



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION
Southern New York State Division

**The International Convention on Elimination of all forms of
Racial Discrimination, (ICERD), the U.S. Prison System, and Human Rights**

Wednesday, July 16 – 2:30 – 5:30 pm
801 Second Ave., 2nd Floor, at 43rd Street, Manhattan

Presenters



Sean Pica
Executive Director
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison



Damon K. Jones
New York State Representative
Blacks in Law Enforcement of America



Joshua Cooper
Director, Institute for Human Rights, University of Hawai'i
Member, UNA-USA Leo Nevas Human Rights Task Force

After introductory remarks from speakers, we will divide into two groups for discussion. The goal is to advocate with the American public for active implementation of the International Convention to Eliminate Racial Discrimination (ICERD), a United Nations treaty the U.S. ratified in 1994. Review of the U.S. actions on ICERD will take place in August 2014. Participants will learn about this treaty as it relates to information related to the U.S. prison system. After this event we will publicize the ICERD as well as our findings and prepare what is known as a “Shadow Report” to the relevant committee.

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SEAN PICA has overall strategic and operational responsibility for staff, programs, development, expansion and execution of Hudson Link's mission. He joined Hudson Link's Board of Directors in 2004 and became Executive Director in 2007. Under Sean's leadership, Hudson Link has grown from a 65 person college program operating inside one prison, Sing Sing Correctional Facility, to approximately 318 students enrolled in college programs at 4 New York State correctional facilities. He serves as a Senior Fellow with Mercy College's Center for Social and Criminal Justice, on the Service Providers Advisory Committee (SPAC) which collaborates on policy issues in the NYS Department of Corrections, on the Boards of Career Gear and Saving Our Society and as a facilitator for STRIVE Fatherhood Programs. Mr. Pica earned his Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Nyack College, his Master's degree in Professional Studies from the New York Theological Seminary, his Master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College, and is currently an MBA student at Mercy College. www.hudsonlink.org

DAMON K. JONES is a 23-year veteran of the Westchester County Department of Corrections. He has served for 13 years as a Union Delegate for the Westchester County Correction Officers Benevolent Association (COBA) and is currently the New York State Representative of Blacks in Law Enforcement of America. www.bleausa.org He also served as a national board member and Chair of the National Membership Committee of the National Black Police Association.

He is the co-founder and served as Executive Director of Westchester Blacks in Law Enforcement for Community Uplift. The group have been strong advocates for Law Enforcement and community relations helping to spearhead the Norwood E. Jackson Scholarship Fund, Save our Schools Mentoring Program, How do you know your child's in a Gang and Are you a Victim of Domestic Violence Seminars series and the Mount Vernon Peacekeepers.

Mr. Jones assisted in advising Governor Paterson's NY State Police-on-Police Shooting Task Force on behalf of the National Black Police Association. The Task Force was created to examine the issues and implications arising from police-on-police shooting and confrontations, especially between on-duty and off-duty officers and examine the disproportionality in shootings of African-American officers while on-duty in plain clothes and off-duty. This groundbreaking study examined racial bias and perceptions within the law enforcement system.

Joshua Cooper is currently the US Human Rights Network Universal Periodic Review Geneva Coordinator for the historic first review of the human rights record of the United States of America. www.ushrnetwork.org He is also the Director of Training at the International Training Centre for Teaching Peace and Human Rights and a Trainer at the Advanced Geneva Training Course on International Law and Advocacy for the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. He also is a Trainer for the University of New South Wales Diplomacy Training Program focusing on human rights of indigenous peoples in the Asia-Pacific region. Cooper serves on the Leo Nevas Human Rights Task Force at the United Nations Association-USA. Cooper has taught at the University of Hawaii for over a decade in fields of political science, peace studies and journalism.