

Durango Indivisible
Civil Rights Committee
2017 Annual Report
January, 2018

The Civil Rights Committee has been active with many issues this year in 2017. When the committee first began to meet, we identified issues of interest to the committee participants which we have supported. As the political climate changes and new issues arise, we attempt to address those that are pertinent to social justice and protecting the rights of American citizens. It is no easy task to support the barrage of issues that the current administration has deluged upon us. Yet, we continue to work with the leadership of Indivisible, with other committees, and the community to do the work of social justice. Issues the Civil Rights Committee have identified and supported include:

- LGBTQ
- Disability
- Housing
- DACA

We invite any current or prospective member to become active in the committee and to suggest other issues, strategies, or activities that will improve the Civil Rights Committee's participation in the Indivisible organization.

Events

The members of the Civil Rights Committee have participated in several events this year.

- We marched down Main Street in the Pride March and organized and attended a booth at the rally at Buckley Park after the march.
- We participated in a poster rally on Main Street, "Celebrate Diversity" sponsored by the Southwest Center for Independence.
- We supported other sponsors of film presentations/panel discussions of "Real Boy" and "The Mask We Live In."
- We supported both Indivisible and SW Center for Independence in the Veteran's Day March down Main.
- We supported Indivisible in their protests at Tipton's office in Durango and at the Town Hall meeting in Mancos.
- We supported Indivisible in the sidewalk stand-in to support Senator Michael Bennet at his office in Durango.
- We attended protests at Senator Gardner's office in Durango.
- We attended the town hall meeting with Senators Bennett and Gardner, Representative Tipton, and Governor Hickenlooper. We spoke to these legislators about pertinent issues regarding the environment and health care.
- We attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Universalist Church in Durango in honor of transgender individuals who have passed away.
- We attended the rally at Buckley Park in support of the Gun Safety Committee.
- We collaborate with other Indivisible committees such as Freedom of the Press and Women's Rights on events they are planning.

- We have written to the *Durango Herald* Letter to the Editor on Transgender issues in the Military.

Guest Speakers

Our committee sees education of ourselves and others in the community as an important function of our work. We have invited several speakers to our meetings so we can be informed with facts when supporting our views, opinions, and political stance.

- Elizabeth Sulkind – Executive Director of South West Housing Solutions
- Kristi Dean with 4 Corners Alliance for Diversity
- Adele Brown, a former community organizer and member of the CR committee
- Martha Mason from Southwest Center for Independence
- Rachel Bauke from VOA on homelessness

Call To Action

The Civil Rights Committee has sponsored many CTAs for Indivisible members to take action.

- Puerto Rico - fairness and equality for FEMA resource distribution
- HB 620 ADA education and reform act 2017
- Thanks to Sen Bennett for his support of LGBTQ legislation
- Opposing bigotry and hate speech after the Charlottesville incident

In addition to writing CTAs, committee members have responded to other committee's CTAs with letters, emails, faxes, and phone calls to state legislators; letters to the editor of *The Durango Herald*; protests, marches; and attendance at leadership and general Indivisible meetings. We collaborate with other committees, the national Indivisible leadership, and other like organizations such as the Democratic Party of Durango.