STREET OUTREACH

The core of our HBR campaign is based on our outreach to homeless and poor people, in which we document their experiences with local police and private security. We have surveyed 1,584 people in 17 cities throughout 8 states. The civil rights violations people are experiencing everywhere are eerily similar. The main “illegal offenses” that homeless people are being harassed & criminalized for include: sleeping 82%, sitting or lying down 77%, and loitering or hanging out 75%.

82% har rassed
77% cited
51% arrested

Sitting or lying down
on the sidewalk
75% har rassed
44% cited
26% arrested

Loitering or
hanging out
43% har rassed
26% cited
26% arrested

HISTORY

The United States has a long history of using mean spirited and often brutal laws to keep "certain" people out of public spaces and consciousness. Jim Crow, Sundown towns, Anti-Okie laws, Operation Wetback and Ugly laws targeted various populations based on their racial, economic, social, immigration or disability status.

These laws in the past that denied certain people’s right to exist continues in this current moment by targeting poor and homeless people through criminalizing basic life sustaining activities like sitting, sleeping or eating in public spaces.

CAMPAIGN GOALS

- Addressing homelessness and poverty from a multi-issue social justice perspective.
- Overturn laws aimed at removing poor and homeless people from public spaces.
- Connect current laws targeting today’s poor and homeless people to historical civil rights abuses such as Sundown Towns and Anti-Okie laws.
- Build a framework which is responsive to street outreach and shares power with impoverished people.
- Develop statewide power analysis to understand the legislative political scene in California, Colorado and Oregon.
- Support organizations and individuals working on HBR projects in their respective states.
- Obtain resolutions in support of the Homeless Bill of Rights principles.
- Remove bureaucratic and other obstacles which prevent people from escaping homelessness.

WHAT THE CAMPAIGN DOES

- Documents street outreach to people currently experiencing poverty and homelessness.
- Conducts meetings and community forums with local community and membership to build power.
- Gives presentations and teach-ins on criminalization at organizations, schools, street actions, groups, etc.
- Coordinates simultaneous multi-state days of action and street theater
- Creates people’s media and artwork.
- Writes state-based anti-criminalization legislation and coordinates research related

MEMBERS

Coalition on Homelessness
(San Francisco - California)

Denver Homeless Out Loud
(Denver - Colorado)

Los Angeles Community Action Network
(Los Angeles - California)

Right to Survive
(Portland - Oregon)

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee
(Sacramento, California)

Sisters of the Road (Portland - Oregon)

St. Mary’s Center (Oakland - California)

Street Roots (Portland - Oregon)

Street Spirit (Oakland - California)

ENDORSERS

238 Organizations have already joined!
WHY

Our Homeless Bill of Rights (HBR) campaign in Colorado, Oregon and California will create state bills that reiterate the following rights and prohibit the enforcement of any local laws that violate the rights of anyone on public spaces.

1. Right to move freely, rest, sleep, & be protected in public spaces without harassment or criminalization.

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”

ACT! ENGAGE!

Support the Homeless Bill of Rights & House Keys Not Handcuffs Campaigns.

Ask your community organization to endorse this campaign.

Join the Homeless Bill of Rights Newsletter.

Learn about the issues by exploring the facts sheets and other useful materials on our website.

LOCAL CONTACT:

If you like to get involved in the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign, contact your local WRAP MEMBER:

Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) unites local social justice organizations and is building a movement that exposes and eliminates the root causes of civil and human rights abuses of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in our communities.

Our HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Today, numerous laws infringe on poor people’s ability to exist in public space denied them of equal protection under the law.

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