



Dayton and Sustainable Development Goal 16

Human Rights Cities

- “A city is a microcosm of the world, where the multiple issues and formidable concerns of humanity emerge painfully and restlessly, calling out for sustainable solutions through meaningful and positive change.”¹
- “A Human Rights City is a municipality that refers explicitly to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards and/or law in their policies, statements, and programs.”²
- Furthermore, “residents and local authorities, through learning about the relevance of human rights to their daily lives (guided by a steering committee), join in ongoing learning, discussions, systematic analysis and critical thinking at the community level, to pursue a creative exchange of ideas and the joint planning of actions to realize their economic, social, and cultural as well as civil and political human rights.”²

Human Rights Cities in the United States

City ³	Year Joined
Washington D.C	2008
Carrboro, NC	2009
Chapel Hill, NC	2009
Richmond, CA	2009
Eugene, OR	2011
Boston, MA	2011
Seattle, WA	2012
Jackson, MS	2014
Edina, MN	2016
Mountain View, CA	2016

SDG 16

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”⁴

- “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.”⁴
- SDG 16 and its targets, along with various UN resources, provide a goal and benchmarks for cities to strengthen their judicial and societal systems.

SDG 16 Localized: Dayton, Ohio

Opioid Epidemic

Dayton was an epicenter for the opioid epidemic that has impacted millions of people.

Dating back to Reagan's "War on Drugs", drugs have been criminalized disproportionately impacting black American men.

There have been calls for public health approaches in which Dayton has been heralded for adopting.

Redlining and Police Racism

Redlining is a practice that the government and private banks used to determine loan lending.

"Neighborhoods were ranked and color-coded, and the D-rated ones — shunned for their "inharmonious" racial groups — were typically outlined in red".⁵

The Practice still exists today and is prevalent in how communities are policed.

To combat the issue, the Dayton Human Relations Council created the "Dayton Community Police-Council Action Plan 2019-2022".⁶

Glocalization: International Human Rights

Document Violation

A human rights violation is documented and then reported on



Universal Declaration of Human Rights



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Claims to International Law

The violation is framed in a domestic and international context to redress the violation

Local Implementation
Activists, lawyers, and government officials leverage international law in domestic law



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Reporting and Monitoring

Implementation and effectiveness are reported on and then monitored.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Advocacy Campaign



Partnering for Relevant Implementation



Partners

Intentionally include and listen to marginalized communities



Collaborate

Listen to the needs of partners and work to leverage needs with Human Rights City



Implementation

Through policy, education, and training, implement changes to redress injustices

Many criticisms of human rights point towards their elite status and vague implementation. To produce relevant and effective measures, the human rights city must be practical and applicable to partners in the city of Dayton.

Research Reflections

During my time researching human rights cities and how to establish Dayton as a human rights city, I learned the importance of collaboration and practicality. This is evident in the SDGs with the broad goals but paired with practical targets. When you take the practical targets and work with local partners to align the targets with their needs I think you have an improved chance of being successful. The people and planet are the most important factors, in my opinion, so we must start using language and mechanisms that are tangible for all.

Top Down

I have learned that without institutional and systemic change these unjust systems are unlikely to change. This is why we need a top down approach.

Bottom Up

Without the will of local individuals initiatives are likely to fail. Bottom up approaches allow initiatives to be locally relevant and effective.

References

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