



Report on the 2010 Human Rights Summer Institute

August 2010

The Summer Institute was held at Rutgers University in New Jersey and hosted by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). The subject of the Institute was "*Realizing Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in the United States: Addressing the impact of the Financial and Economic Crisis and the structural ravages of neo-liberal globalization on oppressed, working class, and working poor communities*". The primary focuses of the Institute were:

1. Analyzing macro-economic policy within ESCR obligations
2. Examining the historic and current impact of "biased" policies and neo-liberal globalization on oppressed communities
3. The realization of ESC rights via participatory practices, such as participatory and gender equity budgeting
4. Monitoring ESCR violations with HR evaluative methods and tools

The primary objectives of the Institute were:

1. Developing popular training materials on macro-economics and ESCR
2. Introduce new social justice organizations to the ESCR framework

Participants included:

1. Atlanta Public Sector Alliance
2. Black Mesa Water Coalition
3. Black Workers for Justice
4. Brazilian Women's Group/Domestic Workers United
5. Cidado Global
6. International Indian Treaty Council
7. Jackson, Mississippi People's Assembly
8. Lifetime
9. PERI Umass
10. Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative
11. Urban Justice Institute
12. Women's HIV Collaborative

The Institute produced some noted advances in all of aforementioned areas. A few of the critical outcomes of the Institute include:

1. The formation of a collaborative team to produce a manual on "*organizing for human rights*", that focuses on realizing ESC rights, tentatively set for production in Winter 2011, by members of the Training Committee, CERD Task Force, CWGL, and PERI
2. In-depth follow up trainings for the full memberships of the Atlanta Public Sector Alliance and the Jackson People's Assembly fall 2010, to be conducted by members of the Training Committee and CERD Task Force

3. The facilitation of new relationships with Black Mesa Water Coalition, Brazilian Women's Group, Jackson People's Assembly, Lifetime, and the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative
4. The hosting of a human rights Organizers Institute in the spring of 2011 and a Summer Institute for advanced practitioners in July 2011

What follows are some critical comments by several of the Institutes participants.

The use of international mechanisms was useful in that it made it easier to prove the theories being presented because they pertain to people all over the world and not just those restricted to a certain geographic region or those subjected to a certain group's principles of leadership.

Alicia Sidney and Elijah Vick, Black Workers for Justice

The information was priceless; need more ways to help us learn how to replicate this at the local level.

Shafeah M'Balia, Black Workers for Justice

The experience and knowledge of the presenters was impressive. The history and use of the United Nations in advancing a human rights agenda within the states was discussed in a way that helped me put into perspective options for addressing human rights violations we see in the rural south, especially the use of Special Procedures.

Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald, Southern Rural Black Women's Collective

Overall, training was eye opening. I took an Economics class before and it wasn't presented with a Human Rights twist like this training did. The first day helped me to connect dots between local struggles and the economy. During the training, questions arose about the economy within my tribe.

Chelsea Chee, Black Mesa Water Coalition

Thank you for organizing the training and for giving me the chance to be in it. My suggestion is not to let this momentum goes away. Meeting all those people and learning about their programs and ideas and experiences was moving, empowering and challenging. I would love to have the chance to attend a Part 2 Training with more in depth information on finances, community economic affairs and how to link all of this to the international arena.

Heloisa Maria Galvao, Brazilian Women's Group

To see photo's of the Institute, please see the following link provided by CWGL

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cwgl/sets/72157624524365154/>

For video of the session view the following links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFEET_oHOTY

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW5VRiFOm7c>

For more video documentation of the Institute visit the Youtube page of the US Human Rights Network listed under USHRN.

To receive digital versions of the materials referenced and employed in the Institute, please email Kali Akuno at kakuno@ushrnetwork.org.