Core Principles & Code of Conduct

This document contains the core principles that guide USHRN and the code of conduct for using USHRN's listservs.

Core Principles

The US Human Rights Network is guided by these core principles:

- Human rights are universal, interdependent, indivisible, and inalienable.
- Human rights movements must be led by those most directly affected by human rights violations.
- Human rights advocacy and organizing should prioritize the struggles of the poor and most marginalized groups in society.
- Human rights movements must be inclusive and respect and reflect the diversity within communities.
- Human rights encompass civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, sexual, and development rights for individuals, Peoples, and groups.

Code of Conduct for USHRN Listservs

The US Human Rights Network is a national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture in the United States led by the people most directly impacted - a people-centered human rights movement. Effective communication is an essential aspect of movement building. We recognize and appreciate differences in how peoples and groups interact and express themselves, and also expect that all communication through USHRN platforms will be respectful, inclusive, and in keeping with our core principles. We have developed the following Code of Conduct to guide participation on all USHRN listservs and email groups. Please note that failure to abide by this code may result in a written warning, suspension, or removal from the listservs or email groups.

- All use of USHRN listservs must conform with our core principles
- USHRN listservs are established for the following purposes:
- General information sharing. Information can be shared that is relevant to human rights struggles, international law and the international mechanisms, such as event announcements, trainings, mobilizations, petitions, action blasts, sign-on letters, educational opportunities, etc.
- To help facilitate collective work and movement building.
- While we encourage this on other platforms, listservs are not intended for commentary or debate. (Please note that this does not apply to USHRN working groups created for CERD, CAT, UPR and ICCPR where it is understood that some debate is necessary)
- Please use USHRN listservs with consideration, and be sure that you are posting information to the correct online channel. Remember that nobody likes spam.
- Please be respectful, polite, and open in your use of language. Insulting or disrespectful language will not be tolerated.
- Please remember that as members of the human rights community, we are committed to operationalizing anti-oppression principles that recognize and deconstruct the systemic, institutional and personal use of power to marginalize, silence or otherwise subordinate one social group or category, in order to further empower and/or privilege another, and work to equalize power imbalance in our communities. These principles should be reflected in our use of USHRN listservs.
- Please do not share private or sensitive information, or information that is not legal.