



**The following lists the purpose of the truth commission and the responsibilities of the volunteering commissioners:**

❖ **What is a Truth Commission?**

This is an event focused on organizing and educating the community about the human right violations that currently exist in their area. It is a time where members of the community can come together and learn from one another and their past experiences. The event is an avenue for panelists from the community to share their stories of how their economic human rights have been violated. These stories will be heard and discussed by a diverse group of the community's professionals. These commissioners will then make a collective decision whether the stories that they have heard were actually situations where the individual's economic human rights were violated.

❖ **Purpose of the Truth Commissions**

For years people all across the world have had their economic human rights violated in such ways as children being removed from homes, people living without healthcare, people living out of cars and other basic human needs are not being met just to name a few. The Truth Commission was created to unite people all across the world of different races, class and education to form a foundation for a movement to abolish poverty. It is time to give poor people a voice instead of just a number.

❖ **When and where did the Truth Commissions begin?**

On July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of 2006 the first ever Truth Commission was held in the United States by the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC). It was modeled after similar commissions held in Africa and Latin America. This Truth

Commission was held in Cleveland Ohio to an audience of over 600 national and international truth commissioners.

❖ **What is a truth commissioner?**

A commissioner is a social movement leader that has interest in economic human rights as a measure of justice.

❖ **What are the duties and responsibilities of the truth commissioners?**

The commissioners are responsible for hearing testimonies given by individuals who have had their economic human rights violated. The commissioners listen to the testimonies, collaborate with the other commissioners about what rights have been violated and then report back to the group as a whole about what they heard and how these testimonies affected them. These leaders then take the information heard from the truth commission and offer recommendations about how to improve these conditions and help to accomplish the bigger goal with is to abolish poverty.