



Human Rights City Alliance  
**Remembering Former President Jimmy Carter, Champion for Human Rights**  
12/30/2024

**The Human Rights City Alliance** mourns the passing of former president Jimmy Carter, who championed human rights as a pathway to peace, stability, and social justice across the globe.

We particularly want to lift up President Carter's recognition – unique among mainstream US political leaders – of the urgent human rights problems facing *this* country. Late in his life, he charged The Carter Center, the institution through which much of his work was carried out and his legacy defined, with applying its [mission](#) here at home. To do so, the Carter Center has partnered with the United National Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to engage with local partners across the country to identify ways to build peace, stability, and social justice domestically.

In June 2024, the Human Rights City Alliance welcomed representatives of the Carter Center in Pittsburgh, where we discussed the need for greater attention to local human rights concerns—especially racialized injustices in areas like health, housing, policing, and criminal justice—with local activists and with City and County officials.

In commemorating his passing, we recommit ourselves to the urgent work of realizing human rights for everyone here in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, across the country, and around the world. As President Carter himself put it,

*"Our government should be known to be opposed to war, dedicated to the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and whenever possible, eager to accomplish this goal. We should be seen as the unswerving champion of human rights both among our own citizens and within the global community. America should be the focal point around which other nations can rally against threats to the quality of our common environment. We should be willing to lead by example in sharing our great wealth with those in need. Our own society should provide equal opportunity for all citizens and assure that they are provided the basic necessities of life. It would be no sacrifice in exemplifying these traits. Instead, our nation's well being would be enhanced by restoring the trust, admiration and friendship that our nation formerly enjoyed among other peoples. At the same time, all Americans could be united in a common commitment to revive and nourish the political and moral values that we have espoused and sought during the past 240 years."*

— Jimmy Carter, *A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety*

#### Further Reading

- [Op-Ed: I Fear for Our Democracy](#), Jimmy Carter (Jan 5, 2022)