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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **North Dakota Human Rights Coalition Receives Grant From United States Human Rights Fund**

The North Dakota Human Rights Coalition has received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 over three years from the United States Human Rights Fund, a collaborative fund comprised of nine national and regional donors.

The grant is one of eight totaling \$735,000 awarded to domestic social justice organizations working to promote human rights in the United States. The USHRF provides strategic, field building support to United States human rights organizing and advocacy, and seeks to increase overall awareness of and resources for this work amongst its members and other donor partners.

The NDHRC was selected by the Fund's Steering Committee for its potential to contribute to the development and strength of the U.S. human rights movement in these areas, as well as for its relation to the Fund's own strategic priorities. The Steering Committee is comprised of members from contributing foundations, including The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, The Libra Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, the Shaler Adams Foundation, the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

The NDHRC will use the grant funds to increase awareness of international human rights concepts across North Dakota in the 36 most rural counties, and be a resource and provide support for human rights violations in legal actions. The NDHRC is partnering with the University of North Dakota School of Law Clinical Education Program in Grand Forks and the Consensus Council, Inc. in Bismarck in the activities of the grant.

These activities will include human rights workshops open to the public in each of the 36 most rural counties in North Dakota. The workshops will include education on human rights language and concepts, and provide education on how human rights concepts can be used in legal actions. The workshops will be conducted by law students from the University of North Dakota School of Law Clinical Education Program.

The law students will also provide services through the Clinical Education Program to individuals who would not otherwise be able to access the legal system because of poverty or lack of proximity to a lawyer with a needed specialty.

Strategic planning training through the Consensus Council will be available for the development of new grassroots human rights coalitions.

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