

## **George Lippman/MCLI: NLG RESOLUTION FOR NLG PARTICIPATION IN UN HUMAN**

### **NLG RESOLUTION FOR NLG PARTICIPATION IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AS PART OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The National Lawyers Guild and its members strongly supported formation of the United Nations in 1945, adoption of the UN Charter in 1945, the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in 1945-6, 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;
2. NLG chapters and members participated strongly in the Committee to Assist Southern Lawyers (CASL) in the 1960s that included collecting information about violations of human rights in the Southern states, leading to legislative and administrative actions to end racial segregation;
3. NLG Members attended the 1995 UN Conference on the Status of Women in Beijing and the 2001 UN Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.
4. NLG members participated in successful efforts to have the Convention on Elimination 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, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which are administered through nations making 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. UN committee members used the information in their questions to the U.S.
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 to be implemented by working with MCLI to "assume a leadership role in encouraging 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. Legal Advisor to the U.S. Department of State in January and May requested civil society to become involved in the human rights treaty committee reporting process.

9. NLG Members have worked with the Berkeley City Council and Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission in preparation of the City's reports to the four 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;

10. In 2010, many NLG members participated in meetings across the country called by the U.S. Department of State to obtain information for inclusion in the U.S. report under the Universal Periodic Review process of the UN Human Rights Council.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The National Lawyers Guild continues 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The NLG reaffirms its 2007 "Resolution regarding seat on Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute Board for NLG Member who will report to the NEC." The resolution stated that "if a permanent seat on the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute board is reserved for a member of the NLG the NLG will fill said seat with a member who can regularly attend board meetings and report back to the NEC about those meetings."

**Implementation:**

NLG committees and projects working on the rights of people enunciated in treaties include:

Anti-Racism Committee

Anti-Sexism Committee

Committee on Corporations, the Constitution, and Human Rights:

Disability Rights Committee

International Committee

Labor and Employment Committee

Military Law Task Force

Next Generation Committee

Prison Law Project

Queer Caucus

TUPOCC

National Immigration Project

National Police Accountability Project

These bodies are encouraged to carry out this resolution in 2010 and 2011 by:

- collecting information and preparing "shadow" (nongovernmental) reports for submission to the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination by November 2011 and to the UN Committee Against Torture by July 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 three treaties, and two protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in NLG publications; and submitting them to local bar journals, legal newspapers, and the general media.
- NLG chapters can hold training sessions utilizing Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute materials on the human rights treaties and their use in litigation and legislation.
- All Guild entities that create reports related to the treaties mentioned above that are not confidential are urged to send a copy of said report to the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute at P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, California 94701, or by email to "Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute" [mcli1965@gmail.com](mailto:mcli1965@gmail.com).