

# Montana Human Rights Network

Leadership: Ken Toole  
Christine Kaufmann

The Montana Human Rights Network (MHRN) was formed as a group in 1990 according to their [LinkedIn page](#).

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/montana-human-rights-network/about/>

LinkedIn Description:

*“human rights, research, community organizing, civil rights, economic justice, racial equity, LGBTQ equality, intersectionality, lobbying, progressive public policy, analysis, values driven, and leadership building”*

Their first registration with the Montana Secretary of State’s office was in 1991.

There are actually two related organizations.

Montana Human Rights Network (MHRN) is a 501-C3  
<https://mhrn.org/>

Montana Human Rights Action Network (MHRAN) is a 501-C4.  
<https://mhran.org/>

There is a third organization that is a joint effort between MHRN and MHRAN: ***Equality Montana***

Equality Montana

<https://www.equalitymt.org/>

*“Equality Montana is a joint program of two separate non-profit organizations, the Montana Human Rights Action Network – a 501c4 organization and the Montana Human Rights Network – a 501c3 organization that share a vision of using civic engagement, public education, and community building to expand an active and engaged statewide LGBTQ+ base.”*

LinkedIn page for Equality Montana

[https://www.facebook.com/EqualityMT/?fref=mentions&\\_tn\\_ =K-R](https://www.facebook.com/EqualityMT/?fref=mentions&_tn_ =K-R)

An article on the [Human Rights Campaign \(HRC\)](#) website was found about a MHRN employee named Shawn (no last name). It talks about his work with the HRC, LGBTQ Coalition with Pride Foundation, Montana ACLU, Forward Montana, Montana Coalition Against Sexual Violence and the Gender Expansion Project and lobbying activities with the Montana legislature.

<https://www.hrc.org/news/state-of-equality-in-montana>

Equality Act – legislation in Congress

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22Equality+Act%5C%22%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=12>

Montana’s accommodation for the Marxist/Communists:

Montana Human Rights Act

[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0490/chapters\\_index.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0490/chapters_index.html)

Montana Human Rights Bureau \*\*\*\*\*

<https://erd.dli.mt.gov/human-rights/>

## Fellow Travelers

In the Pacific Northwest, the MHRN is one of the major nodes of a marxist/communist network along with the [Western States Center](#) which was the first group we recognized to be a subversive marxist organization. MHRN, Western States Center and the Southern Poverty Law Center are all listed as fellow travelers on the [Political Research Associates](#) website.

Political Research Associates

### Mission

Political Research Associates (PRA) is a social justice research and strategy center devoted to supporting organizations, civic leaders, journalists, and social sectors that are building a more just and inclusive democratic society. We provide change-makers with strategic insights and actionable research in order to **identify, disrupt, and compete with movements and institutions that undermine democracy, justice, and human rights.**

### Vision

Political Research Associates envisions a just and inclusive democratic society free from oppression and exploitation—a society in which supremacist and authoritarian forces no longer wield significant cultural or political power.

### History

In 1981, Political Research Associates began exposing the broad spectrum of right-wing violence through the in-depth analysis of founder Jean Hardisty and analyst **Chip Berlet**. Originally known as Midwest Research and based in Chicago, it quickly became known for its work in support of racial justice. By 1987, the organization had moved to Boston, changed its name to Political Research Associates, and expanded its research areas of focus.

On the Wiki Page for [Chip Berlet](#) is listed all the information you need in order to know who he is – which is that he began his activist career as a member of the left wing radical student movement of the 1960s and he worked for the **National Lawyers Guild**.

Excerpt:

Berlet, a paralegal, was a vice-president of the **National Lawyers Guild** . . . He also became an active shop steward with the National Lawyers' Guild.

. . . He also worked on cases filed against the FBI or police on behalf of the

Spanish Action Committee of Chicago (S.A.C.C.), the National Lawyers Guild, the American Indian Movement, Socialist Workers Party, the Christic Institute, and the American Friends Service Committee (a Quaker group). He was a founder member of the Chicago Area Friends of Albania, leaving the organization when he relocated to Boston in 1987.[5]

**... In 1982, Berlet joined Political Research Associates, and in 1985, he founded the Public Eye BBS, the first computer bulletin board aimed at challenging the spread of white-supremacist and neo-Nazi material through electronic media, and the first to provide an online application kit for requesting information under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.[10] He was one of the first researchers[11] to have drawn attention to the efforts by white supremacist and antisemitic groups to recruit farmers in the Midwestern United States in the 1970s and 1980s.**

“first computer bulletin board”

The National Lawyers Guild is a subversive, communist organization.

[Lawyers Guild National Immigration Project](#) – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report, 2011.

*“We also advocate for the end of border enforcement policies that contribute to the ongoing tragedy of shocking numbers of immigrant deaths. Although the DREAM Act is not yet law, we were thrilled to receive the Dreamer Defenders Award from the United We Dream coalition for our support for the DREAM Act to enable children of non-citizens to attend university. We are proud to support immigrants’ right to education.”*

Chapters of the National Lawyers Guild. See the Northwest Region - Chapters

<https://www.nlg.org/chapters-2/>

[Idaho Chapter](#)

[Montana Chapter](#) (don’t sign in, just close that box) [University of Montana – Student Groups  
NLG - Disorientation](#)

[Oregon Chapter](#)

[Washington Chapter](#)

Continue reading about the [important history of the National Lawyers Guild](#).

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[Ford Foundation, 2003 Leadership for a Changing World award](#)

[Not in Our Town Campaign](#)

[Hijacking Dissent - John Stokes](#)