



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Commission on Human Relations

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh (PA) - The City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) in collaboration with the Human Rights City Alliance, and the Gender Equity Commission will be holding a press conference to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The press conference will take place on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 11:30am in the lobby of the City-County Building, 414 Grant Street.

Pittsburgh residents are not alone, they will join people from all over the world to draw attention to the widening gaps between the ideals envisioned by world leaders in 1948 and the disturbing trends we see today. As wars, political turmoil, and discrimination of all kinds create unprecedented numbers of refugees, human rights in the United States are under increasing threat. The recent oil spill in South Dakota, growing reports of sexual misconduct by men against women, persistent housing and food insecurity, and threats to health care coverage for millions of vulnerable persons all remind us of the need for us to engage in meaningful dialogue and actions to ensure that basic and fundamental human rights are protected, here in Pittsburgh and around the world. This year especially we highlight the fact that human rights are necessarily *universal*: they don't end at the borders of any nation, state, or city. Human rights begin at home, right here in this Human Rights City of Pittsburgh!

As Pittsburghers we are coming together, to affirm our commitment to the protection of civil rights for *every person* who lives, works or visits our city. Incidents of discrimination or hate will not be tolerated in our city. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*"

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations is the city agency responsible for enforcing fair practices which prohibit employment and public accommodations discrimination based on age (40 or over), ancestry, color, disability, gender identity/expression, place of birth, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. In addition to the protected classes listed above, the PghCHR also enforces fair housing practices which prohibit discrimination because of familial status and status as victim of domestic violence.

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