American Anthropological Association
Committee Annual Report
Committee on Human Rights

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Question 1
Please report on the activities your group undertook during the year. Indicate how these activities correspond to the group’s charge (objectives and responsibilities, provided above). If there has been any shortfall in accomplishing those objectives, please explain.

Objective:
- To promote and protect human rights; to expand the definition of human rights within an anthropological perspective; to work internally with the membership of the AAA, to educate anthropologists, and to mobilize their support for human rights; to work externally with foreign colleagues, the people and groups with whom anthropologists work, and other human rights organizations to develop an anthropological perspective on human rights and consult with them on human rights violations and the appropriate actions to be taken; to influence and educate the media, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, and decision makers in the private sector; to encourage research on all aspects of human rights from conceptual to applied.

Responsibilities:
- To assist in organizing human rights forum, sessions, workshops or other events at AAA Annual Meeting;
- To consider and respond to cases of alleged human rights abuse;
- To educate anthropologists on human rights;
- To educate policy makers and others outside of anthropology on anthropology's perspective and contributions to human rights;
- To work in coalition with other professional and human rights organizations to promote human rights.

2013 Activities:
- Task force on Language and Social Justice “Drop the I word campaign” to put pressure on the Associated Press to expunge the phrase “illegal immigrant” from their style guide.
- Letter to Guatemalan president government for indigenous rights in Guatemala (vetted by the AAA Executive Board).
- Letter to the Constitutional Court Justices in Guatemala in support of the
genocide charges against General Efrain Rios Montt.

• Letter to Brazilian officials concerning the indigenous health crisis in northwestern Brazil (vetted through the AAA Executive Board).

**Question 2**

Please indicate your group’s plans for activities in the coming year. If they represent significant modification or elaboration of the stated objectives and responsibilities, please explain.

In the 2014 year, the CfHR plans to:

1. Continue to address all human rights issues that are presented to the Committee;
2. Work to redraft and update the AAA Statement on Human Rights (which was last drafted in 1999);
3. Create a AAA directory of Human Rights experts to help support efforts in representing the AAA on issues across the globe;
4. Establish collaborations with entities external to the AAA that have a vested interested in supporting issues surrounding human rights;
5. Formulate a procedure list for processing human rights solicitations for future CfHR members;
6. Strengthen our presence on social media to increase exposure to internal and external human rights resources;
7. Host a roundtable, professional workshop, and research session on human rights at the 2014 AAA annual meeting.

**Question 3**

This question refers to any specific tasks or activities in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. They are briefly reported separately so that they can be reviewed by the appropriate staff. If your unit was not assigned any activities in the current SIP, please skip Part II.

Please briefly report on how you have fulfilled, or plan to fulfill, those specific tasks or activities, whether new or ongoing, that appear in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. Please refer to each one by their item number.

not applicable

**Question 4**

Please comment on any issues or recommendations you would like to bring to the special attention of the Executive Board. These might be problems in fulfilling group objectives and responsibilities or in fulfilling tasks listed in the SIP, the need for additional resources, recommended changes to the group charge (objectives, responsibilities, products/outcomes), and recommended changes to the committee structure or membership. Any problems or recommendations listed here will be discussed by the Association Operations Committee and then considered at the EB meeting for possible action.

• We would like to recommend a more efficient and effective method for providing AAA annual meeting registration fee waivers for non-anthropologist community members who participate in conference activities like roundtables and innovent sessions.

• Considering the dynamic nature of reviewing the wide variety of requests for support that the CfHR receives, we should consider streamlining the process by which we: review specific issues, investigate the validity of the particular claims involved, and vote on supporting those issues.