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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Delegation Joins Global Dignitaries, City Leaders, and Grassroots Activists in Atlanta for Human Rights City Leadership Summit

PITTSBURGH – A delegation of more than 30 Pittsburgh-based community leaders, advocates, and activists will travel to Atlanta Thursday to join UN officials, civic leaders, and fellow grassroots campaigners for a Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit. The meeting will explore ways to “bring human rights home” by supporting innovative policy making and advancing leadership ready to confront today’s most urgent challenges, from housing to structural racism, climate change, and more.

“We hope this summit connects people working to implement global human rights goals close to home and equip them to build and maintain stronger communities.” - Tiffany Williams Roberts, Southern Center for Human Rights

The [Human Rights Cities Alliance](#), in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center, Southern Center for Human Rights, and the Organization for Human Rights and Democracy, among others, will host the [Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit](#) from **May 18-21, 2023** at Georgia State University College of Law. Members of the [Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance](#) (HRCA) are part of the national organizing team and secured a grant from the Heinz Endowments, in partnership with [The Global Switchboard](#), to support local leaders’ participation.

“We are thrilled to take this amazing delegation of Pittsburgh leaders and emerging leaders to Atlanta to learn with others about how we can use the human rights framework to guide policy and transform our institutions and politics locally.” – Jackie Smith, Pitt Professor & Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

Atlanta was chosen as the host city in part because a recent [City Council resolution](#) named it the newest U.S. “Human Rights City,” committing leaders to using human rights to guide city policies and practices. Pittsburgh was declared the fifth US Human Rights City in a 2011 [City Council Proclamation](#), and HRCA members are eager to work with local officials to revisit and expand that proclamation and strengthen its impacts on City policies and practices.

“Whether on housing or transit or police and prison reform, the human rights framework provides a way to work for dignity for everyone in our communities.” - Randall Taylor, Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition and Pittsburgh delegation member

Summit speakers include two UN leaders who both visited Pittsburgh to help support our human rights work here. **Justin Hansford** is a Howard University law professor and member of the newly-established UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. After Michael Brown’s killing in Ferguson, Missouri, Hansford helped Brown family members bring their [appeal for justice to the United Nations](#). And **Leilani Farha**, former UN Special Rapporteur on

the Right to Adequate Housing, has done important work to address the impacts of global financialization on housing insecurity, and she is featured in the [documentary film, *Push*](#), which will be screened during the Summit. [Full program can be found here.](#)

For more information, please contact Miracle Jones at Miracle@1hood.org.

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