

Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit 2023

May 18-21, 2023

PRELIMINARY Schedule*

**Note-We are continuing to confirm participants and update this content/schedule.
Spaces led, co-facilitated by or centering student and/or youth voices are shaded in [blue](#).*

#	Description	Facilitator/Convenor &/or Confirmed participants*
Breakout 1 Friday 1:15-2:30 PM		
1A	How to start a Human Rights City near you This session features organizers from the U.S.-Canada Human Rights Cities Alliance and other human rights city leaders from around the world who will share resources and models for how communities and municipal/ local authorities can be part of this growing global movement and incorporate global human rights laws and principles in local governance and culture.	HRCA-leadership-Molafi Askari (Spartanburg SC) & Jackie Smith (Pittsburgh PA). Paul Gready, Co-Director, Centre for Applied Human Rights, York University & UNESCO Chair, Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Expansion of Political Space; Also leads Art Rights Truth - Can the Arts Save Human Rights? Mary E. Tyler, Mary E. Tyler Consulting LLC, Dayton Human Rights City Initiative
1B	Building climate resilience: Human rights, racial justice & the Sustainable Development Goals	TBA
1C	Cop city: Coming to a city near you? Human rights & militarization of police Struggles in Atlanta over the development of “Cop City” reflect a wider trend of growing militarization of local police forces and the expansion of the military and prison industrial complexes. Cop City projects are either underway or likely in other places, and this session will offer insights and analyses from activists in Atlanta and other cities about how to build more robust, intersectional coalitions to protect human rights and promote alternative models of community safety and care.	Kamau Franklin, Community Movement Builders; Devin Franklin, Movement Policy Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights; John Lindsay-Poland, California Healing Co-Director, American Friends Service

		Committee (Oakland CA); GSU BLSA & Howard Thurgood Marshall Center student leaders
1D	Human Rights & Urban Politics: Human Rights/Human Relations Commissions How can human rights cities initiatives build upon and support the work of local and state Human Rights/Human Relations Commissions? What models of cooperation exist? Session speakers will share about work to build collaboration between community activists and HRCs as well as how HRCs can help support and build capacity for community activism.	Various cities Human Rights/Human Relations commission leaders & advocates
1E	FILM: Using human rights to take on corporate landlords–PUSH– the documentary film on the financialization of housing, features Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Housing and her work to advance housing as a human right and rein in harmful corporate practices.	FILM Ceremonial Courtroom NOTE: The film will be started during lunch break at 12:45PM .
Breakout 2 Friday 4:15-5:30 PM		
2A	Human rights budgeting A government's budget is the most important economic policy and planning document, and is an essential means for assessing the realization of human rights. In 2017, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published guidelines on human rights budgeting , and in 2019 the Scottish Human Rights Commission published a series of Briefing Papers, " Human Rights Budget Work: What, Why and How? " In other cities, activists are organizing to promote fairer taxation as a way to expand public resources available for basic needs such as affordable housing, education, and climate resilience. A panel of leaders will share experiences in helping reframe budgets to center resident needs and better reflect human rights values.	Dr Alison Hosie, Research Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission; Nthando Thandiwe, Pittsburgh Budget and Policy Center; Trixie Maybituin, University of Manitoba
2B	Human rights organizing in the U.S. South today What particular challenges do local policy makers, activists, and educators face in the U.S. south today? Can cross-city networks and ties to national and global human rights movements support work to defend the rights of vulnerable groups and confront deepening racial and economic divides? How? Panel will offer analyses of the current political context, models for transformative interventions, and ideas for cross-city/community organizing.	Tina Kempin-Reuter, Director, Institute for Human Rights, University of Alabama-Birmingham
2C	Models for advancing the right to housing in your city This session highlights examples of how activists are advancing the human right to housing through innovative strategies for	Tanya Washington, Housing Justice League/ Atlanta; Jim

	empowering tenants and communities and for advancing alternatives to market-driven housing policies.	Dunn, Director, Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative (CHEC); Randall Taylor, Pittsburgh Penn Plaza Support & Action Coalition & Hill District Consensus Group
2D	Youth/Student Space: Social Media, Advocacy & Students Spreading Information for Change	Facilitator: Branden Peters
	Breakout 3 Saturday 11:30AM-12:45PM	
3A	Using UN Treaty Reviews to Improve Local Human Rights Compliance A key activity of human rights cities is monitoring local level human rights conditions as a way to help improve policies and practices. The United Nations and other international organizations engage in similar work to assess government compliance with regional and global human rights commitments, and these institutions provide opportunities for local activists and governments to assess their performance in carrying out international expectations regarding human rights. Learn how city-based coalitions can develop “shadow reports” as part of formal national treaty reviews like the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and others.	Juilee Shivalkar, Project South; Lisa Borden, Southern Poverty Law Center; Human Rights Cities Alliance- UPR Cities & CERD Cities
3B	Human Rights & Urban Politics: Working across branches and jurisdictions of government Human rights cities initiatives work to promote both cities'/ communities' <u>commitments</u> to human rights and their capacities to effectively <u>enforce</u> those commitments. This work involves both city/county councils and executive branches of local government. And often cities lack the jurisdiction they need to protect the rights of residents. In today's context of deep polarization and exclusionary politics, what lessons can we learn from existing human rights city initiatives, and how can cross-city organizing help strengthen work to realize human rights in local communities?	Trixie Maybituin, University of Manitoba; TBA
3C	Building Intersectional Coalitions for Health in our Cities As the World Health Organization observed "throughout history, most of the world's cities have been planned... primarily for commerce and cars. Cities can and should be planned for people in order to optimize the health of their residents." The	Brynnaiza Young, Black Women's Policy Center & Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition

	right to health depends upon protections of so many other rights—including the right to housing, food, clean air, and habitable communities. How can a focus on health help build an intersectional politics that can more effectively confront the realities of climate change and related urban challenges?	Dr. Noble Maseru , School of Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; Member, Pittsburgh Black Equity Coalition ; Jim Dunn , Director of McMaster Institute for Healthier Environments, Senator Wm McMaster Chair in Urban Health Equity
3D	Intergenerational Dialogue This session brings together a panel of elders and youth leaders to explore lessons from our work at this Summit, obstacles to effective inter-generational communication and cooperation, and strategies for improving work to transfer knowledge across generations and build youth leadership.	Student leaders, Yolande Tomlinson, Tiffany Roberts
Breakout Session #4 Saturday 3:45-5:00 PM		
4A	How a national human rights institution (NHRI) can help fight discrimination and strengthen human rights protections in cities- The United States is among the only democratic states yet to follow international commitments and guidelines calling for the creation of a national institution to coordinate and guide human rights implementation. Allies, UN member peers, and UN expert panels have repeatedly called on the U.S. government to create an NHRI, as has a growing chorus of civil society organizations. There are new possibilities to make progress toward this important goal under the Biden administration. Learn how an NHRI would help state and local governments advance human rights at home.	Lisa Borden , Southern Poverty Law Center; Jamil Dakwar , American Civil Liberties Union
4B	University roles & resources for advancing human rights in cities & beyond Virtually every model of active human rights cities involves leadership and engagement by academic workers—often with limited institutional support. Yet, universities are major drivers of urban growth that threatens environmental sustainability and contributes to displacement and housing insecurity. This panel explores the need to mobilize universities around human rights city initiatives and other work to support human rights institutions and to improve the accountability of universities to human rights.	Los Angeles-SDG project team; Joel R. Pruce, University of Dayton
4C	Restoration, Healing, Strategic Self Care & Justice When Addressing Human Rights	Facilitated by Anana Harris Parris, The Self

	This session will address the critical need for those advocating in the human rights arena to better integrate systems, procedures and support structures that provide more potent restoration, healing, strategic self-care and justice. We will hear stories where advocates have successfully integrated or trained frontline grassroots organizations and individuals to better address their mental, behavioral, emotional and economic needs. Many times quality support and advocacy diminishes over time in community organizations and outreach programs due to the sheer exhaustion and burn out of advocates. Temporary fixes have not been working and never have. This session will discuss the possibility of sustainability of wellness when addressing issues of trauma, systemic violence and under supported wellness services for community organizations.	Care Agency & SisterCARE Alliance Guest Panelists: Dr. Sharnell Myles, Licensed Psychotherapist and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, Vice President of Embark Behavioral Health in the Atlanta Metro. Dr. Myles is also the Executive Director of JoyUs Beginnings Child and Family Wellness Center and The Urban Trauma Positive Impact Center, Inc. Toni Roberts, President & Executive Director Atlanta Bar Association & Domestic Violence Advocate.
4D	Social Movement Lawyering & Skills-Building for Human Rights Work What can students learn today to equip them for human rights movement lawyering tomorrow	Tiffany Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights

*Other participants to be confirmed.