

Western Regional Advocacy Project Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign



Artwork by Ronnie Goodman



WRAP



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Homeless Bill of Rights : Campaign Manual
Western Regional Advocacy Project
www.wraphome.org

HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS CAMPAIGN MANUAL

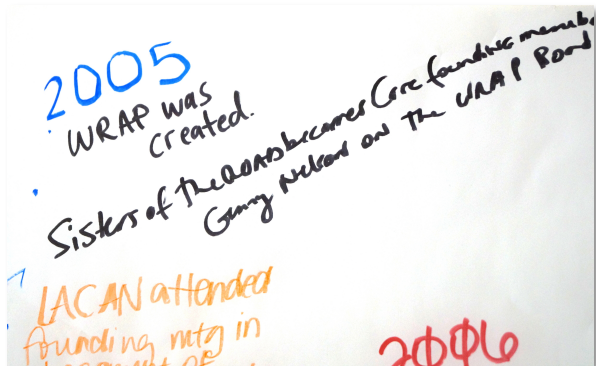
1) Who is WRAP?

Core members: WRAP has 10 core member organizations and the HBR campaign currently has **136** endorsing groups.

Role: WRAP was created to expose and eliminate the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in our communities.

History: Homeless Bill of Rights legislation seeks to overturn local laws targeted to remove people from public space. Learning from our experience with CA bill AB 5 last year we know one thing for certain: if these bills have any chance of passing, our base of support at the local level must be extensive.

The forces that will oppose any such legislation are going to be extensive, and incredibly powerful. When AB5 passed through the Judiciary Committee, the Ca. League of Cities, Chamber of Commerce, Police, Sheriffs and Business Improvement Districts basically ignored us, thinking our bill would never pass Judiciary and then rabidly went after us when it did. Our organizing now is based solidly in understanding that corporate, political, and law enforcement are only going to be surprised once, and this time they will come out strongly against us from day one.



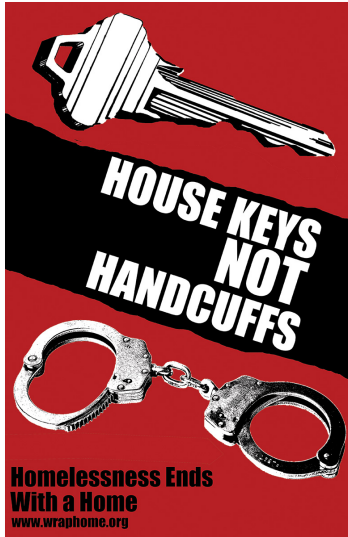
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2) Campaign Priorities:

Laws that segregate, that make criminals of people based on their status rather than their behavior are not just sad relics from the past. Our Homeless Bill of Rights (HBR) campaign stands on the shoulders of social justice campaigns of the past. It seeks to provide a framework for communities to protect the following rights and prohibit the enforcement of local laws that violate these rights:

Our Homeless Bill of Rights (HBR) campaign in Oregon and California will create bills that protect the following rights and prohibit the enforcement of any local laws that violate these rights:

1. *Right to move freely, rest, sleep, & pray and be protected in public spaces without discrimination.*
2. *Right to occupy a legally parked vehicle.*
3. *Right to serve food and eat in public.*
4. *Right to legal counsel if being prosecuted.*
5. *Right to 24-hour access to “hygiene facilities.”*
6. *Require judges to consider necessity defense when hearing homeless related cases.*

3) Campaign Goals:

1. Demand addressing homelessness and poverty from a social justice perspective of addressing racism, classism, and similar issues.
2. Overturn laws aimed at removing poor and homeless people from public space.
3. Connect current laws targeting today’s poor and homeless people to historical civil rights abuses such as Sundown Towns and Anti-Okie laws.
4. Build a framework which is responsive to street outreach and shares power with impoverished people.
5. Develop statewide power analysis to understand the legislative political scene in California and Oregon.
6. Support organizations and individuals working on HBR campaigns in their respective states.
7. Obtain resolutions in support of the Homeless Bill of Rights principles.
8. Remove bureaucratic and other obstacles which prevent people from escaping homelessness.





4) *Outreach & Accountability*

Outreach - is a method of gathering input. Outreach is a two-way education process between the campaign organizations and members of local communities.

Importance:

Outreach results guide our campaign priorities and create ongoing dialogue and accountability.

Methods:

- **Surveying** - Collect the opinions and sentiments of individuals about the HBR campaign.

- **Membership meetings** – during these meetings give members updates on campaign and information on how to get involved.

- **Conducting presentations** – Use HBR power point to promote and speak about the campaign at cultural events, religious gatherings, schools, street actions, etc...

- **Tabling** - Set up tables with artwork & literature about the HBR and campaign, and talk to people about the how they can get involved.

- **Flyering** - Distribute literature about the HBR campaign, and talk to people about how they can get involved.

- **Petitions circulation** – during street outreach, actions, events, meetings, etc....

Tip: Surveys provide an opportunity to open a conversation and possibly engage people in the campaign. Surveying can be done while tabling, canvassing, flyering, etc.

Outcomes

- Endorsement of the 6 principles for the HBR campaign
- People sign the HBR petition
- People call their elected officials when needed
- People join regional planning committee and attend meetings
- People attend actions/education events
- People share their stories in writing or video
- People join a campaign workgroup
- People donate to the campaign (time, money, in-kind services)



5) *Decision Making:*

Decision making: we strive for consensus but if that can not be reached, a 75% vote is required to move forward.

WRAP Workgroup & Membership conference calls:

Media/Messaging Workgroup (meets 1st and 3rd Thursday @ noon): focuses on messaging, artwork, social and mainstream media aspects of the campaign.

Legislative Workgroup (meets 1st and 3rd Monday @ 4pm): oversees the development of model bills, organizing with other campaigns, public education materials and presentations, WRAP bill endorsements, support letters, lead strategy when bills are ready to be introduced.

Full Membership meetings (meets 2nd Thursday at 10am): Overall coordination of campaign, organizing activities, skill & challenge sharing, final decision making on policy, positions and priorities.

Representation on membership and workgroup calls: each organization will select one or two people per workgroup as their representatives. These people then take on the responsibility of sharing information with and bringing their members' input to the meetings. They also ensure that organizations follow up on commitments they have made.



6) Website & Campaign Materials

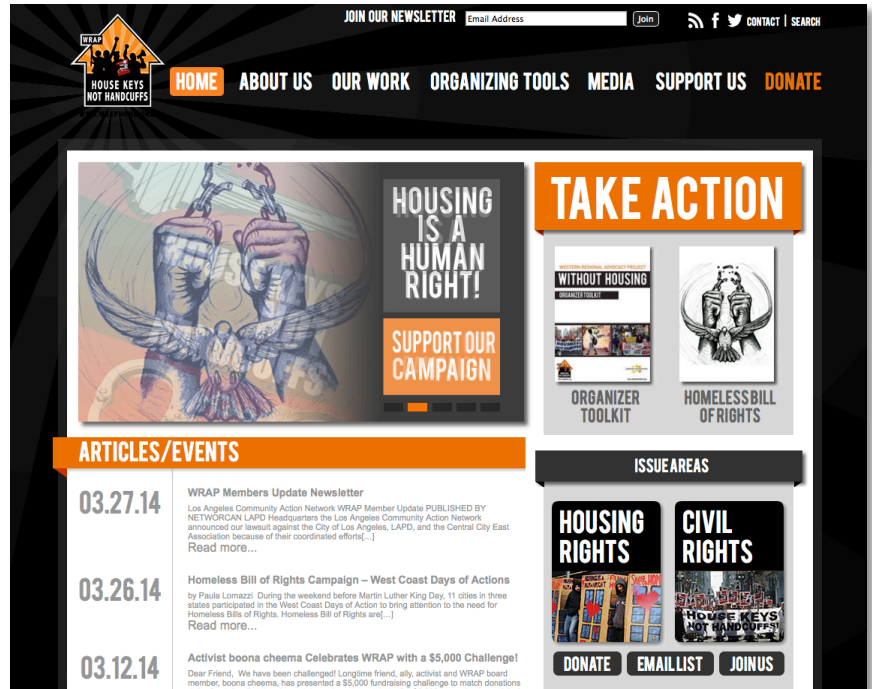
How to use the website: by section...All materials on website can be downloaded for free!

Take Action: Main section for all WRAP campaign materials

Homeless Bill of Rights : everything described in this manual is found here.

The Without Housing Organizing Toolkit is also here. It is designed as a training and education tool with 9 different sections.

As we all continue the struggle for our right to exist in dignity, this toolkit is focused broadly enough on the federal government so that any group in the country can use it to do inclusive social-justice community organizing.



Articles/Events: this is where the latest information from WRAP members is posted.

Issue Areas:

Housing Rights: WRAP's housing campaign works to unify communities under the simple premise that every person deserves a safe place to call home.

Civil Rights: WRAP civil rights campaign combines street outreach, documentation of civil rights violations, organizing, legal defense, and direct action.

Artwork: <http://wraphome.org/organizing/art-for-organizing>

WRAP artists create art to be used by organizers. This artwork is created as part of our ongoing housing, civil rights campaigns, webinars or direct actions. WRAP works with artists to put ideas into visual form and carry our message directly to the viewer. These images are available for you to use in street papers, for protest flyers, or in any other way to build your organization.

Social media: Find us on Facebook & Twitter



Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign



*"We will not obey
unjust laws or submit to
unjust practices"*
MLK Jr. - 1964

7) PowerPoint Presentations

HBR Campaign PowerPoint found on the HBR campaign page– a 13 slide overview of the campaign .It highlights WRAP, Core Members, up to date endorsers, the importance of the campaign, the history of criminalization and how to get involved.

Talking points – Consists of main points and supporting points to guide the presenters though the PowerPoint presentation.

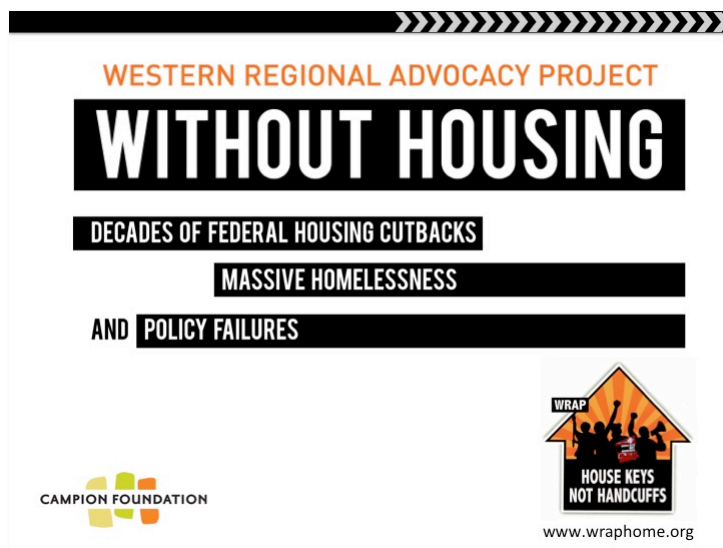
Localized versions – area specific PowerPoint presentations tailored to highlight the street outreach conducted locally and local laws criminalizing the homeless.

Handouts for presentations:

- Updated Organization Endorsers list
- Street outreach Factsheet
- Criminalization Factsheet
- Campaign Factsheet

Without Housing Organizers Toolkit PowerPoint – In 2006 & 2010, WRAP published [Without Housing reports](#) that clearly document why America's "approach" to addressing homelessness has been overwhelmingly ineffective. Reports are found in the Housing Rights section of our website.

Out of these reports we created the Without Housing Organizers Toolkit, a 27 slide presentation documenting the correlation between decades of federal housing cutbacks, massive homelessness and policy failures.



We hope this manual gives you a sufficient overview of our campaign structure and materials. The members created WRAP to provide the foundation of reigniting a social justice movement grounded in the common priorities of local communities. We hope that your organization will see your priorities reflected in the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign and that you will add your experiences, skills and talents to this effort.

