

# SDMNY Advisory Council Conference Remarks remind us how we are part of a world-wide human rights movement

This week we are holding a “wrap-up” conference (remotely, of course) for our Advisory Council, which now includes two of our Decision-Makers, Trina Hazell and Andrew Drobenko, as well as self-advocates, parents, educators, lawyers, judges, service providers, legislators and other stakeholders. Yesterday’s opening session began with reports on our achievements, and also thanks to our funders, including the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the New York Community Trust, and the Open Society Foundations (OSF). Tirza Leibowitz, a Program Director with OSF’s Human Rights Division, reminded us how we are connected to others around the world who are also working to promote and protect everyone’s right to make their own decisions—and how important our work is to them.



Tirza Leibowitz with self-advocate Tony Philips at a meeting with SDMNY and representatives from Peru and Columbia, January 2020



**Listen to Tirza’s remarks by clicking [here](#).**

We were also reminded of our connection to the founding document that announced the human right to make one’s own decisions, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that was actually drafted on Hunter College’s Bronx campus (now Bronx Community College) in 1948, under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, in whose house, now also a part of Hunter, we held our first Advisory Council meeting five years ago!



Eleanor Roosevelt holds up a copy of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in December 1948. Image: Fotoserch/Getty Images