Dear Human Rights supporter,

We write to ask for your help in supporting work to strengthen the efforts of local and national human rights defenders, and to build the human rights movement in the United States and worldwide. In late May 2016, organizers in Washington, DC, the first U.S. Human Rights City, will [convene a meeting with organizers from human rights cities](http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/2016%2BHuman%2BRights%2BCities%2BWorkshop%2BWashington%2BDC) and emerging human rights cities around the U.S. and world to discuss what lessons have emerged from city-based human rights organizing and to develop a plan to better communicate ideas about best practices and strategies for realizing human rights and dignity for all people at the local level.

If you are able, we ask you to make a financial contribution to support the DC Human Rights Cities convening. Also, please consider sharing this request with your larger networks. All contributions made on the US Human Rights Network’s website are tax-deductible and will help provide travel stipends and defray costs of meals during our workshop. Please visit the US Human Rights Network website (<http://www.ushrnetwork.org/>), and click on **Donate Now**. Enter the designation code “**Human Rights Cities**”.

Attached you will find a short summary of the convening’s rationale and objectives. Many thanks for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana, American Friends Service Committee

Jackie Smith, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

Ejim Dike, Executive Director, US Human Rights Network

2016 Human Rights Cities **Gathering**

Washington DC May 26-27 2016

*The gathering is hosted by the Washington, DC Human Rights City Steering Committee and the American Friends Service Committee (DC office), in cooperation with a national planning team that includes representatives from the* [*US Human Rights Network*](http://www.ushrnetwork.org/)*, Four Freedoms Forum, and the* [*Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance*](http://pghrights.org/)*.*

***Rationale & Objectives:***

The human rights framework helps to facilitate local and trans-local collaboration by highlighting the unity among diverse struggles and strengthening networks among activists. Human rights cities represent an important innovation in the human rights movement. The idea of a human rights city is to create an infrastructure for the realization of the full spectrum of human rights for all members of the community through deepening democracy and promoting social justice. Dozens of cities all over the world have adopted this approach, but it has received relatively little movement, media, and scholarly attention, and there has been limited coordination across such cities (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_City>).

In response, the Washington, DC Human Rights City Steering Committee and the [American Friends Service Committee](http://afsc.org/), will convene a two day gathering on Human Rights Cities in Washington, DC on May 26 and 27, 2016. The convening builds upon earlier work exploring ways to cooperate and enhance the efficacy of community based human rights organizing, which revealed a need for more dialogue and coordination among human rights organizers working in local (city/town/state) settings (see the [summary report here)](http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/file/view/Conference%20summary%20-General%20Version%203%202.pdf/555558739/Conference%20summary%20-General%20Version%203%202.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

We have two key objectives for this workshop. First, we aim to **strengthen relationships among local advocates for human rights** cities, national and international human rights advocates, scholar-practitioners whose work relates to human rights city organizing, and public officials who are exploring ways to better integrate human rights into municipal policies, programs, and institutions. Second, we will work to **advance knowledge about effective models and practices for realizing human rights cities** and improve our methods for reporting and sharing this information.

For more information, see: [http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/2016+Human+Rights+Cities+Workshop+Washington+DC](http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/2016%2BHuman%2BRights%2BCities%2BWorkshop%2BWashington%2BDC)