

# Building work for racial justice & human rights in our region

*Follow-up to the Racial Justice Summit*  
Saturday, February 6, 11:00AM-12:30PM

**Anne Feeney**  
***Presente!***

*“Have you been to jail for justice?”*

Pittsburgh musician and activist Anne Feeney, 1951-2021

**Program co-sponsors:** Casa San Jose; Future Latinx Youth (FLY); Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition; Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition; Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance; Student Human Rights Task Force...& other community partners!

# Meeting goals

1. Consider possibilities for human rights framework to build movement unity & shift political script
2. Work to repair past and present damage to Pittsburgh's Black and Brown communities and create a foundation for equity for all
3. Support and advance youth leadership
4. Support intersectional campaigns & projects

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## Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction (~20 Min.)
2. Breakout groups (~40 min.)
3. Report backs and next steps (20 min.)

# Breakout group options (Feb. 6, 2021)

## Issues

- A. Health & Environmental Justice
- B. Policing & the Justice System
- C. Human Rights Budgeting

## Projects

- D. Promoting non-market housing alternatives
- E. Future Generations Council
- F. Countering corporate power & governance/ Fair Taxation Policies
- *Advancing Gender Equity Commission Recommendations*



# The Case for Human Rights

*USING HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK*

# Today's threats

- ▶ Right-wing, racist violence/ fascist mobilizations
- ▶ Health & climate crises
- ▶ Extreme inequality & Corporate-driven politics

# *How can human rights help?*

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights was designed to reverse and prevent *fascism*
- People-centered: Human needs are a policy priority – not a *by-product of economy*
  - Housing & health as a right -not a development strategy
  - Escape false choice of “jobs vs. environment”
- Global support & legitimacy for rights claims
  - 1947 “Appeal to the World”; “We charge genocide” 1951, 2016-Chicago)

# Today's Opportunities

## Local / National

- Biden Executive Orders-- including on Racial Equity
- Local elections- Spring 2021
- 2021 is 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pittsburgh Human Rights City Proclamation
- Gender Equity Commission –Report on inequality & Policy Recommendations



# Today's Opportunities

## Global

- Cross-city work with UN Rapporteur on the right to Housing
- Global cities movement → transformative solutions
  - ❑ International Decade on People of African Descent (2015-2024)
  - ❑ UN procedures on reparations, police violence & US racism (September meeting)
  - ❑ Universal Periodic Review process (UPR)
  - ❑ Sustainable Development Goals and Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

# Opportunities-- Ideas for organizing

*We can build on these Ideas and projects from around the world.*

- Racial Equity & Reparations in Policing+ ([Recommendations](#) / &UPR)
- Human Rights Budgeting ([Scotland ex.](#)) (UN-[Realizing Human Rights through Government Budgets](#))
- Future Generations Council ([Wales example](#) / [Backgrounder-Details](#) )
- Human Right to Housing as Policy ([Canada example](#))
- Global Accountability– Human Rights- UPR ([Pittsburgh's UN/UPR report](#)), [Sustainable Development](#) (VLR)
- Climate Cities: [Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty](#) (See: [Vancouver, LA, NYC](#))

# *Building an Equitable New Normal*

Pittsburgh [Gender Equity Commission recommendations \(Spring 2020\)](#)

1. **Address police violence** immediately.
2. Collect data on gender
3. Build gender expertise and embed gender analysis in **budgeting**
4. **Prioritize resources** for women, girls, trans and gender diverse people
5. Further equity goals in City **hiring** and promotions.
6. Promote **pay equity**
7. Strengthen existing **paid sick leave**
8. Legislate paid safe leave to **protect against gender based** violence
9. Expand access to quality, early **childhood education**
10. Support **local, women-owned businesses**
11. Pilot a **Universal Basic Income** program

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# Questions for breakout groups

1. How can we work together better around this issue? Can a human rights lens help?
2. How can we work to better integrate **youth leadership** in this area?
3. Are there **specific projects or target dates** that can bring different activist networks together?
4. What **next steps** to move forward a project or build a coalition/planning process?

*Groups should prepare to report back on #3 and #4 especially.*

## Strategies

- Broaden public awareness, support and engagement/action
- Human rights framing/ flip the policy script
- Advance reparations & equity
- Cross-city organizing