



# Minnesota's Human Rights Stories: Global Reach of Local Activism

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UMRA Grantee

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Minnesota  
Human  
Rights  
Archive

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Archives and Special Collections at  
the University of Minnesota Libraries

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Human Rights Program

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Wilkins Center for Human Relations  
and Social Justice

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Center for Holocaust and Genocide  
Studies

# Oral History Interviewees

## Anti-Torture work

- Sam Heins, Founder and first Board Chair of Center for Victims of Torture
- Pete Dross, Vice-President of External Relations, CVT

## Preventing Violence against Women

- Robin Phillips, Executive Director, The Advocates for Human Rights
- Aviva Breen, MN Commission on Economic Status of Women
- Cheryl Thomas, Executive Director, Global Rights for Women

## Anti-Racism work

- Joey Mogul, People's Law Office (TBD)
- Dr. Samuel Myers, Wilkins Center (TBD)

# Oral History Interviewees

- **Minnesota's Human Rights organizations**
  - Jim Dorsey, co-founder, The Advocates for Human Rights
  - Sonia Rosen, former staff person, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
  - Bret Thiele and Mayra Gomez, Global Initiative on Economic and Social Rights
  - Barbara Frey, co-founder and former ED, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

# UMRA Grant Support



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Electronic transcripts



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# Anti-Torture work Sam Heins Interview

Samuel D. Heins



“And Terry [Saario] said, before we could do any presenting, she said, ‘Well, this looks like a very interesting proposal to me, but I have a feeling that you've been all over the place to various other foundations.’

Yeah, we had.

‘And they've all said no for a variety of reasons. And what you've done is you've pared back a good proposal to a feasibility study,’ -- which we had done for 25,000 bucks or something – ‘... I don't want that. I didn't want something trivial like a feasibility study. I want you to come up with a real proposal for real money, hundreds of thousands, bring it back and we'll see what we can do.’

# Preventing Violence against Women

## Cheryl Thomas Interview

Cheryl Thomas



“So the domestic violence movement in the US was very, when we say grassroots, oh boy, was it ever grassroots.

It was the victim-survivors themselves that started it.

And then when they realized they couldn't open up enough shelters, they went to the legislature and worked on laws to provide women remedies, the order for protection remedy, and then get accountability for abusers, the amendments to our criminal codes that would allow police to arrest, even at the misdemeanor level, when it was a domestic violence case.

That was happening in the '70s in Minnesota.”

# Minnesota's Human Rights Organizations

## Sonia Rosen Interview

Dr. Clyde Snow, Dr. Robert Kirschner and  
Dr. John J. Fitzpatrick



“My recollection is the first or second day of this conference the Jesuits were assassinated in El Salvador. And Clyde [Snow] and Bob [Kirschner] I think immediately realized that they needed to essentially show how this is done to the people that were at the conference.”

“...Whether the El Salvadoran government would let them in --that was the diplomacy, big diplomacy, that probably Óscar Arias and the State Department were doing. As well as getting permission from the Catholic Church. They had to say ‘okay’ and my recollection is that it was just as difficult to get permission from them as it was from the Salvadoran government to do these autopsies.”