

Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 9, 2024

Contacts: *Rachel Shepherd*, Commission on Human Relations, 412-328-6786, rachel.shepherd@pittsburghpa.gov & *Maddy McGrady*, Human Rights City Alliance, 412-996-1085, madeline@theglobalswitchboard.org

International Human Rights Day Press Conference

Co-Sponsors: City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, Human Rights City Alliance

Tuesday December 10, 9:00 AM, 5th Floor, City-County Building, 414 Grant St. PGH

Today, December 10th, 2024, we join the world community to commemorate 76 years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reflects the commitment of governments everywhere to protect and preserve the political and economic rights of all people.

Following the devastation of World War II, world leaders recognized the importance of universal human rights for preventing future wars. They understood that no one could truly be secure until all governments respect, protect and fulfill human rights for everyone. Today these lessons are even more clear and urgent.

On this International Human Rights Day, Pittsburgh leaders and residents join others around the world in renewing our commitment to defending the foundational values and principles expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We stand together in our dedication to ensuring peace, equity, and justice for all by promoting and upholding people-centered human rights for everyone, especially those who are most threatened and vulnerable.

Recognizing that Pittsburgh is a Human Rights City, we call upon our government agencies and elected officials to work together to defend the rights of *all* residents. We also call upon residents, community groups, and organizations to stand in solidarity against the growing threats to the basic rights and protections of our neighbors. We need to hold governments accountable and support our local government leaders as the front line of defense for these rights.

Our divisive politics mask the widespread reality that many people are struggling, yet economic elites insist that the solution lies in the same economic policies that leave more and more people behind. This neglect of people's needs creates fertile soil for hatred, violence, and division. Instead, we must come together to protect our communities and find new ways to build and share our common wealth.

Speakers

- Emcee: Rachel Shepherd, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
- Nathan Harper, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) Manager, Mayor's Office

- Teaira Collins, Commissioner, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
- Barb Warwick, City Councilmember, District 5
- Leeretta Payne, Human Rights City Alliance Member
- Lorena Pena - Pittsburghers for Public Transit Member
- Adrianna Branin, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) Manager, Mayor's Office
- Closing: Maddy McGrady, Program Manager, Human Rights City Alliance