



Still Dreaming

Realizing Civil Rights as Human Rights

Inter-generational conversations between Civil Rights Leaders and youth activists. In *re-thinking and strengthening Social Development in the contemporary world*, one of the key elements must be the inclusion of young people as stakeholders.

A Side Event at the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development

Tuesday Feb. 10th, 2015 From 3:00 to 4:30PM
United Nations Conference Room B

PANELISTS

Rev. Al Sharpton	Founder & President, National Action Network
Muriel Tillinghast	Civil Rights Activist, SNCC Legacy Project
Kira Shepherd	Executive Director, The Black Institute

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Cherrell Brown, NY Justice League
Julian Love, NY Justice League
Students from Heartshare/St Vincent's
National Action Network Huddle

MODERATOR

Aja Monet Poet, Dream Defenders, NY Justice League

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International Humanist and Ethical Union

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Institute for the Development of Education Art and Leisure International
American Psychological Association

The CoNGO Committee on Children's Rights is a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations.

Aja Monet Moderator

“The true definition of an artist” is how the iconic Harry Belafonte describes Aja Monet who is a poet, educator, and activist from East NY, Brooklyn. She works with inner-city youth as a Teaching Artist for Urban Word NYC as well as Urban Arts Partnership in NYC. She is also a member of the NY Justice League organizing actions around juvenile justice and police brutality. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Aja Monet received her BA in Liberal Arts and was awarded the The Andrea Klein Willison Prize for Poetry. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Aja Monet independently published her first book of poetry in 2010, *The Black Unicorn Sings*. In 2012, she collaborated with poet/musician Saul Williams on a book entitled, *Chorus: A Literary Mixtape*. An internationally established poet, she is recognized for combining her spellbound voice and powerful imagery on stage, through storytelling, captivating an international audience. www.ajamonet.com

Speakers

Reverend Al Sharpton

Rev. Al Sharpton is the founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), a not-for-profit civil rights organization headquartered in Harlem, New York, with over seventy chapters nationwide. As one of the nation’s most-renowned civil rights leaders, a March 2013 Zogby poll said one out of every four African-Americans say that Rev. Sharpton is the person that speaks most for them. Rev. Al Sharpton has been praised by President Barack Obama as “the voice of the voiceless and a champion for the downtrodden,” and by former President George W. Bush who said that “Al cares just as much as I care about making sure every child learns to read, write, add and subtract.” Rev. Al Sharpton is currently the host of a daily television show on MSNBC that analyzes the top political and social news and features the country’s leading newsmakers. “PoliticsNation” with Rev. Al Sharpton airs at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Rev. Sharpton also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show “Keepin it Real” that is heard daily all over the country as well as two weekend radio shows that air in markets within the U.S.

Muriel Tillinghast

Muriel Tillinghast is a long-time civil rights activist, youth organizer, and former member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, also known as SNCC, which played a pivotal role during the turbulent 1960’s. She has served as the president of the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), an organization that addressed de-segregation issues in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Delaware. She is actively involved with tenant’s rights, AIDS-related issues, and has provided motivation and support to prison inmates who sought to expand their education. She is also actively involved with The Hubert Harrison and Theodore W. Allen Society. Ms. Tillinghast was a Green Party candidate for Vice President in 1996

KIRA SHEPHERD

Kira Shepherd is the Executive Director at The Black Institute. Prior, Kira served as the Director of Campaigns and Organizing for TBI. In this role, she led the organization’s immigrant rights, low wage worker and economic justice work. Before coming to TBI, Kira was a Campaign Manager at ColorOfChange.org, where she worked on the organization’s American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) national campaign. Kira also worked at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg Public Policy Center where she managed a city-wide youth advocacy project that was instituted in every public high school in Philadelphia. During this time she co-founded the Anti-Displacement Solidarity Committee (ADSC). Kira has also worked for Families for Freedom, a human rights organization by and for families

facing and fighting deportation, and Make the Road New York, the largest member-led economic justice group in New York.

Julian Love

Julian Love is a community organizer and strategist. He spent the greater portion of his professional career in corporate finance, business operations and strategy in the private sector for fortune 10 companies. He has recently made a transition into community organizing, public policy and electoral politics where he intends to utilize his unique understanding of the driving forces behind the current political system to be a catalyst for real change.

Cherrell Brown

Cherrell Brown has been organizing since her freshman year of college. She worked with Americorps to develop programs to improve retention of first generation college students, interned with the Beloved Community Center working on initiatives ranging from police accountability to environmental justice. Cherrell volunteers with Justice League NYC a coalition working towards ending police violence in New York City, and nationally. She recently traveled to Palestine on a solidarity trip with the Dream Defenders where US activists from Ferguson, LA, Chicago, and NYC met with Palestinian activists to share, build, and learn.

National Action Network Youth Move Huddlers

Youth Move Huddlers are comprised of youth ages 11-22 who are interested in making their voices heard through community service and youth advocacy. Youth group meetings include: trainings, discussions, personal growth and team building exercises, Youth Summits, recreational activities, snacks, and fun.