

## Global Campaign

# “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”

### *Building universality through local diversity*

This Global Campaign aims at gathering 1000 Local and Regional governments (LRG's) from all over the world by 2030 to strengthen the global movement of Human Rights Cities and Territories. It is launched by the [Copresidency](#) of the [Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights](#) of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and with the support of other active members of the network.

## What is a Human Rights City or Territory?

*“A Human Rights city is both a local community and a socio-political process in a local context where human rights play a key role as fundamental values and guiding principles.”*

[Gwangju Declaration on Human Right City](#)  
World Human Rights Cities Forum, 2011

At the international level, the ratification of Human rights has been a key achievement of the last century to advance towards a world of peace and social progress for all. Since then, our world has become more globalized and urbanized, leading **local and regional governments (LRGs) to become essential places for the promotion and fulfillment of human rights.**

**The implementation of international human rights law is both a responsibility of local and regional governments and an opportunity to act on behalf of their inhabitants, to respond to their needs and aspirations and to ensure dignity for all.** In the past years, several LRGs throughout the world have taken initiatives to **make human rights tangible and accessible to their inhabitants** through local action against discrimination and inequalities, by ensuring access to essential services like housing, access to water, public health, food security and education.

From the rural areas to the largest metropolises, **every city and territory is critical for and actively contributes to human rights protection; promotion; and advancements globally.**

Becoming a Human Rights City and Territory represents a **commitment to improve the living conditions** of all inhabitants but also to **define new modalities of public action**, enhancing the role of LRG to build inclusive, resilient and peaceful societies but also recognizing the needs of specific groups (children, women, older persons, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities etc).

Through the adoption of local human rights charters; the establishment of local ombudsman; human rights commissioners; the creation of offices for non-discrimination or the promotion of a human rights culture, LRGs have spearheaded new perspectives on the vision of "Human Rights Cities", **recalling the importance of public services** to leave no one and no place behind.

By leveraging human rights as **a vector of transformation and empowerment** to revamp the socio-territorial contract with local communities, Human Rights Cities and Territories are also claiming the **importance of the democratic pillar** and the need to foster the participation of inhabitants; as well as the collaboration with civil society and its organizations.

The relevance of these social and democratic features has been further strengthened through the "*Right to the City*", a concept mentioned in the New Urban Agenda and adopted by UCLG (Bogota Congress, 2016) **which has brought a new territorialized dimension to human rights**. By articulating individual rights, collective rights and the general interest, "*the Right to the City is the right of all inhabitants, present and future, permanent and temporary, to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, villages and human settlements, defined as commons essential to a full and decent life.*" (Global Platform to the Right to the City).

## Key milestones of the global movement of Human Rights Cities

Before 2012	Adoption of several <b>local Charters and Declarations</b> (Barcelona, Gwangju, Mexico City, Montreal, New York, Rosario, Saint-Denis, San Francisco, Vienna)
2012	Adoption of the <b>UCLG Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City</b>
2013	<b>First resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council on "<i>The role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights</i>"</b>
2014	<b>Gwangju Guiding Principles of Human Rights City</b> at the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF)
2016	<b>Recognition of the "Right to the City" by UCLG and its recognition in the New Urban Agenda of UN Habitat</b>
2018	Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the European Charter of Human Rights in the City, the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2019	<b>First meeting in Geneva between the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and 15 local government representatives</b>
2020	<b>First High-Level Dialogue between UCLG and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) during the World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju</b>
2021	Signature of a <b>cooperation agreement between UCLG and the OHCHR</b> on the occasion of the UCLG World Council
2022	Launch of the <b>global campaign "10, 100, 1000 cities and territories for human rights by 2030"</b> and the <b>update of UCLG Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City</b> by UCLG-CSIPDHR and its Copresidency

## Why launching a Global Campaign of Human Right Cities and Territories?

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Objective 1	Connect local initiatives at the international level to promote solidarity, cooperation and dialogue between human-rights cities/territories from different regions of the world
Objective 2	Strengthen and expand the global movement of cities and territories for human rights
Objective 3	Scale up local actions on human rights to foster recognition and participation of local and regional governments in global agendas and human rights mechanisms, including at UN level
Objective 4	Encourage local and regional governments to initiate processes for the adoption and recognition of local human rights frameworks to guide their action

The campaign follows the historic signing of a collaboration agreement between UCLG and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2021.

**The first step of the Campaign is to gather 100 cities and territories that are working on or wishing to act on human rights on the occasion of the UCLG Congress in Daejeon and during the World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju (10 - 14 October 2022, Republic of Korea) one year after the signing of the agreement with the OHCHR.**

The Campaign is also linked to two other major processes initiated by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR): the update of the UCLG Global Agenda Charter for Human Rights in the City adopted in 2012 and the launch of an open online learning tool (MOOC) on "Local Governments and Human Rights" to train public servants and relevant stakeholders. For more information on these processes, contact the secretariat of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG: [cisdip1@uclg.org](mailto:cisdip1@uclg.org)

## Why integrating Human Rights into local action?

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Human rights are both challenges and enablers for achieving a just, democratic and sustainable world in the face of systemic economic, social, political and ecological crises. At the international level, human rights are at the center of the New Urban Agenda, the UN 2030 Agenda - which seeks "to realize the human rights of all" - and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**LRGs that have integrated human rights into their local action have been able to respond to the COVID-19 crisis more effectively**, for example by ensuring the protection of women victims of violence; providing access to vaccination for migrants; access to education; and fostering solidarity and caring towards the most vulnerable people.

**Human rights are also a source of inspiration for inclusion and social innovation, creating new areas of action to respond to local demands and realities**, ranging from intercultural dialogue, peace and the protection of inhabitants from state repression, climate action, energy independence or digital rights. **Human rights have become the added value that allows local administrations to assert themselves as political actors, as local governments addressing the demands and accompanying aspirations of their inhabitants.**

**Human rights provide a framework for recognizing innovative local government initiatives and practices.** Linking innovative practices to international human rights values and laws contributes to their legitimation, normalization and institutionalization. Institutionalization facilitates the dissemination of these practices in other contexts and at different scales of government; while opening avenues for reflection on the sustainability of local action, and **on the type of legacy that local and regional governments are willing to prepare for their inhabitants in the future.**

## How to join the campaign?

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Local or regional governments wishing to join the campaign are invited to fill in the attached form and send it to the UCLG-CSIPDHR Secretariat: [cisdpr1@uclg.org](mailto:cisdpr1@uclg.org).

The campaign is open to local and regional governments worldwide of all sizes, from all types of jurisdictions and with previous experience or willing to commit to human rights.



**UCLG**  
Committee

Social Inclusion  
Participatory Democracy  
and Human Rights