



## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

A series of federal court decisions are eroding our civil rights protections. Protections guaranteeing women's rights, children's rights, environmental justice, the rights of racial and ethnic minorities, workers' rights and the rights of people with disabilities, among others, are disappearing with very little public notice. A tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice was necessary to establish these laws and many of us take them for granted. Many Americans rely on our civil rights laws as a way to define freedom and justice in our society. We often assume that the freedom to live, work and participate in society without discrimination is a bedrock principle of our country. Many of us also assume that if our rights are violated that we can go to court to enforce them. But in our courthouses, many of these basic rights and freedoms are being "rolled back" or reversed, and made toothless and unenforceable.

The National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights is a nationwide collaboration of students, community activists, concerned individuals, lawyers, and academics that have joined together in response to the current erosion of civil rights. For the past four years, the campaign has worked as a bridge organization, to link individuals and groups from the many communities affected by this "rollback." Recognizing how little information is reaching people across the country, this campaign focuses on public education and outreach, finding ways to spread the word about the impact court rulings have on our neighborhoods, our schools, our opportunities and our rights. We also organize both large national strategy conferences, as well as smaller regional and issue based meetings for groups and individuals to help develop strategies to raise public awareness and mobilize people around this issue.

The campaign's success relies on helping remove the legal jargon that currently shrouds the issues, and in making these issues accessible to the general public. To accomplish this goal the campaign has worked with award-winning documentarian Stanley Nelson to produce the video *Take Back the Courts* and is publishing the book *Awakening from the Dream: Pursing Civil Rights in a Conservative Era*, both of which highlight some of the problems associated with the rollback as well as some solutions. The campaign recently launched its website [www.rollbackcampaign.org](http://www.rollbackcampaign.org), as a resource for the public and for civil rights advocates.

For more information:

**National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights**

**<http://www.rollbackcampaign.org>**

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