

Bringing Human Rights Home

How Local Communities are Mobilizing Around the International Review of the US Human Rights Record

November 19, 2019

Website: http://wiki.humanrightscities.mayfirst.org/index.php?title=UPR_Cities_Project

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Universal Periodic Review

The next UPR of the United States:
April 2019 through September 2020
UPR Cities Project

Organizers in cities across the United States will mobilize local consultations to assess the state of human rights in their communities. They will identify both achievements and pitfalls & generate and promote recommendations for strengthening human rights protections in the United States, ***working at both local and national levels.***

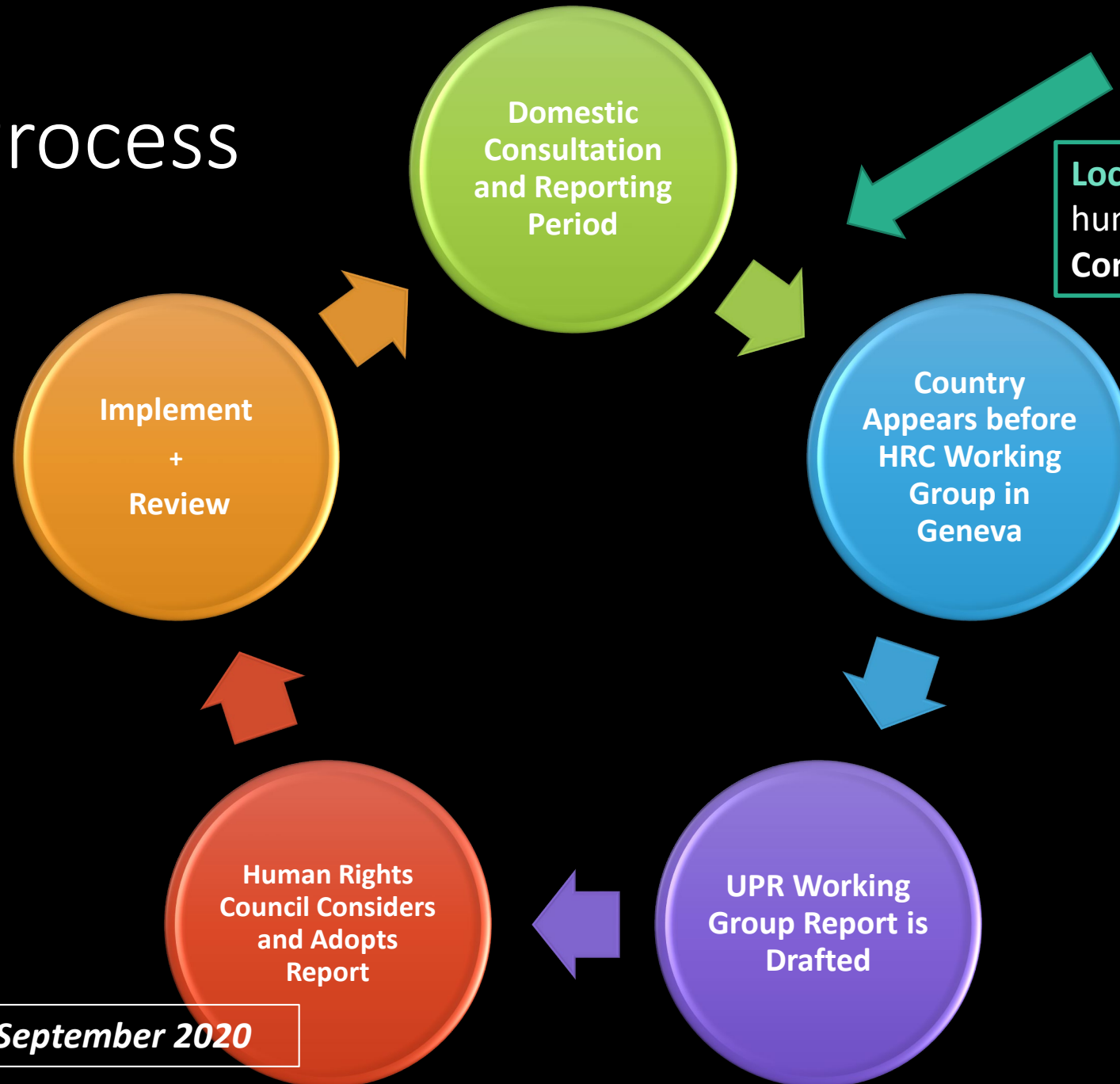
UPR Cities USA–“The 3 Cs”: Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

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



***We are here**

Local: Collect evidence on human rights for UPR process
Compile UN UPR reports (Oct. 3)

Winter 2020 through Fall 2020

Local:
Collect and compile local human rights report.

Clamor: Educate public and local officials about UN processes and local conditions.

UPR Lobby Days

Local: Clamor: Educate public and local officials about UN UPR report and local implications.

Fall 2020-Onward

September 2020

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

- [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*
- [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

NEXT STEPS: After the UPR Submission

- *Compiling local reports*
- *Identifying local recommendations*
- *Raise Consciousness & Clamor!*

Reports from Human Rights Cities

- Jackson
- New Orleans
- Washington DC
- Pittsburgh

UPR Cities USA–“The 3 Cs”: Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

Clamor!

- **Host forums** to discuss local and national UPR reports and recommendations
- **Press conference/public events** to share national and local UPR reviews
- **Share UPR /local report** with public officials, media, and community leaders
- Send a **delegate to UPR lobby days** or email and phone lobbies
 - [Washington DC, NYC](#) (Jan. 30-31, February 27-28) ; Geneva (TBD)
 - [Mobilize donations here](#)
- **Strategize locally about implementing** local & national recommendations from the UPR Cities process

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Contact us: uprcities@humanrightscities.mayfirst.org