



## Overview

The Hope in the Cities (HIC) program was launched in Virginia, USA, in 1990 to address the issue of racial healing.

- Its goal and mission is to create just and inclusive communities through reconciliation among racial, ethnic and religious groups based on personal and institutional transformation.
- It offers various dialogue modules such as facilitator training, education and action, relationship-building, public policy engagement, multi-faith dialogues, and leadership training through *Connecting Communities Fellowship Program*.

# HOPE IN THE CITIES (HIC)

## FACT SHEET

### BACKGROUND

Hope in the Cities (HIC) was launched in 1990, as an effort to bring together political, business and community leaders in Richmond, Virginia, USA, to address the issue of racial healing.

HIC became a national network in 1993, when these leaders sponsored a conference called *Healing the Heart of America: An Honest Conversation on Race, Reconciliation and Responsibility*. This conference drew 1000 participants from 50 U.S. urban centres and 20 foreign countries. It examined underlying racial issues that impact housing, education, police and community relations, and public policy as it relates to families.

In May 1996 HIC launched *Call to Community* at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, a program that provided a demonstration of honest and respectful public dialogue on race. In launching the *Call*, HIC created a network of 200 prominent individuals, national organizations and partnering organizations.

### AIM

The purpose of Hope in the Cities is to provide a framework for honest dialogue and collaboration among citizen groups. It creates conditions of trust between people of different racial and social backgrounds and divergent political views. It builds partnerships between leaders of public and private sectors, and different cultures and faith traditions.

Urban leaders and activists in Britain, Brazil, South Africa, Australia and other countries are also participating in HIC programs internationally.

### HOW

The method is based on three interconnected steps:

1. ***honest conversation leading to new partnerships among individuals of every viewpoint.***
2. ***personal responsibility deciding to move beyond blame, denial and personal pain to implement constructive action and offer leadership towards social transformation.***
3. ***acts of acknowledgement and reconciliation of specific racial history and its impact on the communal life.***

Walter T. Kenney, former mayor of Richmond, Virginia has characterized the work of HIC as follows: 'The process for moving past and not getting stuck in the blame game is critical for real growth. The mentality of victimhood or guilt-ridden shame anchors us in inaction. Hope in the Cities provides the arena for unselfish leadership and partnerships for building trust and hope.'

# HOPE IN THE CITIES (HIC)

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### **HIC (USA) Board**

Audrey Brown Burton, Co-Chair  
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Dr Muhammad Sahli  
Andrew Schoeneman  
Jane Tally, Chair, Program Committee  
Rev. Sylvester Turner,  
Community Outreach Director  
Cricket G.White, Richmond Program Director  
Rev. Lonnie Williams, Secretary

### **ORGANIZATION**

Hope in the Cities (USA) is located in Richmond, Virginia. It is a not-for-profit organization.

HIC (USA) actively partners with its affiliate organizations in the UK and other countries.

A staff of six people in the Richmond office is responsible for local and national activities and also provides consultation and training to international affiliates.

The Hope in the Cities (USA) Board of Directors represents the racial, religious and economic diversity of the Richmond Metropolitan region.

### **PROGRAM**

#### **Dialogue**

- **Call to Community Dialogues** inviting the community into dialogue on critical issues by pairing civic, business and service organizations, churches and youth groups using a six-part dialogue curriculum. This curriculum has been used effectively in many communities. These small group dialogues are facilitated by highly-trained interracial teams.
- **Race, Economics and Jurisdiction Dialogues** which typically involve up to 25 people in a weekend or one day retreat setting to explore the interwoven issues of race, economics and jurisdiction in order to lay the foundation for long term work on public policy issues.
- **Multi-faith Dialogues:** HIC has developed a curriculum to engage Muslims and Christians.

#### **Capacity building and consultation**

##### **– strengthening the network of change agents:**

HIC consults with communities to develop strategies for dialogues, racial reconciliation and team development. It also provides skills building in specific areas. The training of facilitators is offered in 12-16 hours of sessions.

The Connecting Communities Fellowship Program, an integrated approach to constructive community change, offers intensive leadership formation and skills training. The program equips leaders with increased ability to work creatively in building shared visions for reconciliation and justice.

Shorter workshops are also available nationally and internationally.

HIC's highly experienced trainers are available to community organizations, businesses and educational institutions.

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# HOPE IN THE CITIES (HIC)

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### PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

#### *Healing history*

##### **– public actions that build community:**

An accurate, respectful public telling of story of all groups can unite communities long divided. The walk through history pioneered in Richmond in 1993 has become a model for communities everywhere seeking to heal from a painful past.

Richmond's historic Slave Trail now forms the heart of interpretive walks held on request throughout the year and is becoming an important educational resource.

#### **Regional, national and international forums and conferences**

Through an extensive national and international network, HIC and its partners convene forums and conferences to highlight best practices and effective collaborations. The Caux conference centre provides an important meeting place for community leaders from all continents. The Annual Metropolitan Richmond Day regularly draws leaders of public and private sectors from throughout the region to discuss key issues.

#### **Special projects**

HIC Richmond will focus its energies for the next three years on strengthening the community's commitment to education, expecting to forge a new level of collaboration among students, educators, parents, employers and community organizations, within and across the schools and school districts. HIC seeks to help the community ask itself the following questions:

- What choices are we making to provide the best development for our children ?
- What factors are influencing our choices ?
- How do divisions of race, economics and jurisdiction impact our children and the future of metropolitan Richmond ?

## **International Affiliates**

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# **HOPE IN THE CITIES (HIC)**

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### **FINANCES**

Funding is provided by individuals, foundations and by corporations. In recent years, support has come from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, The Community Foundation, Jackson Foundation, Capitol One and Dominion.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by check to "Hope in the Cities" mailed to the International Head Office in Richmond, USA. For credit card donations, please call +1 804 358 1764.



Initiatives of Change

**Building trust across the world's divides**