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A District of Columbia
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RESOLUTION # 6

Adopted by the
**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES
58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ
September 14, 2006**

**TITLE: REBUILDING THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
AND THE GULF COAST REGION**

**PURPOSE: SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA AND THE GULF
COAST REGION**

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of over 140 state, county, and local human relations commissions in the United States of America and several statutory human rights agencies in Canada that has as its purpose and jurisdiction the elimination of discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005 the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States devastated the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region in the form of Hurricane Katrina; and,

WHEREAS, thereafter, Hurricane Rita compounded the suffering and extended the damages experienced by the people in the Gulf Coast region; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of the faulty levee system was not able to provide adequate protection and led to the decimation of both commercial and residential property, loss of life and displacement of over 900,000 people; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government promised to rebuild Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region; and,

WHEREAS, 329 members of the House of Representatives and 45 U.S. Senators have not traveled to the Gulf Coast to view the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's devastation; and,

WHEREAS, thousands who survived Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita are still displaced and continue to suffer one year after these catastrophic events; and need to rebuild their

communities in all areas, including, but not limited to, housing, education, healthcare and employment; and,

WHEREAS, there are non-binding, but morally authoritative “Guiding Principles” on internal displacement that include state obligations to protect people from disaster and to provide for their needs as well as for the right to return;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 58th IAOHRA Conference urge and strongly recommend that U.S. Congressional members visit the area devastated by the disasters of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in order to assist them in understanding the necessity to fully fund the rebuilding of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region; and,

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 58th IAOHRA Conference ask Congress to support, without delay, House Bill 4761 entitled “Domestic Energy Production Through Offshore Exploration and Equitable Treatment of State Holdings Act of 2006” to provide a steady stream of funding for the Gulf Coast region from offshore oil and gas revenues for coastal restoration, protection and production.

James L. Stowe, President