FROM THE GLOBAL TO THE LOCAL:

October 2, 2014

Strategies for State and Local Human Rights Implementation
Who We Are

US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
BUILDING A PEOPLE-CENTERED MOVEMENT

Strengthening and growing a people-centered human rights movement
Building a human rights culture
Agenda

- Introductions
- Panel-styled discussion on strategies for advocating at the state & local levels
- Concluding Observations in Action: ACLU New Mexico
- Q&A
- Available Resources
Panel Discussion:

Strategies for Realizing Human Rights at the State and Local Levels
Panelists

Angelo Pinto
Jamil Dakwar - Moderator
Risa Kaufman
Katrina Anderson
Farah Tanis
Toussaint Loiser
Engaging Local Governments

- State and local officials are on the front lines of human rights implementation but often lack the necessary awareness and capacity.

- A human rights frame can underscore the important work that state and local officials are already doing.

- Human rights strategies that are taking hold in individual jurisdictions include:
  - Monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights compliance
  - Making Aspirational Commitments to human rights
  - Reframing Local Concerns as Human Rights Issues
  - Conducting Human Rights Based Audits and Impact Assessments
  - Developing more participatory approaches to policy-making

- Comprehensive state and local implementation is hampered by a lack of federal coordination and support.
Setting a Blueprint for Reproductive Rights in Rio Grande Valley, TX

- Documentation, human rights fact-finding (November 2013)

- "Nuestro Texas" human rights advocacy campaign (ongoing)

- State policy “blueprint” incorporating human rights language (Jan. 2015)

- Women’s rights hearing in the Rio Grande Valley (Mar. 2015)
Engaging the Grassroots on Housing Justice

- Politically educating our members and other constituencies
- Broadening our coalition and making new partners
- Engaging state actors, particularly local officials in the short term
- Undergirding strategic policy and legislative interventions over the long term
Expanding Frameworks and Building Capacity

- Using the BWB Shadow Report and the CERD Concluding Observations to re-energize BWB’s base and strengthen organizational capacity to push for inclusion of the experiences of Black women and girls within “broader” racial justice concerns of Black communities.

- Using the Concluding Observations to engage community itself in rigorous human rights organizing focused on eliminating sexualized/racialized violence—mainly sexual assaults of Black women.

- Using the report to leverage policies at the local and national level focused on holding the U.S. accountable for keeping its commitment outlined in Section 187, of Article 6 of the U.S. CERD Periodic Report, by “empowering communities themselves to address issues of violence”, and advocating for the allocation of the resources necessary for communities to be able to do so.
Working in Coalition: Raise the Age Campaign

- Understanding the international process and how it can be used as a tool for change.

- Issuing press release about the issue (CERD) for state-wide awareness and traction.

- Partnering with organizations also concerned with shared issues and have joint events.

- Shifting the language you use around the issue to be in accord with the language used in the human rights context (human rights, torture, in violation of international law).

- Sending local voices to represent the issue on international stage.

- Continue ongoing work with working group members.
Vicki Gaubeca, Director, ACLU of New Mexico
Concluding Observations in Action: CPB & Excessive Use of Force

- Local, state and border-wide (regional) coalition against excessive use of force

- 29 deaths since Jan. 2010 at both northern and southern borders (local vigils to meetings with top officials in DC)

- Successful strategy: sign-on letter delivered to UN Human Rights Committee

- ICCPR COs was tip of escalation arc to make agency more accountable (referred to these in a press release, social media, and new meetings with CBP and WH top officials)

- Since COs, agency has announced several actions for more transparency, accountability and oversight
Q&A

- Please use the raise-hand feature to ask a question

Or

- Use the chat box (on left) to type question
Thank you, Jamil!

Leader
Grateful
Appreciative
Visionary
Standard bearer
Available Resources

http://www.ushrnetwork.org/resources-media/webinar-local-human-rights-implementation

- Call audio
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Speaker Bios
- Guides on implementing the ICERD and UPR and how to work with local officials & governments
- Examples of local human rights resolutions
Join the Movement

Become a member of the US Human Rights Network

http://www.ushrnetwork.org/join-movement