

URBAN - COLLECTIVE ACTION NETWORK NEWSLETTER



How citizen-led initiatives safeguard democracy

19 Apr, 2024

The Indian Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) is relaunching its #WeAreWatching project to raise awareness about election rules, following a series of violations reported during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The ICLU is a network of lawyers, students, and activists dedicated to defending constitutional rights and providing legal aid.

[Read More](#)

BluSmart introduces the Smart Citizen campaign to encourage India to vote

22 Apr, 2024

BluSmart, electric vehicle service has launched the #SmartCitizen campaign to promote voting in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in Delhi, Gurgaon, and Bengaluru. Offering discounted rides on polling dates, BluSmart aims to facilitate convenient and timely voting, including first-time voters.



[Read More](#)



Build the Budget Program in Philadelphia

11 Apr, 2024

Citizens in Philadelphia are called upon each budget season to offer their input on funding priorities. Innovative programs like South Bend's "Build the Budget" initiative have emerged to demystify the process and increase public participation. By leveraging existing communication channels, such as dedicated voicemail inboxes, cities like South Bend have successfully garnered feedback from residents.

[Read More](#)

[In the Classroom: Students Receive Real-World Civic Engagement Experience in Internship Class](#)

COURSE OVERVIEW: SERVICE LEARNING IN AFRICANA STUDIES



Service learning is a cornerstone of Africana Studies at Georgia State University. This experiential course fosters civic responsibility by engaging students in internships with community organizations. Emphasizing collaboration and humility, students learn to assess community needs directly and tailor their efforts accordingly. The course structure includes journaling, a final paper, and a capstone project, providing opportunities for reflection and practical application.



STUDENT APPEAL: COMMUNITY CONSCIOUSNESS

Located in downtown Atlanta, the course attracts students with a strong sense of community awareness. Exposure to urban challenges prompts students to ask, "How can I help?" Witnessing the impact of their contributions, students find personal fulfillment and discover their philanthropic passions. The course nurtures students' development, guiding them towards meaningful engagement and service-oriented careers.

IMPORTANCE OF THE COURSE: DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS



Aligned with Georgia State University's mission to cultivate productive citizens, this course equips students with the skills and mindset to serve their communities effectively. Rooted in the empowerment ethos of Africana Studies, the course underscores the discipline's commitment to social responsibility across all professions.



PERSONAL INTEREST: AN INSPIRED JOURNEY

Driven by personal experiences and mentorship from Africana Studies scholars like Dr. Akinyele Umoja, the instructor's passion for community service is deeply rooted. Raised in a family dedicated to community service, the instructor's journey reflects a lifelong commitment to making a difference.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating this Month: Milind Mhaske, CEO of Praja Foundation

Apr 1, 2024

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Nayonika Bose interviews Milind Mhaske, CEO of Praja Foundation, to explore the civic concerns influencing voters. Mhaske highlights issues like stalled infrastructure projects and housing struggles, stressing the need for empowered local governance. While air pollution is significant, mobility and housing outweigh it for most Mumbaikars. The absence of local governance due to delayed civic polls underscores the importance of voters advocating for stronger governance, with Mhaske also emphasizing the need for enhanced civic education and youth engagement.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating this Month: Siraz Hirani, Senior Programme Management Specialist, MHT

Feb 5, 2024

The “*Climate Adaptation Within Livelihoods and Poverty Programmes: Responding to Extreme Heat in India*” has been co-written by BRAC International and Siraz Hirani (Senior Programme Management Specialist) from Mahila Housing Trust. This paper presents how to integrate adaptive measures within rural and urban livelihoods programmes, especially programmes that are designed for the most vulnerable populations.

[Read More](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Centre de Sciences Humaines - Centre for Policy Research: Urban Workshop, Online

Apr
30
2024

May
2 & 3
2024

Urban Metaverse and Smart Cities, Online

CEPT Conference Urban Planning in India, Ahmedabad

May
8
2024

May
10 - 12
2024

IIHS, Bengaluru City Campus, Sea Between The Lines

*Do share your feedback and suggestions to us at ucanorgindia@gmail.com
Kindly circulate in your networks for wider reach*