

CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
c/O Baha'i Community of Bellingham
2626 Peabody
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

For Further Information Contact:

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A seven state regional CONFERENCE ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS will be held in Bellingham at Saga Food Service, Western Washington State College, June 29, under the sponsorship of the Bellingham Baha'i Community.

States included in the conference region are Washington, Oregon Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Open to all interested organizations and individuals, the Conference will review the area of education as it relates to human rights, and will make recommendations on future courses of action in this area. Other workshop topics will include: Problems of Human Dignity of the American Indian, Legal Rights of the Individual American Indian, Meaningful Employment and Problems of Health.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be Mary Hillaire, Lummi Indian Supervisor of Whatcom County Public Assistance and talented wood sculptress. Miss Hillaire holds Bachelor Degrees in Social Work from both Western Washington State and The University of British Columbia and a Master's in Elementary Education from Western. Present plans include a return to the school of Social Work with a view towards teaching Social Work. Miss Hillaire's broad background in guidance and counseling includes training caseworkers in techniques which will enable families in need to utilize their own resources if possible as well as other resources when necessary.

The Bellingham Conference is one of a series of regional conferences on different aspects of human rights being held in the United States under the auspices of the North American Baha'i Office for Human Rights

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(N ABOHR) during the month of June. NABOHR, with headquarters in Wilmette, Ill. was recently established by the American Baha'i Community to promote International Human Rights Year (1968). Other conferences in this series will be held in Boston, Oklahoma City, Gallup, N.M., Atlanta, Memphis, Richland, Calif. and El Paso.

Recently, the North American Baha'i Communities issued a statement on human rights intitled: HUMAN RIGHTS ARE GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS. The statement points out: " The greatest challenge to this age is the recognition of the oneness of mankind. The painful but inevitable broadening of each man's allegiance from his own ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, national and economic group to the wider embrace of all mankind constitutes the central revolution, which calls for changes in the provincial attitudes and behavior of all the people of the world."

The statement calls for support of the United Nations covenants and conventions on human rights and for the establishment of a U.N. High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights.

The Baha'i Faith teaches a belief in the oneness of mankind and from its origin in 1844 in Iran, pioneered in creating truly integrated communities around the world. Baha'is strive to promote a belief in and acceptance of the dignity of all men regardless of race, class, nationality or creed.