

Christian Hip Hop Artist and Youth Pastor Awarded at the United Nations for Human Rights Activism

Rev. Travis Ellis awarded the Human Rights Hero Award at the 16th Annual International Human Rights Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, July 11, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A native Washingtonian, Travis Ellis grew up in a part of DC notoriously known for serious issues with gang violence, crime and drug abuse. He has dedicated the last several years of his life to provide mentorship to troubled youth using human rights education to better set up youth for a brighter future. Having proven his merit as an activist in the field of human rights for over 5 years now and to draw inspiration for others, Rev. Travis Ellis was invited to speak about his journey educating people about their human rights at the 16th annual International Human Rights Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York.



Rev. Travis Ellis received the Human Rights Hero Award for his tireless work to defend human rights in his home community of Washington, DC.

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Rev. Travis Ellis

Delegates and Ambassadors from 45 nations, NGO representatives, members of civil society, Ambassadors and Representatives of diplomatic missions to the UN, government officials, and representatives of non-profits from around the world converged at the prestigious Summit to share one common goal – raising awareness on the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#).

Annually, exemplary human rights advocates are awarded the Human Rights Hero Award. For this year's International Human Rights Summit, Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, President of

Youth for Human Rights International, presented the awards to three outstanding humanitarians. One of them was Rev. Travis Ellis. These awardees stand as a testament to the scope of human rights education across all country borders, ethnic divides and religious differences. They are stellar examples of the many other heroes around the world standing up for human rights and working to improve conditions in their homelands.

Accepting the award, Rev. Ellis explained why he found Youth for Human Rights International materials so important, “Having lived in a city where violence is often the first response, I knew instantly that a tool like the [human rights curriculum](#) is needed, and also will allow me, as a

mentor, to teach my peers the value of responsibility and the freedoms of life and safety.”

While people from 78 countries in total attended the three-day Summit, the message reached further outside the United Nations’ walls as it was live streamed on [UN Web TV](http://webtv.un.org).

You can watch all four parts of the Summit sessions at the UN by going to <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/-part-1-mission-of-el-salvador-16th-annual-international-human-rights-summit-2019-/6053101672001/?term=>

The importance of communities uniting and working to resolve human rights abuses through education in the 30 Articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the theme of the Summit.

This year’s Summit was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the UN, and was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Ghana, the Gambia and the Republic of Moldova to the UN. Beyond the UN Country Missions, other co-sponsors included the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico, the International Union of Bilateral Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Human Rights Department of the Church of Scientology, the Foundation for International Democracy in Argentina, the African Diaspora Foundation, Karna Positive Trust of Nepal, the Gandhi Global Family, the Art and Culture for Human Rights Foundation in Italy and more—19 in total.

The topics of the Summit ranged from the Right to Education to Eradicating Injustice and Inequalities. The speakers not only analyzed these issues, providing statistics and realities in their countries, but also looked to solutions and successful actions that existed and could be expanded on.

Throughout the two days at the UN there were many inspirational and eye opening speeches. Prominent speakers included Ambassador Reuben Armando Escalante Hasbun of El Salvador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone Victoria M. Sulimani, His Excellency Ireneo Omositsion Namboka of Uganda, Chairman of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Dr. Joseph L. Green, and Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa and Community Mayor of Harlem Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely.



Rev. Ellis takes human rights education to the street to educate every day people on their basic human rights.



Rev. Ellis speaking at the United Nations about how he discovered the joy of helping others through the activism he did to earn his Human Rights Hero Award.

The final day, the multicultural celebration for the Summit, was hosted at the Church of Scientology of Harlem Community Center on Saturday, June 29. The day started with a workshop for the delegates on human rights education, where each delegate made an action plan on how they are going to apply, in their communities, what they have learned during the Summit.

The afternoon saw a Multi-Cultural Celebration with numerous performances and speakers from a multitude of nationalities and countries. Internationally-traveled singer, composer, guitarist Michael Duff opened the performance. The Rybin School of Drama provided youth performances by their very talented students. Speakers provide uplifting words of encourage to the delegates as they prepared to return home to improve their communities through human rights education, and the youth delegates were able to speak about their experience, and how this Summit has impacted their life.

In her closing speech, Dr. Mary Shuttleworth, the president of Youth for Human Rights International (YHRI), stated, "My respect lies in the dirt on your shoes, the sweat on your brow. My respect is the work and youth that make your dreams come true."

After this lively celebration, youth delegates and ambassadors went and passed out YHRI booklets throughout New York City. In Times Square, they gathered signatures on a giant 12-foot-long petition. They used this opportunity to also read people their thirty human rights.

Do you know your human rights? Learn them and find out more at <https://www.youthforhumanrights.org> or learn about Youth for Human Rights founder by going to: <https://www.scientology.tv/series/voices-for-humanity/mary-shuttleworth.html>

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Rev. Travis Ellis, Youth Pastor and Christian Hip Hop artist



Rev. Ellis (second from the left, first row) participated in a training among youth delegates and youth ambassadors from around the world to teach them how to deliver human rights education in schools everywhere.

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

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