

5TH BIENNIAL US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Advancing Human Rights 2013

DIGNITY. JUSTICE. ACTION.



US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
BUILDING A PEOPLE-CENTERED MOVEMENT

#advancingrights

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia | 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30346



Welcome



Ejim Dike
Executive Director



Cindy Soohoo
Chair, Board of Directors

Dear Friends:

We are delighted to welcome you to Atlanta to the 5th Biannual US Human Rights Network National Conference - ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS 2013: Dignity. Justice. Action.

This year, the US Human Rights Network (USHRN) celebrates its 10th anniversary and so it is fitting that we return to Atlanta, our headquarters and the inaugural site for the conference. Atlanta, with its strong history of human rights activism, is the home of many inspirational leaders including the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Reverend Joseph Lowery, former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); and Rev. Lowery's recently deceased wife, Evelyn Lowery, founder of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. (Women's Organizational Movement for Equality Now). Atlanta hosted the first US Social Forum in 1997 and continues to build upon this rich history with the daily efforts of activists on several human rights fronts. Like the rest of the nation, Atlanta has much to organize and fight for. Several of the activists at the frontlines of local struggle will be at the conference. We hope visitors and local activists alike will forge and strengthen connections that will last beyond these few days together.

The USHRN conference is one of the primary national gatherings for human rights and social justice activists to come together to learn, connect, develop strategies, and organize to strengthen the human rights movement and culture in the United States. This year, we have an exciting program. The official opening of the conference will be preceded by an introductory human rights workshop designed for youth and open to all on the afternoon of Friday, December 6th, followed by a kick-off action and welcoming event at Ebenezer Baptist Church. You will hear from activists working on the four primary tracks of the conference - the immigration system and migrant justice; the criminal system and mass incarceration; economic justice and workers rights; and environmental and climate justice - as well as other human rights including housing, education, family, health, political participation, and more. Many of the activists you will hear from have been directly impacted by the issues they will be discussing. We are pleased to be using the causal

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framework developed by The Advocates for Human Rights to draw out root causes and potential solutions from all the presentations made during the conference, which will be discussed on Sunday afternoon. We invite all conference participants to stay through the full conference (including the member meeting) which ends at 6pm on Sunday, December 8th, in order to inform the key actions needed for moving forward.

We are humbled by the contributions and work of the many activists that submitted workshop proposals, welcoming event and plenary presenters, and keynote speakers. We are especially thankful to the members of the Atlanta Host Committee who, among several other things, planned the action “Healthcare is a Human Right” and welcoming event on Friday, December 6th, and the cultural offerings during the conference. We are also deeply grateful to the National Planning Committee who informed the programming for the full conference. Both the Atlanta Host Committee and the National Planning Committee volunteered countless hours, expertise, and creativity to make this conference a success. The members of both committees are listed at the end of this program booklet, and we ask you to join us in thanking them for their work.

We are at a critical moment in our history. We have witnessed the hijacking of our democratic process by an economic elite that has also pushed harmful legislative change across the country. However, we have also seen and engaged in successful organizing including direct actions led by the brave activists of Take Back the Land, Occupy Wall Street, Immigration Reform, and Moral Mondays among others, to legislative and cultural advocacy, litigation, education, and awareness raising. This collective activism has resulted in some concrete human rights wins including gains on same sex marriage, expanding access to healthcare, and the successful defeat of several attempts to restrict voting. We understand that key structural changes are needed in society in order to develop and win the realization of human rights for all. These shifts will need a sustained human rights movement and cultural shift led by those most directly impacted by violations. It is our hope that this conference will take us a step further to the goal of building a people-centered human rights movement in the United States.

We are honored to be presenting six extraordinary individuals and one organization with our first U.S. Human Rights Movement Builders Awards. Please join us on Saturday evening, December 7th, at the celebration of the USHRN’s 10th Anniversary, where we will be presenting the awards to the recipients. It will also be a moment to celebrate our collective efforts as a network and movement. We expect that you will let loose, eat, dance, and enjoy the moment!

As always, we thank our Board of Directors, Coordinating Center staff, members and partners for your commitment, passion, time, and work towards building and strengthening a people-centered human rights movement in the United States. Thank you!

In solidarity,
Ejim Dike, Executive Director, and
Cindy Soohoo, Chair, Board of Directors

Conference Agenda

Friday, December 6, 2013

11:00am - 6:00pm

Registration Open
Location: Ravinia Ballroom Pre-function Area

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Human Rights 101: An Introduction to the Human Rights Framework
Location: Conference Center

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Local Action: Healthcare is a Human Right, organized by Atlanta Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance
Location: Grady Hospital, Buses Depart from Hotel at 3:15pm

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Welcoming Reception
Location: Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church

Musical Performance: Soul Country
Atlanta Acoustic Duo, Kijai Tafari and Sankofa Selassie

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Welcoming Event
Location: Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Keith Jennings, Vice-chair, Board of Directors, US Human Rights Network

Indigenous Welcome

Missy Crowe, Member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Addresses

Ejim Dike, US Human Rights Network

Martin Luther King, III, US Human Rights Network

The Honorable Nan Orrock, Georgia State Senator

Atlanta Human Rights Stories

Melissa Rivas-Triana, Freedom University

Michele Morales, Georgia Latino Association for Human Rights

Rob Call and Denechia Powell, Occupy Our Homes Atlanta

Marissa McCall Dodson, Policy Director and Attorney, Georgia Justice Project, Georgia Justice Project

MaKara Rumley, Metro Atlanta Environmental Justice Project

Musical Performance, *Monica Simpson, SisterSong*

Musical Performance: Soul Country, *Kijai Tafari and Sankofa Selassie*

Dance Performance, *Moving in the Spirit Apprentice Corp Alumni*

Poetry Reading, *Camil Williams*

Saturday, December 7, 2013

7:00am - 5:00pm

Registration Open
Location: Ravinia Ballroom Pre-function Area

7:30am - 8:30am

Breakfast
Location: Ravinia Ballroom Pre-function Area, Seating in Ballroom

8:30am - 9:00am

Conference Welcome
Location: Ravinia Ballroom

Ejim Dike, Executive Director, US Human Rights Network
Cindy Soohoo, Chair, Board of Directors, US Human Rights Network

9:00am - 10:00am

Human Rights Realities in the U.S.: Demand Dignity, Seek Justice
Location: Ravinia Ballroom

Featured Presenters

Aly Wane, Human Rights Activist out of Syracuse, NY
Dorothy Felix, Vice President, Mossville Environmental Action Now
Aqeela Sherrills, Southern California Strategist for Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice Initiative with Californians for Safety and Justice
Representative, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

10:00am - 10:15am

Break

10:15am - 11:45am

Human Rights Realities in the U.S.: Act for Change
Location: Ravinia Ballroom

Moderator: *Ellen Dorsey*, Executive Director, Wallace Global Fund, and USHRN Board Member
[Morning Presenters will be joined by the following Featured Presenters for Moderated Panel]

Catherine Tactaquin, Executive Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Alberto Saldamando, Counsel, Indigenous Environmental Network
Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College and Community Fellowship
Jaribu Hill, Founder and Executive Director, Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights

11:45am - 12:00pm

Break

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch
Location: Ravinia Ballroom Pre-function Area
Seating in Ballroom

Keynote Address by *Dr. Carol Anderson*
Introduction, *Larry Cox*, Senior Consultant, Sunrise Initiative for Human Rights

1:15pm - 2:45pm

Concurrent Sessions
Session Descriptions and Details on Page 12

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Concurrent Sessions
Session Descriptions and Details on Page 18

Sunday Concurrent Sessions 11:00am-12:30pm

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The Obama Administration and Human Rights Violations in the U.S.

Session Summary

This round table will bring together several U.S. based human rights defenders who will outline a number of major human rights challenges in the U.S. that occurred in 2013, including issues related to health disparities, inequality, and political participation. The panelist will debate the issues and make critical assessments of the administration's responses to the outlined abuses.

Presenter

Dázon Dixon Diallo, Executive Director, SisterLove

Ellen Dorsey, Executive Director, Wallace Global Fund

Dr. Keith Jennings, President, African American Human Rights Foundation (Moderator)

Marcia Johnson-Blanco, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Martin Luther King III, US Human Rights Network Board Member

Senator Bobby Singleton, Chair, the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus

Location: Azalea B



Applying a Human Rights Perspective to Macroeconomic Policy

Session Summary

An understanding of the overall impact of macroeconomic policy on human rights can be an effective tool in feminist and social justice activism. As feminists advocating for the full realization of human rights and the achievement of gender equality, the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) believes that to fully comprehend systemic issues of inequality one must have in-depth knowledge of the impact of economic policies. At this workshop, U.S. based activists will gain a better understanding of macroeconomic policies and the ways in which it relates to human rights.

Presenter

Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership

James Heintz, Associate Director and Associate Research Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Location: Maplewood B



Promoting Children's Human Rights in the Justice System

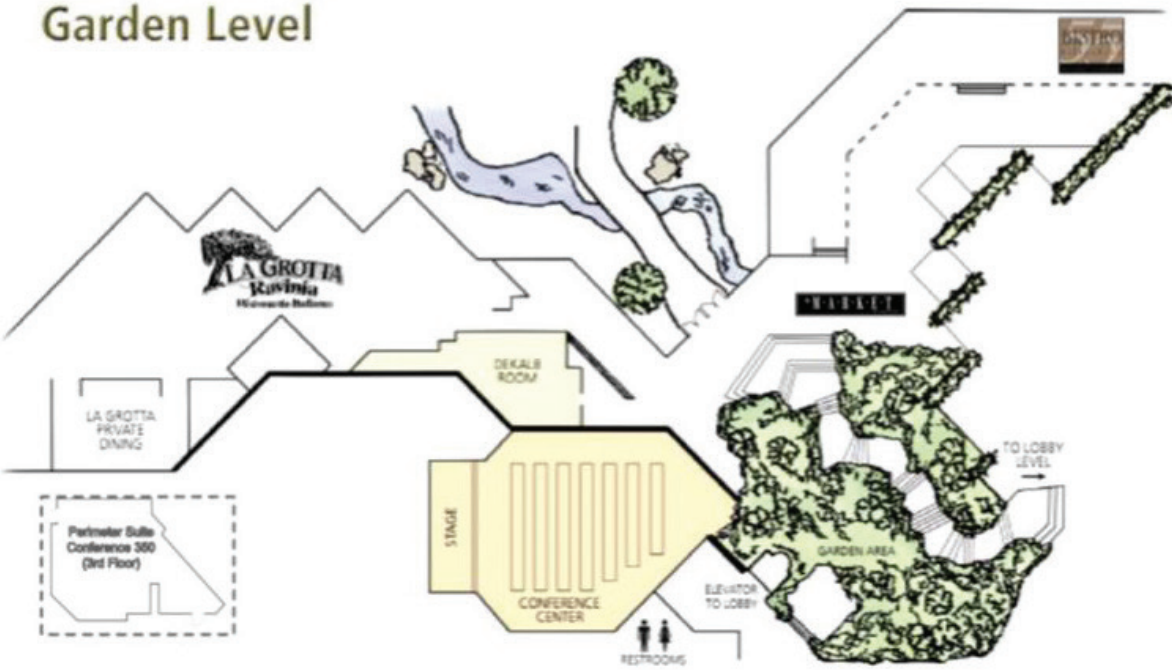
Session Summary

The workshop will provide an overview of the causes and consequences of the criminalization and incarceration of youth in the U.S. and discuss relevant human rights standards. The session will address the disproportionate criminalization of poor youth and youth of color and consider how sex, gender identity and sexual orientation create unique risks of rights violation. Participants will gain a better understanding of the policies and practices that lead to the adultification, imprisonment and human rights violations of youth in conflict with the law in the U.S. and the potential for advocacy at the U.N. and Inter-American human rights system.

Conference Specifications Lobby Level



Garden Level





Keynote Speakers

Dr. Carol Anderson



In the seminal work *Eyes off the Prize: The United Nations and the African American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955*, *Dr. Carol Anderson* asks us to challenge ourselves and reflect on why racial discrimination and inequality persist today, given the courageous acts and sacrifice of the martyrs and activists of the Civil Rights Movement. She points us to the struggle for human rights in the U.S., which demands that all rights be protected and fulfilled so that all can seek justice and live with dignity. An associate professor of African American Studies and History at Emory University, Dr. Anderson also serves as curator for the “And the Struggle Continues: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Fight for Social Change” exhibit at the University, which documents the Atlanta-based civil rights organization’s history, progress and continual work for equal rights. She is on the Board of Directors of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative.

Glenn E. Martin



A fearless advocate for the marginalized and disenfranchised, *Glenn E. Martin* works for policy reforms to decrease U.S. overreliance on incarceration. Mr. Martin is currently the Vice President of Public Affairs and Director of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy at The Fortune Society, where he leads the agency’s communications work and advances Fortune’s national and local criminal justice policy advocacy agenda. Mr. Martin is founder of JustLeadershipUSA and co-founder of the Education Inside Out Coalition (EIO Coalition). He serves on numerous boards and advisory groups including the NYC Council Task Force to End Gun Violence and the National Network for Safe Communities. Mr. Martin hosts Fortune’s local cable television show *Both Sides of the Bars* and often serves as a criminal justice policy reform expert on MSNBC, Fox News, CNN and local media outlets. Mr. Martin challenges us to demand unapologetically options other than jail and to demand dignity and justice for all in the U.S. Follow Mr. Martin on Twitter @glennEmartin.



2013 U.S. Human Rights Movement Builders Award Recipients



Marleine Bastien
Founder and Executive Director,
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc.
(FANM) / Haitian Women of
Miami

Marleine Bastien established FANM, an advocacy and social service agency in Little Haiti, Miami, Florida, to serve low income women and their families as well as victims of abuse, neglect, violence, discrimination and racism. FANM also advocates for underserved, marginalized, disenfranchised, and discriminated populations in South Florida. Ms. Bastien, a Florida International University alum in Social Work, has championed the cause of women, children and Haitian families through her dedicated advocacy in the areas of immigration, human rights, HIV/AIDs, breast cancer and domestic violence by serving as the voice of Haitian women and the Haitian community. She has rallied for their causes in local, national and international media like the Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, and BBC as well as at engagements like the World March of Women in D.C. Ms. Bastien has received numerous accolades, including Ms. Magazine's "Woman of the Year" and the Leadership for a Changing World Award from the Ford Foundation.



Monami Maulik
Executive Director, Desis Rising
Up & Moving (DRUM)

With 18 years of organizing and leadership experience, Monami Maulik is seasoned in immigration, racial, youth and global justice. While establishing one of the first South Asian immigrant workers' membership-based organizations in the U.S. (DRUM), she developed campaigns and led national and global alliance building work. Today, she is a Board member of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the national Dignity in Schools Campaign, the Civil Society Steering Committee for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration, Immigrant Communities in Action, the United National Anti-War Committee, and an Advisory Board member of the North Star Fund. Recently she launched the Global South Asian Migrant Workers Alliance. She has received various awards including the Union Square Award, the Open Society Institute NYC Community Fellowship of the George Soros Foundation, the Tide Foundation's Jane Bagely Lehman Award, NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm's Community Leadership Award, the Asian American Heritage Award from NYC Comptroller John C. Liu, and the Compass Award from Women in Islam.

MOSSVILLE



Environmental Action Now!

**Mossville Environmental
Action Now (MEAN)**

MEAN works to end the ongoing human rights violations in the town of Mossville, a historic African American community located in southwest Louisiana. The continuous dumping of fourteen industrial facilities has plagued the Mossville community causing sickness and death amongst residents. This devastating abuse of the community has been executed without consequence. MEAN has battled against governmental agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in its efforts to stop the abuse and seek remedy for these injustices. MEAN partnered with Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (AEHR) to file a Human Rights Petition in Washington D.C., an environmental human rights legal challenge against the U.S. Government. This document marked a huge accomplishment for MEAN. It is the first document of its kind to be accepted in the United States

“We are honored to be presenting six extraordinary individuals and one organization with our first U.S. Human Rights Movement Builders Awards.”

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Congratulations
Congratulations!

The US Human Rights Network (USHRN) was founded to strengthen and grow the human rights movement in the United States as an essential part of social movements in the United States and the global human rights movement.

MISSION

The US Human Rights Network (USHRN) is a national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture within the United States led by the people most directly impacted by human rights violations. We work to secure dignity and justice for all.

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.



ABOUT THE US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

Guided by these core principles, USHRN works towards two overarching goals - to build a lasting human rights culture in the United States and to strengthen a human rights movement, led by people most directly impacted by human rights violations, that popularizes a universal recognition of and respect for the inherent dignity of every human being - a people-centered human rights movement. USHRN works to achieve its mission and goals to realize human rights for all by:

- Engaging, connecting and mobilizing communities, Peoples, workers and diverse sectors across issue areas, constituencies, and regions to uphold and defend human rights and hold government accountable;
- Building the capacity and leadership of grassroots groups and individuals to effectively apply the human rights framework in developing strategy and making long-term structural shifts to achieve justice;
- Raising the visibility of local human rights concerns and activism to shape the public discourse locally, nationally, and internationally; and
- Facilitating effective collective action to secure the structural change needed to fully realize human rights.

USHRN's strategies help build collective power and voice to reshape national and international discourse on social, cultural, political and economic issues with a human rights perspective. We strive to shift political power in the democratic process away from corporations to people and to ensure United States accountability to human rights standards at home and abroad.

In the past decade, USHRN has introduced thousands of activists and advocates across multiple sectors to universally accepted human rights standards, principles, laws, and mechanisms, highlighting U.S. Government responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all. We helped to change the discourse on government responsibility in the wake of devastating natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and man-made disasters such as the BP oil spill, both of which resulted in human rights abuses that continue today. In partnership with

Acknowledgements

It takes a team of outstanding, dedicated individuals to orchestrate a national conference of this size and quality. We would like to give special recognition to the following individuals and groups:

The Atlanta Host Committee for the enthusiasm, dedication, and diligence they brought to engaging in outreach and organizing Friday's welcoming event at the Ebenezer Baptist Church; the National Planning Committee for sharing their time, experience, and networks in conducting regional and national outreach and providing essential feedback on conference programming; the USHRN Board of Directors for their ongoing dedication to developing and strengthening the organization and providing essential support to ensure that the biannual conference is a great success; our previous Board members, many of who have continued to volunteer time and wisdom in supporting our growth as a network; the inspiring conference speakers and workshop and session presenters who have volunteered to share their stories and experiences from across the country giving each of us new ideas and tools for our human rights activism and advocacy; the human rights award recipients whose courage and groundbreaking human rights work challenges each of us to do more and to work for and demand a more just world; the USHRN staff for the countless hours contributed to conference planning before, during, and after the event; our stellar event planner, Keshia Johnson, who joined our team not a moment too soon, and brought efficiency and creative solutions to many aspects of the conference; our talented graphic designer, Buffy Johnson, who contributed her artistic vision to the conference logo and the program book, among other conference details; our one-in-a-million printer Barry Weinstock, who provided counsel and exhibited patience with a multitude of printed material requests; our wonderful team of volunteers, with their pleasant attitudes and willingness to contribute in a variety of roles; the many talented artistic performers who have enriched this conference by providing opportunities for our conference attendees to become inspired, dream, and be creative; and our members and partners who have responded to the planning of the conference as well as other USHRN work with solidarity and clarity of purpose.

We thank our supporters - the Overbrook Foundation, Ford Foundation and the Sunrise Initiative and many organizations and individuals that purchased program ads or made individual financial contributions to help fund this amazing and powerful gathering of activists and advocates from across the country. We also thank the Ford Foundation, the Foundation for a Just Society, the Sunrise Initiative, the CarEth Foundation, our Anonymous Donor, and the Kellogg Foundation for their support of USHRN's general human rights education, member support and other programmatic work, which is greatly enhanced by our biannual national conferences.

Most importantly, we give recognition to you, our members and partners, because it takes your enthusiastic participation and relentless dedication to advancing the human rights movement in the United States to make our network what it is today, and what we aspire to be tomorrow.

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Congratulations
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the US Human Rights Network on its
10TH ANNIVERSARY

We are grateful to Ejim and the National Coordinating Center staff for their tireless efforts this weekend and throughout the year.

The US Human Rights Network Board

HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC AND IMMIGRATION CLINIC

CONGRATULATE

MARLEINE BASTIEN on receiving the
U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT BUILDERS AWARD

Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)

CWGL stands in solidarity and partnership with the US Human Rights Network in its pioneering human rights advocacy.

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary and best wishes for a successful conference. We look forward to future collaborations.

www.cwgl.rutgers.edu

Join us:



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Atlanta February 2014

Minneapolis/St. Paul March 2014

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2 DAY ACADEMY

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Affirming Sexual Freedom as a Fundamental Human Right

AUGUST 7 - 10, 2014 #SFS14



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NETWORKING!**

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- Book early for **especially early bird registration**, we will have some smokin' deals.
- Keep an eye on: sexualfreedomsummit.org for our call for proposals coming soon.
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates about next year.

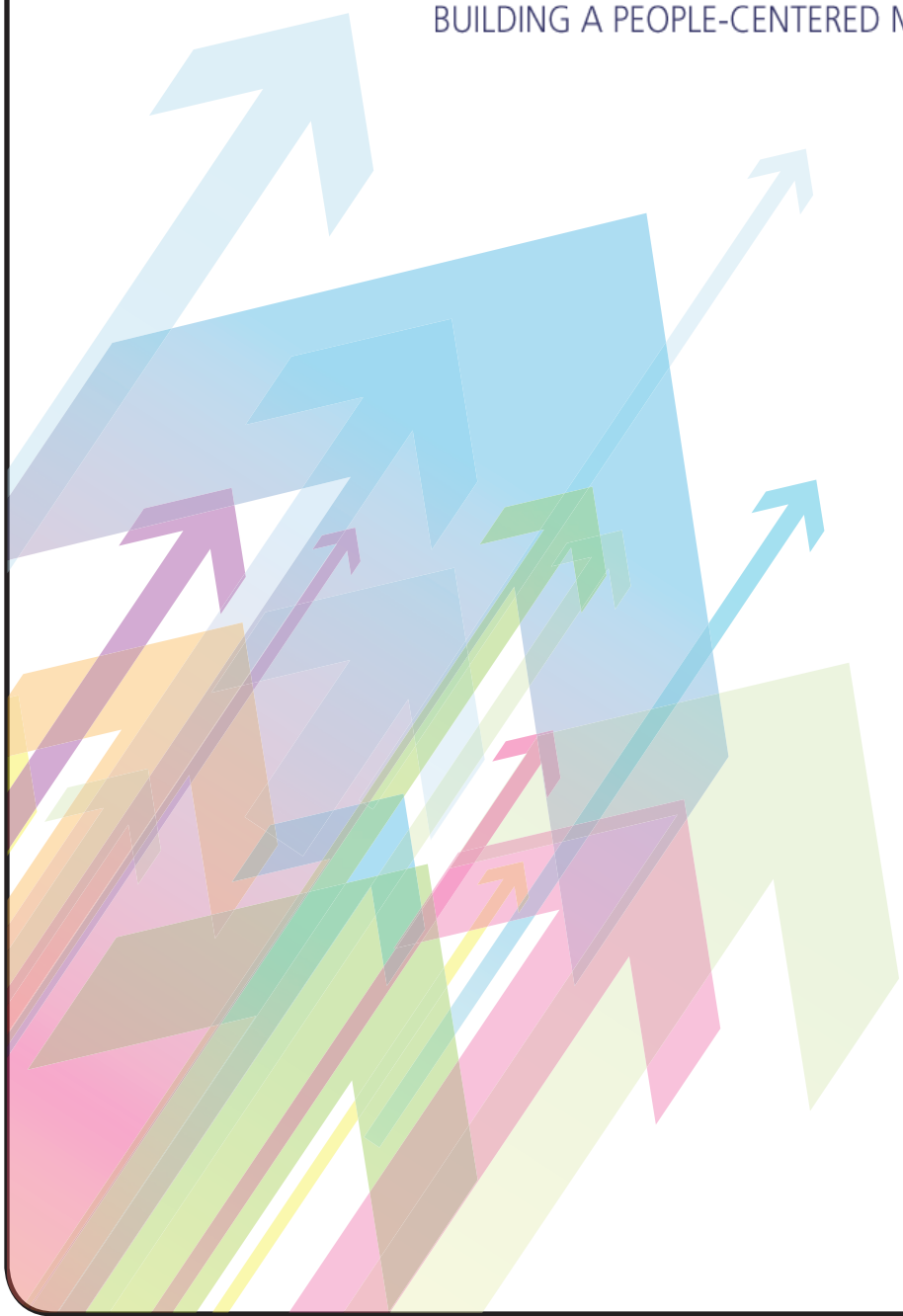
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We can't wait to get together again!



US HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

BUILDING A PEOPLE-CENTERED MOVEMENT



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