# Environmental Justice Climate Change Student Conference

Integrating Academia and Activism...Moving Towards Participatory Research and Academic Activism





Dr. Beverly Wright, Director
Xavier University of Louisiana
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) was developed in 1992 in collaboration with community environmental groups and other universities within the region to address environmental justice issues.

The DSCEJ provides opportunities for communities, scientific researchers, and decision makers to collaborate on programs and projects that promote the rights of all people to be free from environmental harm as it impacts health, jobs, housing, education, and a general quality of life.

#### The DSCEJ strives to achieve three key objectives:

- Partnership between Universities and Communities
- Interaction between Program Components
- Legacy

We have three components for reaching our objectives:

- Research and Policy
- Community Assistance and Education
- Primary, Secondary, and University Education

The DSCEJ has embraced a "communiversity" model by linking impacted community members with centers such as ours, as well as, with universities and scientific researchers.

The DSCEJ attempts to serve as an effective model of a community-university partnership.

### MODEL OF COMMUNITY = UNIVERSITY INTERACTIONS

Community Life Experiences

nthreatening Forum **Academic Knowledge of Theories and Concepts** 

Effective Research & Policy

## DSCEJ PARTNER COMMUNITIES

- Tremé New Orleans, LA
- Central City New Orleans
- Algiers New Orleans, LA
- Press Park/Agriculture St.
   Landfill- New Orleans, LA
- Destrehan, LA

- Norco, LA
- Convent, LA
- Geismar, LA
- Biloxi & Gulfport, MS



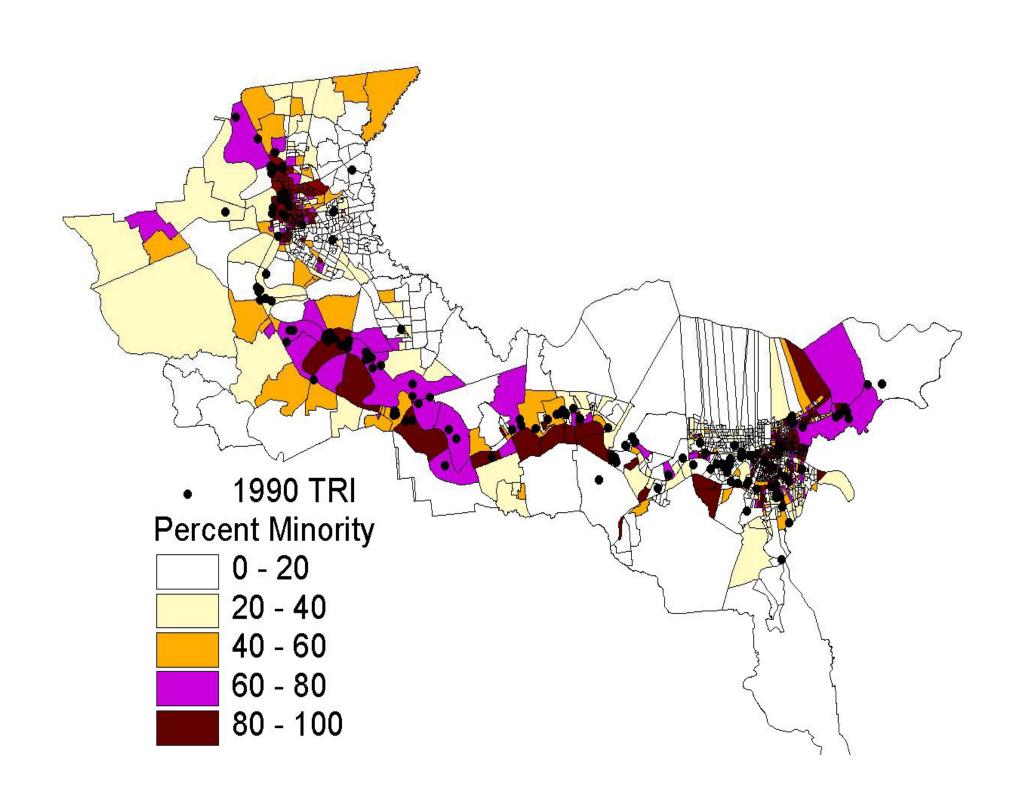


#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

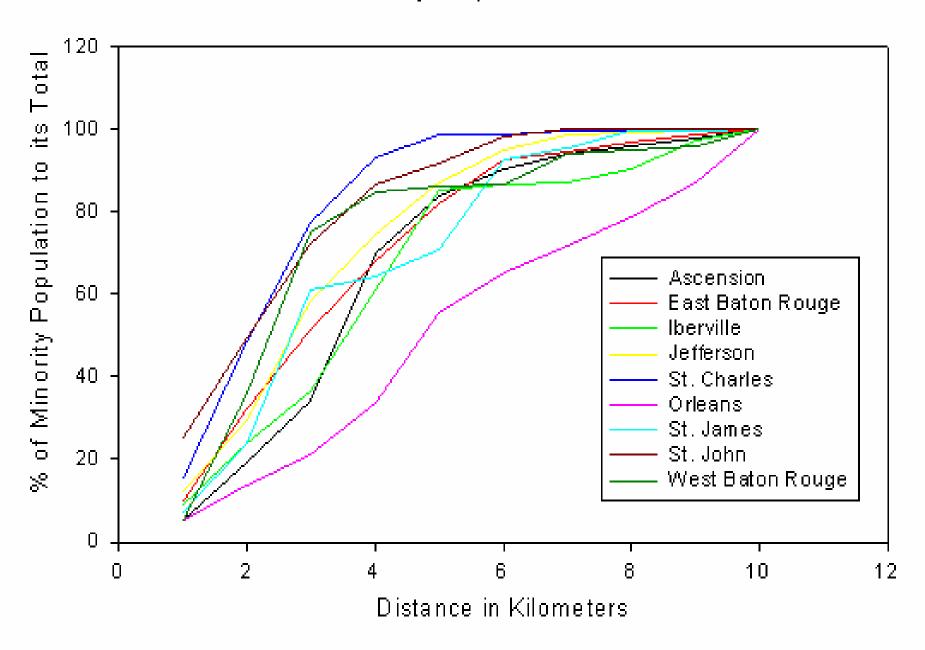
- Disparate Impact Analysis via GIS
- Site Specific Community Profiles
- Community Health Surveying
- Brochures, Fact Sheets, and Newsletters
- Environmental Justice Website
- Bienville Corridor Master Plan EJ Analysis
- Louis Armstrong International Airport EJ Analysis
- Environmental Justice Clearing House

#### DISPARATE IMPACT

DSCEJ spatial distribution analysis shows disparate impact in minority communities in the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor.



#### Percent of Minority Pop. to its Total Vs. Distance



# Community Education and Training

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS





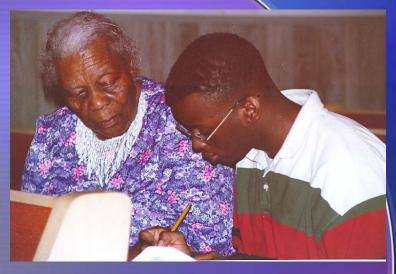




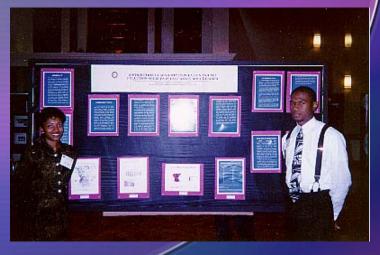


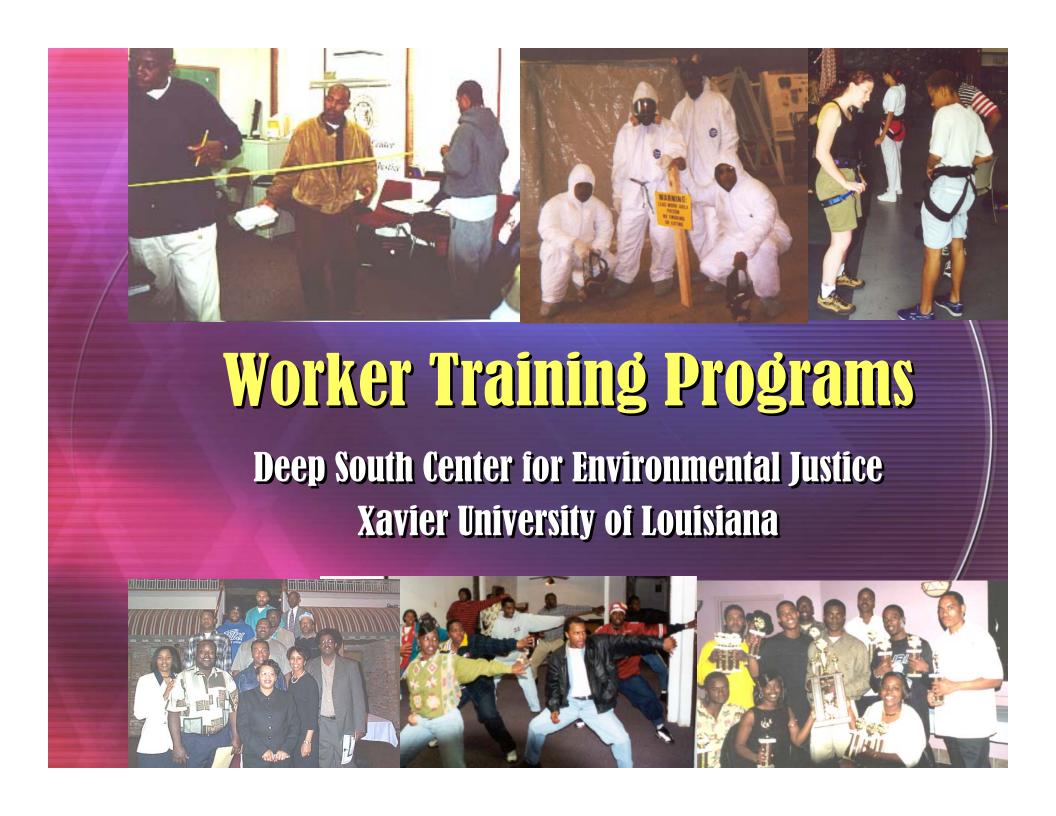
#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Environmental Justice Scholars/Interns
- Graduate Assistants
- Student Environmental Justice Club
- Toxic Tours
- Essay Competitions
- Earth Day Celebration
- Community Outreach



Students participate in community health survey (above) and EJ Scholars attend HBCU Research Symposium (below).





#### Technical Training

- General Construction
- Hazardous Waste Removal
- Underground Storage Tank Removal
- Concrete Technology
- Lead
- Asbestos



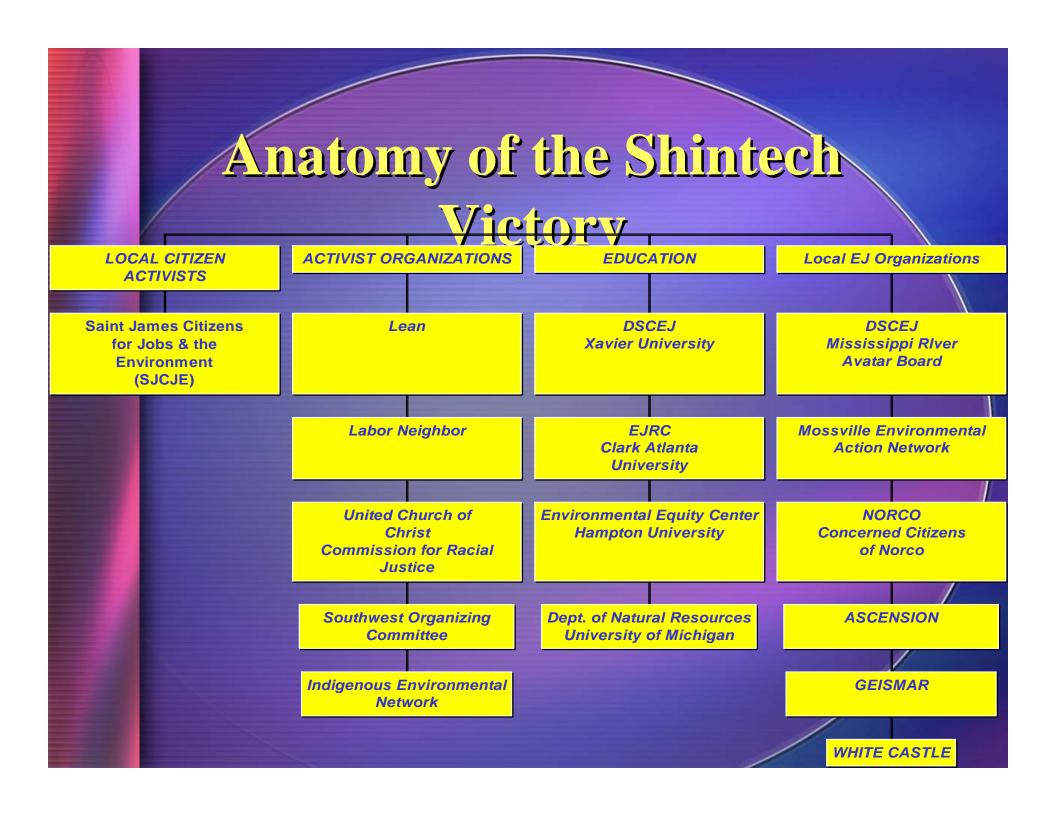
#### A Case Study

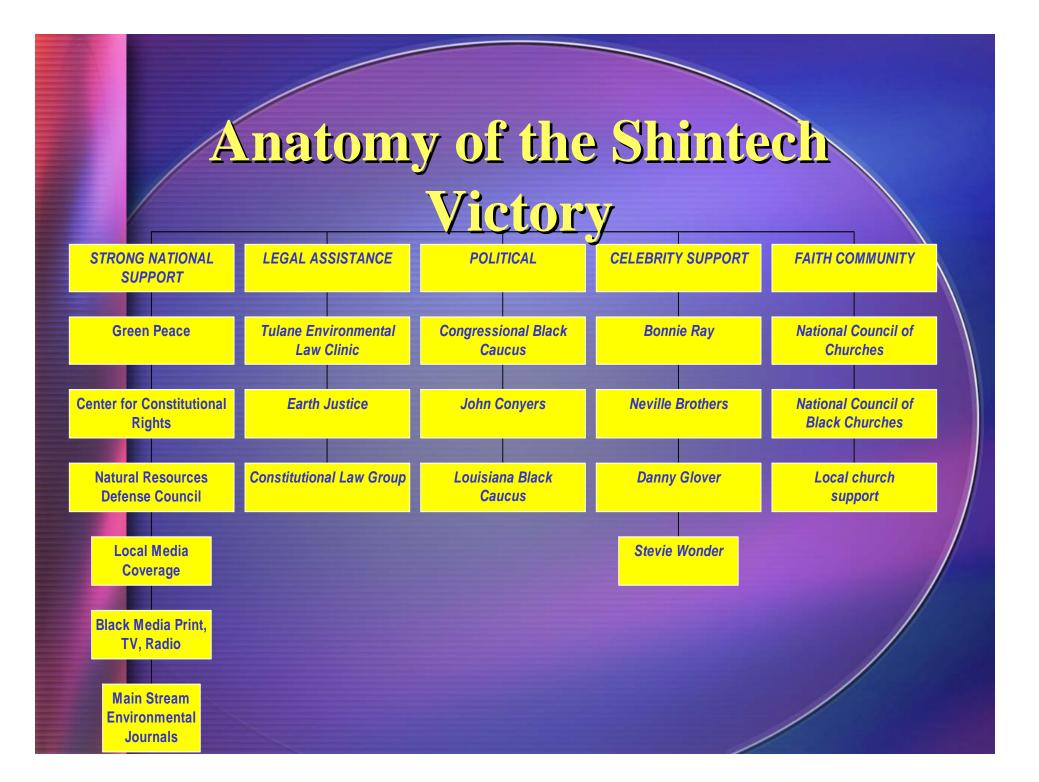
Integrating Academia and Activism...Moving Towards Participatory Research and Academic Activism.

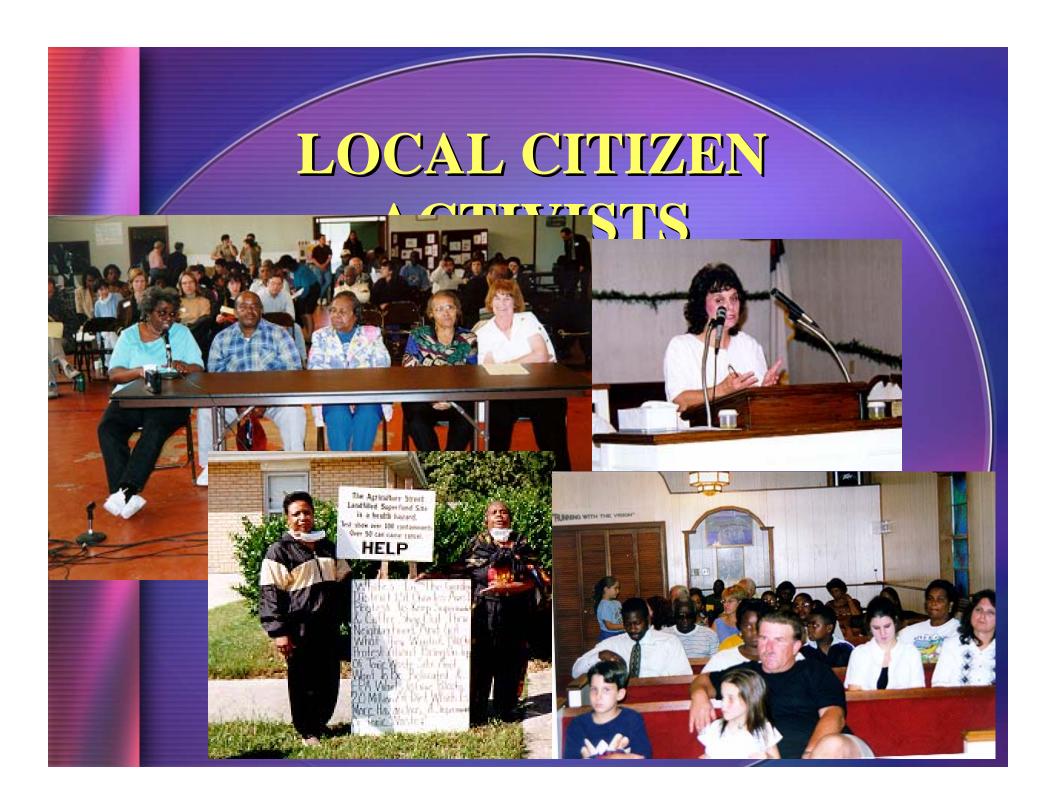
# Components of the Shintech Victory

- Local citizen activists
- Activist organizations
- Educational and technical resources and assistance
- Strong support of local grassroots environmental organizations

- Local and national media coverage
- Strong community leaders and organizers
- Political (local and national)
- Faith community
- Celebrity Support







# Local Grassroots Environmental Organizations

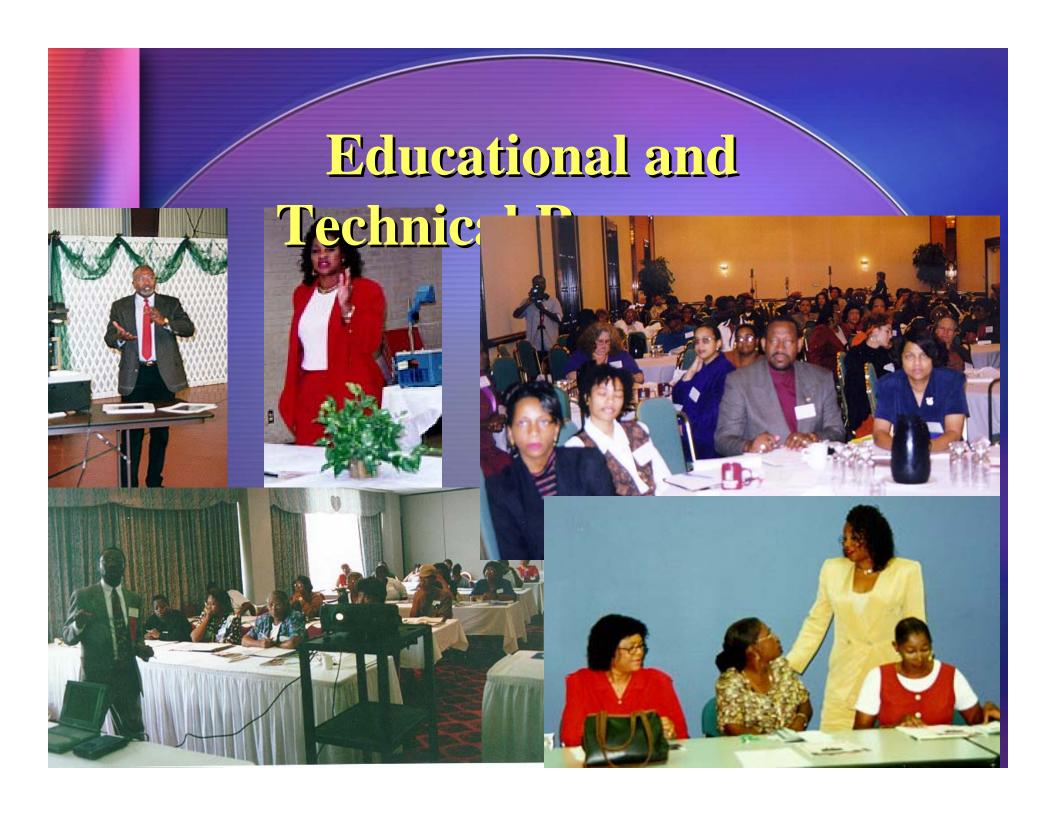














#### Legal Assistance

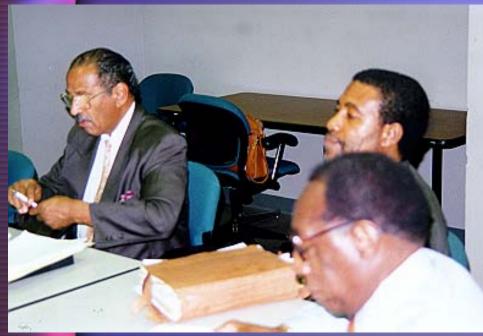


Staff from Tulane Environmental Law Clinic



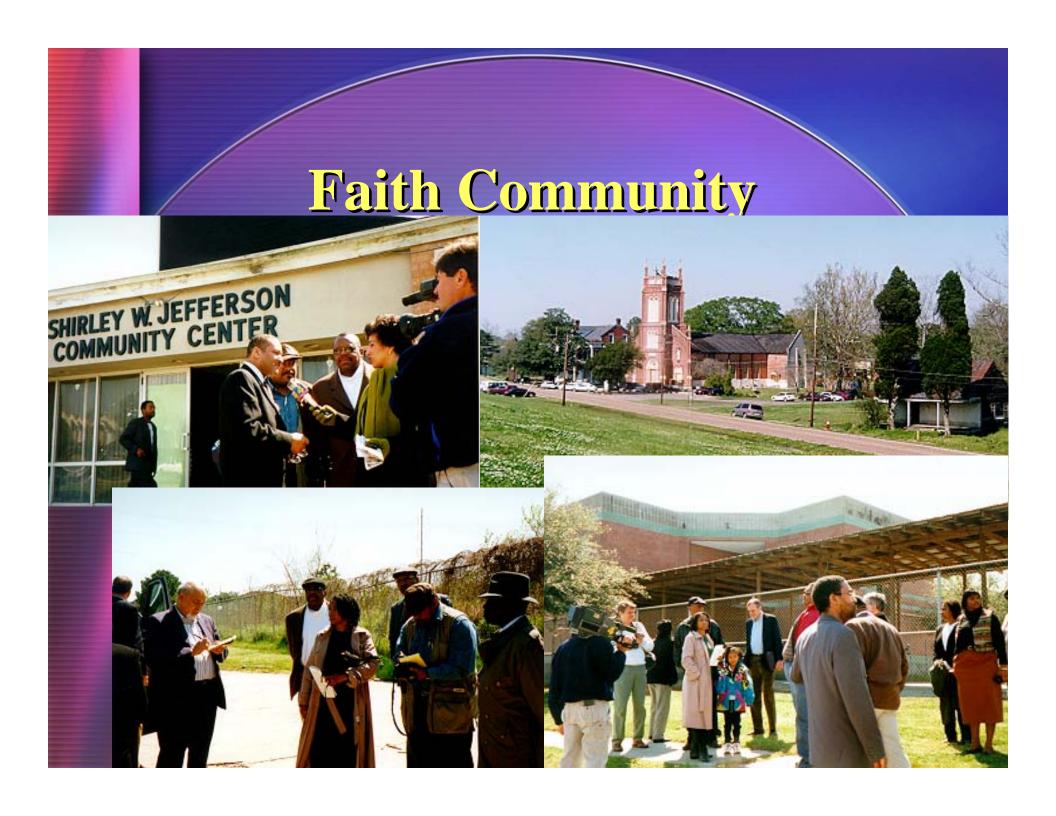
Staff from Earth Justice

#### Political Support



Congressional Black Caucus representative, Congressman John Conyers at Shintech Briefing hosted by the DSCEJ





#### Celebrity Support

- Bonnie Ray
- Danny Glover
- Neville Brothers
- Stevie Wonder



#### Leaders in the Shintech Movement



# 55<sup>th</sup> Session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights

**April 1999** 

Geneva, Switzerland





#### WCAR

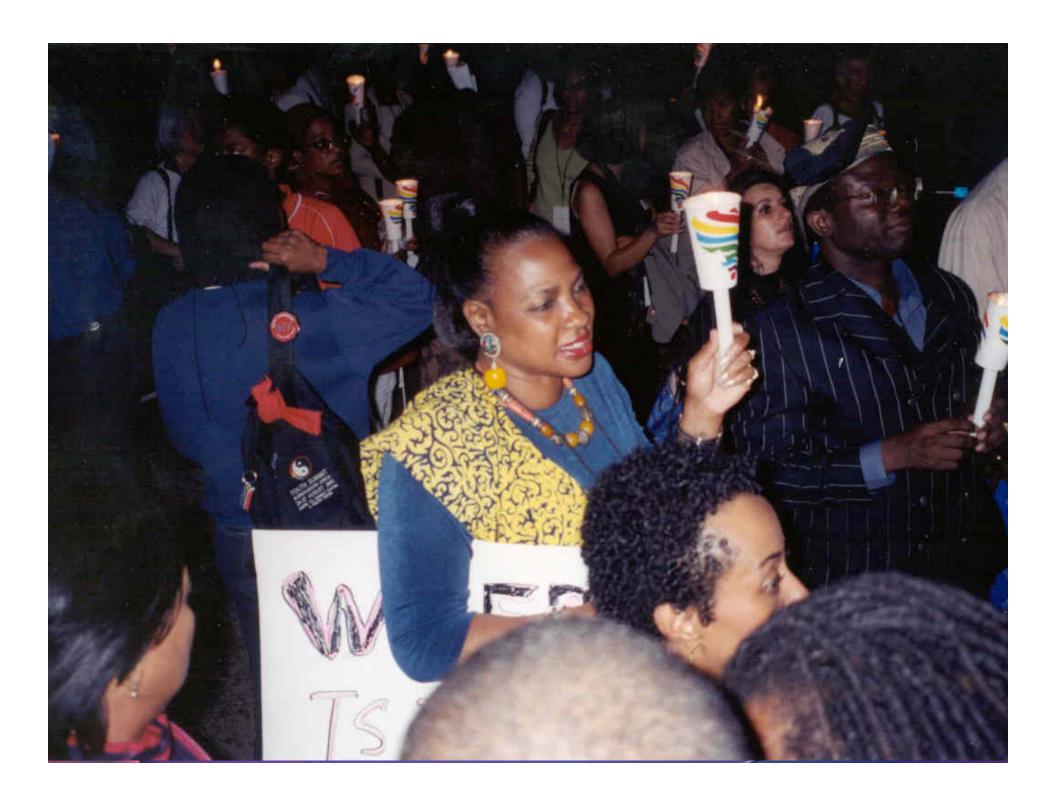
World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances

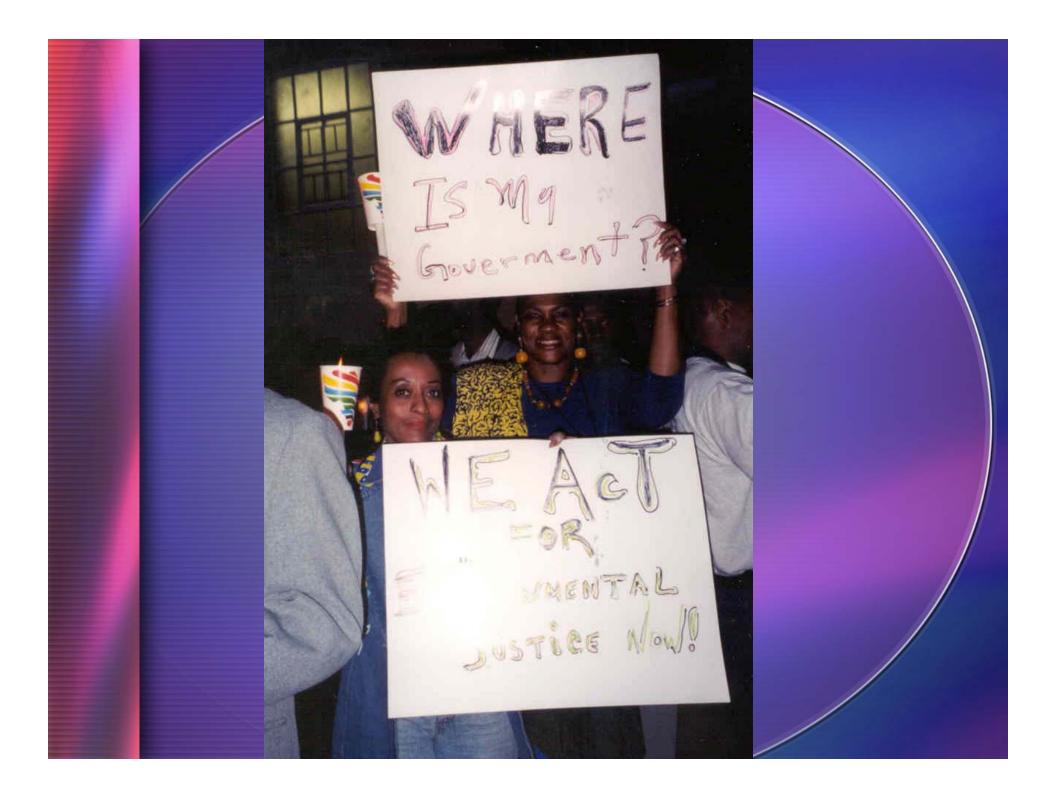
NGO Program

August 28, 2001 – September 1, 2001

Durban, South African









# WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development

Bali, Indonesia May 28 - June 9, 2002







FOURTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (MINISTERIAL LEVEL) FOR THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BALI, INDONESIA, 27 MAY - 7 JUNE, 2002



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