



New Prices Effective May 1, 2010

Martin Cleaning Service

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services

Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00

A small distance/travel charge may be applied

CARPET CLEANING

2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area

Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00

Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs:

\$25.00 Minimum

Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool):

\$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area:

Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$69.00

Loveseat: \$49.00

Sectional: \$109 - \$139

Chair or Recliner:

\$25 - \$49

Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services



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Call for Appointment (503) 281-3949

OPINION



Holding U.S. Accountable for Racial Discrimination

Realities collide with commitments

BY THE REV. ELIZABETH LEUNG

ing of Michael Brown, the milita-

A United Nations committee recently published its concluding observations regarding the United States' compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, commonly known as the race convention.

Since the U.S. ratified it in 1994, making the treaty binding in all 50 states, this is only the second time that our record on race relations and discrimination has been examined according to the measures of international law.

The concluding observations were the result of a yearlong process that began with the State Department report on the state of racial justice and shadow reports from non-governmental civic organizations.

The process culminated with a formal review in August and a week-long hearing of statements in Geneva — while at the same time the shoot-



ing of Michael Brown, the militarized response of law enforcement, and the Ferguson protests were still unfolding.

The U.N. committee heard from the high level U.S. government delegation, non-governmental organizations, impacted persons (e.g.

the parents of Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis), and Indigenous persons organizations.

As a human rights treaty, the race convention differs from the civil rights statutes because (1) it applies to government at all levels: federal, state and local; (2) it prohibits policies and practices that have a discriminatory impact on people of color, irrelevant of intent; (3) it obligates the country to take action.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the concluding observations "highlighted the gaps between U.S. stated commitments and the glaring reality of laws and practices that continue

to discriminate against and disproportionately impact people of color and indigenous communities."

It sheds light on the structures of racism — the ways in which institutionalized discrimination becomes considered normal, for example, where laws don't seem to have anything to do with race, but yet have a broad discriminatory impact.

Against the structural root causes of discrimination, the U.N. committee calls for the U.S. to take concrete steps to: (a) prohibit racial discrimination in all its forms in federal and state legislation, covering all fields of law and public life; (b) broaden the protection afforded by law against all discriminatory acts perpetrated by private individuals, groups or organizations; and (c) improve the system of monitoring and response by federal bodies to prevent and challenge situations of racial discrimination.

It recommends creating a permanent and effective national human rights institution, to ensure effective implementation of

the treaty at the federal, state and local levels, monitor compliance of domestic laws and policies, and carry out training and awareness-raising activities at all levels.

The struggle against the structures of racism requires a structural strategy. The U.S. Human Rights Network rightly calls for the U.S. government to adopt a National Plan of Action on Racial Justice. It is important for all to join in this call, for to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination today, we must go beyond addressing the sin of individual acts of discrimination to a place of understanding the policies, systems, and cultural habits that perpetuate racism.

To borrow from the wisdom of Christian Scriptures, what we are facing is a contemporary struggle against the "cosmic [structures] of this present darkness" (Ephesians 6:12). The world is calling us to accountability. Now is the time to act.

Elizabeth Leung is Minister for Racial Justice for the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries.