



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCIES

2010 IAOHRA Conference
August 28, 2010 – September 1, 2010
BATTLE HOUSE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
MOBILE, AL

RESOLUTION #1

REPLY TO:

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Adopted by the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES
August 31, 2010

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TITLE: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

**PURPOSE: TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE BROADER
UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of over 140 state, county, and city governmental human rights commissions in the United States of America and several statutory human rights agencies in Canada;

WHEREAS, IAOhRA's goals are "to foster human and inter-group relations, to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world;" and

WHEREAS, international human rights are articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and a broad range of laws, norms and values - that recognize and promote the fundamental humanity and dignity of every person, as well as the necessity of fairness and opportunity for all people, and that enable people to meet their basic needs and to enjoy basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the UDHR on December 10, 1948, declaring that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world;" and

WHEREAS, the U.S. played a key role in drafting the UDHR and a vast majority of people in the U.S. believe that human rights include equal opportunities regardless of gender and race, being treated fairly in the criminal justice system, freedom from discrimination, freedom from torture or abuse by law enforcement, equal access to quality public education, access to health care, living in a clean environment; fair pay for workers to meet the basic needs for food and housing; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of the human rights framework is that human rights must start at home, and must involve and reflect the needs and expertise of local communities, and that governments have an affirmative obligation to respect, protect and fulfill these rights; and

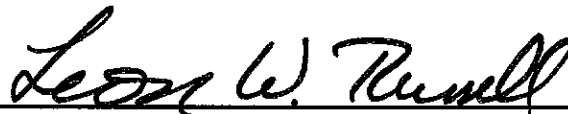
WHEREAS, IAOHRA has joined with the Human Rights Institute of Columbia Law School and The Human Rights at Home Campaign (formerly the Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda) to produce the 2009 report entitled "State and Local Human Rights Agencies: Recommendations for Advancing Opportunity and Equality through an International Human Rights Framework;" and

WHEREAS, as detailed in the Report, international human rights provides a powerful framework for state and local human rights commissions and other state and local agencies as they work to ensure opportunity and equality for their communities; and

WHEREAS, December 10th is recognized globally as Human Rights Day -- an opportunity for the international community to recommit to the broader realization of human rights to ensure equality for all; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of IAOHRA hereby affirms the importance of integrating international human rights into the work of its member state and local governmental human rights agencies, and that each member commits to utilize Human Rights Day, December 10, 2010, to promote human rights in its local community by issuing proclamations or resolutions, creating Human Rights awards, publishing op-eds, sponsoring community events, or any other action intended to raise awareness of the UDHR and encourage residents to take action to support its principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAOHRA shall make one of its top priorities to advocate for the Human Rights at Home Campaign and any other proposal that will provide for the utilization and adequate resources of state and local human rights agencies in any and all federal efforts to advance towards the full realization of civil and international human rights in our communities.



Leon W. Russell, President