

A Strategic Vision for the Human Rights at Home Campaign

A human rights vision for the United States is a vision for fundamental change in our society. To enable this country to fulfill its human rights obligation toward its people, we need new political and economic structures and new ways of thinking, communicating and living. This change is guided by the human rights principles to which we jointly commit ourselves.

We are part of the history of struggles for our rights

Human rights express our needs and aspirations as human beings. They are not merely a set of legal agreements; they have emerged through struggle and require our continued struggle to become embedded in the fabric of our lives. Human rights arise from our needs, our quest for freedom, and our pursuit of dignified lives. We make and remake their meaning in our collective acts of claiming rights. As we demand a society in which everyone can meet their fundamental needs, be treated equitably, and live free and with dignity, we put forward a human rights vision that embraces and connects the multitude of local, national and global struggles for change. Our vision is bold, broad, and rises above any single issue, cause or solution. It entails concrete obligations for the governance structures we have established to serve our communities.

We will hold government accountable for the denial of our rights

We are suffering from the systemic failure of political and economic systems to meet people's needs, fulfill our rights and respect our dignity. Together we will hold government at all levels accountable for assuming its responsibility to ensure everyone's well-being, on an equal basis, now and in the future. Government must prevent the concentration and unjust exercise of power, uphold everyone's freedoms and enable people's participation in decision-making. Public policies must be inclusive, not divisive, ensure the universal provision of public goods to meet people's fundamental needs, facilitate an equitable distribution of public resources, and be fully accountable to the people.

We use principles to guide our struggles

The basic human rights principles of universality, equity, accountability and participation must underpin all forms governance, including our own strategies and operations. They provide the compass for our movement and the framework for our demands. These principles enable us to ask new types of questions of public policy, mirrored across issue areas. They help us identify related policy failures across issue areas. They allow us to articulate policy demands grounded in an analysis of structural causes and solutions that reach beyond single issues.

We achieve unity through a principled vision of a society grounded in human rights

The human rights denials our communities experience are neither accidental nor isolated. They are symptoms of a politics of exclusion, division and inequity, masked by deeply engrained ideologies of individual responsibility, superiority, and competition. Our interventions must be targeted at these roots of the crisis, grounded in a common strategic vision that connects the different manifestations of our suffering. We must anchor our solidarity and our yearning for a better society in the principles of human rights that give us a unifying approach, theme, and standards. A society that satisfies the principle of

universality will no longer exclude, marginalize, stigmatize, and criminalize people. It will no longer worship the market and withhold public goods. A society that meets the principle of equity will neither tolerate the concentration of power and wealth, nor the persistence of systemic oppression. A society that establishes truly democratic processes that are transparent, accountable, and participatory, will no longer suppress the power of the people.