

The Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color  
**NEW SLETTER**

The Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color is a coalition of 25 nonprofit organizations from the Asian, black, Latino and Native American communities in NYC that is committed to devising new strategies for the inclusion of people of color and their civil societies into discussions of policy and for succession into positions of leadership in this increasingly multicultural city.

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North

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A critical aim of this newsletter is to provide information that breaks down the isolation among groups of color and enhances knowledge about our organizations and our civil societies. We are also thinking boldly about the future. Growing evidence reveals that no one has a clear perspective about how to construct multicultural/ multi-ethnic democracies. Nonprofit leaders, who are often closest to the interests of the new majority, have a golden opportunity to shape and reshape ideas for new frameworks of multicultural governance and public service. This newsletter is one of the steps in that journey. ANGELA DEWS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR

**Brown Bag Lunches**

Beginning in April, we will hold a series of brown bag lunches following the monthly membership meetings. The April topic is: "A Global Third Way, Social Justice and the World Economy." Walter Stafford will facilitate the discussion. Call for a copy of an article on the subject by Ethan B. Kapstein, a Stassen Professor of International Peace at the Humphrey Institute.

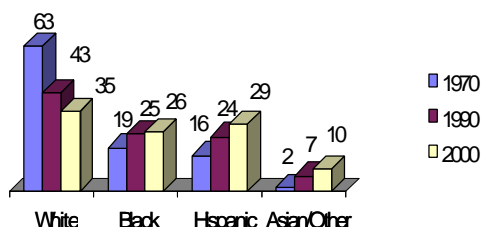
**Roundtable Seminar**

In April we will also hold a seminar with mediation/conflict resolution teams about relationships between and among different ethnic, racial and language groups in the city. Teams which have developed capacity in Crown Heights and Flushing and members of the American Indian Law Alliance, which works on consensus, will facilitate the discussion.

**Reinvigorating Membership**

In May we will hold a half-day workshop to address organizational development and priorities for the Roundtable -- activities that will poise the Roundtable to continue its work with the City Council and begin to prepare for our fall seminar series

New York City % Population by Race, Hispanic Origin



\*The New York Times. May 29, 1997. David Firestone. "Major Ethnic Changes Underway." For detailed information refer to New York City Department of City Planning report. *The Newest New Yorkers, 1900-1994: An Analysis of Immigration to NYC in the Early 1900s*. New York: December 1996.

**Did You Know?**  
 Not only does New York State have by far the widest gap between the rich and the poor of all 50 states but it also has the widest gap between the rich and middle income families. These gaps are significantly wider than they were in the late 1970s and mid-1980s. The average income of the top fifth of families in New York (\$132,390) is 19.5 times greater than the average income in the bottom fifth. *Fiscal Policy Institute: Assessing New York's 1999-2000 Executive Budget in Economic, Social and Fiscal Context.*

**CALL TO ACTION**

Friday, April 16th, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Loeb Student Center, Room 510, 566 LaGuardia Place  
 (on corner of West 4th/Washington Square South)

We will discuss labor segmentation, particularly as it impacts on women of color.

In one of the more complex trends in the city's and in the nation's history, disparities in wages and incomes in the public and private sectors are widening at the same time that government is downsizing and privatizing, and the voluntary sector is being asked to assume more responsibilities for assisting the poor. We will look at the question: how do we propose that groups of color, the numerical majority in New York City and in a growing number of cities across the country, evaluate and participate in the shifting arrangements of government, the voluntary sector (civil society), and the private economy.

"For all the opponents of this pernicious system, the simple and noble words of the universal declaration were a sudden ray of hope at one of our darkest moments. During the many years that followed, this document served as a shining beacon and an inspiration to many million South Africans. It was proof that they were not alone, but rather part of a global movement against racism and colonialism and for human rights, peace and justice."  
**Nelson Mandela**

**(The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted only a few months after the formation of the first apartheid government)**

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA TODAY: ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Speakers at the Roundtable-sponsored conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) attempted to answer the questions: what is there to celebrate during times of torture, assassinations, genocide and world hunger? What is the nature of the family of rights? What has been the path of political leadership and of popular pressure in the United States as compared to other democracies? The Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU and the Canadian Consulate General co-sponsored the conference, which was held at the Wagner School in December.

### **Edward J. Broadbent, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Canada: Canadian Perspective & History of UDHR**

The major powers determined in the post war period to put in place a set of institutions and practices globally that hopefully would head off in the future what happened in the 1930s that produced on the one hand Nazism and the other the world's greatest depression...One, the UN itself, ...Secondly, a set of financial institutions known as the Bretton Woods Agreement. And finally, there was to be added to this important mix a new system, a global system of universal rights: not French rights, not American rights, not Canadian rights, but international human universal rights.

In his last speech to the US Congress in 1944 Roosevelt argued that in the pursuit of happiness, political and civil rights were not sufficient. One had to have economic rights. He was, in my knowledge, the only American president before or since to have made such an argument. He lost the argument. ... Ronald Reagan once said the state has no business taking the money from one citizen and giving it to another ... Margaret Thatcher once said society doesn't exist; individuals exist.

In fact, every democracy in the North Atlantic region except the US has ratified the covenant on economic, social and cultural rights...The other North Atlantic democracies, from roughly 1945 to 1980, embarked on this whole family of rights -- political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights. The net effect was narrowing of incomes rather significantly between the rich and the poor compared to what it had been before and the widespread provision of many social and economic rights as conditions of citizenship in these countries...even if government has been disposed to want to cut back, which some of them have been more disposed to doing than others, popular opinion, which evolved in the period, came to accept as a normal right of citizenship the existence of these strong social rights programs.

....If you decide that you're going to provide as a right, health care and pensions, let's say, that in itself is a decision by the government; it's a political decision to take it out of the marketplace and make sure all citizens get it... nothing to do with income, nothing to do with bailing out people at the bottom, safety net provisions

### **Reed Brody, Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch: International Progress Report on UDHR**

The convention on the rights of the child, which is the most comprehensive human rights treaty in the world actually because...it is a compendium of all the rights of the other treaties put into the context of people under 18. Every country in the world except Somalia and the U.S. have ratified that treaty...Convention on discrimination against women is another convention that the U.S. has not ratified. It has been ratified by 600 countries...

What is more interesting, is what the U.S. does when it does ratify. ...No country systematically has more pages and pages of reservations to every treaty than the U.S....So, granted...one of the two fundamental treaties is the international covenant on civil and political rights. The U.S. ratifies that treaty but there's a section in that treaty that says you can't apply the death penalty to juveniles. The U.S. entered a reservation. The definition of torture in the treaty is considered to be wider than the definition that's in the U.S. Constitution. So the U.S. enters an understanding that the definition of torture and cruel and inhuman punishment is understood to be that which the U.S. courts have interpreted under the Constitution. ...Then, in addition, when the treaties are ratified they are ratified in a way that is non self-executing. Which means an American citizen does not have the right to go into court in the U.S. and say, my rights under this convention or that convention have been violated.

Last year Canada led an effort to draft an international treaty to ban all use and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines. The U.S. said they would sign the treaty if an exception was created for the U.S. so U.S. could keep landmines in Korea....

Because 1/2 of one percent of American soldiers are between the ages of 17 and 18, the U.S. has said they would block consensus on a protocol that would say that no child can be recruited or sent into combat if they're under 18 years old. And rather than, as other countries would do, raise their age so that an international standard can be created, the position of the U.S. is that the international standard has to go down to the level of the U.S.

### **Gerald LeMelle, Deputy Director, Amnesty International: Amnesty's campaign on the U.S. -- Rights for All**

Amnesty doesn't compare countries. What we do, just as the UDHR sets a common standard for the way the world ought to behave, the US like everyone else ought to adhere to that common standard.

When we talk about someone like Mayor Guilliani.... He can't stop police brutality; we all have to. He has no interest in it. But there were mayors before him who were sympathetic but couldn't stop it either. Has to be something that we are educating people about, getting people involved. A lot of people turned a blind eye to police brutality or didn't believe it existed. And our report has indicated that a number of people were very surprised and hopefully now will be willing to do something about it.

### **Amnesty International's Campaign on the United States: Rights for All**

September 1998 (\$12.95 ) Visit Ai website <http://www.amnesty-usa.org>

### **Aleya Hammad, former Executive Administrator of World Health Organization and Visiting Professor at Wagner School of Public Service: Women's Rights and Strategies**

Unfortunately we have little to celebrate because we're moving backwards. What has happened is, because we had ... scored success, all along, we took it for granted that these were principles that had been established, agreed upon and we could move on to the next generation of questions. To our astonishment, we find that those who are against women's rights and health rights as well have been able to marshal their opposition much better, have been able to plan...I'm afraid that we were not well prepared ....

What we need to do is: We need simplification of the language of human rights at every level...so there is ownership by everybody.. To continue to internalize the principles of human rights as a philosophy of life...The time for statements is gone. We need to move forward now into how they translate into programs...so it is taught in our schools for instance. Thirdly, more work must be done to try to consolidate ...what about the inequities that are the root causes of violations of human rights in all domains -- in health, in education, in social, in culture, in criminal...?

***The Census is a major determinant of the allocation of public and private goods and services and the allocation of political power. Roundtable members are serving as advocates, educators and advisors for Census 2000.***

### **The PRLDEF Census 2000 Project**

The Census 2000 Project of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) was brought to PRLDEF as a result of the recent merger with the Institute for Puerto Rican Policy (IPR). IPR had been involved in efforts to promote greater Latino participation in the 1990 Census in the Northeast and as a major disseminator of Census data in the Latino community nationally. The Project consists of the following program elements:

**Policy Analysis:** Through community forums, publications such as policy briefs and the IPR *Datanotes*, the Internet, and other means, the PRLDEF Census 2000 Project plans to raise the level of understanding and discussion on these issues within the Latino community, with the general public, and with key policymakers.

**Resource Center:** The PRLDEF Census 2000 Project is also working to become a major resource center on Census information and materials for Latinos and about Latinos in the Northeast and Puerto Rico. Working with national organizations such as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the Project is currently developing such resources.

**Community Networking:** They have established the Latino Advisory Committee on the Census for the New York Region, which is composed of 17 Latino and other civic leaders.

**Litigation:** The PRLDEF Census 2000 Project will be working with the Litigation Division to develop legal strategies for dealing with such issues as court challenges to the undercounting of Latinos in terms of redistricting and the distribution of federal funds. They also plan to assure that the integrity of the confidentiality of the Census is safeguarded and that the Latino community is aware of the legal recourses it has if breaches of confidentiality are discovered.

**For further information, please contact:**

Raymond Figueroa, Jr.  
Census 2000 Coordinator  
PRLDEF  
99 Hudson St., 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10013-2815  
212.219.3360, ex 237  
Fax: 212.431.4276  
E-mail: PRPolicy@aol.com

### **The DuBois Bunche Center's Census 2000 & Redistricting Initiative**

Since 1970 Census and redistricting issues have been core issues for the DuBois Bunche Center (DBC), an urban policy think tank based at Medgar Evers College. The Census 2000 & Redistricting Initiative is concentrating DBC technicians and professionals, including attorneys, on these areas:

**Census Exams.** The first group of 2000 participants were given orientation, pretests and the official Census examination at Medgar Evers College to ensure that the Census Bureau would have a large pool of qualified applicants from local communities with historically high census undercounts. Future testing cycles are planned.

**Media Outreach & Education.** "Public Policy Roundtable," a monthly DBS public affairs program on radio, television and cable, and two Census videos are part of a massive DBS community education and media campaign. Other videos are planned.

**Strategic Partnerships.** DBS is a "Community Partner" of the US Census Bureau, a member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Census Advisory Task Force, a Census Information Center Affiliate of the National Urban League, and DBS is assisting in the formation of a Black Advisory Task Force on Census 2000.

**Technology & Technical Assistance, including a Census Information Clearinghouse.** DBS is currently providing technical assistance and is expanding its capacity to coordinate technical training sessions. The Clearinghouse will make Census and other pertinent data available to researchers, students and community advocates. For further information:

John Flateau, Executive Director  
The DuBois Bunche Center, 1650 Bedford Ave. Room 2032C, Brooklyn, NY 11225  
718.270.5122.

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### **WE ACT Co-sponsors a Hudson River Community Planning Process**

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) and Community Planning Board #9 are urging local residents and key stakeholders to participate in a series of events as part of a process that will develop a community-driven plan to transform a section of the Harlem Waterfront and pier area -- St. Claire Place (121st Street) to 133rd Street between Broadway and the Hudson River:

- **a design workshop on April 10th, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Shephard Hall at City College, 139th & Convent Ave. RSVP 212.961.1000, ext 307.**

Community design teams will be developed during the morning orientation. You will work within these design teams all day, facilitated by design professionals.

- a successful introductory community forum was held on March 13th
- about 50 people took the walking tour on Saturday, March 24th
- a reception for unveiling the final plan will be held in May.

This plan will identify potential economic development opportunities, as well as meaningful environmental benefits for the entire community.

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### **"Faith-Based Community Development and Revitalization of our Cities"**

Fred A. Davie, Jr., Program Officer, The Ford Foundation  
Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church  
Gregory King, VP Community Development, Dept. of Social Responsibility,  
Chase Manhattan Bank

Rev. Dr. Fred Lucas, President & CEO,  
Faith Center for Community Development, Inc.

**Wednesday, April 21, 6 to 9 p.m.**

The Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue (between 11th & 12th Streets)  
The Wagner Graduate School of Public Service & The Wagner Alumni Association  
RSVP (212) 998-7546 or map5@is9.nyu.edu

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### **The Welfare Reform Network**

**WRN** is a coalition of organizations and individuals that advocates for humane income security policies. Sponsored by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, WRN meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For further information, contact Cristina DiMeo, at FPWA, 281 Park Ave. South, NYC 10010, 212.777.4800, ext 357 HN6281@hansnet.org,

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### **Heads Up**

The *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Summer/Fall 1998, Volume V, Issue 2 includes "The Feminization of Poverty Here and Abroad."  
*Utne Reader*, March-April 99 includes "The Third Way's a Charm," by David Dyssegaard Kallick, (reprinted from *In These Times*, Nov. 29, 1998).

**The Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color**

Alianza Dominicana  
The American Indian Law Alliance  
Asian Americans for Equality  
Association of Hispanic Arts, Inc.  
Banana Kelly Community Improvement Assoc.  
Caribbean Cultural Center  
Center for Law & Social Justice, Medgar Evers  
Concord Community Development Corp.  
DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy,  
Medgar Evers  
Family Dynamics, Inc.  
Family Health Projects, Inc.  
Human Services Council  
Institute for Puerto Rican Policy  
Inwood House

Manhattan Neighborhood Renaissance LDC  
Milano Graduate School of Public Service\*  
Multicultural Initiative, Wagner School, NYU  
National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights  
New School for Social Research\*  
Rheedlen Centers for Children & Families  
Strive Employment Group, Inc.  
The Valley Inc.  
Third World Newsreel  
West Harlem Environmental Action  
YWCA of the USA

**\*individual representatives**

**The Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color  
c/o Wagner School of Public Service, NYU  
4 Washington Square North  
New York, NY 10003  
attn: Angela Dews  
Executive Director**

*“Where after all, do universal rights begin? In small places close to home. So close and small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they’re the world of the individual person. The neighborhood he lives in. The school or college he attends. The factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless human rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action up close and close to home we will look in vain for progress in the larger world.”*

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

**FOR MORE FROM THE ROUNDTABLE-SPONSORED CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SEE INSIDE.**

- ◇ Change contact information for my organization.
- ◇ Add me to your mailing list

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_