

Dear Human Rights City Alliance supporters,

We write with updates on the work that is happening to make sure we follow through on the Human Rights City Proclamation that made Pittsburgh the 5th Human Rights City in the United States. ([Click here to see the Proclamation](#)).

- On February 15th, about 30 people gathered on a snowy Saturday morning to discuss how to make Pittsburgh a Human Rights City. This was the third meeting organized by our growing Human Rights City Alliance. The first was our Human Rights Day rally on December 10th and the second was our workshop at the Summit Against Racism in January.
- A core group of leaders from human rights and student groups have been working to build from the conversations at these meetings a plan to move us forward. The discussion on February 15 generated a plan to form **task forces** to help define a **Human Rights Action Plan** that will specify concrete targets, benchmarks and time frames for realizing human rights milestones in different areas of policy and practice.
- Below we provide a list of task forces and contacts. We invite you to **join a task force** and to help us reach out to other organizers and groups who can help us develop proposals in each specialized area. Our Action Plan not only targets policy/policymakers but also involves community outreach and initiatives.
- Also below is a call for our next event, organized by the Environment Task Force: Working with the Sierra Club, on **Thursday April 24th** we will honor International Mother Earth Day. Join us at 7pm at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and please share the announcement below with others!
- We will continue to update the website as our volunteer team finds the time! We have added some new links/resources to the page, and volunteers have been researching other human rights cities around the world to identify lessons and models to inform our work. Their February 15 powerpoint presentation is available at our website (<http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/>).

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and hope you will spread the word about the work we are doing. Task forces are just being formed, so we welcome new volunteers and leadership!

For more details see: <http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/>

Invitation to Human Rights City Alliance Task Forces

For too long, human rights have been treated as a by-product of pro-growth policies. Policymakers have prioritized the voices of businesses, assuming that when they succeed human rights will automatically improve. We see all around us that this is not the case. ***If we truly value human rights, we need policies that make achieving these rights top priority.***

The Human Rights City Alliance invites interested residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to help us build a movement to hold public officials accountable to their promises of making Allegheny and Pittsburgh a [Human Rights County and City](#). The following task forces will be working over the coming months to outline key goals and benchmarks we believe we must achieve in order to qualify as a true Human Rights City. In addition, we will work to build public awareness of how advancing *human rights for everyone* will improve and strengthen our community. On Human Rights Day 2014 (December 10), we will deliver our Human Rights City Action Plan to public officials, reminding them of their promises. We will monitor progress on the Action Plan and mobilize public support to build a true Human Rights City. Please contact the respective task force chair if you would like to join one of the following task forces

Task Force	Contact
Reversing structural racism	Katie Wooten katharine.wooten@gmail.com Wesley Hiers
Rights for Mother Earth/Environment	Bob Glidden: jb7728@verizon.net Jackie Smith jsmith1037@gmail.com
Education	Scilla Wahrhaftig SWahrhaftig@afsc.org Jeff Shook jes98@pitt.edu
Justice system reforms	Jeff Shook jes98@pitt.edu Jessica Burns jessicabrns1@gmail.com
Gender Justice	Sara Goodkind sara.goodkind@gmail.com
Decent Work/Labor Rights	Curt Conrad csc31@pitt.edu
Immigration/Welcoming City	Scilla Wahrhaftig SWahrhaftig@afsc.org
Social Inclusion	Brian Mallow brian.mallow@gmail.com

For more information: www.pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com; pghhumanrights@gmail.com
We're on Facebook: Please join and share <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pghrights/>

Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance & the Sierra Club Present

Mother Earth Day Celebration 2014:
Is it time for a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth?

Thursday April 24th 7:00PM-9:00PM
East Liberty Presbyterian Church (*Cathedral of Hope*), Social Hall

Organizers in Pittsburgh are working to develop an Action Plan to help us realize the commitments our politicians made in 2011 to make Pittsburgh a Human Rights City. ***A key part of this promise is to ensure that residents and future generations can enjoy a clean and healthy environment.***

In honor of International Mother Earth Day ([the new name given to “Earth Day” by the United Nations in 2009](#)), we invite you to join us for a panel and discussion about what it would mean to recognize the rights of nature and how this is connected to our work to advance human rights for all. Panelists will share information about work happening locally, around the United States, and internationally to strengthen movements aimed at protecting the environment *and* advancing human dignity and justice. Following the panel, is an opportunity for discussion of the **Human Rights Action Plan for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County**. In 2011, Pittsburgh’s City Council made our city the 5th “Human Rights City” in the United States. The county followed by naming Allegheny a Human Rights County in 2013. Individuals and groups working on human rights, environmental and labor issues are coming together in the Human Rights City Alliance to help push forward a vision of a city and county that make human rights a policy priority.

For more information: <http://pgh-humanrightscity.wikispaces.com/>
We're on Facebook: pghrights