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
Building work for racial justice & human rights in our region

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)

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- 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 10th 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
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
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