

7th Biennial National Convening: **Advancing Human Rights 2017**

December 7-10, 2017 • Atlanta, Georgia

USHRN 2017 Biennial Convening/ Annual Member Meeting

Welcome to the US Human Rights Network's 7th Biennial Advancing Human Rights Convening! The goal of this year's convening is to create a space for human rights defenders from across the US to heal, reflect and strategize to advance a human rights movement in the US in 2018 and beyond. As we reflect on our work over the past year and the challenges yet to come, there is no doubt that our justice work must be rooted in the human rights of all people in the US and around the globe. To honor this reality, the theme of this year's convergence is **Connecting Movements & Advancing Global Frontlines**.

US Human Rights Network convenings are safe and inclusive spaces for all races, ability levels, all gender identities, all income levels, all sovereign nations and all peoples. We welcome participants to "come as you are" and move from a place of commitment to self-transformation around issues of inclusivity. The local host committee of USHRN members in the greater Atlanta area developed Principles of Presence and Community Building to guide participants in building and sharing this year's space. Participants are asked to review and adhere to these principles and community building declaration.

Principles of Presence (Confirmed 7.11.17)

- Emphasize bottom-up organizing toward people-centered human rights for individuals, communities, and groups.
- Be Inclusive and Accessible to All People.
- Share Power and Space & Center the Voices of the Most Impacted.
- Let People Speak for Themselves.
- Avoid Assumptions About Gender and Other Identities.
- Work Together in Mutuality and Solidarity with Human Rights Defenders Globally.
- Respect Intersectionality. There Is No Such Thing as a Single Issue.
- Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves.
- Honor the Work of Healing as Central to Our Liberation.
- Defend this Space as a Harm-Free Zone.
- Commit to Self-Transformation, with Permission to Be Imperfect During Metamorphosis.

USHRN 2017 Declaration of Community Building (Confirmed 8.8.17)

We ground ourselves in place and, center the local history, context, and culture. We recognize and honor the land as the basis of life and liberation. We give space for spiritual traditions and lift up our indigenous and ancestral ceremonies. Our multigenerational community takes time to celebrate our elders, youth, and children. We create intentional space (both physically and in the agenda) for informal interactions and relationship-building. Culture and art are central to our healing. Our healing is part of our liberation and we want it to be present in all spaces, not confined to one area. We use visual arts to tell the story of who we are, where we are from, and what we are fighting for. We are part of a global community of human rights defenders who practice people-centered ways of co-learning, co-creating and connecting. We work to resist shallow information exchange and transactional networking. We honor the range of abilities and languages in our diverse community by making the arts, culture, and community-building spaces and moments accessible. Music, movement, and rhythm bring healing & joy to our space and connect us to our own cultures, histories, and communities as well as to each other.

Atlanta Host Committee

AIUSA Southeast | Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta | ECO Action | Freedom University | Friends of the Congo | Georgia WAND | Georgia 9to5 | Jericho Movement | Organization for Human Rights and Democracy | Project South | Southerners on New Ground (SONG) | Women Watch Afrika | Paul McLennan - GA Not1More Coalition | Roan Coughtry - Sexual Liberation Collective

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Conference Agenda

Thursday, December 7, 2017 Honoring First Peoples		
Time	Session	Location
10:30am – 6pm	Registration Opens	South Wing Foyer
1-5pm	Art Build: Posts for Peace & Justice	Peachtree Creek
1 – 1:30pm*	Welcome First Peoples Opening	Silver Bell Pavilion
1:30-2pm	First Peoples Session: Movement Landscape <i>Session Leads:</i> - Dara Cooper, National Black Food & Justice Alliance - Deidre Smith, Seeding Resistance	Silver Bell Pavilion
2 - 3pm*	First Peoples Session: Climate & Human Rights 101 (live & webcast) <i>Session Leads:</i> - Everette Thompson, 350.org - Ife Kilimanjaro, US Climate Action Network - Colette Pichon Battle, US Human Rights Network	
3 - 4pm*	First Peoples Sessions: Labor, Land, Economy & Sovereignty	Various Locations
4pm - 5pm*	First Peoples Session: Building Solidarity <i>Session Leads:</i> - Dara Cooper, National Black Food & Justice Alliance - Deidre Smith, Seeding Resistance	
5pm - 6pm*	First Peoples Healing & Reconciliation Session: Indigenous Sacred Drumming	Garden Courtyard
6pm - 7pm	Conference Opening Session: Welcome, Drumming & Community Building <i>Thursday Dinner is on your own</i>	Garden Courtyard
<i>NOTE: *These sessions are limited participation through self-identification</i>		
Friday, December 8, 2017 People Centered Human Rights		
Time	Session	Location
8:00- 2:00pm	Registration Opens	South Wing Lobby
8:00- 9:00am	Continental Breakfast & Community Building	Starvine Foyer
9:00- 10:00am	Opening Session: 2017 Advancing Human Rights - Colette Pichon Battle, US Human Rights Network - Cindy Soohoo, USHRN Board, Chair & Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic at CUNY Law School - Emery Wright, USHRN Board member & Project South	Starvine Ballrooms
10:00- 11:15am	Panel: People Centered Human Rights Across Global Frontlines To help set the tone for this year's convening, this opening session will outline frameworks and processes for connecting multiple movements and multiple issues. Representatives from global Black-led movements, rural worker movements, regional LGBTQ movements and local student	Starvine Ballrooms

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movements will reflect on the state of current affairs and what is required to advance a human rights movement in the US in 2018.

Moderator: Ruben Solis Garcia, Universidad Sin Fronteras

Panelists:

- *Ajamu Baraka, Black Alliance for Peace*
- *Ryan Roemer, LGBT Institute, National Center for Civil and Human Rights Inc.*
- *Jaribu Hill, Mississippi Worker Center for Human Rights*
- *Rafael Aragon, Freedom University*

11:30am-2:30pm

Concurrent Sessions: Advancing Human Rights

Various Locations

11:30-12:30pm

Introduction to Human Rights:

Participants will engage in base-level learning and sharing around five key base human rights issues and should see this as an opportunity to learn about other key justice issues impacting grassroots communities.

12:30-1:30pm

Lunch & Community Building

Dining Hall

1:30-2:30pm

Intersectional Analysis Sessions:

Intersectional assessment of human rights issues. Participants take a deeper dive into injustices at the root of human rights violations in the US and identify the intersection with other justice issues. Sessions explore how foundational issues can be understood at the intersections of Race, Gender, Sexuality and Citizenship and explore what happens to the intersecting issues in a climate disaster. Participants learn how a human rights framework can be an effective and inclusive tool to advance justice from the grassroots and beyond.

The following sessions are led-by USHRN members and national allies:

Housing Justice

Starvine 1

Session Leads:

- *Monica Lewis- Patrick, We the People of Detroit*
- *Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty*

Health Justice

Peachtree Creek

Session Leads:

- *Cindy Soohoo, Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic at CUNY Law School*
- *Onaje Muid, Human Rights Cities Alliance*
- *Melissa Upreti, Center for Women's Global Leadership*
- *Pilar Herrero, Center for Constitutional Rights*

Education Justice

Azalea

Session Leads:

- *Onaje Muid, Human Rights Cities Alliance*
- *Monica Lewis- Patrick, We the People of Detroit*
- *Ruben Solis Garcia, Universidad sin Fronteras*
- *Sarah Hinger, ACLU*

Judicial Justice

Basswood

Session Leads:

- *Joshua Cooper, Four Freedoms Forum*
- *Nikki Reisch, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law*
- *Deborah Popowski, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law*
- *ACLU Smart Justice Campaign Representative*

Economic Justice

Mountain Laurels

Session Leads:

- *Ife Kilimanjaro, US Climate Action Network*

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	• <i>Ruben Solis Garcia, Universidad Sin Fronteras</i> • <i>Emery Wright, Project South</i>	
3:00- 4:00pm	Plenary: Embodying Movement This physical movement session will help participants embody the movement philosophies such as like self- determination, intersectional analyses, anti-racist organizing, internalize superiority/inferiority, dismantling oppressive systems and building systems that help communities thrive. <i>Session Leads:</i> • <i>Mila Thigpen, MA, MFA Boston Conservatory at Berklee</i> • <i>Laila Franklin, Boston Conservatory at Berklee</i>	Starvine Ballrooms
4:00- 5:00	Keynote Address: Collette Flanagan , <i>Mothers Against Police Brutality</i>	Starvine Ballrooms
5:30- 8:00pm	Dinner & Community Building	Dining Hall
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 Defending Human Rights... from the Roots UP		
Time	Session	Location
7:00- 8:00am	Healing Session: Yoga with Sonali	Mountain Laurel
8:00- 2:00pm	Registration Opens	South Wing Foyer
8:00- 9:00am	Breakfast & Community Building	Starvine Foyer
9:00- 10:30am	Concurrent Sessions: Frontlines, Grassroots and Impact <u>UN Special Rapporteur Civil Society Consultation: Rural Woman*</u> <i>Moderator: Colette Pichon Battle, US Human Rights Network</i>	Peachtree Creek
<i>NOTE: *These sessions are limited participation due space constraints. Registration is required</i>		
	<u>Know Your Rights: Encountering Law Enforcement</u> Participants learn rights-based skills on what to do when encountering law enforcement. This session will include information on traffic stops, immigration raids, detention/imprisonment, and protest/assembly. <i>Session Leads:</i> • <i>Mansoor Cheema, Project South</i> • <i>Priyanka Bhatt, Project South</i> • <i>Vanessa Spinazola, US Human Rights Network</i>	Trillium Boardroom
	<u>Advancing Global Frontlines: Int'l Human Rights Mechanisms 101</u> Participants learn base-level information pertaining to U.S. Treaty Obligations, Treaty Reviews, UN Special Procedures (e.g. Special Rapporteurs Thematic Working Groups). <i>Session Leads:</i> • <i>Jamil Dakwar, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</i> • <i>Melissa Upreti, Center for Women's Global Leadership,</i> • <i>Nahal Zamani, Center for Constitutional Rights</i> • <i>Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> • <i>Penelope Saunders, Best Practices Policy Project</i>	Starvine 1
10:30- 10:45am	Bio Break	
10:45am- 12:00pm	Concurrent Sessions <u>UN Special Rapporteur Civil Society Consultation: Indigenous Peoples/ First Nations</u>	Peachtree Creek

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Moderator: Rosalee Gonzalez, Ph.D., USHRN Board Member & University of Arizona

*NOTE: *This session requires registration due to limited space.*

Actualizing Human Rights: US Trade, Climate & the Global Economy

Starvine 2

Participants learn basic knowledge pertaining to US Trade policies, the global climate crisis and the global economy. This session will offer an analysis on how the three intersect and how a human rights movement can engage at all levels.

Session Leads:

- Ben Beachy, Sierra Club- US Trade Program,
- Ife Kilimanjaro- US Climate Action Network
- Barteas Cox, Climate Nexus

Actualizing Human Rights: Racial Profiling, State Violence & Surveillance

Starvine 1

Participants explore the realities and consequences of racial profiling, state violence and increase surveillance in our communities. This session will explore how national movements can support human rights-based resistance at the grassroots level.

Session Leads:

- Thenjiwe McHarris, Blackbird, Movement for Black Lives
- Daniel Kahn Gillmor, ACLU

12:00- 1:00pm

Lunch & Community Building

Dining Hall

1:00-2:30pm

Concurrent Sessions:

UN Special Rapporteur Civil Society Consultation: Migrants, Immigrants & Refugees*

Peachtree Creek

Moderator: Marcia Johnson-Blanco, USHRN Board Member & Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

*NOTE: *This session requires registration due to limited space.*

Civic Participation to Advance Human Rights: 2020 Census & Redistricting

Starvine 2

Participants learn the process and impact of US census and redistricting policies. This session will explore how movement leaders can engage in the 2020 Census and redistricting campaign from the grassroots up.

Session Leads:

- Trupania Bonner, Crescent City Media Group & SOLVE
- Vicky Mack, Ph.D., U.S. Census Bureau

Plenary: Healing Through Acts of Love

Starvine 1

In this session participants will softly examine lessons from trauma and transform them into acts of love. This session will allow participants to express their vulnerabilities, find healing through sexual energy, and learn more about the transformative potential of desire. Participants will be led through embodied exercises to practice magnifying their truth in how they find and perceive love while connecting around the resilient and liberatory nature of desire.

Session Leads:

- Marla Renee Stewart, Sexual Liberation Collective
- Roan Coughtry, Sexual Liberation Collective

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2:30- 5:30pm	Human Rights Strategy Summits: These self-directed strategy spaces are for self-directed agendas of human rights defenders already in coalition, alliance or other formation. • Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative* - <i>Carol Blackmon</i> • Human Rights Cities Alliance- <i>Onaje Muid & Jackie Smith</i> • Southern Movement Assembly* - <i>Stephanie Guilloud</i> • Black Liberation Assembly - <i>Angaza Laughinghouse</i> • Human Right to Clean Water & Sanitation - <i>Silvia Orduno</i>	Starvine 1 Peachtree Creek Trillium Basswood Mountain Laurel
5:30-10:00pm	Human Rights Awards Dinner & Celebration Keynote: Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, <i>Emory University School of Law</i> Human Rights Awardees: Organization Honorees • Advancing Real Change • DC Human Rights City Steering Committee • Freedom University Individual Honorees • Esther Calhoun • Abdiel De La O • Alice Lovelace • Ellen Melchiondo • San Juana Olivares • Azadeh Shahshahani	Silver Bell Pavilion
Sunday, December 10, 2017 Advancing Human Rights		
Time	Session	Location
7:00- 8:00am	Healing Session: Yoga with Sonali	Peachtree Creek
8:00-9:00am	Breakfast & Community Building	Silver Bell Pavilion
9:00- 10:00am	Keynote Address: Adrienne Maree Brown, <i>Activist, Artist and Author</i>	Silver Bell Pavilion
10:00- 11:45am	Strategy Discussion: Advancing Human Rights <u>Human Rights, Democracy & Civic Participation in 2018</u> Members discuss landscape of 2018 and discuss opportunities to advance human rights, protect democracy and increase civic participation. Discussion leads offer key information and opportunities connected to the 2018 National Elections; 2018 CERD Review and 2020 Census & Redistricting. <i>Discussion Leads:</i> • <i>Sophia Lin Lakin, ACLU Voting Rights Project</i> • <i>Marcia Johnson-Blanco, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law</i> • <i>Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> • <i>Trupania Bonner, Crescent City Media Group & SOLVE</i> <u>Human Rights & Advancing Global Frontlines for the Long-term</u> Members discuss the bigger picture and contemplate opportunities to advance human rights in the US and across global frontlines. Discussion leads share learnings from past work and discuss opportunities for collective movement for the long-term as they discuss the UN Decade of Indigenous People, the UN Decade of People of African Descent, Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020) and the Human Rights Cities Alliance. <i>Discussion Leads:</i>	Silver Bell Pavilion

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Onaje Muid- Human Rights Cities Alliance

- *Joshua Cooper, Four Freedoms Forum*
- *Chief Thomas Dardar, United Houma Nation*
- *Lillian Hewko, Justice Strategies*
- *Rosalee Gonzalez, Ph.D., University of Arizona*

11:45am- 12:30pm

Next Steps from Strategy Sessions, Closing & Appreciations

Silver Bell Pavilion

12:30- 1:30pm

Lunch & Community Building

Dining Hall

About Friday Break Out Sessions. You're right, there are so many more issues. And you're right again, the issues listed here include so much more. But, just to start, here's how the planning committee started to define the conversations. This is not meant to be a global definition- nor a political declaration of any sort. It is simply offered as a starting place. And we welcome you and your contribution to help us understand better what needs to be better understood:

- Housing Justice includes: Fair Housing, Land Rights, Sustainable Housing, Homelessness.
- Health Justice includes: Reproductive Rights, Disability Rights, Traditional Remedies, Food justice.
- Education Justice includes: Student bill of rights, Charter school fights, DREAMERS, HBCUs.
- Judicial Justice includes: Prisoner's Rights, State-sanctioned violence, Community Protection, 13th Amendment, Immigrant Rights, Transgender targeting.
- Economic Justice includes: Poverty/ Racial Wealth Divide, Federal/ State Budgets, Cooperative Practices, Workers Rights, Criminalized Work (Sex Work), New Economy.

Important Information

Honoring Ancestors. USHRN honors the roots of various cultural traditions of its membership. To call the power of all the human rights defenders that came before us, we ask that each participant **bring an object** that can be placed in the dedicated space established and maintained by the Wind & Warrior Collective. Objects should be tangible and not bigger than a 12oz can. They can be from a trip you took, an object that honors your family, can be photos of your movement mentor or inspiration, can be leaves, flowers, fruit, nuts or other bounty that comes from your community. Object can also be elements (e.g. water, dirt/rocks/earth) from your geographic region.

Zero-Waste Event: US Human Rights Network ask participants to be intentional about how we contribute to mass consumption, support extractive industries and impact the environment with our waste. This year's convening aims to achieve a standard of zero-waste, which requests participants adhere to reuse and recycling concepts. We encourage you to **bring your refillable water bottles** and other items that honor the rights of nature and acknowledge the global climate crisis. Throughout the venue, you will see water coolers, recycling bins and paper recycling stations. We ask that you join USHRN in mitigating our negative impact on our environment by mitigating our waste.

Childcare: Childcare will be available throughout the convening and will generally begin 30mins. before the first session and last until 30mins after the last session. Parents/guardians are responsible for feeding children. Children under 12 are welcome to join parents/guardians at meals held in dining hall.

Traditional First Aid Table: This convening is proud to host a traditional first-aid station that will be staffed by our healing team. While this station will have basic first-aid supplies available, this station will host traditional remedies, techniques and healers from African, Asian, Southern and Indigenous knowledge. You know what is best for your body. No advice offered should be understood as medical advice. If you have an emergency, please call 911.

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