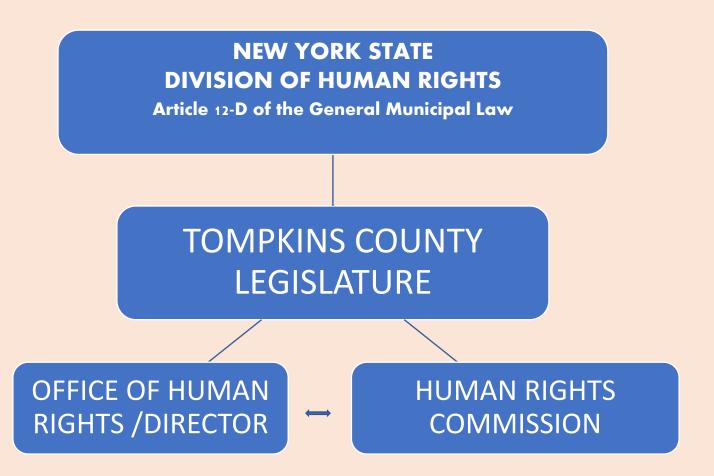


THE ROLE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN TOMPKINS COUNTY





BUILDING A RIGHTS-CENTERED TOMPKINS COUNTY: HRC GOALS

- Offer leadership to the community to foster understanding, respect and positive change as it relates to civil and human rights.
- Encourage equality; discourage discrimination, advocate for fair and equal treatment.
- Serve as an advisory board to the Tompkins County Legislature & Office of Human Rights.
- Perform studies and surveys of community relations.
- Conduct and recommend educational programs to increase goodwill and encourage opportunities for involvement in community life for everyone.
- Encourage and stimulate agencies and advisory boards under Tompkins county legislative jurisdiction to take action that will fulfil the NYS human rights mandate.

TOMPKINS COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS



Peyi Soyinka-Airewele Chair



Ruth Yarrow Vice-Chair



Amos Malone Treasurer



Joanna Green Secretary



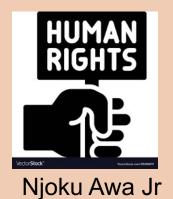
Jo Carcich



Larry Roberts



Peaches Gillette





Anjanette Brown



Jessie Mancilla



Lisa P. Christian

HUMAN RIGHTS: BEYOND THE FAILURES TO THE PROMISE

"Is the Human Rights Corpus relevant today in view of the wide gap between ideals and reality?"

"Even if it be hypocrisy, it is significant – since hypocrisy, we know, is the homage that vice pays to virtue –

[because] ... governments today do not feel free to preach what they may persist in practicing" (Henkins)





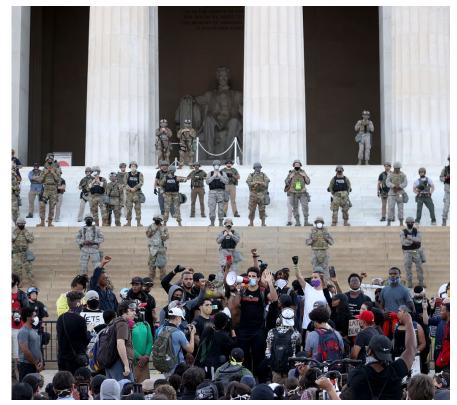
Russian Troops Amassing on Ukraine

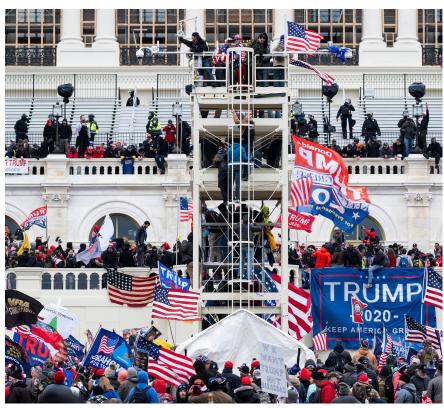
2016: BLM Protester Ieshia Evans' arrest Baton Rouge

The Cry of Expendable Populations

"I don't read from paper, the paper phase is over, we're dealing with lives. Without you, Ukraine will be alone. We've proven our strength; we're the same as you. Prove that you'll not let us go. Then life will win over death"

Ukrainian President Zelensky to representatives of the 27 EU member states. March 1, 2022





DC National Guard @ Lincoln Memorial 2020 George Floyd protests

Jan 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection Mob

"The modern state, then, is a contradictory institution: a promise of safety, security and meaning alongside a reality of abuse, control and coercion". (Jenny Edkins)

We struggle against Biopower: "the sovereign exercise of the power to determine who may live and who must die, "separates ...people into categories and subcategories, establishing boundaries between *Some* and *Others* – the condition for the acceptability of putting to death" (Mbembe)

USA: 750 military Bases in 80 countries; Almost 80% of world weapons export

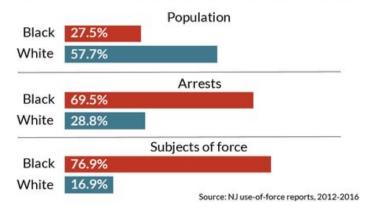
Military training to 40 of the 50 <u>most oppressive</u>, <u>anti-democratic</u> governments on earth.

"So as we rally to <u>support Ukrainian</u> <u>civilians</u> against great-power aggression from Russia, let's do so with the understanding that imperialism should always be opposed, that all civilian victims of wars and violent coups are worthy whether Iraqi or Honduran or Ukrainian—

and that all criminals who violate international law should be held accountable whether they're based in Moscow or Washington, D.C."

(Jeff Cohen, Director of Park Center for Independent Media, Ithaca College).

Racial disparities in policing: South Orange





Can we transcend historic divides to build a global and community vision of an equal and shared humanity?

"We might probably all agree that in fact, we have not always convinced ourselves or others that the fact of our equal and shared humanity takes precedence or should take precedence over every other consideration of identity and status such as culture, nationality, gender, class, economic means, political affiliations etc."

(Shestack)



"What makes certain rights universal, moral, and important, and who decides?"

NYS human rights law is not as far reaching as global conventions that seek to ensure assure human security, protect all vulnerable persons, collectively address public health and intergenerational rights.

We must draw on all conventions to make our claims for change; for instance, relying on CEDAW and VAWA to protect women against violence.

The Future of Tompkins County is written in the lives of the upcoming generation.

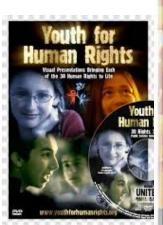
LACS students called for freedom: From discrimination, of expression, for the protection of refugees, the right to healthcare and to education!

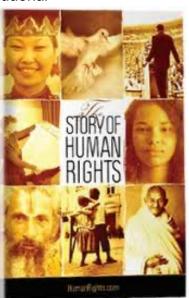
"To look into some aspects of the future, we do not need projections by supercomputers. Much of the next millennium can be seen in how we care for our children today.

- Kofi Annan (former Secretary-General of the United Nations)

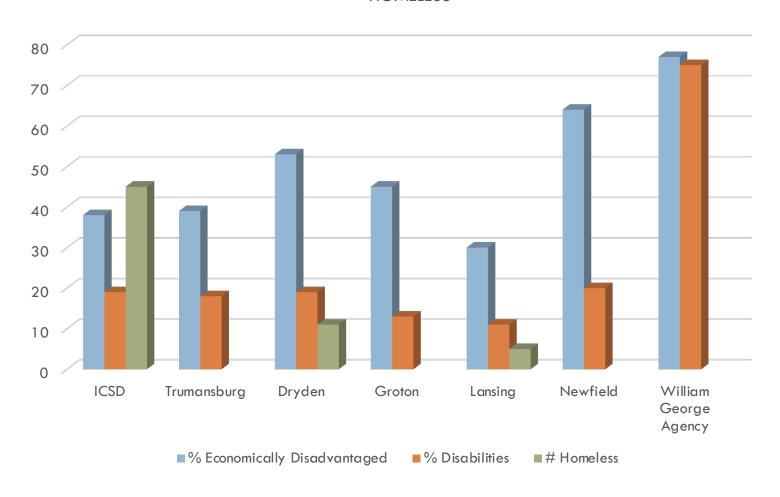


At LACS infusion week, students engaged commissioners Yarrow, Soyinka-Airewele and Gillette during our human rights workshops. Photo above from Right to left) Below are booklets distributed to the students, courtesy our partner "United for Human Rights International"





FROM 2020 NYS STATS ON TOMPKINS COUNTY: STUDENTS FROM ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED HOMES, WITH DISABILITIES, & (total number) HOMELESS



We Need Glocal Solutions to Shared Problems

...for the reduction [or] elimination of conditions that foster human indignity, violence, poverty and powerlessness

To fight pandemics, ensure environmental survival, counter militarism and build peace, protect displaced persons, protect victims of domestic abuse, to care for all children and ensure equity and justice in our legal systems.

But "those norms and structures must be grown at home, and must utilize the cultural tools familiar to the people at the grassroots... What the human rights movement must not do is to close all doors, turn away other cultures, and impose itself in its current form and structure on the world. (Makau Mutua)





Lessons on managing multiple systems of Justice for "Re-imagining Public Safety" in Ithaca, can be sought from the African Court of Human and People's Rights: .

Let's Join together to protect human rights and dignity.

You have a right to Fair Housing, but is there adequate and affordable Housing?

We still have a battle ahead in order to achieve adequate, accessible and affordable housing for all.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in housing or you want more information on fair housing laws, please contact the Office of Human Rights.



RESOURCES AND AGENCIES



Tompkins County Office Of Human Rights



The Advocacy Center of Tompkins County



Tompkins County Workers' Center.



Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County



United for Human Rights



Cornell Law Clinical Programs

RESOURCES AND AGENCIES



Community Dispute Resolution Center



Finger Lakes Independence Center



Legal Assistance of Western New York.



Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Tompkins County, Inc.



Tompkins Community Action.

RESOURCES AND AGENCIES

Tompkins County Code Chapter 92: Antidiscrimination

Promulgated in 2004, this local law provides protections to residents based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in the areas of housing, commercial space, lending, employment, education, and places of public accommodation.

Fair Housing Resources

Equal Employment Opportunity

<u>Workplace Resources for Protecting Victims of Domestic Abuse and Preventing Discrimination on basis of Gender and Sexuality</u>

NYS Division Of Human Rights Brochures



APPLY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION