Clean Water & Sanitation in Dayton, Ohio: Making Dayton a Human Rights City

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What is a Human Rights City?

- Defined as "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" (ushrnetwork.org)

- Emphasis on how human rights affect the lives of citizens in their local communities

- Facts:

  - 42 designated Human Rights Cities worldwide

  - 11 designated Human Rights Cities in the U.S.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

▶ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a "to-do list for people, the planet, and a blueprint for success" (un.org)

▶ 17 goals and 169 targets to be accomplished by 2030

▶ All countries are called to actively take steps toward achieving the SDGs

Connection to the Greater Dayton Region

- ▶ U.S ratified international human rights articles and SDG targets can be linked to local issues in the Greater Dayton region.

- ▶ These linkages can assist in the development of an advocacy campaign to make Dayton a Human Rights City.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

This presentation will focus on the application of SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation in the Greater Dayton region.

Relevant targets:

- ▶ 6.1: Achieve universal access to safe and affordable water

- ▶ 6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing chemical releases

- ▶ 6.5: Implement integrated water resources through transboundary cooperation

- ▶ 6.6: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

- ▶ 6.b: Strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

SDG 6 in the Greater Dayton Region

Target	Local Challenge	Local Asset	UDHR Linkage	CRC Linkage
6.1	Water outages	Emergency response plans more effective after 2019 water line break/tornado water outages	22	24.2.c
6.3	Water contamination: manmade chemicals in drinking water	Early warning chemical alert monitor system implemented	22	24.2.c
6.5	Nontransparent city response regarding boil alerts and manmade chemicals	MC/City of Dayton collaborative maps and efforts	22	24.2
6.6	River pollution	Upgraded wastewater treatment plant	N/A	24
6.b	Engaging Daytonians in water issues	Dayton Children's Water Festival, UD River Stewards	N/A	24

Advocacy Campaign Idea

Dayton Water Festival

- Inspired by Dayton Children's Water Festival
  - Annual event hosted at the University of Dayton for 2,000 4th grade students
  - Educates on groundwater, surface water, conservation, and land use with various games, exhibits, and entertainment (daytonohio.gov)
  - Encourages environmental values and life-long stewardship of the environment
- In order to accomplish SDG target 6.b, the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management must be strengthened
- A Water Festival for all ages, not only for children, would increase community participation in water management issues
- Programming would consist of education on water issues, management, and advocacy in Dayton in order to involve residents of all ages and backgrounds in water and sanitation management

Research Reflection

- My research on human rights-related local issues in Dayton has heightened my awareness of the region's assets and challenges. Regardless of a country's progress toward development, such issues are present and need to be addressed in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Greater Dayton region has suffered from challenges related to clean water access and water pollution, but the region is also supported by assets which involve the community in clean water and sanitation advocacy. Such assets need to be expanded upon in order to ensure further community engagement in water related issues. Diverse voices should be represented in the management of water related issues in the Greater Dayton region as all Daytonians are affected by the outcome of such management.

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