

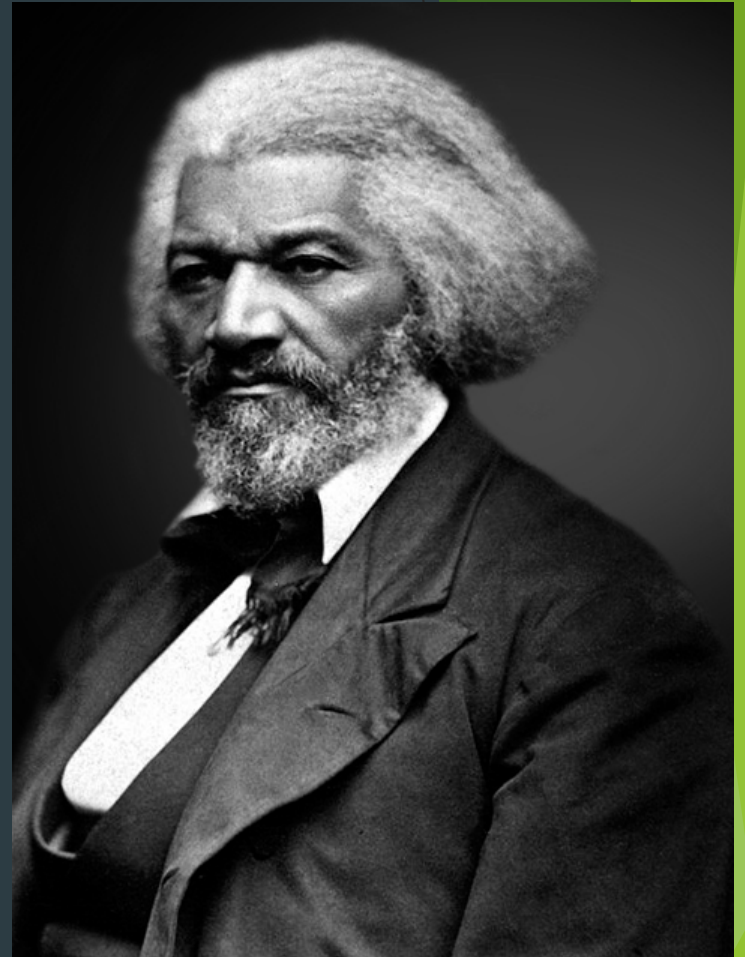
Human Rights Cities Movement

“In order to extend the possible, it is necessary to proclaim and desire the impossible. Action and strategy consist in making possible tomorrow what is impossible today.”

-Henri Lefebvre,
author of *Le Droit à la ville*
(*The Right to the City*)

Power and those in control concede nothing...without a demand. They never have and never will.... Each and every one of us must keep demanding, must keep fighting, must keep thundering, ... must keep on keeping things struggling, must speak out and speak up until justice is served because where there is no justice there is no peace.

—Frederick Douglass





Human rights don't trickle
down... They RISE UP!

Why Human Rights Cities?

“*Cities for Human Rights & Sustainable Development in Los Angeles*” (Video-5:44), Honoring the 70th Anniversary of UDHR, December 10, 2018 #Standup4humanrights

Origins:

Human Rights Movement Challenges

- ▶ Major advances internationally advancing human rights treaties and institutions
- ▶ But little impact on changing the behavior of powerful actors (i.e., governments, corporations)
 - Limited local engagement by municipalities or civil society (in U.S.)
 - Most governments did little to implement treaty obligations at local levels
- ▶ Human rights movement localizes 1990s-2000s

Origins: Emergence of Human Rights Cities

- ▶ **Global South- “Right to the City”**
 - ▶ Slum dwellers and displaced rural residents at the frontlines
 - ▶ [Human Rights Cities: Korogocho, Kenya \(3:28\)-](#)
- ▶ **Europe: Social Europe vs. Market Integration**
 - ▶ [European Charter of Cities for Human Rights](#)
 - ▶ Video [A European Coalition of Local Human Rights Cities in the Making](#), Utrecht, 12-13 December (6 min.)
 - ▶ [Coalition of Cities Against Racism](#)
- ▶ **Human Rights Cities Movement- UN 1993**
 - ▶ Led by [People’s Movement for Human Rights Learning](#)
 - ▶ [Rosario Argentina 1997](#): First Human Rights City
 - ▶ [Washington DC 2008](#): First US Human Rights City

[See: Human Rights City](#) - Wikipedia Site

Human Rights Cities Converge

- ▶ **World Social Forums (2001-2005)** provided spaces where different regions and movements converged. Networks converged around calls for the “**Right to the City**” and shared ideas & Strategies.

Growth of Human Rights Cities

North America

Edmonton, AB, Canada (2003)

Winnipeg, MB, Canada (2003)

United States

Washington D.C. (2008)

Carrboro, NC (2009)

Chapel Hill, NC (2009)

Richmond, CA (2009)

Eugene, OR (2011)

Boston, MA (2011)

Pittsburgh, PA (2011)

Seattle, WA (2012)

Jackson, MS (2014)

Edina, MN (2016)

Mountain View, CA (2016)

Source: [Wikipedia](#) (Page in progress: Data are incomplete-Please help us build this page!)

Regional Networks & Movement-Building

- ▶ World Forum of Human Rights Cities* (South Korea, since 2011)
 - ▶ Michael Scott at the 7th Gwangju World HR Cities...
 - ▶ US HRCA SC member Joshua Cooper on global Steering Committee
- ▶ Global Platform on the Right to the City Based in Brazil, promotes implementation of the Right to the City from the perspective of each region and context. Aided preparation for UN Habitat and related global conferences, bringing an urban-based rights perspective to these.
- ▶ Indonesia: FIHRRST: Association for International Human Rights Reporting Standards: An international Association dedicated to the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights. Works to develop and promote standards by which adherence to human rights principles can be demonstrated.
- ▶ Human Rights Cities Network*-(Europe) an online platform promoting the development of human rights in Europe and beyond. It aims to help make human rights a reality for every citizen - and in every city - within the European Union. It also fosters participatory democracy and social justice, by leaving no one behind.
- ▶ Human Rights Cities Project* Raul Wallenberg Foundation, Sweden
- ▶ US Human Rights Cities Alliance*

*US Human Rights Cities Alliance network connection is present

Regional Networks & Movement-Building

US National Human Rights Cities Alliance

- ▶ 2015 Pittsburgh PA Human Rights Cities “Making the Global Local” Convening (pre-history)
- ▶ 2016 Washington DC Human Rights Cities Convening- Formation of National Human Rights Cities Alliance & Steering Committee
- ▶ 2018 (July) Washington DC Human Rights City Workshop
- ▶ 2018 (November) Greenville SC Human Rights City Workshop
- ▶ 2019 (April) Atlanta Workshop
- ▶ *???? Are YOU the Next Host City?*

Human Rights Cities: Examples

- ▶ Washington, DC
- ▶ Pittsburgh (www.pghrights.org)
- ▶ Seattle
- ▶ Chicago
- ▶ Hawaii

What are we learning about building human rights cities?

- ▶ Supporting and convening spaces for intersectional cooperation
- ▶ Promoting human rights learning
- ▶ Building human rights constituencies—across sectors and local—global
- ▶ Cultivating political and legal imagination—*making the impossible possible*
- ▶ Creative institution-building and collaboration with governmental allies

Selected video links

- ▶ [York: City of Human Rights - \(2017 2:20\)](#). York was the first UK Human Rights City, and it is modeling a strategy for measuring its impact. [In this article you'll find a summary of its assessment efforts](#) and links to its 2016 baseline and follow-up study in 2017.
- ▶ [“Cities for Human Rights & Sustainable Development in Los Angeles” \(5:44\)](#) University of Southern California Program honoring December 10, 2018 70th Anniversary of UDHR, #Standup4humanrights.
- ▶ [“Human Rights Cities of the World” \(45 min. documentary\)](#): Links to 2 clips-[Human Rights Cities: Korogocho, Kenya \(3:28\)](#)- Residents in this urban slum in Kenya have organized to designate their place a “human rights city” as a way to demand their rights and dignity in the city. [Rosario Argentina](#) 1997: First Human Rights City.
- ▶ [Human Rights Cities - Paths To Peace](#) - Twenty-one cities around the world, including Rosario, Argentina; Graz, Austria; and Korogocho, Kenya, have made a commitment to run all social, political, economic and cultural aspects of city life according to human rights. The film documents the process in Thies, Senegal (Tostan), and in Washington, D.C. (AFSC & PDHRE). 2013 (3:21)
- ▶ [A rights-based approach to urban development - Urban Jonsson](#) Executive Director of Democracy NGO, *The Owls*, and former regional director of UNICEF, in this lecture outlines a human rights based approach to sustainable urban development. Starting from the basic premise that ‘all humans are born good’, he discusses how this applies to the ongoing global efforts to achieve a sustainable urban future. (8:49)
- ▶ [“Two Worlds, One City” \(3:14\)](#) Global Platform For The Right To The City | [#SupportRight2City](#) - (Campaign video for Habitat III conference, 2016)
- ▶ [Human Rights Cities of the World - Gernot Lercher Dokumentarfilmer \[www.gernotlercher.at/?film=human-rights-cities-of-the-world&lang=en\]\(http://www.gernotlercher.at/?film=human-rights-cities-of-the-world&lang=en\)](#)
- ▶ [Edmonton's experience as a Human Rights City](#) -(18 Min., 2011): Story of Edmonton, Canada and the role of a lead organization, the John Humphries Center, in the Edmonton’s Human Rights City initiative. This was the first Human Rights City in North America. It outlines the structure of their youth training and education programs and anti-hate crimes project.
- ▶ [“Human Rights Cities Network in Europe: Challenges & Opportunities”](#) [Frédérique Hanotier](#), part of a symposium on *“Cities, territories and the struggles for human rights”* University of Padova 26-27 Nov. 2018. Hanotier reports on her work to develop a network of Human Rights Cities in Europe, along with a website ([Human Rights Cities Network](#)) to promote learning and strategies across Human Rights Cities. (34:39)
- ▶ [“A Framework for building human rights cities in Turkey,”](#) [Aysel Madra](#), part of a symposium on *“Cities, territories and the struggles for human rights”* University of Padova 26-27 Nov. 2018 (29:17)
- ▶ [Boston Human Rights City Initiative](#) - (one hour—presentation by class of diverse students at Boston University who have done research on human rights cities and models for introducing human rights in local contexts (2018).

Further Reading

- ▶ “Human Rights Cities”, by Barbara Oomen & Moritz Baumgärtel in: *The Sage Handbook of Human Rights*, edited by A. Mihr and M. Gibney, (2014).
- ▶ “Towards a Decentralization of Human Rights: the Rise of Human Rights Cities,” by Esther van den Berg and Barbara Oomen. In: *The Future of Human Rights in an Urban World: Exploring Opportunities, Threats and Challenges* (Amnesty International Netherlands 2014 (p. 11-16)
- ▶ “Responding to Globalization and Urban Conflict: Human Rights City Initiatives” by Jackie Smith, In *Studies in Social Justice* (2017)

Human Rights Cities Alliance

wiki.humanrightscities.mayfirst.org