

REFORM CCHD NOW REPORT

November 4, 2010

CCHD renewal document spotlights grantee that participates in promotion of abortion, homosexual “rights”, and other issues in conflict with Catholic social and moral teaching

The Reform CCHD Now Coalition has discovered that one of the documents outlining "[The Review and Renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(CCHD\)](#)" features a grantee that participated in the US Social Forum 2010, and has other problematic memberships and partnerships.

On page 2 of [the primary document outlining the CCHD's plan for review and renewal](#), we find:

CCHD helps our Church in the United States practice what we preach about human life and dignity, social and economic justice, solidarity and the common good in local communities across our country. Here are just a few examples of CCHD’s remarkable work:

- The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is an organization of Latino, and Haitian migrant farm workers in Florida. Working with the local diocese, the Florida Catholic Conference and many other groups, CIW has won groundbreaking agreements with major fast food chains to increase wages and improve better working conditions for their members who pick tomatoes.

Following its praise for CIW, the CCHD promises on page 3, “[t]his Review and Renewal is putting in place stronger policies and clearer mechanisms to screen and monitor grants and groups to ensure that these past violations, though very limited, are not repeated.”

Unfortunately, spotlighting an organization as deeply problematic as CWI in a document promising to guard against funding groups such as this displays either a lack of commitment to that promise, or an inability to make good on the promise. Either way, what remains certain is that the CCHD harms its own credibility with its very own “renewal” document.

The following outline details CIW’s participation and membership in pro-abortion and pro-homosexual coalitions, networks, and forums:

The Reform CCHD Now coalition has reported that 21 CCHD grantees from the 2009 grants list participated in the US Social Forum 2010 (USSF). Included in that report is the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. [USSF is a forum specifically designed](#) to unify progressive activist groups toward "setting a national agenda". And what does that agenda entail?

Abortion:

- [Reproductive Justice 101](#): Creative Vision, Innovative Strategies, and Powerful Networks

- [Maintaining abortion as a reproductive right for low-income women](#)
- [Reproductive Justice in the Age of Obama](#)

Marxism:

- [Marxism for the 21st Century: Capitalist Crisis, Socialist Solutions](#)
- [Why Capitalism is Organized Crime & Socialism is the Alternative](#)
- [Meet the YCL \(Young Communist League\)](#)

Lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer workshops:

- [Integrating LGBT Equality into Social, Racial & Socio-Economic Justice Movements](#)
- [Radical Queer Festivals](#)
- [Queer Injustice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in United States](#)

The Reform CCHD Now coalition has also discovered that CCHD grantee CIW is partnered with several pro-abortion, pro-homosexual organizations.

CIW [is a member of US Human Rights Network](#). On its “about us” page, [USHRN says](#):

“Network members believe that the US government should no longer be allowed to shield itself from accountability to human rights norms and that the US civil, women's, worker, immigrant, **LGBTQ**, prisoner and other rights movements that stand to benefit, perhaps now more than ever, from an end to US impunity in this regard.” (emphasis added)

“We see the strategic urgency of anchoring the Network's movement building within those groups that have been historically oppressed. This would include (but not limited to) the following: African American organizations, with a special emphasis on the student/youth sector; Latin@; **LGBTQ**; indigenous; **progressive womens organizations**; disabilities rights groups and immigrant and migrant rights organizations.” (emphasis added)

As a CCHD grantee, CIW's membership in USHRN is a problem because USHRN promotes a view of human rights that has as essential elements such "rights" as abortion and LGBT-specific rights. [See, for example](#):

- (Podcast) [Episode 10: Expanding Human Rights: LGBT Inclusion and The Struggle to Eliminating Racism](#)
- Document by USHRN titled, [“Summary of East Coast CERD Strategy Session”](#): “Other expertise that was expressed as being a priority on the TF: International experience, congressional experience, grassroots constituencies, and specific voices (gender, LGBT, and Indigenous).”
- Document by USHRN titled, [“Response to Periodic Report of the United States to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination”](#) :

- “We focus here on three specific issues of concern not fully addressed by the U.S. Report ... and the lack of protections for sexual orientation and sexual identity discrimination for LGBT workers of color.”
- Pages 10 and 11 loudly complain about the lack of anti-discrimination laws protecting the gay and transgender community.
- Listed under USHRN resources is [this document by IPAS](#):
 - [Connaughton-Espino, Tania and Sara Gomez](#). June 24, 2008. "Our Voices, Our Health: Latinas Share Their Stories." IPAS. Designed to promote the implementation of culturally sensitive programs that ensure Latinas receive the highest standard of health care and are enabled to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to information and education, the right to health care and health protection, the right to decide whether or when to have children and the means and information to do so.
- Listed on USHRN’s [“Take Action” page](#):
 - Women & Reproductive Rights
[Help pass the International Violence Against Women Act \(S. 2279\) Improve healthcare for Native American and Alaska Native women](#)
 - Sexual Rights
[Chicago: Police Abuse of three lesbians and a gay man](#)
[Act Now: Support the Safe Schools Improvement Act](#)

CIW is also a “collaborative partner” with [Prax\(us\)](#):

- <http://www.praxus.org/new> Prax(us) is working to eliminate the human trafficking that plagues up to 30 percent of our city’s homeless youth, and takes advantage of the many immigrant and LGBTQ youth who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. That is why the Gay & Lesbian Fund is a proud supporter of Prax(us).
- Praxus’ volunteer questionnaire [says](#):
 - “Prax(us) is dedicated to living its values. We encourage youth, people of color, people with experiences in the sex industry, women, LGBTQI folks, people with disabilities, people without housing, elders, folks from poor and working class backgrounds, immigrants, people of underrepresented faith and belief systems, and people with criminal records to become involved. You are welcome here.”

CIW [is a Partner with](#) The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI).

- NESRI Executive Director Catherine Albisa [gave a presentation](#) to the American Public Health Association Conference in 2006 lamenting the decline in financial support for abortion and contraception
- Also, Ms. Albisa [called for "Contraceptive Equity"](#) and called poor Latino women’s lack of access to contraception a form of discrimination:
- Board Member Rhonda Copelon has a [particularly troubling resume](#)
- Board Member Martha Davis also has a [horrible resume](#). She was the Vice President and Legal Director of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund:
- As all of this indicates, NESRI [believes that abortion is a human right](#):

- “IPAS, in collaboration with NESRI, NHeLP, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, today published a new fact sheet on “The Human Right to Health and Women’s Reproductive Health Policy”.
- NESRI [published a document](#) titled, “Examining New Frameworks: The Human Right to Reproductive Health”

One might respond that while CIW is a member of NESRI, their cooperation extends primarily to the "Alliance for Fair Food" which the two organizations co-founded. However, according to NESRI’s “about us” page, it explains its purpose of cross-pollinating different progressive organizations under the banner of a single, unified progressive movement. [NESRI states:](#)

- "While partnerships are the building blocks of change, coalitions and networks that exchange human rights strategies and best practices across localities and create shared learning amplify and reinforce the local efforts. NESRI plays a strong role in building and facilitating these exchanges. The partnership projects in tandem with networks and coalitions seek to create strategic depth, replicable models, and a base of strong and diverse stakeholders in the U.S. human rights movement.
- These growing networks create national trends under a common vision. To create lasting change, however, the growing human rights networks on a range of issues must become linked and unified to move an integrated human rights agenda that challenges current models of privatization, criminalization and inequitable distribution of resources."

There are many more problems with CIW and its partner organizations USSF, USHRN, Prax(us) and NESRI than we can list here, but the real problem here bears repeating: The CCHD promoted an organization unworthy of Catholic funds in a document where it promised to take stronger measures not to fund such groups. Because of this, the lack of response to the 62 other groups profiled by the RCN, and the fact that CCHD is continuing with its collection even though it has yet to release its 2010 grants list, the Reform CCHD Now coalition concludes that we cannot recommend that faithful Catholics support the CCHD during its 2010 annual collection.