To: AIA National Board of Directors  
Via Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA, President; Jay Stephens, AIA General Counsel; Terrence Canela, Staff Counsel  
hdreiling@aia.org, jstephens@aia.org, tcanela@aia.org  

Cc: Architects / Designers / Planners for Social Responsibility (president@adpsr.org)

Re: proposed Ethics Code Amendment on Human Rights  

July 28, 2014  

Dear AIA National Directors,  

Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas. Our over 500 members PN members work include community organizers, social justice activists, professional planners, academics, and students in the fields of environmental justice, community economic development, housing, and globalization.  

We are writing to encourage you to adopt the Human Rights amendment to the AIA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct proposed by Architects / Designers / Planners for Social Responsibility. ADPSR’s proposal would prohibit AIA members from participating in the design of execution chambers and spaces intended for prolonged solitary confinement (as enumerated at http://www.adpsr.org/home/proposed_amendment).  

Architecture and planning can serve a variety of ends, and we believe it is of the utmost importance that professionals always aim for the best outcomes in our work. While each client and project has different potential for social and environmental improvement, at the least we should always strive to mitigate social ills and we should never actively promote the worst possible abuses such as human rights violations. Professional associations in architecture and planning must continually strive to raise our standards of public service, and ADPSR’s proposal is
an important step in public protection and professional responsibility. We urge you to help lead our fields in enhancing respect for human rights.

Sincerely your,

Norma Rantisi
Planners Network, Co-Chair, on behalf of the Planners Network Steering Committee
steeringcommittee@plannersnetwork.org
www.plannersnetwork.org