

**February 19, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**

**Annual Human Rights Day set for March 6**

The 17th annual Terre Haute Human Rights Day, hosted by Indiana State University (ISU), will take place on Tuesday, March 6, at Hulman Memorial Student Union. The event is free and open to the public.

This year, spoken word and hip-hop artist Ise Lyfe will be featured as the keynote speaker.

Lyfe, born Isaac Patrick-Francis Brown, originally hales from Oakland, Calif. He also is an educator, community organizer and activist.

Lyfe – an award-winning professor, conceptual artist and justice advocate – will present “The World’s Future: Let’s build it so we need not wonder.”

Inspired by the works of Langston Hughes, Lyfe won the 2001 National Poetry Slam competition, but in 2002, his life took a different turn.

While attending a concert that year, Lyfe witnessed a riot where someone died. Following the tragic event, he dedicated himself to becoming more constructive regarding violence, believing people were becoming too “desensitized” by acts of violence.

Shortly after, he began performing and writing around his native Oakland more vigorously.

In 2010, for example, he *released Pistols and Prayers: a collection of prayers/poems/journal entries/rhymes and anecdotes*. He eventually turned the book into a one-person show and also wrote another one-person performance, *Who’s Crazy?*

Since 2013, Lyfe has been involved in the conceptual art project “Brighter Than Blight,” in which he converted a condemned housing project into an exhibition and narrative on housing as a human right.

In 2009, Lyfe won the John George Social Justice Award, given by the John George Democratic Club, and the City of Oakland honored him on his birthday by declaring it “Ise Lyfe Day” after they presented him the Soul of Oakland Award.

Lyfe has spoken at more than 300 universities, including Yale and Princeton.

Following Lyfe’s keynote address, which begins at 9:30 a.m., three sessions of workshops are scheduled in various locations within Hulman Memorial Student Union, beginning at 11 a.m. with five workshops.

Professor Emeritus at Ball State University, George Wolfe, will present “Changing our Political Culture: Human Rights and a Transformative Approach to Governing,” at 11 a.m., in Dede III. Wolfe’s topic will cover class division, big-money interests, hostility, inequality and self-centered ambition and how they have corrupted modern-day politics.

Other 11 a.m., speaking engagements include “Coca leaf and Marijuana from the Sacred to the Profane,” by freelance photographer Alexandra McNichols-Torreledo (Dede I); “House of Secrets:

Immigrant Children on their Own,” by Maria Woltjen, founder and Executive Director of the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights at the University of Chicago Law School (Dede II); “Social Justice Studies: Meet Student Activists,” by Indiana State University’s Dr. Ralph Leck and featuring ISU students Brooke Bunch and Chase Meehan (Hulman Memorial Student Union Room 307); and “Poor People Fighting and Winning in Indiana,” by Stuart Mora, President of the Indiana Chapter of Unite Here Local 23 (Hulman Memorial Student Union Room 321).

The 12:40 p.m., sessions will be highlighted by the presentation “Climate Change and Human Rights – The Connection and Impact,” by Executive Director of Care About Climate, Natalie Lucas, in the Sycamore Banquet Room.

Other 12:40 p.m., speaking engagements include “Forgiveness and Resilience,” by author and speaker Frida Umuhoza (Dede I); “Children & Youth: Trafficking & What You Can Do,” by Indiana State University Dr. Georgianna Duarte (Dede II); “Immigrants in Indiana: How to become welcoming and inclusive,” by Immigrant Welcome Center in Indianapolis Executive Director Terri Morris Downs (Dede III); “Safe Zone Training,” by ISU graduate student Radasia Blaylock (Hulman Memorial Student Union Room 307); and “Why we need to raise the minimum wage,” by Terre Haute activist Cathy McGuire (Hulman Memorial Student Union Room 321).

The 2 p.m., sessions will be highlighted by Terre Haute attorney Chris Gambill, who will present “Special Prosecutors and the Role of Robert Mueller,” in Dede I.

Other 2 p.m., speaking engagements will include “The Convention of the Rights of the Child,” by Indiana State University Dr. Yuju Eunice Huang (Dede II); “Studying while poor,” by the Indiana State University Poverty Institute Group (Dede III); and “Climate Change and the Call to Care for Our Common Home,” by Lorrie Heber, director of White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence (Hulman Memorial Student Union Room 307).

In addition, the ISU-Amnesty International and Student Coalition for Social Justice will sponsor an art show throughout the day. It will take place in the Sycamore Banquet Center.

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