



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Five Thousand Learn about Human Rights at the 2011 Minnesota State Fair**

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (9/8/11) Staff, board members, and volunteers of The Advocates for Human Rights engaged nearly 5000 Minnesotans at The Advocates' booth at the 2011 Minnesota State Fair, which ended on September 5. The Advocates gave away thousands of buttons, magnets, bookmarks, postcards, copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, tattoos, toolkits, educator resources, and other materials on human rights.

The theme of the booth this year was "I am an advocate for human rights!" Visitors had the opportunity to make a short "I am an Advocate" video in which they shared the human rights issue they care most about. Visitors also received information about human rights issues, played games to test their knowledge of human rights, created pictures to add to an "I am an Advocate" tapestry, and found resources on how to promote human rights in their homes, schools, and workplaces. Videos produced by visitors will be used in an "I am an advocate!" video that will appear on The Advocates' website.

Michele Garnett McKenzie, director of advocacy, says, "I love the opportunity [the Minnesota State Fair] gives us to hear from Minnesotans about human rights--we take home a good sense of what Minnesotans see as the most pressing human rights issues." Staff members and volunteers use insights gained from the state fair in research, education, and advocacy work in Minnesota and around the world.

The Advocates' tweeted Fair news with the hash tags #MNStateFair and #TheAdvocatesatFair and posted news to The Advocates' website ([www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/theadvocatesforhumanrights](http://www.facebook.com/theadvocatesforhumanrights)).

Since 2005, The Advocates has hosted a booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Our staff and volunteers, resource materials, and interactive activities reach thousands of Minnesotans at the state fair each year, generating awareness and action around human rights issues, including torture, immigration, and economic and social rights, such as the right to food, housing, and education.

**For more information please contact:**

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**The Advocates for Human Rights** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; provides representation to immigrants and refugees who have suffered human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy to engage the public, policymakers, and children in human rights work. The Advocates for Human Rights holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.  
[www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org)