



October 2017

To our friends in local faith communities:

In 1950, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 10th to be Human Rights Day, and in 2011, the Pittsburgh City Council declared Pittsburgh a Human Rights City.

Many religious communities have been deeply involved in struggles for social justice in this country and have been vocal advocates for human rights and human dignity. We recognize that your faith communities have existing partnerships and practices that promote the human rights mission. This year, Human Rights Day falls on a Sunday, and we write to ask you to lift up this message of human rights in your own congregations and among your family and friends. We believe that change will only happen when we all work together to oppose the dehumanization of people who differ from us and to communicate ideas of our common humanity and of universal human rights. On this year's Human Rights Day, we urge you and your congregation to emphasize and celebrate the ways you engage in human rights work.

Moreover, we'd like to help. The Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance (www.pghrights.org) is a coalition of organizers and activists that are working to bring diverse groups together to make Pittsburgh a model human rights city. We are advocating for changes in policies and practices that will help advance dignity and justice for all residents of our city and region. We would be happy to speak with you and members of your congregations or other groups about local human rights work on Dec. 10 or in whatever time and place might be convenient for you. We also invite you to join with others in our community to participate in the upcoming Human Rights Days of Action and join our work to build a Human Rights City.

As residents of this Human Rights City, we share this responsibility for fighting for the rights of all. We hope you will help support the work we are doing with the Human Rights City Alliance, and we thank you for contributions and commitment to this critically important work. You can learn more about the Human Rights Days of Action and our other activities on our web page: www.pghrights.org. If you would like a member of our Alliance to speak with a group from your congregation or other organization, or if you have any questions, please write to us at pghrights@riseup.net.

With respect and gratitude,

The Human Rights City Alliance steering committee

Marcia Bandes, [Cities for CEDAW](#) Coalition Pittsburgh

Antonia Domingo, [Labor Council for Latin American Advancement](#)

Brandi Fisher, [Alliance for Police Accountability](#)

Reggie Good, [Northside Coalition for Fair Housing](#)

Michael Goodhart, [University Human Rights Network](#), Director of Global Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Monica Ruiz, [Casa San Jose](#)