



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

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## **National Council of Negro Women Celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

*Washington, DC*— The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) will join with thousands of non-governmental organizations as they reaffirm their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference entitled: "Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60." The three day Conference is hosted by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in cooperation with the non-governmental organizations (NGO) community, and with the assistance of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Government of France. The conference will be held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on September 3 – 5, 2008.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Universal Declaration) is widely acknowledged as the first universal statement on the basic principles of human rights to which all peoples of all nations are entitled. Adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly, the Universal Declaration is viewed largely as a defense mechanism against oppression and discrimination. Akin to the United States Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration recognizes that the inherent dignity of all humans is the foundational structure of freedom and justice. The Universal Declaration itself comprises a broad range of rights which are legally binding by virtue of two International Covenants. These Covenants, along with the Universal Declaration, constitute the International Bill of Human Rights.

Throughout its 73 year history, NCNW has worked to help improve the social and economic status of women in the United States and in Africa through programs of education, health and poverty alleviation all of which are cross cutting human rights issues. Through the leadership of its Chair, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, NCNW has been in the forefront promoting human and civil rights for women, such as equal pay; voting rights; and child care. NCNW has remained active in the international community through its many international-focused programs and its work with the United Nations on women issues worldwide.

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