

Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit 2023

May 18-21, Atlanta, GA

Co-hosts/co-sponsors: The Human Rights Cities Alliance, Southern Center for Human Rights, Southern Poverty Law Center, Organization for Human Rights and Democracy, American Friends Service Committee-South Region, Ronald J. Freeman Chapter of the Black Law Students Association at Georgia State University College of Law, University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Center

Full Program, Descriptions & Speakers/Facilitators

*Plenary sessions will be [streamed and recorded at this link.](#)

Program At-A-Glance

Time	Event
Thurs. May 18	
6:30-8:00 PM	Atlanta Listening Session for the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent with Professor Justin Hansford, Member of PFPAD (Invitation only/limited space)
8:00-9:30 PM	Reception (by invitation)
Friday May 19	
8:30 AM	Arrival & Registration
9:00-10:15 AM	Opening Plenary: Welcome from Atlanta Hosts & Overview: Human Rights Cities as tools for tackling today's urban crises & advancing reparatory justice
10:15-10:30 AM	Break
10:30-12:00	Plenary 2: Reparatory Justice: The Necessary Foundation for Human Rights Cities & Communities
12:00	Lunch
1:15-2:30 PM	Breakout Session #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start a Human Rights City near you ● Racial & Environmental Justice/SDGs ● Cop City/ Police Militarization ● Human Rights Commissions Caucus ● <i>Push</i> (Film)
2:45-4:00 PM	Plenary 3: Housing and the Right to the City Featured panelist: <i>Leilani Farha</i>
4:15-5:30 PM	Breakout Session #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Rights Budgeting ● Human Rights Organizing in the U.S. South

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Housing • Social Media Campaigns for Social Good
6:00	Cultural event: Film Screening & Panel, <u>"Beneath The Skyline: City at a Crossroads"</u> (58 min./ film on how "green" development in Atlanta is being used as a tool for displacement, or "green gentrification")
Saturday May 20	
9:00 AM	Breakfast & Networking space
10:00 AM-11:15 AM	<u>Plenary 4: Spotlight on Community Safety and Militarization of Police</u> Featured panelist: <i>Justin Hansford</i>
11:30-12:45	Breakout Session #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Treaties & Local Human Rights • Human Rights & Urban Governance • Coalitions for Health & Human Rights • Intergenerational Dialogue
12:45-14:45	Lunch
2:00-3:30	<u>Plenary 5: Human Rights Tools for Change-Human Rights and Alternative Futures for our Cities</u>
3:45-5:00 PM	Breakout Session #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We Need a U.S. Human Rights Institution • Universities, Human Rights & Cities • Restoration, Healing, & Self Care • Social Movement Lawyering • Reproductive justice
6:00	Diaspora of Dance -Music, Culture and Movement Facilitated by Anana Harris Parris, <u>The Self Care Agency</u>
Sunday May 21	
9:00 - 12:00 PM	Service & Community Celebration & Commitments & Accountability/ follow-through- Ebenezer Baptist Church & King Center & National Historic Site

Plenary Session Descriptions

<p>Friday 9:00-10:15 AM</p>	<p><u>Opening Plenary: Welcome from Atlanta Hosts & Overview: Human Rights Cities as Tools for Tackling Today's Urban Crises & Advancing Reparatory Justice</u> Facilitators: Yolande Tomlinson (Organization for Human Rights & Democracy) & Tiffany Williams Roberts (Southern Center for Human Rights) Speakers: Featured short Film: <u>De-Escalate The story of an intense protest on an Atlanta interstate</u> (18 min.) on the 2020 confrontation between police and protesters after Rayshard Brooks, a black driver was killed by a white Atlanta police officer in June 2020-The film was shown during the Summit's plenary.</p>
<p>Friday 10:30-12:00</p>	<p><u>Plenary 2: Reparatory Justice: A Necessary Foundation for Human Rights Cities & Communities?</u> <i>What are different visions of reparations and how they can help re-constitute our communities?</i> Moderator: Molefi Askari (Ubuntu Institute; Spartanburg, SC) Plenary Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thalia González, UC Law/Hastings; San Francisco Truth, Justice & Reconciliation Commission; • Efia Nwangaza, National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America Litigation Committee; • Anana Parris, The Self-Care Agency; SisterCARE Alliance, Atlanta GA; • Reginald Muhammad, Clark Atlanta Univ; Co-founder and Director of the National Reparations Institute, Atlanta GA; • Akinyele Umoja, Georgia State Univ, Atlanta GA.
<p>Friday 2:45-4:00 PM</p>	<p><u>Plenary 3: Housing and the Right to the City</u> Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Adequate Housing & Global Director of <u>The Shift</u>, a global housing rights organization she launched with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Cities and Local Governments, will highlight key lessons from her work to understand and shape government responses to the global housing crisis. She will share current work of The Shift, which works to help build capacities of advocates and government leaders to advance housing as a human right in national and local policies. Highlighting <u>The Shift Directives</u>, the first-ever comprehensive framework providing governments and investors with guidance to effectively address the financialization of housing in accordance with human rights law, she shows how cities can confront global forces like financialization that are driving the affordable housing crisis. Panelists include Atlanta and national advocates sharing their work and offering reflections on Farha's presentation. Featured panelist: Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing and Global Director, <u>The Shift-#Right2Housing</u> Plenary panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison Johnson, Executive Director, Housing Justice League • Liliana Bakhtiari, Atlanta City Council member • Eric Tars, Legal Director, National Homelessness Law Center
<p>Saturday 10:00 AM-11:15 AM</p>	<p><u>Plenary 4: Spotlight on Community Safety and Militarization of Police</u> The militarization of local police forces is part of a long-term development impacting cities and communities across the country, with especially harmful effects on people of African descent and other historically oppressed groups. This panel brings together local and national advocates and global human rights experts to discuss the</p>

	<p>experiences of those victimized by over-policing and police brutality, the multi-dimensional costs of militarized approaches to public safety, and how human rights can offer both new analyses and strategies for advancing transformative change.</p> <p>Featured panelist: Justin Hansford, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University</p> <p>Plenary Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brendan Roediger, Professor of Law, St. Louis University School of Law; ● Azadeh Shahshahani, Legal & Advocacy Director, Project South; ● Lewis Webb, Jr., U.S. Peacebuilding Director, American Friends Service Committee
2:00-3:30	<p>Plenary 5: Human Rights Tools for Change-Human Rights and Alternative Futures for our Cities</p> <p>This panel provides a comparative, cross-cities approach to explore what’s grounding human rights in this COVID-19 dystopian moment. Focusing on Atlanta, the “Black Mecca”, Chicago and DC, we will explore alternative models, practices, and systems of finance, governance, community development and ecological transformation to combat growing attacks on all our human rights. We consider how individuals, communities, and municipal governments can help advance pathways to these futures.</p> <p>Plenary Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renee Hatcher, UIC John Marshall Law School; ● Yolande Tomlinson, Organization for Human Rights and Democracy; ● Julian Hill, GSU School of Law; ● Jill Catwright, Hive Fund & MAMA Fund, Mike Strode, Kola Nut Collaborative; ● Nikishka Igenyar, The Guild

Breakout Session Descriptions

Breakout sessions provide interactive opportunities to discuss specific issues and themes, and will be facilitated by representatives and partners of the Human Rights Cities Alliance (HRCA).

***Spaces led, co-facilitated by or centering student and/or youth voices are shaded in blue.*

#	Description
1A	<p>How to start a Human Rights City near you This session features organizers from the U.S.-Canada Human Rights Cities Alliance and other human rights city leaders from around the world who will share resources and models for how communities and municipal/ local authorities can be part of this growing global movement and incorporate global human rights laws and principles in local governance and culture.</p> <p>Speakers: Paul Gready, Co-Director, Centre for Applied Human Rights, York University & UNESCO Chair, Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Expansion of Political Space, also leads Art Rights Truth - Can the Arts Save Human Rights?; Mary E. Tyler, Mary E. Tyler Consulting LLC, Dayton Human Rights City Initiative; Facilitator: Molefi Askari (Spartanburg SC) & Jackie Smith (Pittsburgh PA)</p>
1B	<p>Building climate resilience: Human rights, racial justice & the Sustainable Development Goals Our changing climate poses urgent threats to cities, and it will be up to cities to do the hard work of shifting away from fossil fuels and addressing the impacts of climate change on people and communities. How have and how can cities continue to embed human rights principles and advance racial justice in the context of climate action? The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out concrete targets and metrics that can assess local policies regarding climate resilience, and they resonate with human rights norms. Learn how the SDGs are being used in some communities to help build support for human rights-oriented policies and to build cooperation between local governments, universities, and advocacy groups. We highlight the cross-cutting dimensions of human rights and racial justice that remain implicit in the existing framework and consider how local movements and actions on the ground can benefit from engaging with global review processes such as through voluntary local reviews for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and locally determined contributions for the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>Speakers: Various city and local representatives working on the development of voluntary local reviews (VLRs) - Lessons from Los Angeles, Maui, Hawaii and Atlanta (students, scholars, public servants, and community strategists) Facilitators: Joshua Cooper (Honolulu HI) & Gaea Morales (Los Angeles CA)</p>
1C	<p>Cop city: Coming to a city near you? Human rights & militarization of police Struggles in Atlanta over the development of “Cop City” reflect a wider trend of growing militarization of local police forces and the expansion of the military and prison industrial complexes. Cop City projects are either underway or likely in other places, and this session will offer insights and analyses from activists in Atlanta and other cities about how to build more robust, intersectional coalitions to protect human rights and promote alternative models of community safety and care.</p>

	<p>Speakers: Kamau Franklin, Community Movement Builders; Devin Franklin, Movement Policy Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights; John Lindsay-Poland, Co-Director, California Healing, American Friends Service Committee (Oakland CA); GSU BLSA & Howard Thurgood Marshall Center student leaders</p> <p>Facilitator: Lisa Borden, Southern Poverty Law Center</p>
1D	<p>Human Rights & Urban Politics: Human Rights/Human Relations Commissions How can human rights cities initiatives build upon and support the work of local and state Human Rights/Human Relations Commissions? What models of cooperation exist? Session speakers will share about work to build collaboration between community activists and HRCs as well as how HRCs can help support and build capacity for community activism.</p> <p>Speakers: Various cities Human Rights/Human Relations Commission leaders & advocates Facilitator: Michael Goodhart (Pittsburgh PA)</p>
1E	<p>FILM: Using human rights to take on corporate landlords—PUSH— the documentary film on the financialization of housing, features Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Housing and her work to advance housing as a human right and rein in harmful corporate practices.</p> <p>Facilitators: Jackie Smith (Pittsburgh PA) & GSU Tech NOTE: The film will start during lunch break at 12:45PM.</p>
Breakout Session 2	
2A	<p>Human Rights Budgeting A government’s budget is the most important economic policy and planning document, and is an essential means for assessing the realization of human rights. In 2017, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published guidelines on human rights budgeting, and in 2019 the Scottish Human Rights Commission published a series of Briefing Papers, “Human Rights Budget Work: What, Why and How?” In other cities, activists are organizing to promote fairer taxation as a way to expand public resources available for basic needs such as affordable housing, education, and climate resilience. A panel of leaders will share experiences in helping reframe budgets to center resident needs and better reflect human rights values.</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Alison Hosie, Research Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission; Nthando Thandiwe, Pittsburgh Budget and Policy Center; Trixie Maybituin, University of Manitoba Facilitators: Jackie Smith (Pittsburgh PA) and Anthony Chase (Los Angeles CA)</p>
2B	<p>Human rights organizing in the U.S. South today What particular challenges do local policy makers, activists, and educators face in the U.S. south today? Can cross-city networks and ties to national and global human rights movements support work to defend the rights of vulnerable groups and confront deepening racial and economic divides? How? Panel will offer analyses of the current political context, models for transformative interventions, and ideas for cross-city/community organizing.</p> <p>Facilitators: Tina Kempin-Reuter, Director, Institute for Human Rights, University of Alabama-Birmingham; Daniela Rodriguez, Executive Director, Migrant Equity Southeast</p>

2C	<p>Models for advancing the right to housing in your city This session highlights examples of how activists are advancing the human right to housing through innovative strategies for empowering tenants and communities and for advancing alternatives to market-driven housing policies.</p> <p>Speakers: Tanya Washington, Housing Justice League/Atlanta; Jim Dunn, Director, Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative (CHEC); Randall Taylor, Pittsburgh Penn Plaza Support & Action Coalition & Hill District Consensus Group Facilitator: Jacob Flowers, American Friends Service Committee-South Region</p>
2D	<p>Youth/Student Space: Social Media Campaigns for Social Good Speakers: Keimani Harvey, GSU BLSA President; Shaq Al-Hijaz, Howard University Law School Facilitator: Branden Peters</p>
<p>Breakout Session 3</p>	
3A	<p>Using UN Treaty Reviews to Improve Local Human Rights Compliance A key activity of human rights cities is monitoring local level human rights conditions as a way to help improve policies and practices. The United Nations and other international organizations engage in similar work to assess government compliance with regional and global human rights commitments, and these institutions provide opportunities for local activists and governments to assess their performance in carrying out international expectations regarding human rights. Learn how city-based coalitions can develop “shadow reports” as part of formal national treaty reviews like the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and others. We’ll also discuss how human rights advocates can help support and amplify the work of the new UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD)</p> <p>Speakers: Juilee Shivalkar, Project South; Lisa Borden, Southern Poverty Law Center; Joshua Cooper, Human Rights Cities Alliance & Maui Mayor’s Office of Innovation & Sustainability Facilitator: Jackie Smith, Human Rights Cities Alliance</p>
3B	<p>Human Rights & Urban Politics: Working across branches and jurisdictions of government Human rights cities initiatives work to promote both cities’/ communities’ <u>commitments</u> to human rights and their capacities to effectively <u>enforce</u> those commitments. This work involves both city/county councils and executive branches of local government. And often cities lack the jurisdiction they need to protect the rights of residents. In today’s context of deep polarization and exclusionary politics, what lessons can we learn from existing human rights city initiatives, and how can cross-city organizing help strengthen work to realize human rights in local communities?</p> <p>Speakers: Brian Nunez, Southern Poverty Law Center; Amanda Richer, human rights advocate and consultant, Seattle; Johanna Sjewell, Raoul Wallenberg Institute; Facilitator: Michael Goodhart, University of Pittsburgh</p>
3C	<p>Building Intersectional Coalitions for Health in our Cities As the World Health Organization observed “throughout history, most of the world’s cities have been planned... primarily for commerce and cars. Cities can and should be planned for people</p>

	<p>in order to optimize the health of their residents.” The right to health depends upon protections of so many other rights—including the right to housing, food, clean air, and habitable communities. How can a focus on health help build an intersectional politics that can more effectively confront the realities of climate change and related urban challenges?</p> <p>Speakers: Brynaiza Young, Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition & Level Up Campaign, Dr. Noble Maseru, School of Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh Black Equity Coalition; Jim Dunn, Director of McMaster Institute for Healthier Environments, Senator William McMaster Chair in Urban Health Equity</p> <p>Facilitator: Jovan Julien, Organization for Human Rights & Democracy</p>
<p>3D</p>	<p>Intergenerational Dialogue</p> <p>This session brings together a panel of elders and youth leaders to explore lessons from our work at this Summit, obstacles to effective inter-generational communication and cooperation, and strategies for improving work to transfer knowledge across generations and build youth leadership.</p> <p>Speakers: Student leaders from Oxy, Dayton, Pitt, GSU, Howard</p> <p>Facilitators: Yolande Tomlinson, Organization for Human Rights and Democracy; Tiffany Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights</p>
<p>Breakout Session 4</p>	
<p>4A</p>	<p>How a national human rights institution (NHRI) can help fight discrimination and strengthen human rights protections in cities- The United States is among the only democratic states yet to follow international commitments and guidelines calling for the creation of a national institution to coordinate and guide human rights implementation. Allies, UN member peers, and UN expert panels have repeatedly called on the U.S. government to create an NHRI, as has a growing chorus of civil society organizations. There are new possibilities to make progress toward this important goal under the Biden administration. Learn how an NHRI would help state and local governments advance human rights at home. Resources-Building Support for a U.S. Human Rights Institution</p> <p>Speakers: Lisa Borden, Southern Poverty Law Center; Jamil Dakwar, American Civil Liberties Union</p>
<p>4B</p>	<p>University roles & resources for advancing human rights in cities & beyond</p> <p>Virtually every model of active human rights cities involves leadership and engagement by academic workers—often with limited institutional support. Yet, universities are major drivers of urban growth that threatens environmental sustainability and contributes to displacement and housing insecurity. This panel explores the need to mobilize universities around human rights city initiatives and other work to support human rights institutions and to improve the accountability of universities to human rights.</p> <p>Facilitator: Joel Pruce (Dayton OH)</p>
<p>4C</p>	<p>Restoration, Healing, Strategic Self Care & Justice When Addressing Human Rights</p> <p>The impact of trauma on the body and mind is well documented as is the impact of repeat trauma. This session will explore methods of restoration, healing, strategic self and justice when addressing human rights violations and issues. How do we get the most potent impact on efforts made individually and collectively to address human rights violations when the very advocates accepting the task are not only negatively impacted but also potentially negatively impacting the work by the sheer neglect of their own critical needs? Panelists will share methods, strategies and resources available to help human rights advocates better restore, heal, be strategic in their own care and more effectively fight for justice when addressing,</p>

	<p>organizing and facing the unforgiving brutality of human rights violations. We will also discuss, what would it look like if we integrated healing, self-care and strategy into justice and human rights advocacy.</p> <p>Facilitator: Anana Harris Parris, The Self Care Agency Panelists: Dr. Sharnell Myles, Vice President at Embark Behavioral Health, Georgia and Founder of Social Justice Cafe for Girl Anti-Human Trafficking Program, Toni Roberts, President Atlanta Bar Association and Anti-Domestic Violence Advocate</p>
<p>4D</p>	<p>Social Movement Lawyering & Skills-Building for Human Rights Work What can students learn today to equip them for human rights movement lawyering tomorrow? Speakers: Keimani Harvey, GSU BLSA President; Shaq Al-Hijaz, Howard University Law School; Aklima Khondoker, The Carter Center Facilitator: Tiffany Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights</p>
<p>4E</p>	<p>Reproductive Justice Now! Session will focus on the current RJ landscape, the work at the local, regional, national, and international levels, and the vision for achieving reproductive justice now. Speakers: Krystal Redman, Spark Reproductive Justice Now!, Jalessah Jackson, Access Reproductive Care-Southeast; Khye Tyson, Kuluntu Reproductive Justice Center & Organization for Human Rights and Democracy; Brynaiza Young, Black Women’s Policy Center; Chartisia Griffin, Barred Business Facilitator: Danielle Rodriguez, Sistersong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective</p>

Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit 2023 Speaker & Facilitator Bios

Shaq Al-Hijaz

Howard University Law School

Molefi Askari

Spartanburg SC & Human Rights Cities Alliance-HRCA

Liliana Bakhtiari

Atlanta City Council member



Lisa Borden

Senior Policy Counsel, Southern Poverty Law Center

Lisa Borden is the Southern Poverty Law Center's senior policy counsel for international advocacy. She oversees the SPLC's work to advance U.S. implementation of its obligations under international human rights law in the SPLC's impact areas of decarceration, protecting voting rights and civic engagement, eradicating poverty, and dismantling white nationalism and supremacy. Borden is a civil and human rights lawyer with more than 30 years of experience. Before joining the SPLC, she developed and led an award-winning pro bono practice at a large U.S. law firm, where her practice included representation of death row prisoners in post-conviction litigation, prison conditions litigation and representation of people experiencing homelessness or poverty. She also worked extensively in international human rights, advocating for human rights treaty implementation, in areas including the death penalty, violence against women, racism, and the rights of people with disabilities, before U.N. human rights bodies in Geneva. Earlier, she practiced business and employment law litigation.

Borden is a graduate of the Emory University School of Law and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

Jill Catwright

Hive Fund & Metro Atlanta Mutual Aid (MAMA) Fund

Anthony Tirado Chase



Anthony Tirado Chase is on the steering committee of the Human Rights Cities Alliance and a professor at Occidental College and chair of its Young Initiative on the Global Political Economy. Chase has published widely on human rights in the Middle East and globally. His more recent work has focused on city-level action, especially in projects with the L.A. Mayor's office on translating global norms – from human rights, the Sustainable Development Goals, and transitional justice – into local policy. In particular, he has led work on how to conceptualize Truth and Accountability processes around racial injustice both locally in Los Angeles and across the United States, learning from models of

such Truth processes from around the world (most especially from his second country of citizenship, Colombia).



Joshua Cooper

[Human Rights Cities Alliance](#) & Maui Mayor’s Office of Innovation & Sustainability

Joshua Cooper is an academic, advocate, author, analyst and activist based in Hawaii. He has created, crafted and coordinated courses in Political Science, Journalism and Peace Studies at the University of Hawaii and also offers impactful instruction for the University of New South Wales Diplomacy Training Program covering International Human Rights Law. Cooper is a human rights advocate engaging in global and regional mechanisms guaranteeing fundamental freedoms. Cooper has participated as an official observer at United Nations meetings in both the charter and treaty bodies of the human rights machinery for over two decades. Cooper is active in the development and climate change advocacy. Cooper attends the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences of Parties since Copenhagen through Paris including current Talanoa initiatives. Cooper participated in the negotiations from the Rio+20 Summit to the adoption at the UN General Assembly of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Cooper advises Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in the UN Voluntary National Reviews for the High Level Political Forum and is mobilizing subnational initiatives such as Voluntary Local Reviews spearheaded by cities.



Jamil Dakwar

Director, Human Rights Program, ACLU

Jamil Dakwar is an international human rights lawyer and expert. He is currently the director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Human Rights Program. He serves as the ACLU’s main representative to the United Nations and leads the ACLU’s advocacy before other regional and international bodies, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Jamil was one of ACLU’s first legal observers to the military commission system at Guantanamo Bay in 2004. In 2020, he was appointed as a member of the New York State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Prior to joining the ACLU in 2004, Jamil worked at Human Rights Watch and before coming to the United States, he was a senior attorney with Adalah (Justice), a leading Palestinian human rights group in Israel. Jamil is adjunct professor at Hunter College and New York University.



Jim Dunn

Director of McMaster Institute for Healthier Environments, Senator William McMaster Chair in Urban Health Equity (Hamilton, Ontario)

Jim Dunn is Director of [Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative](#) (CHEC), which works to accelerate evidence-based solutions that advance [Canada’s National Housing Strategy](#) to ensure every Canadian has “housing that meets their needs and that they can afford”. He studies living communities as they undergo transformations, and explores how built environments affect the mental and physical health in neighbourhoods and communities. His current work focuses on how public policies can support and foster healthy communities. Dunn partners with many community organizations and government departments in Hamilton, Toronto and elsewhere.



Leilani Farha
Global Director, The Shift

Leilani is the Global Director of The Shift, an international movement to secure the right to housing, and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing (2014-2020). The Shift was launched in 2017 with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Cities and Local Government. It works with multi-level stakeholders around the world, including with several city governments in North America and Europe. Leilani's work is animated by the principle that housing is a social good, not a commodity. She has helped develop global human rights standards on the right to housing, including through her topical reports on homelessness, the financialization of housing, informal settlements, rights-based housing strategies, and the first UN Guidelines for the implementation of the right to housing. She is the central character in the award-winning documentary PUSH regarding the financialization of housing, directed by the Swedish filmmaker Fredrik Gertten. PUSH is screening around the world and, to continue its momentum, Leilani and Fredrik now co-host a podcast – PUSHBACK Talks - about finance, housing, and human rights.



Jacob Flowers
American Friends Service Committee-South Region

Jacob is a native of Memphis where he served for 10 years as the executive director of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, a southern multi-issue organization dedicated to building power and furthering peace with justice through organizing and grassroots leadership development. He served as the Tennessee state director for Enroll America, a national organization working to engage the community in affordable health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. He is now based in Atlanta, Georgia, and works with AFSC as the regional director for the U.S. South.



W. Devin Franklin
Movement Policy Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights

A former Fulton County (Atlanta) Public Defender, W. Devin Franklin has over a decade's worth of experience of advocacy and behalf of indigent people at the intersection of policing and prosecution in Metro Atlanta. He has transitioned from litigation to his current role as Movement Policy Counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights where he assists in the the development and implementation of non-carceral policies within existing legal systems. Additionally, he also engages in base-building, community education and coalition work alongside with grass-root and grass-top organizations in public doing work around policing, incarceration, alternatives to sentencing and judicial processes.



Kamau Franklin
Founder, Community Movement Builders

Kamau Franklin is the founder of Community Movement Builders, Inc. Kamau has been a dedicated community organizer for over thirty years, beginning in New York City and now based in Atlanta. For 18 of those years, Kamau was a leading member of a national grassroots organization dedicated to the ideas of self-determination and the teachings of Malcolm X. He has spearheaded organizing work in various areas including youth organizing and development, police misconduct, and the development of sustainable urban communities. Kamau has coordinated and led community cop-watch programs,

liberation/freedom schools for youth, electoral and policy campaigns, large-scale community gardens, organizing collectives and alternatives to incarceration programs. Kamau was an attorney for ten years in New York with his own practice in criminal, civil rights and transactional law. He now lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife and two children.

Thalia González

UC Law/Hastings; San Francisco Truth, Justice & Reconciliation Commission

Thalia González is a Professor of Law and holds a Harry & Lillian Hastings Research Chair. Professor González writes and teaches in the areas of restorative justice, race and the law, critical race theory, health justice and public health, education law and policy, human rights, norm theory, juvenile justice, and community legal practice. She is a nationally recognized sociolegal scholar whose applied research and collaborative community partnerships aim to intervene in public systems to challenge the legal, political, social, and economic drivers of racial and gender disparities.



Michael Goodhart

University of Pittsburgh

Michael is on the steering committee of the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance and the US Human Rights Cities Alliance. He is President of The Global Switchboard, which stewards a network to promote human rights and social justice in the Pittsburgh Region. He teaches political philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh, and his research focuses on democracy, human rights, and injustice. www.michaelgoodhart.net.

Paul Gready

Co-Director, Centre for Applied Human Rights, York University & UNESCO Chair, Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Expansion of Political Space, also leads Art Rights Truth - Can the Arts Save Human Rights?



Justin Hansford

Member of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University

Justin is professor of Law at Howard University and a member of the [UN Permanent Forum of People of African Descent](#). He teaches and practices *social movement lawyering*, and in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Hansford worked to empower the Ferguson community through community-based legal advocacy. He co-authored the [Ferguson to Geneva human rights shadow report](#) and accompanied the Ferguson protesters and Mike Brown's family to Geneva, Switzerland, to testify at the United Nations. As a member of the PFPAD, he has been organizing local "listening sessions" in communities to solicit input that will shape the global agenda and inform work to develop a global [Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent](#).



Keimani Harvey

President, Ronald J. Freeman Chapter of BLSA, Georgia State University

Keimani is a rising 3L at GSU College of Law. She currently serves as the President of the Ronald J. Freeman Chapter of the Black Law Students Association and as the Vice President of the Student Data Privacy Professionals group. Although her interest is in Cybersecurity and Privacy, she plans to utilize her skills and expertise for the advancement and protection of Black people.

Renee Hatcher

UIC John Marshall Law School

Julian Hill

GSU School of Law

Dr. Alison Hosie

Research Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission



Nikishka Iyengar

Founder/Ecosystem Director, The Guild

Nikishka (she/her) has over a decade of experience in building the solidarity economy as an entrepreneur, consultant, organizer and writer. She uses a 'systems thinking' and emergent strategy approach across her work in finance, racial justice, urban development, and climate action. She is the Founder and Ecosystem Director at The Guild, a cooperative building a local solidarity economy in Atlanta through community-owned real estate, entrepreneurship programs, and access to capital for marginalized communities. Nikishka believes "another world [beyond capitalism] is not only possible, she is on her way" (word to Arundhati Roy). She is a co-host and producer of Road to Repair — a podcast exploring our journey out of a "business-as-usual" economy toward justice, collective healing, and liberation. Her writing on issues of economic justice have been published in Next City, Bon Appetit, Canopy Atlanta, and others. Nikishka is also an inaugural Community Advisory Board member at the Olamina Fund, working to address the racial wealth gap and deploy non-extractive capital to and with Black and Indigenous communities. She has completed fellowships from UC Berkeley's Terner Housing Lab, Aspen Institute, Common Future, Just Economy Institute, and was previously a "30 Under 30" Greenbiz leader in sustainability. As mama to a toddler and infant, spare time is currently a foreign concept, but Nikishka is passionate about weaving the same questions around our collective liberation that she applies across her work to her parenting.

Jalessah Jackson

ARC-SE

Alison Johnson
Executive Director, Housing Justice League



Jovan Julien
Director of Operations, Organization for Human Rights & Democracy

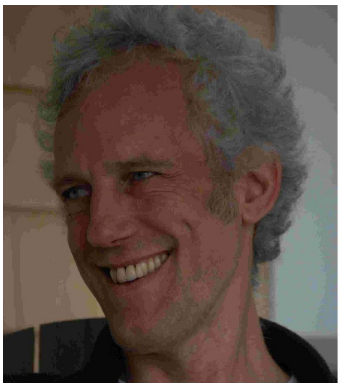
Jovan Julien (they/them/li) is a child of Ayiti and Granmè Meliana, from whom they learned that it is always worth fighting for the “vwa la libète kap chante lan kè nou.” They integrate their various practices as an artist, engineer/mathematician, facilitator, storyteller, and technologists to build programmatic and administrative infrastructure at [Organization for Human Rights & Democracy](#), where they have spent the past few years being trained in Radical Queer Black Feminist praxis. They seek understanding of how individuals and communities can make choices that expand wellness for all. In this, as with all things, they are a student of Black Caribbean radical traditions, including those emerging from the U.S. South, the Caribbean writ large, and Haitian peasant radicals specifically. As a Postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, their research focuses on how uncertain decisions can be strategically allocated. Jovan holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research from Georgia Institute of Technology and BS in Biomedical Engineering from Brown University.



Tina Kempin-Reuter
Director, Institute for Human Rights, & and Director of [UAB Social Science and Justice Research](#), University of Alabama-Birmingham

Tina is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration and the Department of Anthropology, specializing in human rights, peace studies, and international politics at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Her research focuses on human rights with a particular emphasis on the struggle of vulnerable and marginalized populations, including minorities, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrants, women, children, the LGBTQ community, and people dealing with the consequences of poverty. She studies how international human rights principles, norms, and language can impact the local and grassroots level and how technology can be used to improve access, inclusion, and participation of marginalized communities in society.

Aklima Khondoker
The Carter Center



John Lindsay-Poland
California Healing Justice Co-Director, American Friends Service Committee

John Lindsay-Poland co-directs the California Healing Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Oakland, California and coordinates the Stop U.S. Arms to Mexico Project of Global Exchange. He has written about, researched and advocated for human rights and demilitarization of US policy for 40 years. His research has focused on police militarization, U.S. foreign military assistance and military bases and respect for human rights. From 2015 through 2019, he was deeply involved in the Stop Urban Shield coalition, a successful campaign to end an annual DHS-funded vendor show and SWAT competition by dozens of police departments in the Bay Area. He co-authored the award-winning AFSC report last year, "Equipped for War: Exposing Militarized Policing in California" and supports local activists in California to challenge

police secrecy, narratives, budgets and military gear. John has produced several reports and a documentary on the devastating weapons trade from the United States to Mexico. He previously served the Fellowship of Reconciliation, as Latin America program coordinator, research director, and founder of its Colombia peace team. He is author of the books "Emperors in the Jungle: The Hidden History of the U.S. in Panama" and "Plan Colombia: U.S. Ally Atrocities and Community Activism" (both by Duke University Press).



Dr. Noble Maseru

Noble A-W Maseru, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director, Social Justice, Racial Equity and Faculty Engagement, University of Pittsburgh. Member of Pittsburgh Black Equity Coalition

Noble A-W Maseru, Ph.D., M.P.H., is the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Director, Center for Health Equity. His career in the areas of human services, academia and public health spans 40 years, during which he served as the Health Commissioner of the city of Cincinnati and as Director and Health Officer for the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion. He also has served as a consultant with USAID Africa Division, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the faculty at Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work and as an academic and public health policy scientist with the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College. His research and policy work promotes access to health and health care and safety net services by medically underserved, vulnerable, ethnic, under resourced, and underrepresented populations. He is a member of the University Human Rights Working Group and Historical Truth Telling and Reparations Working Group at the University of Pittsburgh.



Trixie Maybituin

University of Manitoba

Trixie Maybituin (she/her) is a community organizer, Filipino settler, and Master of Human Rights student at the University of Manitoba in Treaty 1 (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada). She has a Bachelor of Arts (advanced) in English Literature and a Leadership Development certificate from the same university. Trixie is interested in economic and social rights, human rights budgeting, and human rights governance. Her master's thesis focuses on applying a human rights-based approach to Winnipeg's municipal budget using the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Outside the university, Trixie is involved in abolitionist organizing and non-governmental organizations focusing on human rights education. She advocates with the community for an increased budget towards community services benefitting economic and social rights, including housing, libraries, and harm reduction services.

Tamika Middleton

Women's March

Gaea Morales

PhD Candidate, Political Science and International Relations - University of Southern California; Steering Committee Member, Human Rights City Alliance

Reginald Muhammad

Professor/Director, National Reparations Institute

Professor Reginald Muhammad is the Co-Founder and Director of National Reparations Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the co-author of the National Reparations Declarations.

He has worked in the reparations movement for more than 30 years and has published his master thesis "The Movement to Secure Reparations for Black in America: An Analysis of Fragmented Models Methodologies." He received his B.A. degree in political science from Wilberforce University. He completed the military science program at Central State University. Professor Muhammad received his M.A. degree in political science from Clark Atlanta University. His memberships include the National Conference of Black Political Scientist and National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. He teaches Politics and Global Issues, Public Policy and Urban Politics and Policy classes at Clark Atlanta University. In 2018, The Southern Center for Human Rights presented Professor with the Gideon's Promise Award. Professor Muhammad has lectured widely at college and universities throughout the United States.



Brian Núñez Southern Poverty Law Center

Brian Núñez is the Policy Associate of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the SPLC Action Fund for the state of Georgia. He co-leads the work in the state to defend the civil and human rights of Georgians during the legislative session and beyond. In addition to advocating for critical reforms under the Gold Dome, he provides expertise and technical assistance to partners, stakeholders, and legislators regarding the SPLC's impact areas of decarceration, protecting voting rights and civic engagement, eradicating poverty, and dismantling white nationalism and supremacy. Driven by a passion for social equity, Brian actively engages in policy advocacy efforts, striving to ensure that policies are fair, inclusive, and have a positive impact on marginalized communities. Brian Núñez is a policy professional, community organizer and small business owner, who firmly empowers his community through leadership development and social justice.

Efia Nwangaza

Executive Director at Malcolm X Center for Self Determination

Greenville, South Carolina, National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America Litigation Committee – NCOBRA



Anana Johari Harris Parris

Founder & CEO, SisterCARE Alliance & Self Care Agency

Anana Johari Harris Parris is the founder and CEO of the Self Care Agency, LLC where she operates as the lead Strategic Business & Self Care Consultant and Program Designer as well as the Founder & CEO of SisterCARE Alliance a not for profit self-care and social justice focused organization. Ms. Parris is also the author of Self Care Matters A Revolutionary's Approach. Her book has launched several Self Care Support Groups and it's Strategic Self Care Training Program has been approved for training with the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as adopted as a required training text for many programs addressing human trafficking, domestic violence and trauma survivor programs. Ms. Parris is a guest lecturer for the Mercer University Master's in Counseling program with a focus on Strategic Self Care During Crisis, Trauma & Grief. Ms. Parris was welcomed in the beginning of 2023 as the Chief Operating Officer of Washington, Dreyer & Associates Law Firm and President of WD Harris Consultants. She previously launched her 2021-22 year as a Women of Color Initiative Strategic Self Care Curriculum Design Consultant and Leadership Program Developer. From May 2019 - January 2021, Anana served as a Fractional Chief Operating Officer Advisor for How to Manage responsible for guiding more than 30 businesses and law firm owners. In 2021, Ms. Parris facilitated a Strategic Self Care Training for over 200 lawyers, judges and legal professionals with the Training Division of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts a few weeks after the insurrection and is hosting the Self-Care & Healing Session at the 2023 United Nations International Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

She is also the founder of non-profit initiatives like the AfriSalsa Cultural Organization/AfriSalsa fights HIV/AIDS Campaign, and the Self Care Day Campaign. Ms. Parris authored the first official Self Care Day Proclamation on December 4, 2011 recognized by the City of Atlanta and later the cities of Savannah, Lithonia, Charlotte, NC , Charleston,SC, Mecklenburg County,NC , Mansfield Dallas Fort Worth Area, TX and DeKalb County, GA. Ms. Harris Parris was awarded the Unsung Heroine Award by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., the State of Georgia Goodwill Ambassador Award and the Community Service Award from the U.S. Attorney General's Office of the Northern District of Georgia. In 2018, Ms. Parris was the keynote speaker at the Global Women's Leadership Activism Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa and the recipient of the Southern Center for Human Rights Gideon's Promise Award.



Branden Peters

Director of Publishing, Red Bull Media House

Veteran creative Branden J. Peters has been a champion of Black culture for over two decades. As a journalist his byline has appeared in multiple outlets including XXL, Playboy, SLAM Magazine, Hoop, Vibe and Complex.

The Clark Atlanta University alum currently serves as the Director of Publishing for Red Bull Media House. He is also the co-founder of the award-winning Facts Only Trivia event and co-founder of the craft beer inspired Draught Season lifestyle brand.



Joel R. Pruce

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Director of Applied Research, Human Rights Center
University of Dayton

Joel teaches, writes, and works on human rights issues in Dayton, Ohio. He is a steering committee member with the Human Rights Cities Alliance and coordinates the Montgomery County Jail Coalition. Through the UD Human Rights Center, Joel leads the Moral Courage Project, a storytelling initiative, and guides the Action Research and Rights Collective, a participatory methods research network.



Amanda Richer

Founder, Focus on Rights

Amanda Richer is a human rights advocate and consultant based in Seattle, WA. She is passionate about using her skills and experience to help others and make a positive impact on the world.

She serves as a community liaison to the unhoused for the Department of Neighborhoods, City of Seattle, and as the Chair of the Healthcare Network for the Homeless Governance Council. She is also on the Advisory Boards for One Health Clinic, National Alliance for Ending Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless, and Housing Narrative Lab. In addition, she is a former Seattle Human Rights Commissioner. She also serves in several committees and working groups locally, regionally, and nationally. Amanda is able to connect with people from all walks of life and build relationships that are essential to effective change. She is also a creative thinker and problem solver, and she is always looking for new ways to improve the lives of others.

Tiffany Roberts

Southern Center for Human Rights



Daniela Rodriguez

Executive Director, Migrant Equity Southeast

Daniela Rodriguez is a Mexican immigrant rights activist and community organizer based in Savannah, GA. Originally from Chiapas, Mexico, she immigrated to the U.S at the age of 13. Daniela began as a student organizer at the age of 18 during her first year of college, and now has over 10 years of experience as an immigration movement organizer. In her work as an advocate for education equity and immigration reform in the south, she has shared her personal story as an undocumented immigrant and has advocated to uplift the voices of those who are not always heard. Currently, she's the co-founder and serves as the Executive Director of Migrant Equity Southeast -an immigration justice organization in South GA. Because of her resilience, she has inspired other students with similar backgrounds and stories. She believes that education is a human right and that immigrants are Here To Stay.

Brendan Roediger

Professor of Law, St. Louis University School of Law



Azadeh Shahshahani

Legal & Advocacy Director, Project South; Past President, National Lawyers Guild

Azadeh Shahshahani has worked for more than fifteen years in the U.S. South to protect and defend Black, immigrant, and Muslim communities. She previously served as president of the National Lawyers Guild and as National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project Director with the ACLU of Georgia. Azadeh serves on the Advisory Council of the American Association of Jurists. Azadeh has served as a trial monitor in Turkey, an election monitor in Venezuela and Honduras, and as a member of the jury in people's tribunals on Mexico, the Philippines, and Brazil. She has also participated in international fact-finding delegations to post-revolutionary Tunisia and Egypt as well as a delegation focused on the situation of Palestinian political prisoners. She is the author or editor of several human rights reports as well as law review articles and book chapters focused on movement lawyering, racial profiling, immigrants' rights, and surveillance of Muslim-Americans. Her writings have appeared in the Guardian, the Nation, MSNBC, Time Magazine, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, and HuffPost, among others. Azadeh received her JD from the University of Michigan Law School where she was Article Editor for The Michigan Journal of International Law. She also has a Master's in Modern Middle Eastern and North African Studies from the University of Michigan. Azadeh is the recipient of the Shanara M. Gilbert Human Rights Award from the Society of American Law Teachers, the National Lawyers Guild Ernie Goodman Award, the Emory Law School Outstanding Leadership in the Public Interest Award, the Emory University MLK Jr. Community Service Award, the US Human Rights Network Human Rights Movement Builder Award, the American Immigration Lawyers Association Advocacy Award, the Distinguished Leader Award from the Fulton County Daily Report, and the University of Georgia Law School Equal Justice Foundation Public Interest Practitioner Award, among several others. She has also been recognized as an Abolitionist by the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University & the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and as one of Atlanta's 500 Most Powerful Leaders by Atlanta Magazine. Azadeh was chosen by the Mundo Hispanico Newspaper as an Outstanding Person of the Year for defending the rights of immigrants in Georgia, and by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the 40 under 40 notable Georgians.

Juilee Shivalkar

Project South

Juilee is a Legal Fellow at Project South focusing on state surveillance of Muslim, immigrant, and Black communities. Juilee recently graduated from NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar. Prior to law school, Juilee earned a B.A. from Wake Forest University and worked on civic education programming at a refugee resettlement agency in Atlanta.



Johanna Sjöwall
Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Johanna Sjöwall works for the RWI, Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights in Lund, Sweden as a Thematic leader of the area Inclusion and Non-Discrimination with an emphasis on the practical implementation of Human Rights in Local Governance. She has more than 20 years of experience working with human rights in various sectors internationally, nationally, and locally. More recently, before joining the RWI in 2022, she worked as a strategist, focusing on systematic integration of anti-discrimination and human rights perspectives in local policy and practice in the City of Malmö. Her previous experiences include programme management of multi-year regional and bilateral programmes in Latin America, East and Southern Africa at the RWI, as well as different positions at the UNHCR in Colombia, OHCHR in Guatemala and NGOs in Latin America and Sweden. Through the various roles she has accumulated a broad and deep knowledge of how to translate human rights into practice in different contexts, across sectors and levels of society. Her academic background is in International Migration and Ethnic Relations and Social Anthropology, and she works in Swedish, English, and Spanish.



Jackie Smith
Professor of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh & co-coordinator, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

Jackie is a co-founder and organizer with Pittsburgh's Human Rights City Alliance, and she serves on the leadership committee of the national Human Rights Cities Alliance. Her research examines how people and communities respond to problems arising from economic inequality and globalization, and how they employ global human rights to transform conflict and promote equity and justice in local settings. Much of her current work focuses on the right to housing and on racial equity, and she has been working with activists and policy makers to improve local government compliance with global human rights treaties. In addition to her organizing and public education work, Smith teaches courses on globalization and health, urban sociology, social movements, and coalitions. She is author or co-author of numerous books on these themes, including *Social Movements and World-System Transformation*, *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, and *Coalitions Across Borders*.



Mike Strode

Solidarity Economy Organizer & Strategist, The Kola Nut Collaborative / Open Collective Foundation

Mike Strode is a writer, urban cyclist, facilitator, and solidarity economy organizer with the Kola Nut Collaborative residing in southeast Chicago. The Kola Nut Collaborative is Chicago's only time-based service and skills exchange (otherwise known as a timebank) providing an open platform for mutual aid, community organizing, and network weaving. The Collaborative develops programming to support Chicago-based organizers in facilitating non-monetary exchange networks through practices like the Offers and Needs Market. He is a Program Officer at Open Collective Foundation and serves on the boards of the US Solidarity Economy Network, New Economy Coalition, South Deering Manor Community Association, and Dill Pickle Food Co-op.



Eric Tars

Legal Director, National Homelessness Law Center

Eric Tars serves as the National Homelessness Law Center's legal director, leading its human rights, civil rights, and children's rights programs and managing its cutting edge litigation, strategic policy advocacy, and outreach and training initiatives at the international, national, and local levels. Eric helped spearhead the launch of the Law Center's national Housing Not Handcuffs campaign, has served as counsel of record in multiple precedent-setting cases, including *Martin v. Boise* in the 9th Circuit, and is frequently quoted in national and local media, including NPR, AP, New York Times, Washington Post, and VICE News. Before coming to the Law Center, Eric was a Fellow with Global Rights' U.S. Racial Discrimination Program and consulted with Columbia University Law School's Human Rights Institute and the US Human Rights Network, where he currently serves as the vice-chair of the Network's Board. Eric received his J.D. magna cum laude as a Global Law Scholar at the Georgetown University Law Center. He received his B.A. magna cum laude in political science from Haverford College and studied international human rights in Vienna at the Institute for European Studies and at the University of Vienna. Eric also teaches human rights advocacy as an adjunct professor at Drexel University Kline School of Law.



Randall Taylor

Pittsburgh Penn Plaza Support & Action Coalition, Hill District Consensus Group, and Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance Steering Committee

Randall worked for the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Coalition against Substance Abuse, and Allegheny County Treasurer's Office before being elected to the Pittsburgh Board of Education where he served for 12 years. He was thrust back into community work when he was part of a mass displacement of hundreds of residents at the Penn Plaza Apartments in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. Randall helped to form the Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition, which has been a leader in Pittsburgh's Housing Justice Movement. He continues to work not only to prevent gentrification and displacement, but to advocate for affordable housing solutions in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Reparations Working Group at the University of Pittsburgh.



Nthando Thandiwe

Budget and Policy Analyst, Pittsburgh Budget and Policy Center

Nthando Thandiwe is a budget and policy analyst and joined the Pittsburgh Budget and Policy Center in 2020. He completed his master’s in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University while interning with the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning. He is passionate about policies that promote economic justice and racial equity. Before joining PBPC he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco where he spearheaded various initiatives, including small businesses and youth development. He is a native of Atlanta, GA, and currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA



Yolande Tomlinson

Co-Founder & Director of Alternative Futures, Organization for Human Rights and Democracy

Yolande Tomlinson (they/them|Doc) is a radical queer Black feminist mama, philosopher, educator-organizer, writer, avid gardener, and lover of people and plants. As the director of alternative futures at [Organization for Human Rights and Democracy](#) (OHRD), Doc works with communities of color to build the world they deserve to live in now. In this capacity, Doc has led the development of West Atlanta Food Coop, Anna Julia Cooper Learning and Liberation Center, Metro-Atlanta Mutual Aid Fund, Free Atlanta Abolition Movement, Regenerate Atlanta Cooperative Wealth Fund, and OHRD as an alternative movement institution. Their organizing is grounded in their upbringing in the Jamaican countryside, where they were raised by their Grandmother Rose and a community of other mothers and where they learned to farm, build community, and practice love that’s expansive and liberatory. Yolande is also the co-founder and co-principal of Winds of Change Consulting, a Black womxn-run firm that works with organizations whose missions are rooted in a vision of social justice and human rights, and organizations seeking to integrate radical queer Black feminist and/or intersectional principles and practices in their organizing and structure. Doc holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. from Emory University.

Mary E. Tyler

Mary E. Tyler Consulting LLC, Dayton Human Rights City Initiative



Khye Tyson

Founder and Executive Director, Kuluntu Reproductive Justice Center

Khye Tyson (they/them) is an unapologetic southern queer Black femme who enjoys yoga, building community, laughing, subverting the gender binary, and reminding people that they can fire their doctors. Khye is a sacred transition guide, entrepreneur, healer, consultant, and educator. As the founder of Kuluntu Reproductive Justice Center (founded in 2018), Khye is working toward a world in which Black women and femmes can live, thrive, and raise healthy families freely within a healthy community. Khye loves to hike, sew, thrift, create art, sing, and dream of a world in which education is intuitive and culturally responsive. They are originally from Nashville, TN and currently reside in Atlanta. Learn more about Khye and their work at <http://kuluntu.center>

Akinyele Umoja
Georgia State Univ, Atlanta GA

Tanya Washington
Housing Justice League/Atlanta

Lewis Webb, Jr.
U.S. Peacebuilding Director, American Friends Service Committee



Brynnaiza Young
Public Policy Advocate/Campaign Coordinator, CEDAW for Pittsburgh

Brynnaiza Young is an Activist, Public Policy Advocate and Campaign Coordinator Based in Pittsburgh. Her name is Brynnaiza (Bri-Nay-Zhuh), and she is a fierce Public Policy Advocate at the Black Women’s Policy Center. A proud first-generation Alumna of Carlow University’s Political Science program, she was inspired to pursue her passions in human rights and public policy reform after interning with Denny Civic Solutions in 2019. In her most recent years, she has dabbled in the worlds of social media marketing, campaign organization, and both legislative and client advocacy. Brynnaiza currently sits as a coalition member on “CEDAW for Pittsburgh Chapter”, as well as the “Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Board.” She is adamant about pushing the needle for her people, and will continue representing women of all intersecting identities. As a young African-American woman, she is no stranger to handling rough and tough situations with the utmost professionalism and determination to make systemic change. In her free time, you can catch Brynnaiza on the frontlines of a protest dressed in all black with a bullhorn and a poofy afro. If you do not see her there, the chances of her being at home in a Brazilian hammock with her two pitbulls and a coloring book are also likely. At the moment, she is focused on reforming policies around women’s reproductive health, comprehensive health education in public schools, and pay equity. Mimicking the words of her alma mater, “Be safe, and be well.”