

Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, International Committee: NLG Resolution for NLG Participation in Local Publicizing and Reporting Under UN Human Rights Treaties

NLG RESOLUTION FOR NLG PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL PUBLICIZING AND REPORTING UNDER UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

1. The National Lawyers Guild has a long history of promoting the development and implementation of international human rights law, and
2. NLG members strongly supported formation of the United Nations in 1945, the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in 1945-46, adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and helped found the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in 1946 to strengthen U.S. legal work for human rights in the U.S. by using international legal standards;
3. NLG Members attended the 1995 UN Conference on the Status of Women in Beijing; the 2001 UN Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, and the 2010 World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth; and participated in the successful efforts leading to the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its approval by the President in 2010 and the first Universal Period Review of the US in November 2010
4. NLG members have participated in successful efforts to have the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted as city ordinances in San Francisco and other U.S. cities;
5. NLG members in the International Committee are working to convince the U.S. Senate to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other human rights treaties ratified by so many other nations, such as the Convention on the Protection of Rights of Immigrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention Against Discrimination in Education, the Convention on Biodiversity, the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, the ILO Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, the ILO Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment, and the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous Peoples and Independent Countries, all of which are administered by the process of national reports to the U.N. Committees;
6. NLG members representing the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute participated in meetings of the UN Human Rights Committee, UN Committee to Eliminate Racism and UN Committee Against Torture in New York and Geneva to raise issues not covered in the official U.S. reports.
7. The 2007 NLG Convention adopted the Three Treaty Reporting Resolution, resolving to "support...efforts in all cities, counties, and states to send reports to the United States State Department for submission to the three Treaty Reporting Committees; . . . Members, committees, projects and chapters of the NLG are encouraged to submit these reports to United States human rights networks and to the committees" for consideration in Geneva in 2008. The resolution is to be implemented by working with MCLI to "assume a leadership role in campaigning and assisting chapters , committees, projects and in encouraging and assisting chapters, committees, projects and members in accomplishing this and learning how to do this;"
8. NLG members have worked with the Berkeley City Council and Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission in preparation of that City's reports to the relevant UN human rights committees, and have found this work strengthened NLG work on human rights issues including police practices, prison conditions, treatment of immigrants, the homeless, rights of labor and of youth;

9. NLG members from the International Committee, Labor and Employment Committee and International Labor Justice Working Group submitted three reports for the 2010 Universal Periodic Review of the United States by the UN Human Rights Council ; and NLG members have collaborated with the US Human Rights Network and the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network and have participated in on-going communications with the Obama Administration in order to promote the ratification and implementation of human rights treaties and furtherance of human rights principles in the US.

10. As part of the 2010 Universal Periodic Review process, NLG members participated in “consultation” meetings across the country called by the U.S. Department of State to obtain information for inclusion in the U.S. UPR report.;

11. The 2010 NLG Convention adopted the Resolution for NLG Participation in UN Human Rights Program as part of Civil Society, resolving to "continue to support efforts in all cities, counties, and states to send reports to the U.S. State Department and to the U.S. Human Rights Network, and to the four Human Rights Treaty Reporting Committees," [CERD, CAT, Human Rights Comm., Comm. on Rights of the Child], and further reaffirmed its 2007 resolution to have a permanent seat on the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute board and to report back to the NEC about MCLI board meetings;

12. The 2010 Convention resolution set forth methods of implementation of its resolution and encouraged NLG committees to carry out this resolution by:

- collecting information and participating in "shadow" reports to the UN Committee Against Torture by July 2011 and to the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination by November 2011;
- sending a representative to Geneva or New York in 2011 and 2012 when the U.S. reports are considered;
- publicizing the text of the treaties and protocols in NLG publications, and submitting them to local bar journals, legal newspapers, and the general media;
- holding training sessions utilizing Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute materials on the human rights treaties and their use in litigation and legislation; and
- sending nonconfidential reports to Meiklejohn Institute at mcli1965@gmail.com for inclusion in the Institute's Archives;

13. The NLG committees and projects working on the rights of people enunciated in the treaties include: Anti-Racism Committee, Anti-Sexism Committee, Committee on Corporations, the Constitution, and Human Rights, Disability Rights Committee, Environmental Justice Committee, Labor and Employment Committee, Military Law Task Force, Next Generation Committee, Prison Law Project, Queer Caucus, TUPOCC (The United People of Color Caucus), National Immigration Project, National Police Accountability Project, International Committee and International Committee subcommittees and working groups such as the Human Rights Framework Project, the Working Group on Torture, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Committee and the Environmental Human Rights Committee.

14. NLG members have worked with Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in its successful efforts to have the California State Legislature adopt ACR 129, introduced by NLG member/ Assembly member Bill Monning asking the California Attorney General : (1) to publicize the text of the three UN human rights treaties and two protocols ratified by the U.S. in city, county, and state agencies throughout California, and (2) to prepare templates for use by local governments to make the required periodic reports to the UN Committees; and

15. NLG members have worked with Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute to draft and distribute large posters entitled **THREE UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES ARE THE LAW IN THIS STATE TODAY**, setting forth the text of the little known provisions in the treaties and protocols on:

- 1) the basic rights of people/duties of government;
- 2) civil liberties/government duties;
- 3) economic rights/government duties;

- 4) rights and duties in criminal cases;
- 5) rights at trial;
- 6) prisoners' rights/government duties;
- 7) rights of youth/ government duties;
- 8) family rights/ government duties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The National Lawyers Guild continues to support efforts to convince all cities, counties, and states to follow the example of California's ACR 129 to publicize the text of the ratified UN human rights treaties and protocols, and to send reports to the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Human Rights Network, and to the four UN Human Rights Treaty Reporting Committees in 2011, 2012, and thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild will support efforts by Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute to distribute its UN Treaty Posters for display in all city, county and state jails and prisons, youth detention centers, public service offices, schools and universities, libraries, legal service offices, recruiting centers -- and in union halls, immigration information centers, disability rights centers, queer centers, youth centers, and public media offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild Committees will be encouraged to continue to hold training sessions utilizing Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute materials, International Committee materials, and other materials on the human rights treaties and protocols and their use in litigation, in legislation, and in administration at all levels of government.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild will continue its efforts to make clear the relationship between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights and the absolute necessity of the United States ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; as well as the other human rights conventions, such as the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Protection of Rights of Immigrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention Against Discrimination in Education, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, the ILO Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, the ILO Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment, the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous Peoples and Independent Countries, and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Implementation: International Committee

Contact: Jennifer Smith, jennifer@mcli.org