- Building community commitment & international **solidarity**
  - *"Rights to the city"*
- Documentation-**Providing evidence** of where improvements are needed & benchmarks for measuring successes

Step #2: Compile

- 5 page report for national UPR Cities compilation- Due **September 15, 2019**
    - Highlight key human rights concerns in your city/region for national attention
    - Identify both deficits and examples of progress/ best practices
    - Suggest recommendations for changes in policy/ practice at national level or across cities
- Local report –Length, format and ***deadlines are flexible: based on local needs and organizing strategies***
    - Use local reporting to draw public and official attention to international obligations and expectations*
    - Use local process to build coalitions across issue constituencies and to foster greater awareness of intersecting rights
    - Help foster a human rights framework to policy and public that challenges the market "common sense"
    - Use UPR City work to deepen relationships and build on existing projects/struggles

        *Links to UN treaty reviews and past UPR reports are provided in our UPR Slideshow on international mechanisms
        **The Universal Human Rights Index tool (database of past UN treaty reviews and recommendations

Step #3: Clamor

- Organize press conferences/ media strategies and public meetings to help raise local awareness of UPR process and how international human rights work matters to your community

- Use local UPR report to **"name and shame"** persistent problems

- Use local UPR report to **"frame and claim"** rights
  - Emphasis on economic, social, and cultural rights where US has been a global laggard
  - Point to official UN reports* for legitimacy and emphasis of demand for change
    - *Many local governments do not know of their own legal obligations!*

- Help promote human rights education- residents need to know their rights and see international realm as a way to claim these rights

- Create events to promote human rights education and build intersectional coalitions

- Promote a **human rights framework** and challenge the market "common sense"

  - *"Human rights don't trickle down, they RISE UP!"*

  *Links to relevant reports are provided in our UPR Slideshow on international mechanisms

UPR Timeline

- **September 15 2019**-Report due to national UPR Cities team (we'll compile for UN October 3 deadline)

- **Late fall 2019**- US Government to submit its UPR report

- **Winter 2020**- US civil society groups will gather in NYC and Washington DC around the UPR process-Local groups can send delegations/ join remotely

- **Winter 2020**-Local groups can set deadlines for completing local UPR review and promoting public events to raise local awareness of UPR

- **May 2020-** the UN Human Rights Council session for the US UPR

- **September 2020-**The UN Human Rights Council issues its final report to the US government.

- *Fall 2020 & Beyond: Use the UN & Local UPR Reports to **Keep Clamoring for Human Rights!***

Stories and Lessons from UPR Cities

- Washington, DC

- Denver, CO #OVOS, *Our Voices Our Schools*

- Providence, RI

- Pittsburgh, PA

- Chicago, IL

- Other places near you!

Helpful Resources

Collect
- [Sample human rights survey](#)
- [Know your Rights to the City!](#) (Table of key human rights instruments)

Compile
- [Template for Local UPR City/Community Report](#)
- **[Universal Human Rights Index](#)** -database of past UN treaty reviews and recommendations
- [Tips for Preparing a Report to International Human Rights Review Processes](#)

Clamor
- [UPR Timeline 2019-2020+](#)
- [Implementing Recommendations from the UPR](#): Toolkit for HR Commissions

Upcoming UPR Cities Webinars

- *Thursday, August 29*: **Using the UPR Cities Strategy to Fight Racism & Xenophobia** (6pm EST/3PM PST)

To register for upcoming webinars, please send your name, organization (if applicable), and location to: uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org

Webinar recordings are available online on the UPR Cities website

- Webinar #1 Introduction to UPR Cities webinar Recording (36 minutes)

- Webinar #2 Using international mechanisms to Collect, Compile, and Clamor for human rights

All webinars are at 6:00PM EST/3:00PM PST