

**Initial planning meeting of a CERD working group on
U.S. housing segregation and discrimination
February 2, 2007 11:00 – 1:30**

At the Poverty & Race Research Action Council
1015 15th St. NW #400 (15th & K Streets)
Washington, DC 202-360-3906

Proposed Agenda

1. Introduction to the upcoming U.S. review process under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and opportunities for creative advocacy (Cynthia Soohoo, Columbia Human Rights Institute)

- a. The CERD review process and the anticipated timetable for the U.S. report and the U.N. Committee hearings
- b. Coordination of U.S. NGOs – the role of subject matter working groups – the U.S. Human Rights Network
- c. Relation of housing segregation report to report of the U.S. Human Rights Network “housing caucus” (Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty)
- d. CERD legal standards applicable to housing segregation & fair housing enforcement

2. Prioritizing issues and discussion of the appropriate scope of a working group “shadow report” (importance of identifying government actions and failures to act)

- a. Federal government role in promoting racial segregation
- b. State and local government role in promoting racial segregation
- c. Racial discrimination in the private housing market and adequacy of the federal/state government response
- d. Impacts of racial segregation on education, health, employment, criminal justice outcomes, etc. (refer to other working group reports)
- d. Cutbacks in enforceability of CERD standards in U.S. courts
- e. Importance of also highlighting “best practices” and positive steps taken by federal, state or local governments
- f. Relation to congressional process and current policy priorities

3. Discussion of next steps

- a. Format of the report: full report and shorter working group submission
- b. Discussion of other organizations and individuals who should be invited to participate
- c. Need for working group meeting or call after U.S. report is issued
- d. Mechanics and timing of drafting a report