



RALPH BECKER
MAYOR

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you will take the opportunity to read Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute's (HRI) publication, *Bringing Human Rights Home: How State and Local Governments Can Use Human Rights to Advance Local Policy*. This report provides examples of the key role local government can play in incorporating human rights into local policies. Through partnerships with government and other advocates [OR community organizations], HRI has presented relevant and effective ideas for policy makers to engage local communities in domestic human rights. These ideas assist in identifying barriers, advancing solutions and expanding opportunities as cities strive to build communities that are inclusive of all residents.

In the report you will find a section entitled "Salt Lake City: Addressing Women's Human Rights Through Dialogue," which details a series of dialogues on women's issues held by the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission. As a result of these dialogues, important issues regarding women in Salt Lake City emerged, including health, safety, education, employment and opportunities for advancement. With this input, and using the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a framework, Salt Lake City is working to achieve more equitable gender policies within our city. The report highlights over a dozen initiatives from across the United States, many of which are happening at the city level and demonstrate innovative human rights approaches to local issues.

Bringing Human Rights Home demonstrates the ability of local government to effectively develop policies that have the potential to elevate entire communities. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home..."

Local government is about as close to home as you can get. We, as mayors, can impact human rights in our country as we effectively advance fair and inclusive public policy in each of our cities and towns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Becker".

Ralph Becker
Mayor