

# Bringing Human Rights Home

*Protecting People &  
Advancing Dignity Economies  
Human Rights Responses to COVID-19*

UPR Cities Webinar Monday May 11, 2020

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

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# Universal Periodic Review

## UPR Cities Project

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](#)

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## 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



**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!"*

**Local: Clamor:** Use UPR Report to Educate public and local officials

*Winter 2021-Onward*

*"Clamor some more!"*



*Postponed: Winter 2021?*

# US Human Rights Cities Alliance Report to the United Nations UPR

## *The Growth of Corporate Influence in Sub-National Political and Legal Institutions Undermines U.S. Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations*

Report summary: [Corporate Influence Threatens Human Rights in Communities Nationwide](#) National network of cities files report to UN Human Rights body on corporate power and local human rights challenges. [Common Dreams](#) October 28, 2019.

# 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

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Contact us: [uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org](mailto: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 Resources

## Knowledge & Advocacy Tools *(continued)*

- [Universal Periodic Review Task Force - Letter to the U.S. State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Rights](#) on U.S. human rights obligations and [important guidance](#) from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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.”](#)