

Our Mission

We are a committee representing the diversity of AFT Washington.

Our goal is to honor the shared humanity of all our members. We seek to accomplish this goal by promoting principles of tolerance, fairness, and respect; building meaningful relationships within and outside our organization; and monitoring our effectiveness regularly.



At the Legislature for adjunct pay equity and cost-free college.



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Human Rights Committee:
our shared humanity



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The Human Rights Committee of AFT Washington

Everyone who lives, works, and plays in our country wants to live with dignity and have an equal opportunity to succeed.

We support our communities by building relationships. We strive to have equity and opportunity for everyone. Access to higher education and racial equity in our communities is a Human Right and should be supported and defended.

We believe in the goal of honoring the shared humanity of all our members. We seek to accomplish this goal by promoting principles of tolerance, fairness, and respect. Building meaningful relationships within and outside our organization enhances our collective efforts to improve our communities. We work to combat racism and prejudice.

The Human Rights Committee is committed to social justice, human rights, and racial equity. We represent our members working together and making our voices heard around these issues.



Solidarity with protesters for justice during the 2020 election.

What We Do

We represent AFT and AFT Washington at national and local events, and strive to foster relationships with like-minded groups in the region. To support these relationships - and our communities - we publicize, participate in, and organize events that will help fight human rights abuses in our union, our community, our country, and our world.

We promote education as a way to develop equity and change for those being left behind. We also believe in the power of educators to make a difference in student success, and have adopted resolutions calling on AFT Washington to promote immigrant and refugee rights, LGBTQ rights, and racial equity, among others.

We “walk our talk” through actions — leafletting, marching, rallying, and adding our voices to those of others fighting for equity and justice.

We provide a platform for all members of our union to educate, inform, and be recognized so that we eradicate all forms of classism, heterosexism, racism, sexism, and other forms of dehumanization that exist within our union.

What Committee Members Say

“Helping make a difference to restore basic rights in the lives of vulnerable people is an indescribable feeling. If you feel as I do, join the human rights committee. It will be an experience of a lifetime.”
Tomas Ramos, Vice President
AFT Washington Human Rights Committee

One of the reasons that I decided to become involved is that we must be the voice of action. If we don't stand up, united, for what is right and just, others will make the decisions for all of us. We've already been witness to what happens when that occurs.”

- Julia Barcott, RN



At the 2024 Human Rights Committee retreat.

“I have been a nurse for over 3 decades and I'm proud to say that I am an advocate for my patients and their families. I am also a proud union member and leader in my professional nursing organization, Washington State Nurses Association. Being part of this committee helps me continue and expand my advocacy on a broader level and within a bigger community other than in the nursing/medical field. It is locally, within the state and nationally and more importantly as a person of color that I can be a better advocate and constantly learn to be an advocate and represent those that I can help.”

Edna P. Cortez, RN, WSNA
AFT National Human Rights Committee

Get Involved!

Our committee meetings are held the third Saturday of the month. Share your human rights story or issues at your campus or in your community.

For more information, please contact Ray Carrillo: rcarrillo@aftwa.org or 206-369-4001.