

Workshop on Human Rights Cities and Today's Political Context

Friday July 27, 2018, Washington DC

Speaker Bios

Cathy Albisa is the Director and co-founder of the [National Economic and Social Rights Initiative](#) (NESRI). She is a constitutional and human rights lawyer with a background on the right to health, and has played leadership roles in numerous human rights organizations including the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Center for Reproductive Justice. Albisa has significant experience working in partnership with community organizers in the use of human rights standards to strengthen advocacy in the United States and is committed to a community-centered and participatory human rights approach that is locally anchored, but universal and global in its vision.

Rachel Bergsieker is the Human Rights Learning Associate for the [D.C. Peace and Economic Justice Program](#) of the [American Friends Service Committee](#). In her role as Human Rights Learning Associate, Rachel manages both AFSC DC's Human Rights Learning Program and Human Rights City Program, helping to promote human rights within the District of Columbia, the United States' first Human Rights City. Rachel received her MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University's School of International Service in 2016. She is a 2014 graduate of Butler University with degrees in International Studies and French.

Vickie Casanova-Willis currently teaches at Village Leadership Academy, a social justice and world scholars independent K-8 school. Her work involves culturally relevant human rights research and education. She serves in national/international roles via the [National Human Rights Cities Alliance](#) (Steering Committee), as past President of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and the US Human Rights Network ([USHRN](#)) (Board Member). Vickie is the human rights and African diaspora solidarity chair for Trinity United Church of Christ's Justice Watch Team and a founding member of the HBCU/PBI local leadership team in Chicago, affiliated with IHRAAM. Casanova-Willis is a founding member of [Black People Against Police Torture](#) (BPAPT), a grassroots group which used the international human rights framework to transform the Chicago police torture justice trajectory, bringing human rights home under the leadership of her husband Attorney Standish E. Willis. Vickie has published and presented locally, nationally, and internationally and co-authored stakeholders' reports and testimony to the UN ICERD, CAT, and UPR treaty review bodies. Vickie was instrumental in co-hosting recent visits of the [UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent](#) (UNWGEPAD) and [UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](#) (UNWGAD) to Chicago. She was Director of Communications and co-led attorney mobilization efforts for First Defense Legal Aid ([FDLA](#)), providing free representation to Chicago arrestees, local human rights implementation, and media advocacy to interrupt the racist cradle-to-prison pipeline. She is a monthly host for Black Talk Radio Network's "[Race Treaty](#)" internet radio program and podcast.

Joshua Cooper teaches advocacy at the International Training Center on Teaching Peace and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland as well as the University of New South Wales Diplomacy Training Program in the Asia-Pacific region and the Oxford University Training Program for Unrepresented Diplomats at the United Nations. He is the U.S. Human Rights Network Universal Periodic Review Task Force Co-Chair, coordinating the national campaign for the review of the U.S. human rights record between local and global forums. He participated in the negotiation and adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and in reviews of US human rights compliance at the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on

the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Committee Against Torture. He is currently focusing on implementation of the UPR recommendations and SDGs at the local and state level to realize human rights at home in Hawai'i.

Stephanie S. Franklin, Esq. is the Founder, President & CEO of the Franklin Law Group, P.C. For over thirty years Ms. Franklin has dedicated her professional career to social justice advocacy, with her most recent efforts focused on human rights issues, advocating for and beside marginalized groups – primarily focused on children, youth and women. She has published on issues pertaining to the intersection of child welfare and criminal justice and the intersection and impact of education and human rights on Black African-descended girls; and was a radio programmer and host on social justice and human rights issues. She has testified at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland, convincing the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) treaty committee to mandate that the United States collect and share data on the rate that psychotropic drugs are being administered to Black children in foster care. She was the lead organizer for the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent's first-ever fact-finding mission to Baltimore and serves/has served in leadership roles in US Human Rights Network; and the Center for Women's Global Leadership's Feminist Alliance for Rights Program at Rutgers's University. Stephanie's work has earned her the Maryland Daily Record's Top 100 Women and Leadership in Law Awards and Maryland's Associated Black Charities Howard "Pete" Rawlings Award for Excellence in Public Policy.

Frédérique Hanotier founded the Human Rights Cities Network in 2017, aiming to support and strengthen the human rights cities development in Europe. Specialized in human rights and governance, she works as an independent expert. She is researching human rights cities advancement, focusing on the development of a standardized model. Frédérique has 20 years of work experience in EU external relations, diplomacy, political analysis and development cooperation. She has been working within the EU General Direction for Development Cooperation and International Aid in Brussels and was posted in several EU Delegations (Africa and Asia). She has developed diplomatic skills to support negotiation and mediation processes. She managed many projects at international level, including urban development in EU external cooperation policy. Frédérique is a political scientist specializing in international relations. She has a Master's degree in Political Sciences in European Politics (Institut d'Etudes Europeennes) and a Master's degree in Human Resources Management & Dynamic of Organizations (Université Libre de Bruxelles).

M. Thandabantu Iverson, PhD, is a veteran human rights and labor activist/educator. Since retiring in 2014, as a Senior Lecturer on the faculty of Indiana University's Department of Labor Studies, he now works in Denver with [Towards Justice](#) and local social justice activists, and he is currently working to promote the Human Rights City idea in that city. He is a member of the US Human Rights Network's Working Group on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and is on the leadership committee of the National Human Rights Cities Alliance. He has extensive experience in the Civil Rights, Black Power, African Liberation Support, New Left, Domestic Violence Prevention, and Human Rights Movements.

Anna Lindström is an independent expert and facilitator. She works as a project manager and senior adviser at the [Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions](#). The focus is on promoting Local Democracy, Citizens' participation and Human Rights in Swedish cities and regions. She has also been Director and Head of Department at the Swedish Integration Board. The department was promoting diversity and counteracting racism and racial discrimination in Sweden but also building a long-term relation with Swedish NGOs.

Tammy Morales is co-chair of the Human Rights City of Seattle's Human Rights Commission. Tammy's lifelong work has been to increase economic power for struggling individuals and families. She is committed to equitable community-based solutions that advance the economic right of everyone to live a life of dignity. For 10 years Tammy was the founder and principal of Urban Food Link, a food policy firm that was instrumental in placing food security issues on the agendas of city, county and state leaders. Tammy's professional experience includes budget and policy analysis for the Texas Legislature and the City of New York, grant-making for community development organizations, and building power for grocery workers across the region. She currently serves as a community organizer with Rainier Beach Action Coalition, which works to build neighborhood capacity to enhance the quality of life in Rainier Beach. <https://www.seattle.gov/humanrights/who-we-are>

Karen Mulhauser has been providing consulting services to nonprofit organizations, grantmakers and candidates for public office since 1988. In addition, she brings many years of leadership experience as CEO and board member of domestic and international nonprofit groups. Before consulting, Karen was the Director of the Center for Education on Nuclear War and an affiliated lobbying coalition, Citizens Against Nuclear War (CAN) and was Executive Director of the [National Abortion Rights Action League](#) during most of the 70s through 1981. She now coordinates a [network](#) of over almost 1,000 DC-area self-employed women and her office manages its active listserv and web site. She has served on over 35 boards and advisory boards often in leadership positions. She helped start and chair the Advisory Council of [Women's Information Network](#) and each year since 1994, WIN has presented a DC woman with the Karen Mulhauser Award for service to support the advancement of young professional women. She is an active member of the [UN Association of USA](#) and of the [National Capital Area](#) chapter. In these roles she leads efforts to encourage UNA chapters to work for gender equity at the municipal level by implementing the principles of the UN treaty, the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW.

Jacqueline Patterson is Director of the [NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#) and co-founder and coordinator of Women of Color United. She has just returned from a visit to the U.S. border in Laredo, Texas where she worked to document human rights violations. Jacqui has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women's rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies.

Rob Robinson is a cofounder and member of the Leadership Committee of the Take Back the Land Movement and a staff volunteer at the [National Economic and Social Rights Initiative](#) (NESRI). He plays a lead role in the [USHRN's National Campaign on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation](#). After losing his job in 2001, Rob spent two years homeless on the streets of Miami and ten months in a New York City shelter. He eventually overcame homelessness and has been in the housing movement based in New York City since 2007. In the fall of 2009, Rob was chosen to be the New York City chairperson for the first ever; official mission to the US; of a UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. He was a member of an advance team coordinated by the [US Human Rights Network](#) (USHRN) in early 2010;

traveling to Geneva Switzerland several times to prepare for the United States initial appearance in the Universal Periodic Review. Rob has worked with homeless populations in Budapest Hungary and Berlin Germany and is connected with housing and land movements in South Africa and Brazil. He works with the European Squatters Collective, International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI); Landless People's Movement (MST) and the Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), the Platform of People Affected by Mortgages in Spain (PAH) and is the coordinator of the USA Canada Alliance of Inhabitants sister organization to IAI.

David Schwartzman has been a resident in DC since 1976, grew up in Brooklyn N.Y. City College of N.Y. (B.S.), Brown University (M.S., PhD), geochemistry. He is an ecosocialist and scientist focusing on climate change and energy. David is Professor Emeritus at Howard University and Chair of the Political Policy and Action Committee of the DC Statehood Green Party. He is now the Green Party candidate for Council At-Large. He is a member of: ONE DC, Empower DC, the Fair Budget Coalition, Grassroots Planning Coalition, Green Neighbors, Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America, DC for Democracy Steering Committee: DC Public Banking Center, DC Human Rights City Steering Committee.

Whitney Shepard uses she or they pronouns, and is a community activist, organizer, and researcher for the Movement for Black lives in Washington DC. Her research looks specifically at how Wall Street, big banks and other financial players impact the day-to-day lives of Black, non-white, immigrant, non-binary and working-class people. Currently her research focuses on the private prison and immigrant detention industry with a particular focus on the future trends of these markets, including their intersections with big tech and data. Through her role with Movement for Black Lives DC, Whitney works with the local campaign- Obviously Not DC- which is organizing against Amazon HQ2 locating to the DMV area and advocating for real community investments.

Jackie Smith is professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh and an activist/organizer working to make lessons from her research on globalization and popular political participation accessible to practitioners and activists. Her books include: Social Movements and World-System Transformation, Social Movements in the World-System: The Politics of Crisis and Transformation, and Social Movements for Global Democracy. Her article, [Responding to Globalization and Urban Conflict: Human Rights City Initiatives](#), recently appeared in Studies in Social Justice. Smith is co-founder and co-coordinator of the [Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance](#), and serves on the national steering committee of the [National Human Rights Cities Alliance](#). She is co-founder of the [International Network of Scholar-Activists](#) and works closely with [May First/People Link](#), a technology and communications rights organization.