

**US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2008
PRE – CONFERENCE INSTITUTES
REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

Thursday April 17th

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Introduction to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina taught US based activists many lessons, one of them that the rights of Internally Displaced People still need to be recognized and addressed in the United States. But what is an internally displaced person, people and community? This pre-training institute will help participants understand the significance and relevance of employing international human rights standards and law in the extension of protection and assistance to those Gulf Coast residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina, promote and disseminate the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and other related international human rights standards as it relates to development and natural disaster induced displacement and to identify unfulfilled needs of internally displaced Gulf Coast residents and work to develop solutions based on human rights standards on internal displacement.

Friday April 19th

9:30am- 12:30pm

Using the Human Rights Framework in LGBT Advocacy

Join us for a half-day pre-conference institute tracing how human rights have evolved to recognize, articulate and address the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT), and sharing ways in which queers have been utilizing human rights frameworks to organize for justice across the country and around the world! We'll look at human rights instruments and jurisprudence, talk about the Yogyakarta Principles - which advance a framework for application of human rights principles to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, learn about current efforts to pass a U.N. Resolution explicitly recognizing LGBT rights, discuss existing research and advocacy applying human rights to LGBT issues, and brainstorm ways in which we can use international human rights in our day to day organizing work!

Video Advocacy: Using moving image media in human rights documentation and advocacy, online and offline

Video advocacy incorporates the tools of modern communication into human rights campaigns for accountability, participation and change. This workshop includes strategies for advocacy plans built around visual evidence, testimony and stories, and using video to target a range of international and domestic audiences, as well as introduces online video advocacy approaches including the WITNESS Hub.

WITNESS partners with locally-based human rights organizations worldwide, equipping, training and supporting them to use video as a tool for human rights documentation and advocacy. The workshop will include presentations around the WITNESS methodology and audio-visual case studies derived from the global network of local organizations with which we partner. The workshop will use interactive exercises to help participants develop concrete ideas for using video in their rights work, as well as opportunities for participants to share their own ideas and experiences with effective video use. The objective will be for all participants to leave with an expanded sense of the possibility for using video in their campaigns, and resources to enable them to integrate this tool into their work for accountability and change in the USA.

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Fundamentals of Advocacy Evaluation

The workshop will consist of a three-hour inter-active training at which two consultants from Innovation Network, a consulting firm based in Washington DC specializing in advocacy evaluation will present the fundamentals of advocacy evaluation; introduce evaluation frameworks that connect advocacy activities to desired social change; and discuss how to measure success.

Human Rights Communication Data

The Opportunity Agenda will present the findings from its 2007 public opinion research on human rights in the US, including the results of focus groups, a national poll, and interviews with social justice activists. The purpose of this research was to examine how Americans perceive established international human rights laws and conventions, to determine the degree to which Americans see social justice problems in the U.S. as human rights issues, and to establish the best ways to communicate a U.S. human rights agenda to Americans. The results provide a baseline of understanding of public opinion on U.S. human rights and will assist in the development of a more unified message and broader constituency for human rights. In this session, participants will also have the opportunity to discuss various sub-issues and how the research relates to them, learn about framing effective messages for specific audiences, and build and practice messages based on this opinion research.