

Bringing Human Rights Home

Using International Processes to Advance Human Rights in Cities & Communities

Webinar 1 Introduction to UPR Cities & 3 Cs

“Human rights were just empty words,
written in treaties which people weren’t
familiar with, and therefore didn’t seek to
claim or implement.”

–Susana Chiarotti, Chairwoman of Human Rights City Rosario (Argentina).*

*From: “Human Rights Cities of the World”



*Human rights are something you were born with. ...Human rights are the rights that are **recognized by all nations of this earth.***

“When you expand the civil-rights struggle to the level of human rights, you can then take the case of the black man in this country before the nations in the UN. You can take it before the General Assembly. You can take Uncle Sam before a world court. But the only level you can do it on is the level of human rights. Civil rights keeps you under his restrictions, under his jurisdiction. Civil rights keeps you in his pocket.”

--Malcolm X

Cities & Human Rights

“[C]ity and county governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law in communities as universal norms and to serve as guides for public policy”

U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2014

Cities & Human Rights *

“State and local authorities are on the front lines of ensuring equality, combating discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, gender identity and sexual orientation, and enabling equal access to affordable housing, healthcare and education.... *When state and local actors integrate human rights, they join a global community of local governments worldwide that have increasingly drawn from the human rights framework to benefit their work and their communities.*”

[Source: Bringing Human Rights Home: How State and Local Governments Can Use Human Rights to Advance Local Policy](#)

Universal Periodic Review

The UPR Process

- *launched by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006*
- *All 193 UN Member States undergo periodic examination of their overall human rights performance. (Roughly every 4 years)*
- *Significant strengthening of international human rights procedures. [\(More info.\)](#)*

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.***

The UPR Process



***We are here**

Local: Collect evidence on human rights for UPR process

Spring-Fall 2019



Spring-Fall 2019

Local: Collect and publicize local human rights conditions.

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

Fall 2019-Onward



September 2020



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

Fall 2019-Onward



“We have the words, now we need the music- and the music is action.”

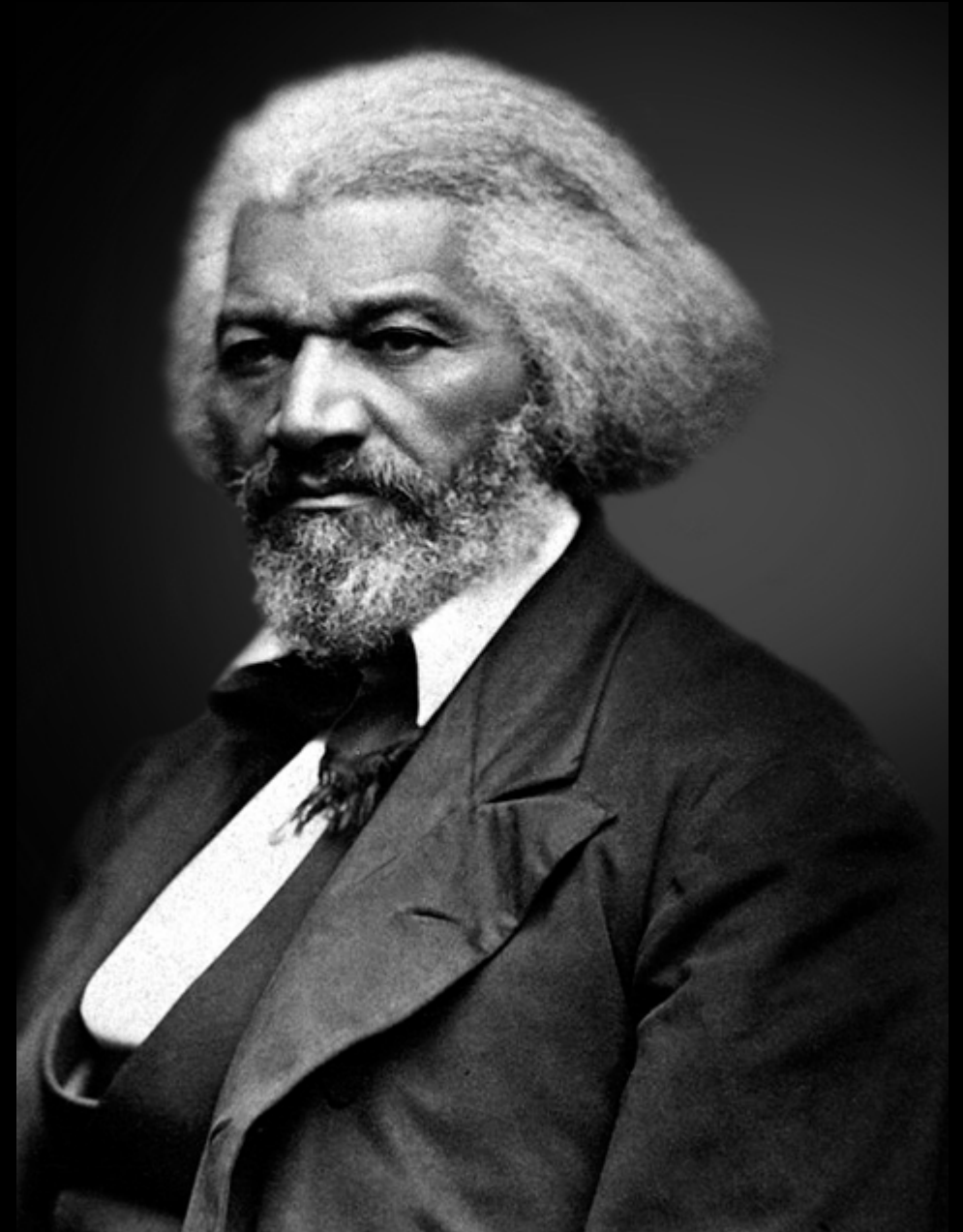
--Bella Abzug 1920-1998

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
START
WITH
YOU**



Power and those in control
concede nothing...without a
demand.... Each and every one
of us must keep demanding,
must keep fighting, must keep
thundering, must keep plowing,
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



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)

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

1) Collect local testimony about human rights.

- Interview residents or conduct surveys
 - Here's a link to the [survey used in Washington DC](#)
- Convene meetings for consultations with diverse groups & residents about human rights issues in your community
- Collect video or written testimonies
- Work with Local Human Rights/Human Relations Commissions & other local government allies

UPR Cities USA–“The 3 Cs”:

Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

2) Compile summary reports of local human rights conditions.

- Name key problems/challenges as well as positives/progress.
- Provide concrete recommendations for change
- Reference prior UN Use this to report to local officials and press for local responses if possible
- Deadline is Sept. 15, 2019 for submissions for national stakeholder report.
- Local review & reporting processes can continue through 2019 & 2020-set your own deadlines for local report.

UPR Cities USA–“The 3 Cs”:

Steps for organizing local UPR Cities & Communities

- 3) Clamor!** Publicize UPR reports and press local governments to implement recommendations.
- Organize press conference or public event to present findings from local human rights review
 - Share your report with local officials, media, and community leaders & organizations
 - Host meetings to review and discuss final UN Report on the United States, which will be issued in September 2020
 - Strategize locally about how activists and local governments can work to publicize & implement recommendations in your local reports & the national civil society report (fall 2019) & final UN UPR report (Sept. 2020).

Strategic Advantages of UPR for Local Organizing

- *Comprehensive* review of national human rights records—not just specific treaties or issues
- Promotes analysis of interconnected and indivisible nature of human rights (and links treaties & other international mechanisms)
- Encourages creative recommendations for addressing complex intersectional policies.
- Broadens public participation in human rights enforcement.

UPR Reports can draw from a wealth of international human rights instruments

- The [US Human Rights Cities Alliance](#) supports local organizers in their work to make connections between local needs and international human rights treaties and documents.

The [UPR Cities](#) website and the following slides provide some key human rights resources for local groups.



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

Bring Human Rights Home!

*Join other cities & communities in the
2019-2020 UPR Cities Project*

Human Rights Cities Alliance (USA)

wiki.humanrightscities.mayfirst.org

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