



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 10, 2007 (International Human Rights Day)**

**REPORT TO U.N. ADDRESSES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE U.S.**

In preparation for an upcoming U.N. review of United States' compliance with the international race discrimination treaty, The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity has joined a coalition of more than 250 civic groups and scholars in a report detailing the continuing problem of racial discrimination.

The U.S. has not taken seriously the duty under Article 2 of CERD to affirmatively address racial discrimination. Instead, the U.S. has rationalized racial discriminatory effects as not covered by U.S. law. Sometimes these effects are caused by explicit government policies. At other times they are caused by private actors. Frequently, it is a combination of both. The United States must look at how racial discrimination manifests as a consequence of policies and practices in multiple domains.

The report, titled *The Structural Racism Report to the CERD Committee*, was submitted to the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in preparation for the CERD Committee's February 2008 review of U.S. compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). The U.S. ratified the CERD treaty in 1994, and the U.S. State Department issued its most recent report to the CERD Committee this past April – over four years late.

The institute's report acknowledges that there are programs at every level of U.S. government designed to address racial discrimination in domains such as housing, education, health care, employment, transportation and so on. However, these programs are not appropriately linked. Pursuant to CERD, the U.S. should monitor these programs to incorporate feedback, make adjustments, and improvements to nullify policies that continue to perpetuate racial discrimination.

The report is one of more than a dozen reports on criminal justice, education, health, poverty and voting rights being submitted to the CERD Committee today by the U.S. Human Rights Network on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, to highlight the growing importance of international human rights standards in the U.S.

The report is available at [http://www.kirwaninstitute.com/publications/ki\\_pub\\_docs/cerd\\_final.pdf](http://www.kirwaninstitute.com/publications/ki_pub_docs/cerd_final.pdf)