



County of Los Angeles  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

510 South Vermont Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90020  
 (213) 738-2788  
 hrc.lacounty.gov

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- Robin S. Toma, Esq.  
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*“Enriching lives through effective and caring services”*

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS**

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: **Meeting of the Commission/Executive Committee on Human Relations, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Our Commission will meet on **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room TK08, Los Angeles.** You may also join meeting via Teams Calendar Invitations. [Click here to join the meeting.](#) If you are unable to do so, you may Dial in at: +1 213-204-2512,,968713604#. Please post agenda in your locations.

**Parking is located at 523 Shatto Place.** Please pull a ticket when entering the parking structure. Please take the elevator to the 9<sup>th</sup> floor and walk through the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach Terrance (T) Level of the building. Call 323-719-9187 when you are in the lobby (unless you have a key card to enter the elevators going up to the 15<sup>th</sup> floor). Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground level or Terrance level) for validation. **Do not park at 510 S. Vermont Ave. structure. Violators may be towed at vehicle owner’s expense.**

Please review and let me know if you have any questions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call me at (323) 719-9187 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

Brittany Martinez  
 L.A County Commission on Human Relations  
 Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors  
 510 S. Vermont Ave., 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Los Angeles, CA 90020  
 (323) 719-9187



Los Angeles County Commission on  
Human Relations - 510 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90020 (213) 738-2788

**(DRAFT) AGENDA**

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

**Monday, April 6, 2026 – 12:30-2:00 pm**

**LA County Vermont Corridor Building - 510 S. Vermont Avenue - LA, CA 90020  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor Terrace Conference Room**

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204 2512,,980587174#](https://lacr.com/join/213-204-2512-980587174) [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (12:30)**
- 2. Review & Approval of March 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes\***
- 3. President's Report (12:33)**
  - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner: Lizette Hernandez, Trainer, Combatting Anti-Blackness\*
  - 3.2. Commission's Annual JAF Human Relations Awards Event of March 18th
  - 3.3. Reflections on the passing of Commissioner Isabelle Gunning\*
- 4. Executive Director's Report (12:45)**
  - 4.1. Budget, Admin and Program Updates
    - i Program Updates: 3/16 Report on Human Rights re: 12/9/25 Board motion\*, 3/13 LAVsHate/Stop the Hate Convening\*, Anti-Hate Community of Practice, 3/20 State Assembly Select Committee on Racism, Hate and Xenophobia hearing\*, ARDI Sessions on Online Hate, 3/25 RJLE event on Racism and Religion\*
    - ii Budget and administrative actions needed for HRC programs and services: Commission recommendations on Human Rights Protection systems/No wrong door human rights portal for FIFA World Cup activities in LA County
  - 4.2. Communications Update (Robert Sowell)
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
  - 5.1. Human Rights Committee\* – Commissioner Gay Yuen, Chair
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**
  - 7.1. Create/Approve Nominations Committee and its membership\*
  - 7.2. SB 707 Changes to State Law Requirements - Commission meetings\*
  - 7.3. County ordinance on ICE free zones, effective 4/15/26\*
- 8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) (1:55)**

## **9. Adjournment** in memory of beloved human rights leader, commissioner, and law professor Isabelle Gunning\*

*For translation to other languages o para más información en español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us.*

\* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference communication from the following corresponding locations: Kevork Keushkerian, 1115 Valley View Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107, Jeanette Ellis-Royston, 1460 East Holt Ave. Room 6 Pomona California 91767, Derric Johnson, 515 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, California, 90071, Azusena Favela, 700 Flower St Los Angeles, CA 90017

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

When prompted by staff, members of the public sector may request to provide public comment after each item:

- If joining in person, staff will call upon individuals who signed up to speak on an item.
- If joining remotely via Teams, please use the “raise your hand” feature then unmute microphone once enabled.
- Callers by phone, dial \*5 to raise hand, once called upon dial \*6 to unmute.



# Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> floor  
Los Angeles, California 90020  
www.lahumanrelations.org  
(213) 738-2788

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## PROPOSED MINUTES

### COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS Meeting of March 2, 2026

PRESENT:	Michael Cheung Helen Chin Ilan Davidson Dandy De Paula* Jeanette Ellis-Royston* Kevork Keushkerian*	Preeti Kulkarni Jason Moss Serena Oberstein Fredrick Sykes Gay Yuen
ABSENT:	Lisa Dabbs Azusena Favela	Isabelle Gunning Derric J. Johnson
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola Brittany Martinez Robert Sowell	Robin Toma Siranush Vardanyan
GUEST:	Rob McGowan	

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called to order the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12:31 p.m. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/land-acknowledgment). She recognized the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples as original inhabitants of these lands, honoring and paying respect to their elders and descendants; acknowledged that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma; and reminded us of our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County.
- 2. Review & Approval of February 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of February 2, 2026 as submitted by Vice President-Secretary (VP-Sec.) Ilan Davidson were

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\* This commissioner, and others marked by an asterisk, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), providing their location address for inclusion on the posted agenda, in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies.

\*\* This commissioner, and others marked by double asterisks, attended the meeting via internet video (MS Teams link), but did not provide their location address on time for inclusion on the posted agenda, and were therefore not in compliance with applicable open meeting laws and policies, causing them not to be counted for quorum or for votes.

presented to the Commission. A motion to approve the February 2, 2026 meeting minutes was made by VP-Sec. Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes. The motion passed with no opposition and an abstention by Commissioner Dandy de Paula.

### **3. President's Report**

**3.1 Spotlight on a Partner: Rob McGowan\*, Trainer, Combatting Anti-Blackness:** President Chin introduced our spotlighted partner, Rob McGowan, cofounder of Diving Within. Guest McGowan reflected on personal and family experiences to underscore that racism and segregation are not distant history but lived realities within recent generations. Referencing *Brown v. Board of Education* and the end of “separate but equal,” the speaker noted that family members who experienced segregation and agricultural labor in the South are still living today.

The speaker also shared experiences of growing up in a Southern community where Ku Klux Klan presence was normalized in public events. The remarks emphasized how these lived experiences inform ongoing discussions about racism, colorism, and anti-Blackness.

President Chin thanked McGowan for sharing an overview of his approach to combating anti-Blackness and acknowledged his role as a coach and mentor. She noted the value of his leadership and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in discussions about his work. Commissioners were invited to introduce themselves, identify their respective districts, and briefly share reflections or relevant background to inform continued dialogue.

**3.2 Building Capacity for the Struggle:** President Chin reflected on the importance of building capacity for ongoing social justice work. She noted that the earlier discussion shared by Rob McGowan highlighted the need for individuals to engage in internal reflection about the skills and capacities required to sustain collective efforts towards equity and justice. President Chin also referenced the legacy of Jesse Jackson, in whose memory, the Commission would later adjourn. She acknowledged Jacksons’ lifelong commitment to building multiracial and intergenerational coalitions, emphasizing that such efforts have helped create the foundation for the conversations and collaborations taking place today. President Chin encouraged Commissioners to consider what additional capacities they may need to develop as the work continues to evolve. She posed reflective questions about the future of the work, including what new structures, skills, and practices should be built moving forward, as well as what habits or approaches may need to be left behind to avoid replicating existing systemic challenges.

**3.3 Celebrating Black History Month\* and honoring our Commr. Ellis Royston:** President Chin recognized Commissioner Ellis Royston for being honored during Black History Month by Supervisor Hilda Solis. President Chin invited Commissioner Ellis Royston to share a few remarks regarding the recognition. Commissioner Ellis Royston expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement and noted that she was surprised by the recognition. She explained that Supervisor Solis highlighted her ongoing work in human relations, including her involvement with the LAVsHate initiative and advocacy related to custody visitation issues. Commissioner Ellis Royston also shared that the recognition was meaningful because it occurred during Black History Month and in District 1, which includes the City of Pomona, where she resides. She reflected on her involvement during the 2020 redistricting process, where she advocated for keeping Pomona unified rather than splitting the city into different districts. Ultimately, Pomona remained intact, which she noted was significant to both the community and Supervisor Solis. Commissioner Ellis Royston thanked the Commission for allowing her to share the recognition and mentioned that she would share a photo of the scroll she received during the ceremony. President Chin congratulated Commissioner Ellis Royston and thanked her for her lifelong commitment to community service, including her work with the NAACP and her advocacy for the City of Pomona. President Chin expressed gratitude for her service

to the Commission.

#### 4. Executive Director's Report:

##### 4.1 Budget, Admin and Program Updates

- i. **Program Updates – HRC progress reports to the EO, RJLE, and other items\*:** Executive Director (ED) Robin Toma informed the Commission that the department is now required to submit regular progress reports to the County Executive Office (EO). He shared that these reports are intended to highlight the department's work and communicate updates to the Board of Supervisors. ED Toma explained that the reports include several required categories identified by the Executive Office, including upcoming major events and deliverables, as well as challenges and concerns. ED Toma directed commissioners to the section of the commissioner packet outlining progress towards goals, which includes metrics developed by the department to track outcomes and progress. ED Toma clarified that once the reports are submitted, there are multiple administrative layers involved in determining what information ultimately reaches the Board of Supervisors. He encouraged Commissioners to view the report as a useful tool for understanding and sharing the Commission's work. As a public body, commissioners are able to share the report if they find it helpful for communicating the Commission's activities and impact. ED Toma noted that the County and the Chief Executive Office have strategic priorities, and that the Executive Officer has its own strategic pillars that guide its work. He suggested that the reports could help demonstrate how the Commission and department contribute to these broader county priorities and highlight work that may not otherwise be visible. ED Toma acknowledged that preparing these reports requires staff time and resources, which is an important consideration given recent staffing reductions. He invited commissioners to review the material and provide feedback or questions regarding the reports. ED Toma also highlighted an upcoming event and opportunity through the Racial Justice Learning Exchange (RJLE) referenced in the meeting packet. He noted that Supervisor Holly Mitchell/the Second District hosts these events regularly and encouraged commissioners to register through the link included in the electronic version of the packet to receive updates and participate in future sessions.
- ii. **Budget and admin. actions and impact on HRC programs and services:** ED Toma provided an overview of the broader fiscal and structural context affecting the Commission's operations. It was noted that significant uncertainty remains due to the outstanding AB 218 child abuse lawsuit settlements, as well as questions surrounding overall County revenue and funding sources. Additional structural changes were also mentioned, including the creation of new Supervisor positions, the establishment of an elected Chief Executive Officer, the creation of the Ethics Commission, and staffing support for the Measure G Governance Reform Task Force, which will advise the Board on implementation. The cumulative impact of these developments has created additional demands for County staffing and resources. Within this context of significant change, ED Toma reminded Commissioners that two Commission positions are in the process of being removed or transferred. As a result of these shifts, Senior Human Relations Consultant Salvador (Sal) Avila, who served on the hate crime documentation and data analytics team responsible for producing the annual report, formally departed the agency to accept a position in Santa Barbara. The Chair noted that this departure creates an operational gap and that the Commission will need to determine how to adapt to the loss of a key team member. It was clarified that the departure was voluntary and related to broader organizational uncertainty, as staff evaluated long-term stability amid ongoing structural transitions.

- iii. **Commission staff changes and known departmental organizational changes\*:** ED Toma addressed the budget-related administrative actions affecting the department previously in agenda item 4.1 ii.

**4.2 Communications Update:** Assistant Executive Director (AED) Robert Sowell stated that there is no Communications update at this time.

## 5. Committee Reports

**5.1 Human Rights Committee:** Chair/Commissioner Yuen reported that the committee has not met as intended due to scheduling conflicts and holiday-related disruptions. Despite these challenges, Chair/Commissioner Yuen reported that the committee was pleased to present its second Human Rights Award. Chair/Commissioner Yuen also acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the support and contributions of Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, and Pierre Arreola in assisting with the committee's work.

6. **Public Comment:** No requests were received from members of the public for comment.

## 7. Action/Discussion Items

**7.1 Commission Recommended Actions re: Human Rights and World Cup\*:** ED Toma shared the implementation plan that the Commission staff drafted to ensure that the county's needs can be met regarding human rights during the World Cup. The Committee recommended that we propose to the Board that the Commission play a key coordination role with the support of the CEO to ensure systems of prevention and response for protecting human rights for the World Cup. ED Toma informed Commissioners that the proposal includes added costs that 211LA identified to support coordination, implementation and related human rights monitoring functions (receive complaints, provide assistance/remedies, collect data). The motion to approve the substance of the letter as presented regarding the Commission's recommended actions to the Board re: county actions to protect human rights for FIFA World Cup 2026 event titled "FIFA World Cup 2026: Los Angeles County Human Rights Implementation Plan". Additionally, a friendly amendment was made that the Commission via this motion also delegates authority for approval of any substantive changes to the letter which need to be made before the next Commission meeting be delegated to the President of the Commission and the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, and this amendment was accepted by both the maker and seconder of the motion, respectively Commissioners Yuen and Davidson. The motion passed unanimously with no abstention.

**7.2 JAF Human Relations Awards event:** Chair Davidson reminded everyone that the awards event will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hall of Administration and that Supervisors' staff have confirmed attendance. Additionally, Rob Bonta will not be joining personally but will be sending a staff representative.

**7.3 Federal immigration activities in LA County and County/Commission/Community responses\*:** ED Toma provided an update regarding ongoing immigration enforcement activity and related policy developments. He noted that while immigration enforcement activity within the county remains limited, it continues to occur locally and in other nearby regions. He explained that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is

continuing to expand enforcement efforts and deploy resources at a rapid pace. ED Toma shared that Los Angeles County is monitoring federal developments closely and, in some instances, participating in litigation related to immigration and enforcement practices. He also noted that federal strategies appear to focus on areas where there may be less opposition to enforcement activities. He further explained that multiple aspects of the immigration system are currently undergoing review or policy changes, including processes related to visas, green cards, citizenship, and the retention of immigration status. ED Toma expressed that these changes generally appear to move toward making the immigration process more restrictive, more costly, and potentially reducing due process protections for individuals facing removal from the county. ED Toma also noted discussions at the federal level regarding potential changes to naturalization-related jurisprudence, which could broaden the circumstances under which citizenship status may be reviewed/revoked. He informed the Commission that Los Angeles County continues to conduct outreach to immigrant communities to ensure residents are aware of the available resources and services, and to encourage individuals to utilize those services if needed. Lastly, ED Toma mentioned that an ordinance is currently being developed that would clarify and limit the use of Los Angeles County offices, facilities, and property for federal immigration enforcement purposes.

- 7.4 Election Disruption Response Project report\*:** Commission staff Human Rights team manager Pierre Arreola shared that the report to protect the voting rights was done in response to feedback that was received in electronic surveys and identified key themes that were brought up in the feedback. There were 4 categories that were identified, and recommendations were followed to make improvements. Asst. Exec. Dir. Sowell was recognized for his leadership in producing this report.

**8. Commissioner Announcements:** None were made.

- 9. Adjournment:** The meeting was proposed to be adjourned at 2:06 p.m. in memory of legendary national civil rights leader Jesse Jackson. A motion was made by Commissioner VP/Sec. Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson  
Commission Vice President-Secretary

## LA County Commission on Human Relations' 49th JAF Awards Honored Angelica Salas, AG Rob Bonta and Five Outstanding Supervisorial District Awardees

*District awards for nonprofits' exceptional programs for Eaton Fire victims, LGBTQ+ seniors in Long Beach, immigrants, Freedom School 'students,' and people with disabilities.*

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – Today, human relations heroes were honored at the 49<sup>th</sup> John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Awards in Downtown LA. This special event, hosted by the LA County Human Relations Commission, recognized exceptional leaders and programs that nurture positive intergroup relations and defend the human rights of diverse communities.

“Across Los Angeles County, and especially in the First District, we see the power of community not just to respond to challenges, but to transform lives,” said **Los Angeles County Board Chair and First District Supervisor, Hilda L. Solis**. “This year’s honorees are standing up for those too often overlooked, from working families to older adults, young people, and individuals with disabilities, and driving real change toward a more inclusive and just region. Their leadership strengthens our communities and shows that when we stand together, we build a brighter future for all.”

“It is my pleasure to recognize The Freedom Schools of One LA-IAF as this year’s Second District Human Relations Commission JAF Awardee. Their work bringing communities together is needed more than ever, as we continue to fight against ICE raids and other forms of violence and division. Through civic engagement and a commitment to community, The Freedom Schools of One LA-IAF is helping to build a village of justice advocates and empowering generations to come,” said **Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell**.

“Congratulations to El Rescate and all of this year’s honorees for their leadership in strengthening human relations across Los Angeles County,” said **Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath**. “Through their work expanding civic participation and access to legal services, El Rescate is helping immigrant communities build trust, find opportunity, and forge a true sense of belonging.”

“We are indebted to our LGBTQ elders for their vision, courage, and sacrifices. Yet today, many of them feel overlooked. With the Older Adult Services Program, the Long Beach LGBTQ Center is carving out spaces and offering up resources specifically for them. I’m grateful to the Center for that work, and to our LA County Human Relations Commission for recognizing it,” said **Supervisor Janice Hahn**.

“It is important that we take time to reflect and honor the individuals and organizations lifting up our communities in moments of greatest need,” said **Supervisor Kathryn Barger**. “The Long Term Recovery Group of the Eaton Fire Collaborative represents the very best of Los Angeles County: neighbors coming together with compassion and determination to help communities rebuild and heal. I commend their extraordinary leadership and commitment to ensuring every survivor has a path toward a full and equitable recovery”

This year's Yvonne B. Burke Courage Award was presented to Angelica Salas, the Executive Director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrants' Rights (CHIRLA), for her decades-long labor in advancing human relations in the County by protecting immigrant families, challenging dehumanizing narratives, and building a sense of belonging across the region and nation. An immigrant from Durango, Mexico, who arrived in the United States as a child, Ms. Salas has transformed CHIRLA into an immigrant-led powerhouse that stands up for human rights, strengthens social cohesion, and confronts social exclusion. Ms. Salas had recently been honored by the Board of Supervisors and the Commission for CHIRLA's role in federal litigation that halted mass violations of immigrants' constitutional rights in LA County.

The John Allen Buggs Leadership Awardee was California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who demonstrated exceptional human relations leadership in public service. Amid an onslaught of federal actions driving fear, division, and harm, AG Bonta has led the California Department of Justice in defending LA County residents' civil and human rights, public safety, and equal dignity. When federal actions militarized the National Guard's deployment in LA, premised on manufactured crises, AG Bonta sued to reverse it. Under his leadership, California also sued to protect basic needs essential to healthy human relations, such as access to health care, gender affirming care for vulnerable youth, and food assistance.

"Amidst daily assaults on our civil and human rights that fuel division and fear, this year's awards remind us of the extraordinary work that is being done by leaders and organizations throughout our communities," said **Robin Toma, Executive Director of LA County Commission on Human Relations**. "We can be inspired by their stories, their efforts, so that we can be united, hopeful, and strong."

Recognizing leadership supporting people who are too often overlooked and excluded, the Supervisorial District 1 awardee was the Disabled Individual Advocacy Program of Communities Actively Living Independent and Free.

For Supervisorial District 2, the Commission's Human Relations Award was presented to The Freedom Schools of One LA-IAF, for bringing together people from communities of faith, schools, clinics and nonprofit organizations for practical civic education with culturally grounded engagement strategies, including scenario based roleplays and skits on how to effectively respond to challenges to their rights in homes, cars, and public spaces.

The Immigrant Civic Empowerment and Legal Access project of the nonprofit El Rescate assisted thousands of LA County residents to gain legal status, expand civic engagement, and build trust in public institutions, for which they were awarded the Human Relations Award for Supervisorial District 3.

This year's honoree for Supervisorial District 4 was the Older Adult Services program of The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach, which offers an array of fun, educational, and healthy activities in a safe, affirming, and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ older adults.

For Supervisorial District 5, the Commission's Human Relations Award was presented to The Long-Term Recovery Group of the Eaton Fire Collaborative, which has used cooperation and communication to support an equitable, survivor-centered, and locally driven process to ensure every affected community member can fully recover from their

driven process to ensure every affected community member can fully recover from their devastating losses in last year's Eaton Fire.

For more information about LA County's Commission on Human Relations, click [here](#).



### **About the LA County Commission on Human Relations**

The [Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations](#) is dedicated to securing human rights to strengthen healthy relations throughout our richly diverse, multicultural county, encompassing all five Supervisorial Districts. The Commission works to develop programs that proactively address racism, homophobia, religious prejudice, linguistic bias, anti-immigrant sentiment, and other divisive attitudes that can lead to intercultural tension, hate crimes, and related violence.



### **About the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors**

The LA County Commission on Human Relations is housed within the Executive Office of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. [The Executive Office](#) provides a multi-functional support role for the Board of Supervisors in administering and managing technology, staffing, procurement, and facilities resources, as well as the publication of information for the Board, various County departments, and the public. The Executive Office also administers and oversees over 30 County commissions and offices, and its mission is to provide excellent customer service and support the Board in achieving its objectives.



## SWLAW BLOG



March 28, 2026

## Southwestern Law School Mourns Professor Isabelle R. Gunning, Civil Rights Leader, Legal Scholar, and Teacher

With profound sadness, we share that Professor Isabelle R. Gunning passed away in the early hours of March 28, 2026, in Los Angeles.

Professor Gunning was a beloved member of the Southwestern Law School community for more than three decades. She joined the faculty in 1992 and served with distinction as the inaugural Mayor Tom Bradley Professor of Law and the inaugural Director of the Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Concentration. Across generations of students, she was admired for the seriousness of her intellect, the moral clarity she brought to difficult questions, and the depth of care with which she taught, mentored, and challenged those around her.

throughout her career: that the law, even in a  
Judge William Bryant of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, served as a staff

attorney with the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C., and worked with the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. In that role, and later as a delegate to the United Nations Council on Namibia Seminar, she helped connect the struggle for civil rights in the United States to the larger global fight against apartheid and colonial domination. Before joining Southwestern, she taught for six years at UCLA School of Law.

At Southwestern, she regularly taught Evidence, often in the SCALE program, where she pioneered "Evidence Labs" that allowed students to practice using evidence rules in a realistic courtroom setting. She also taught Alternative Dispute Resolution and Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiation. She had high expectations of her students, understanding the important roles they would play as future attorneys, yet was always encouraging and supportive. Beyond the classroom, students sought her out for guidance about life, law school, and the legal profession.

Professor Gunning built a body of scholarship that shaped conversations about race, gender, sexuality, human rights, and dispute resolution. She was a foundational voice in critical race feminism and multicultural legal theory. Her work challenged legal scholars, lawyers, and mediators to see more clearly the hidden structures of power that conventional language about neutrality or fairness often conceals. In writings such as *Arrogant Perception*, *World-Traveling*, and *Multicultural Feminism* and *Stories from Home*, she insisted that law could not be honestly understood apart from lived experience, identity, history, and the unequal conditions under which people meet the law. She brought that same seriousness to legal pedagogy, elevating clinical legal education as a rigorous field of scholarship and serving as a founding co-editor-in-chief of the *Clinical Law Review*.

Professor Gunning was one of those rare people for whom intellectual life and public life belonged to the same moral project. She served as president of the ACLU of Southern California from 2005 to 2009, becoming the first African-American woman to hold that office. She later represented the affiliate on the National ACLU Board. Under her stewardship, the organization fought expanded federal surveillance, defended reproductive freedom, challenged deportation abuses, and resisted punitive policies that fell with particular force on vulnerable communities.

Her civic leadership in Los Angeles was equally consequential. She was appointed to the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. Elected by her peers to serve as its president, Professor Gunning brought extraordinary discipline and courage to some of the region's most difficult public questions. She presided over extensive public hearings on policing and community trust in marginalized communities, work that culminated in the Commission's 2020 report and educational video *Redefining Policing with our Community*. Under her leadership, the Commission also helped advance efforts to embed anti-bias education more deeply in county governance, public services, and law enforcement. She understood that the work of justice required not only critique, but institutional change.

That same conviction animated the quieter, less visible labor to which she gave so much of her life.

g Jr. Dispute Resolution Center and the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center, trained others in arbitration and mediation across religious and cultural differences, and continued late

into her career to deepen her practice of restorative and healing work. Initiatives such as Days of Dialogue and Trust Talks reflected something essential about her: she was willing to go where conflict was hardest, not because she imagined resolution would be easy, but because she believed people owed one another the discipline of honest encounter.

Her work was recognized across the legal and civic worlds, including with the Beacon of Justice Award from the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library in 2023. Yet those honors, while fitting, tell only part of the story. Her truest legacy lives on in the students she shaped, the colleagues she strengthened, the communities she served, and the intellectual and moral demands she refused to let others evade.

For Southwestern, her death is a profound loss. We mourn a distinguished scholar, an exacting and generous teacher, a powerful civic leader, and a person of uncommon integrity whose life enlarged the meaning of justice in Los Angeles and far beyond it. Dean Darby Dickerson shared that, “Isabelle’s passing is a profound loss for Southwestern and for Los Angeles. She was a source of constant strength and wisdom that we will sorely miss. But influence endures in her students, her faculty colleagues, the Southwestern staff, and everyone whose life she made better.”

We extend our deepest condolences to Professor Gunning’s family, loved ones, friends, colleagues, former students, and to all those whose lives were changed by her wisdom, courage, and example.

Information about memorial arrangements will be shared when available. For those on campus, by Tuesday, we will place card collection boxes in the lobbies of Westmoreland and Bullocks Wilshire. The law school will arrange for cards to be delivered to Professor Gunning’s family.





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March 16, 2026

**TO:** Supervisor, Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

**FROM:** Robin S. Toma, Executive Director  
Commission on Human Relations

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON AFFIRMING LA COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS (12/9/2025 BOARD MOTION)**

On December 9, 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the motion by Supervisor Holly Mitchell "Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights." The motion contains two primary directives. First, it directed the Chief Executive Officer-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) branch, in consultation with County Counsel and the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR), to send a five-signature letter to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (Directive 1) Second, it directed the LACCHR—through its human rights infrastructure and in coordination with CEO-LAIR—to explore how to strengthen ongoing coordination with the state and local governments that participated in the referenced November 7 convening, with the goals of submitting joint documentation and improving accountability for the current federal administration. (Directive 2.1) The motion called for a report back to the Board within 90 days with an update on ongoing County participation in international human rights reporting efforts. (Directive 2.2)

**1. First Board Directive: Five-Signature Letters to UN Human Rights Bodies**

CEO-LAIR, in collaboration with the LACCHR and County Counsel, composed a [five-signature letter](#)<sup>1</sup> and submitted it to the UNHRC and the OHCHR (Appendix A). The stated purpose of these letters is to affirm the Board's commitment to a human rights framework in County programs and policies, and to urge continued international attention to the United States' compliance with human rights principles, including through investigation, documentation, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The letters, together

<sup>1</sup> Letters to UN Human Rights Bodies:  
<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/210488.pdf>

with the impact of Supervisor Mitchell's presence and voice at the UN Human Rights Council proceedings in November 2025, position Los Angeles County as a major, human rights-based, values-driven regional government that views local governance as inseparable from internationally recognized human rights standards, particularly during periods when federal engagement with multilateral accountability mechanisms is severely limited.

These letters underscore that engagement with international coordination and reporting mechanisms can directly benefit local constituents by amplifying accountability, supporting transparency, and strengthening County efforts to uphold rights in areas directly experienced by residents—including equity and inclusion, due process, civil liberties, access to health and basic needs, and freedom from discriminatory treatment. The letters also function as an internal leadership statement and organizing tool for County departments and partners by reaffirming that human rights principles are not abstract ideals but operational standards that can be translated into policy choices, program design, interdepartmental collaboration, contracting and enforcement practices, and measurable service outcomes for residents.

## **2. Board Directive 2.1: Coordination with Other State and Local Governments**

This directive focuses on building the County's capacity to work in coordinated partnership with peer jurisdictions so that human rights risks and opportunities affecting residents can be identified earlier, documented more consistently, and elevated through joint submissions that strengthen federal accountability. In practice, this means establishing durable structures for cross-jurisdiction collaboration that translate shared learning into credible documentation.

Recent efforts include LACCHR continuing collaboration for a community of practice involving governments that participated in the November 7 convening for submitting documentation and improving federal accountability.

In addition, LACCHR is a leading member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies ([IAOHRA](#)), a transnational network of governmental human rights and human relations agencies that already includes the governments that participated in the November 7 convening. Our contacts through IAOHRA strengthen our ongoing coordination by providing a ready-made infrastructure for drawing on additional resources that facilitate capacity-building. An example is the IAOHRA webinar in which we participated on December 10, 2025 (International Human Rights Day) on the topic of the Geneva convening and ways member agencies can increase their involvement in international human rights coordination and reporting.

Carrying this work forward, the next steps from which to select include the following:

### **2.1.1. Create a process for compiling joint documentation with partner governments and reflects the lived realities of diverse constituencies across jurisdictions.**

A shared documentation process strengthens cross-jurisdiction coordination by ensuring partners are working from the same facts—making joint submissions more credible and consistent. Over time, this also builds a shared reporting capacity by establishing predictable workflows, timelines, and roles for collecting evidence, validating it across jurisdictions, and

translating it into formats that are legible for international reporting mechanisms. There have been periodic collaborations with law school human rights programs to leverage legal scholars and existing law student clinical programs (e.g., Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute, Northeastern Law School's Program on Human Rights, UC Irvine Law's International Justice Clinic, USC Gould Law, UCLAW, etc.).

**2.1.2. Building a Cross-Jurisdiction Reporting Cadence:** An available method is to partner with the November 7 community of practice to develop and maintain a regular process and cadence for collecting human rights accomplishments and issues from local governments, enabling timely information sharing and coordinated, collaborative reporting. This would lead to: (1) shared definitions and terminology, (2) working documents and templates, and (3) common metrics and reporting standards. This method can enhance the County's reporting capacity by improving consistency in how incidents are documented and addressed across jurisdictions, reducing duplication and delays, and enabling partner governments to produce joint documentation more nimbly. It also strengthens the County's coordination capacity by creating an early warning feedback loop—where patterns and emerging risks identified by any one partner can be rapidly shared, compared, and acted on across jurisdictions, rather than remaining isolated or addressed inconsistently.

***Expand the community of practice to include other government jurisdictions and community partners involved in international human rights coordination and reporting.***

*Structured, recurring partnerships with other jurisdictions and community partners would expand the County's coordination capacity and enhance its ability to identify emerging harms earlier, compare what is working across jurisdictions, and produce more comprehensive documentation for international human rights reporting. In turn, stronger documentation and peer learning improve County decision-making by supporting more targeted policy and program improvements and increasing public accountability for whether residents are experiencing more equitable access to County systems.*

**2.1.3. Cross-Jurisdiction Collaboration via IAOHRA:** An available method of expansion is deeper engagement through IAOHRA. This network provides space for cross-jurisdiction collaboration, shared standards, partnerships with human rights NGOs and academic centers, and coordinated engagement in national and international forums. For example, the County can use IAOHRA to coordinate World Cup 2026-related human rights work with peer jurisdictions, then lead a debrief with other host regions and share lessons learned at the Fall 2026 IAOHRA conference. This can strengthen collective capacity to document what occurred in host cities, including the local impacts of federal actions, and to communicate those findings back to international human rights bodies. Building on that model, the County can collaborate through IAOHRA to design and administer a survey of local and regional human rights agencies to systematically identify how federal actions are affecting human rights at the local level, producing evidence that can be synthesized for submission to relevant international reporting mechanisms. IAOHRA can also support the longer-term development of a "human rights cities/counties/states" network—strengthening the relationships and data-

sharing pathways needed to gather consistent evidence, coordinate responses, and reinforce federal human rights accountability.

**2.1.4. Engaging with UN-related Human Rights Bodies of Local and Regional Governments:**

Another available method is engaging global municipal and regional networks such as the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments. These networks provide a structured forum to compare how peer jurisdictions around the world operationalize international standards, adopt common language and indicators, and translate lessons into locally implementable policies that can later be documented in formats legible to international human rights bodies. An example of this global-to-local value is how LACCHR's participation in a global network meeting—where Commission leadership learned that Canadian provinces directly adopt international treaties—helped catalyze the County's local ordinance affirming the international human rights treaty Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Following the meeting, LACCHR convened key county stakeholders (including the LA County Women and Girls Initiative, the LA County Commission for Women, and UC Irvine School of Law) to cultivate collective action that led to County adoption and implementation of CEDAW, which has received international/national recognition.<sup>2</sup>

**2.1.5. Leadership and Participation in Other Regional and National Networks:**

A third available method is engagement in regional and national human rights networks and convenings including the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network (BHRHL) convened by Professor Martha Davis of Northeastern University School of Law, the Divided Community Project (DCP) led by Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO), and the Human Rights Cities Alliance (HRCA). In addition to the benefits mentioned previously, engagement with these networks broadens the coalition calling for federal accountability. For example, LACCHR has accepted an invitation from HRCA to join a panel on how local and regional governments have engaged with international reporting mechanisms, including the United States' UPR, at the national Social Practice of Human Rights Conference at the University of Dayton in April 2026 (to be attended virtually). Additionally, the BHRHL national symposium at the University of Pennsylvania in June 2026—in which Supervisor Mitchell has been invited to participate—will offer a timely opportunity to reconnect and plan with government officials and NGO partners who convened in Geneva last November, including leaders such as Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner and ACLU National Human Rights Director Jamil Dakwar.

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<sup>2</sup> The NGO Committee on the Status of Women awarded Los Angeles County the 2026 Cities for CEDAW Global Leadership Award, recognizing the County's implementation of its CEDAW ordinance and its pioneering Gender Impact Assessment Program. Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath attended the New York ceremony to accept the award on behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. <https://passblue.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NGO-CSW-Press-Release-2026-CEDAW-Award-LA-County.pdf>

### **2.1.6. Enhance the LACCHR’s Capacity as the Countywide Human Rights**

**Clearinghouse:** Identifying effective practices and issue patterns, aligning terminology and standards, and elevating local community concerns for joint documentation would enable the County to play a critically needed human rights leadership role.

Within County government, the LACCHR’s role as the human rights clearinghouse ensures that County department priorities, effective practices, risks, and implementation gaps are consistently captured and embedded in documentation and reporting. Countywide, that same clearinghouse function helps incorporate the priorities and concerns of both incorporated cities and unincorporated communities into joint documentation, so cross-jurisdiction reporting reflects the full range of experiences across Los Angeles County.

**2.1.7. Strengthening Collaborations within LA County:** An available method of enhancement is strengthening collaboration with jurisdictions and human relations organizations within Los Angeles County. When coordination is structured and sustained with local partners, the County is better able to respond to harms, measure progress, and demonstrate—through evidence, not only statements—that it is advancing human rights in ways that improve daily life for the people it serves. Consistent communication with local human rights partners ensures that documentation reflects lived experience, emerging risks, and practical concerns related to enforcement, access, and remedy. This matters because residents do not experience rights in silos: issues such as hate incidents, language access, disability access, community trust in public institutions, housing instability, and barriers to civic participation often cut across multiple departments and jurisdictions. Defining and operationalizing human rights protections—along with clear prevention, reporting, and response plans—for the World Cup tournament matches in Los Angeles this summer offers a timely opportunity to strengthen these local coordination systems in a real-world, high-pressure environment, while laying the groundwork for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This work can also accelerate progress toward a “no wrong door” reporting and response system—a [County goal](#) set forth by the CEO—advancing a more durable countywide system beyond any single event.

### **Directive 2.2: Update on Ongoing County Participation in International Human Rights Reporting**

This directive focuses on strengthening Los Angeles County’s ability to participate meaningfully in international human rights reporting by translating local conditions, outcomes, and community experiences into verifiable documentation that can inform international reporting mechanisms. In practice, this work helps the County elevate both human rights challenges that require scrutiny and remedy and proven local practices that can be scaled, while building the internal systems needed to report with greater accuracy, consistency, and credibility over time.

**2.2.1. Recent Efforts:** In May 2023, the LACCHR submitted to the [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement \(EMLER\)](#) a [response](#) to their call for input. Through that submission,

community-driven recommendations on public safety, accountability, transparency, and trust were translated into a human rights framework that connected local lived experiences to internationally recognized standards.

In July 2025, the LACCHR submitted a [response](#) to the call for input for [Human Rights Council Resolution 57/12 on Local Government and Human Rights](#). The submission demonstrated how LA County governance infrastructure and programs—capacity-building, coordination, service delivery, and access to remedy—can advance the rights identified in the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) in residents' day-to-day realities.

In October 2025, the LACCHR led the design and conducting of a series of plenary sessions and multiple breakout sessions at the 2025 IAOHRA annual conference. These discussions informed LACCHR's participation in the UPR session for the United States held by the UN Human Rights Council in November 2025 in Geneva. It is anticipated that federal accountability to international human rights standards will again be a major topic of discussion at the 2026 IAOHRA conference to be held in late summer.

### **2.2.2 Recommended Next Steps**

**(1) Create an internal County process for assessing human rights implementation that County departments can use to improve the level of detail available for international reporting:**

A standardized assessment process can strengthen the County's international reporting capacity by improving the quality, comparability, and credibility of information collected across departments, moving beyond broad narratives to verifiable details about what is working, where gaps persist, and what corrective actions are needed. This reporting-ready posture translates into clearer benchmarks for how the County is promoting and protecting human rights, faster identification of inequities and service barriers that affect residents, and stronger follow-through on reforms because departments can be measured consistently and held accountable for improvements that show up in everyday service experiences.

An available method is the development of a standardized human rights impact assessment tool that County departments can use to evaluate how policies, programs, and operational practices affect local human rights outcomes. The tool can include shared definitions and prompts, recommended data elements, and documentation guidance. This method strengthens the accuracy and usefulness of reporting by grounding it in lived realities and measurable impacts. It also creates a transferable framework that can be shared with government partners, enabling peer jurisdictions to align documentation practices, learn from one another's assessments, and contribute more robust evidence to joint submissions and international reporting processes.

**(2) Establish direct, ongoing connections with international human rights monitoring bodies to elevate local human rights successes and challenges:** Direct engagement with international human rights monitoring mechanisms strengthens the County's reporting capacity by creating clearer channels for submitting localized documentation

and enhancing its ability to access global expertise, comparative practices, and accountability pathways.

- (3) Leveraging Treaty Bodies to Elevate Local Human Rights Issues and Outcomes:** An available method is structured engagement with United Nations (UN) Treaty-Based Bodies—committees of independent experts that review national compliance with core human rights treaties. The County can formalize a process, coordinated by LACCHR, to identify upcoming review opportunities and submit targeted documentation that highlights human rights conditions and outcomes in Los Angeles County. This method creates an additional accountability lever by ensuring that local realities inform the questions asked and recommendations issued by the experts.
- (4) UN Special Procedures Briefings and Submissions:** Another available method is engagement with UN Special Procedures—Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups whose mandates include country visits and communications to governments about allegations and broader patterns of concern. The County can develop a process for identifying when local conditions align with relevant thematic mandates—such as discrimination, state violence, or freedom of expression. This can include preparing briefings, submitting verifiable information, and, where appropriate, and facilitating access to local stakeholders and County leadership during country visits. A precedent exists for this approach: in 2007, LACCHR hosted and consulted with the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues in connection with UN anti-racism mandates, demonstrating that direct engagement can be activated when conditions warrant and relationships are in place. More recently, during its 2023 fact-finding visit to the United States, the UN EMLER visited multiple Los Angeles County detention facilities to examine systemic racism in the criminal justice system—showing how UN mechanisms can directly examine local conditions and elevate them into international accountability processes.
- (5) Institutionalizing Human Rights Treaties Through County Governance Systems:** The County should consider core international human rights treaties, like CEDAW, for confirmation and implementation, prioritizing instruments that closely align with Board priorities. Two strong options for the County would be to confirm and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) because both instruments closely align with Board priorities centered on child wellbeing, safety, health equity, homelessness, and “Care First” investments that strengthen family stability and community opportunity. The CRC sets out a comprehensive framework of children’s rights—protecting children from harm and discrimination while affirming their rights to survival and development, education, health, and participation in decisions that affect them. The ICESCR establishes core economic, social, and cultural rights—such as rights to housing, health, education, work with just conditions, social security, and an adequate standard of living—offering a clear rights-centered foundation for policies that address poverty, instability, and inequitable access to opportunity. It could also facilitate establishing clearer commitments, benchmarks, and measurable obligations that the County can document over time. Treaty

confirmation creates an impetus to identify overlooked harms, develop new programs and safeguards, and strengthen existing services in the systems people rely on most—health, housing, safety, education, and community services—while clarifying expectations for nondiscrimination, civic participation, transparency, and access to remedy. It also connects the County to the treaty-based ecosystems that follow each instrument (committees, NGOs, and networks of local and regional governments), expanding access to proven strategies and innovative solutions drawn from countries and local jurisdictions that reflect the lived experience and cultural backgrounds of the County’s diverse communities.

An approach for identifying and implementing additional treaties is to develop a County process modeled after the LACCHR-initiated CEDAW confirmation pathway:

- 1) Conduct a treaty-to-local priorities mapping that identifies which unratified instruments most directly advance Board goals and where the County has influence and leverage.
- 2) Convene a working group to gather stakeholder input and translate treaty principles into implementable department standards including policy guidance, training, impact assessments, and program design criteria.
- 3) Advance a Board action to formally confirm the treaty principles for County implementation.
- 4) Adopt an implementation plan with measurable indicators and integration into departmental planning and budgeting so progress can be tracked, reported, and continuously improved.

### **Resource Considerations for Sustainable Involvement**

The motion’s directives are achievable through a combination of targeted internal coordination and strategic use of external partnerships. Because Los Angeles County is large and operationally complex, sustainable international human rights reporting and engagement requires a clear scope and a disciplined approach to prioritization. With current resourcing, LACCHR can focus on 1) periodic, high-quality documentation of priority human rights themes aligned with Board priorities and 2) regular monitoring of external opportunities (such as calls for input, stakeholder reporting windows, and convenings) where County participation can be additive and verifiable. At this level, the County can institutionalize a baseline practice of maintaining an international reporting readiness posture: keeping a cross-department inventory of rights-relevant initiatives; aligning common metrics and narratives so they can be re-used across domestic and international contexts; and participating in select coordination platforms that create pathways to joint documentation.

With additional staffing and designated funding, the County could scale up efforts by expanding community engagement and narrative collection, conducting more systematic human rights impact assessments in priority service areas, producing more frequent public-facing updates, and formalizing interdepartmental workflows that link rights standards to policy design, procurement, program implementation, and grievance/complaint pathways. Partnerships with academic institutions, nonprofits, and professional networks can accelerate progress by providing research support, comparative models, and technical guidance while allowing the County to maintain public ownership of the governance commitments and accountability structures at stake.

This approach supports the Board’s priorities by framing them as rights-advancing commitments—particularly in areas such as child protection, health integration, Care First approaches, homelessness, environmental justice and climate health, immigration impacts, anti-racism and inclusion, and poverty alleviation—while also strengthening the County’s ability to communicate progress, challenges, and remedies in a coherent structure.

The practical goal is not simply better external reporting, but also stronger internal County government operations as exemplified by the Gender Impact Assessment program—using international standards as a common language for measuring whether County policies, programs, services, and institutional practices advance dignity, reduce discrimination, improve access, and expand the real freedoms and protections that constituents experience day to day. Put simply, coordination and reporting are the identified method; better protections and outcomes for people who live, work, and play in Los Angeles County are the intended result.

CC:  
Edward Yen, Executive Officer  
Joseph M. Nicchita, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel

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**Appendix A:** [5-Signature Letters from the Board of Supervisors to the United Nations](#)

**Appendix B: Brief Overview of International Human Rights Reporting for Local and Regional Governments**

International human rights reporting is traditionally organized around nation-states, because treaty obligations and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process formally apply to United Nations (UN) Member States. However, local and regional governments (cities, counties, states, and provinces) often carry direct responsibility for policy areas that determine whether residents experience rights in practice, including public safety, housing conditions, health access, education supports, nondiscrimination enforcement, language access, and civic participation. The importance of direct involvement in reporting becomes especially pronounced during periods when federal participation is limited or contested. In such situations, international human rights bodies may seek information about local realities, implementation gaps, and on-the-ground outcomes, including through stakeholder input and thematic calls for input coordinated by UN-related human rights monitoring mechanisms. When this occurs, local and regional governments can help ensure that residents lived experiences and the operational realities of domestic governance remain visible in international accountability conversations. Local and regional governments engage by contributing verifiable documentation, participating in convenings, collaborating with civil society organizations and academic partners, and aligning local governance practices with internationally recognized principles such as equality, participation, transparency,

accountability, and access to remedy. Joint reporting and shared documentation across jurisdictions can increase legitimacy, reduce politicization by grounding claims in evidence and comparative context, and accelerate the spread of effective practices.

Ways local and regional governments can engage with the UN human rights ecosystem include:

- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** A recurring (about every 4.5 years) review of every UN Member State’s human rights record, led by the UN Human Rights Council and informed by national reporting, UN information, and other stakeholder submissions. Local and regional governments can contribute localized data and implementation updates—directly through partnerships and coalitions—and help track follow-through on recommendations at the community level.
- **Special Procedures:** A system of independent experts (Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) who monitor specific themes ( or countries by conducting visits, receiving information, and sending communications to governments about alleged violations. Local and regional governments can submit verifiable information, share local patterns and promising practices relevant to a mandate, and engage during visits to ensure lived realities inform findings and recommendations.
- **Treaty-Based Bodies:** Ten committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of core international human rights treaties by reviewing periodic reports from nation-states and considering information from other stakeholders. Local and regional governments can help ensure treaty reviews reflect local implementation conditions—sharing evidence on gaps, remedies, and effective practices so that expert questions and recommendations address real-world impacts.
- **OHCHR Field Presence:** The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights maintains regional and country presences (where established) that support monitoring, capacity-building, and coordination with national human rights institutions and local actors. Where relevant, local and regional governments can engage to share contextual information, learn best practices, and access technical guidance on implementing human rights standards.
- **Fact-Finding Missions/Commissions of Inquiry:** Investigative bodies established by the UN Human Rights Council to examine serious, often urgent, country-specific situations. While these are not routine channels for local governments, local documentation and cooperation can be important when such mechanisms are active and when local conditions are directly relevant to the mandate.

# Stop the Hate x LA vs Hate Stop the Hate Joint Convening



stopthetateLA Thank you to @asmcaloza (AD-52) and @asmmarkgonzalez (AD-54) for joining us at the Stop the Hate and LA vs Hate Joint Convening last Friday! 🇺🇸

We are grateful to be in partnership with Asm. Caloza and Asm. Gonzalez, who are steadfast advocates in fostering a safer and more secure Los Angeles, especially during a time of increasing hate. In fact, according to the LA County Commission on Human Relations, their 2024 Hate Crime Report showed the second-highest total of hate crimes reported in the last 44 years.

With cuts to funding and a tough budget year ahead, their unwavering support for programs like Stop the Hate and LA vs Hate highlight the critical need to sustain these services for all Angelenos. 🙏

AAPI Equity Alliance and our network of 42 Stop the Hate partners and 17 LA vs Hate partners, are committed ending hate through rapid response, direct services, intervention services, and prevention services. ❤️

Learn more at [stopthetate.org](http://stopthetate.org) and [lavshate.org](http://lavshate.org)



Liked by [burbankhumanrelations](#) and 84 others

March 16



## AGENDA

### The Select Committee on Racism, Hate, & Xenophobia

Assemblymember Dr. Corey A. Jackson, CHAIR

Wednesday, March 20, 2026- 10 A.M.

Autry Museum of the American West  
4700 Western Heritage Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

We encourage the public to provide written testimony before the hearing.  
Please send your written testimony to [Latifah.Alexander@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Latifah.Alexander@asm.ca.gov).  
Please note that any written testimony submitted to the committee is considered public comment and may be read into the record or reprinted.

The Autry will be open for public attendance at this hearing.  
This hearing can be viewed via live stream on the Assembly's website  
at <https://assembly.ca.gov/todayevents>.

Panel Topics & Organizations		
Item	Description	Page
<b>Panel 1</b>	<b><i>State of Hate &amp; Xenophobia in LA County</i></b>	2
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<b>Panel 2</b>	<b><i>Local Advocates</i></b>	2
a	League of United Latin American Citizens	2
b	Jewish Federation	2
c	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People California-Hawaii State Conference	2
d	Los Angeles LGBTQ Center	3
e	Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles	3
f	Council on American-Islamic Relations - California	3

Public Comment will be taken after the completion of all panels and any discussion from the Members of the Select committee.

**Panel Topics and Organization**

**Panel 1. *State of Hate & Xenophobia in LA County***

	<p><b><u>Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations:</u></b> is dedicated to promoting positive human relations in our richly diverse, multicultural county. The Commission works to develop programs that proactively address racism, homophobia, religious prejudice, linguistic bias, anti-immigrant sentiment, and other divisive attitudes that can lead to intercultural tension, hate crimes, and related violence. Partnering with law enforcement, schools, cities, community-based organizations, youth, academics, policy makers, businesses, and other leaders, the Commission brings key players together to resolve immediate intercultural conflicts and to work toward the longer term aim of eradicating bias and prejudice.</p>
	<p><b><u>Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department:</u></b> has a mission to partner with the community. To proactively prevent crime, enforce the law fairly and enhance the public’s trust through transparency and accountability.</p>

*The questions for the panelists for this issue are as follows:*

**Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations:**

1. What are the findings of the latest LA County Hate Crime report?
2. Who are the populations with the highest rates of hate crimes?
3. What have been the three highest years of hate crimes?
4. Are there any trends or data points that members of the legislature should pay attention to?

**Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department:**

1. What trends are you seeing in hate crimes?
2. What resources do you need to address hate crimes?
3. Are there any trends or data points that members of the legislature should pay attention to?

<b>Panelists</b>
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- **Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations** – Robin Toma, Esq., Executive Director
- **Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department** – Anne Tremblay, Constitutional Policing Advisor

**Panel 2. *Local Advocates***

a.	<p><b><u>League of United Latin American Citizens:</u></b> advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 535 local LULAC councils nationwide.</p>
b.	<p><b><u>Jewish Federation Los Angeles:</u></b> convenes and leads the community and leverages its resources to assure the continuity of the Jewish people, support a secure State of Israel, care for Jews in need here and abroad, and mobilize on issues of concern to the local community, all with our local, national, and international partners.</p>
c.	<p><b><u>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People California-Hawaii State Conference:</u></b> works to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens, and to eliminate racial prejudice. They work to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes and seek the enactment and enforcement of laws securing civil rights</p>

<b>d.</b>	<b><u>Los Angeles LGBTQ Center:</u></b> has cared for, championed, and celebrated LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. Today, the Center’s nearly 800 employees provide services for more queer and trans people than any other organization in the world—offering programs, services, and global advocacy that span four broad categories: Health, Social Services and Housing, Culture and Education, and Leadership and Advocacy.
<b>e.</b>	<b><u>Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles:</u></b> is a non-profit organization that advocates for and provides services to immigrants in California. Their work includes legal representation, deportation defense, family unity support, and advocacy for just and humane immigration reform.
<b>f.</b>	<b><u>Council on American-Islamic Relations, California:</u></b> works to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil liberties, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

***The questions for the panelists for this issue are as follows:***

1. What are the greatest issues or concerns facing your community?
2. What help do you need from allies?
3. What can the state legislature do to increase trust and safety?
4. Are there any concerns you have with the actions of the Trump Administration?

<b>Panelists</b>
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- **League of United Latin American Citizens** – Jose Barrera, National Vice President of the Farwest
- **Jewish Federation** – Joanna Mendelson, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement
- **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People California-Hawaii State Conference** – Darrell Goode, President of the NAACP Santa Monica-Venice Chapter
- **Los Angeles LGBTQ Center** – Tony Hernandez, Executive Director
- **Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles** – Jeannette Zanipatin, JD, Director of Policy & Advocacy
- **Council on American-Islamic Relations, California** – via written testimony

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
(PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN ON ALL ITEMS)**

<p>This agenda and other publications are available upon request through email to <a href="mailto:Latifah.Alexander@asm.ca.gov">Latifah.Alexander@asm.ca.gov</a>. You may contact the Committee at (916) 319-2060. This agenda was prepared by Latifah Alexander.</p>
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# Race & Religion

## Strength, Justice, and the Work of Repair

Join the Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and community partners as we explore the impact of systemic racism within diverse faith-based communities and foster meaningful dialogue and action to work in solidarity — advancing racial justice, equity, and a shared commitment to public service.

**WED. MARCH 25**  
**5:30-7:30 PM**

*Check-In Starts at 5:00PM*



510 S. Vermont Avenue  
Upper Terrace Level  
Los Angeles, CA 90020



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## Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

[info@hrc.lacounty.gov](mailto:info@hrc.lacounty.gov)

(213) 738-2788

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

**March 31, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)

or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512

Phone Conference ID: 831 349 137#

**Committee Chair:** Commissioner Gay Yuen | **Vice Chair:** Ilan Davidson

**Committee Members:** Helen Chin, Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Serena Oberstein,  
Fredrick Sykes

**Staff:** Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola

### AGENDA

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>1. Call to Order &amp; Land Acknowledgement</b>                               | <b>(2:00)</b> |
| <b>2. Review &amp; Approval of Minutes (February 24, 2026)*</b>                  | <b>(2:02)</b> |
| <b>3. Discussion &amp; Action: Committee Meeting Time and Duration</b>           | <b>(2:05)</b> |
| <b>4. Discussion: WC26 Human Rights Implementation Framework Update</b>          | <b>(2:15)</b> |
| <b>5. Discussion: Board Motion on LA County's Commitment to Human Rights*</b>    | <b>(2:35)</b> |
| <b>6. Discussion: Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update</b> | <b>(2:45)</b> |
| <b>7. Public Comment</b>   | <b>(2:50)</b> |
| <b>8. Commissioner &amp; Staff Announcements</b>                                 | <b>(2:55)</b> |
| <b>9. Adjournment</b>  | <b>(3:00)</b> |

**Next Meeting Date – April 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM**

*Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by virtual conference communication from the following locations: Ilan Davidson (1435 W. 7th St., San Pedro, CA 90732); Jeanette Ellis-Royston (1460 E. Holt Ave., Rm. 6, Pomona, CA 91767); Serena Oberstein (17509 Romar St., Northridge, CA 91325); Fredrick Sykes (3537 Samantha Ave., West Covina, CA 91792). An asterisk (\*) denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item. Meetings are held in English and accessible to persons with disabilities. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission on Human Relations at (213) 738-7288 or [info@hrc.lacounty.gov](mailto:info@hrc.lacounty.gov) at least 3 business days before the meeting.*



# Los Angeles County

## Commission on Human Relations

510 S. Vermont Avenue, 15th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90020  
www.hrc.lacounty.gov  
213.738.2788

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**February 24, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**  
*via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conference*

**PRESENT:** Gay Yuen  
Helen Chin  
Jeanette Ellis-Royston  
Fredrick Sykes  
Serena Zeise-Oberstein

**ABSENT:** Ilan Davidson

**STAFF:** Robin Toma  
Robert Sowell  
Pierre Arreola

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Gay Yuen called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM with a quorum in attendance. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston arrived at 2:30 PM after the meeting was called to order.

#### **II. Land Acknowledgement**

Staff Pierre Arreola read the land acknowledgement.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes motioned to approve the minutes of the Human Rights Committee meeting on October 28, 2025, as presented by staff. Commissioner Helen Chin seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

**Moved:** Sykes

**Seconded:** Chin

**Ayes:** Yuen, Chin, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

**Vote: 4 – 0 – 0**

The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### **IV. Human Rights Award Update**

Executive Director Robin Toma provided a brief report back on the Human Rights Award presentation ceremony which took place on January 27, 2026 at the regular Board of Supervisors meeting and honored the plaintiffs and legal team involved in the Vasquez Perdomo case regarding unlawful federal immigration enforcement actions that took place in Los Angeles County in 2025.

#### **V. WC Human Rights Action Plan and WC Human Rights Implementation Plan Update and Discussion**

Staff Pierre Arreola provided a high-level update regarding progress with the World Cup 2026 Human Rights Action Plan being developed by LASEC consultants, and the complimentary Human Rights Implementation Plan being developed by the Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team. He mentioned that HRC staff will be meeting with LASEC consultants to discuss the first draft of the Human Rights Action Plan and provide feedback to inform the next draft to be submitted to FIFA. Pierre reviewed the working draft of the Human Rights Implementation Plan with the Committee, along with the working draft of a complimentary Commission Letter to the Board of Supervisors meant to recommend actions to facilitate operationalization of the implementation plan. Executive Director Robin Toma explained that, if approved by the Committee, the Commission Letter would be discussed and voted on by the General Commission at its March meeting and, if approved by the Commission, it will be forwarded to the entire Board of Supervisors. The aim is for the Commission Letter to be championed by the Board as a Board Motion authorizing the HRC to serve as the lead convener and coordinator for the implementation plan.

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to approve the Commission Letter. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes presented a motion to approve the Commission Letter. Commissioner Helen Chin seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

**Moved:** Sykes

**Seconded:** Chin

**Ayes:** Yuen, Chin, Ellis-Royston, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Vote: 5 – 0 – 0**

The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### **VI. Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project Update and Discussion**

Staff Pierre Arreola provided an update on the Election Disruption Prevention and Response Project. He reviewed the report submitted to the LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk highlighting feedback and participant-informed recommendations from the December listening session hosted for Election Resource Liaisons and Troubleshooters. Pierre informed the Committee that the HRC and RR/CC met in early

February to discuss the report and recommendations and are actively engaged in implementing suggested improvements to training and deployment strategies.

**VII. Recent Board Motion Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights Discussion**

Staff Pierre Arreola provided an update on the HRC's report back to the December 9 Board Motion on Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights. He reviewed the Board Motion language and directives. Pierre informed the Committee that the first directive (submission of 5-signature letter) has been completed in partnership with CEO-LAIR. Pierre then reviewed the initial draft of the board report which focuses on the second directive (cross-jurisdiction coordination and ongoing international human rights reporting). The report is due on March 9.

**VIII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

**IX. Commissioner Announcements**

No announcements from Commissioners.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Gay Yuen invited a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes presented a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Helen Chin seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

**Moved:** Sykes

**Seconded:** Chin

**Ayes:** Yuen, Chin, Ellis-Royston, Sykes, Zeise-Oberstein

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Vote: 5 – 0 – 0**

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

**Next Meeting Date: March 31, 2026, at 2:00 PM**



County of Los Angeles  
**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS**

510 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 738-2788  
hrc.lacounty.gov

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March 16, 2026

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Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem  
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Lindsey P. Horvath  
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Robin S. Toma, Esq.  
*Executive Director*

TO: Supervisor, Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Robin S. Toma, Executive Director  
Commission on Human Relations

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON AFFIRMING LA COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS (12/9/2025 BOARD MOTION)**

On December 9, 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the motion by Supervisor Holly Mitchell "Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights." The motion contains two primary directives. First, it directed the Chief Executive Officer-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) branch, in consultation with County Counsel and the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR), to send a five-signature letter to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (Directive 1) Second, it directed the LACCHR—through its human rights infrastructure and in coordination with CEO-LAIR—to explore how to strengthen ongoing coordination with the state and local governments that participated in the referenced November 7 convening, with the goals of submitting joint documentation and improving accountability for the current federal administration. (Directive 2.1) The motion called for a report back to the Board within 90 days with an update on ongoing County participation in international human rights reporting efforts. (Directive 2.2)

**1. First Board Directive: Five-Signature Letters to UN Human Rights Bodies**

CEO-LAIR, in collaboration with the LACCHR and County Counsel, composed a [five-signature letter](#)<sup>1</sup> and submitted it to the UNHRC and the OHCHR (Appendix A). The stated purpose of these letters is to affirm the Board's commitment to a human rights framework in County programs and policies, and to urge continued international attention to the United States' compliance with human rights principles, including through investigation, documentation, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The letters, together

<sup>1</sup> Letters to UN Human Rights Bodies:  
<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/210488.pdf>

with the impact of Supervisor Mitchell's presence and voice at the UN Human Rights Council proceedings in November 2025, position Los Angeles County as a major, human rights-based, values-driven regional government that views local governance as inseparable from internationally recognized human rights standards, particularly during periods when federal engagement with multilateral accountability mechanisms is severely limited.

These letters underscore that engagement with international coordination and reporting mechanisms can directly benefit local constituents by amplifying accountability, supporting transparency, and strengthening County efforts to uphold rights in areas directly experienced by residents—including equity and inclusion, due process, civil liberties, access to health and basic needs, and freedom from discriminatory treatment. The letters also function as an internal leadership statement and organizing tool for County departments and partners by reaffirming that human rights principles are not abstract ideals but operational standards that can be translated into policy choices, program design, interdepartmental collaboration, contracting and enforcement practices, and measurable service outcomes for residents.

## **2. Board Directive 2.1: Coordination with Other State and Local Governments**

This directive focuses on building the County's capacity to work in coordinated partnership with peer jurisdictions so that human rights risks and opportunities affecting residents can be identified earlier, documented more consistently, and elevated through joint submissions that strengthen federal accountability. In practice, this means establishing durable structures for cross-jurisdiction collaboration that translate shared learning into credible documentation.

Recent efforts include LACCHR continuing collaboration for a community of practice involving governments that participated in the November 7 convening for submitting documentation and improving federal accountability.

In addition, LACCHR is a leading member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies ([IAOHRA](#)), a transnational network of governmental human rights and human relations agencies that already includes the governments that participated in the November 7 convening. Our contacts through IAOHRA strengthen our ongoing coordination by providing a ready-made infrastructure for drawing on additional resources that facilitate capacity-building. An example is the IAOHRA webinar in which we participated on December 10, 2025 (International Human Rights Day) on the topic of the Geneva convening and ways member agencies can increase their involvement in international human rights coordination and reporting.

Carrying this work forward, the next steps from which to select include the following:

### **2.1.1. Create a process for compiling joint documentation with partner governments and reflects the lived realities of diverse constituencies across jurisdictions.**

A shared documentation process strengthens cross-jurisdiction coordination by ensuring partners are working from the same facts—making joint submissions more credible and consistent. Over time, this also builds a shared reporting capacity by establishing predictable workflows, timelines, and roles for collecting evidence, validating it across jurisdictions, and

translating it into formats that are legible for international reporting mechanisms. There have been periodic collaborations with law school human rights programs to leverage legal scholars and existing law student clinical programs (e.g., Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute, Northeastern Law School's Program on Human Rights, UC Irvine Law's International Justice Clinic, USC Gould Law, UCLAW, etc.).

**2.1.2. Building a Cross-Jurisdiction Reporting Cadence:** An available method is to partner with the November 7 community of practice to develop and maintain a regular process and cadence for collecting human rights accomplishments and issues from local governments, enabling timely information sharing and coordinated, collaborative reporting. This would lead to: (1) shared definitions and terminology, (2) working documents and templates, and (3) common metrics and reporting standards. This method can enhance the County's reporting capacity by improving consistency in how incidents are documented and addressed across jurisdictions, reducing duplication and delays, and enabling partner governments to produce joint documentation more nimbly. It also strengthens the County's coordination capacity by creating an early warning feedback loop—where patterns and emerging risks identified by any one partner can be rapidly shared, compared, and acted on across jurisdictions, rather than remaining isolated or addressed inconsistently.

***Expand the community of practice to include other government jurisdictions and community partners involved in international human rights coordination and reporting.***

*Structured, recurring partnerships with other jurisdictions and community partners would expand the County's coordination capacity and enhance its ability to identify emerging harms earlier, compare what is working across jurisdictions, and produce more comprehensive documentation for international human rights reporting. In turn, stronger documentation and peer learning improve County decision-making by supporting more targeted policy and program improvements and increasing public accountability for whether residents are experiencing more equitable access to County systems.*

**2.1.3. Cross-Jurisdiction Collaboration via IAOHRA:** An available method of expansion is deeper engagement through IAOHRA. This network provides space for cross-jurisdiction collaboration, shared standards, partnerships with human rights NGOs and academic centers, and coordinated engagement in national and international forums. For example, the County can use IAOHRA to coordinate World Cup 2026-related human rights work with peer jurisdictions, then lead a debrief with other host regions and share lessons learned at the Fall 2026 IAOHRA conference. This can strengthen collective capacity to document what occurred in host cities, including the local impacts of federal actions, and to communicate those findings back to international human rights bodies. Building on that model, the County can collaborate through IAOHRA to design and administer a survey of local and regional human rights agencies to systematically identify how federal actions are affecting human rights at the local level, producing evidence that can be synthesized for submission to relevant international reporting mechanisms. IAOHRA can also support the longer-term development of a "human rights cities/counties/states" network—strengthening the relationships and data-

sharing pathways needed to gather consistent evidence, coordinate responses, and reinforce federal human rights accountability.

#### **2.1.4. Engaging with UN-related Human Rights Bodies of Local and Regional Governments:**

Another available method is engaging global municipal and regional networks such as the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments. These networks provide a structured forum to compare how peer jurisdictions around the world operationalize international standards, adopt common language and indicators, and translate lessons into locally implementable policies that can later be documented in formats legible to international human rights bodies. An example of this global-to-local value is how LACCHR's participation in a global network meeting—where Commission leadership learned that Canadian provinces directly adopt international treaties—helped catalyze the County's local ordinance affirming the international human rights treaty Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Following the meeting, LACCHR convened key county stakeholders (including the LA County Women and Girls Initiative, the LA County Commission for Women, and UC Irvine School of Law) to cultivate collective action that led to County adoption and implementation of CEDAW, which has received international/national recognition.<sup>2</sup>

#### **2.1.5. Leadership and Participation in Other Regional and National Networks:**

A third available method is engagement in regional and national human rights networks and convenings including the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers' Network (BHRHL) convened by Professor Martha Davis of Northeastern University School of Law, the Divided Community Project (DCP) led by Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, the California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO), and the Human Rights Cities Alliance (HRCA). In addition to the benefits mentioned previously, engagement with these networks broadens the coalition calling for federal accountability. For example, LACCHR has accepted an invitation from HRCA to join a panel on how local and regional governments have engaged with international reporting mechanisms, including the United States' UPR, at the national Social Practice of Human Rights Conference at the University of Dayton in April 2026 (to be attended virtually). Additionally, the BHRHL national symposium at the University of Pennsylvania in June 2026—in which Supervisor Mitchell has been invited to participate—will offer a timely opportunity to reconnect and plan with government officials and NGO partners who convened in Geneva last November, including leaders such as Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner and ACLU National Human Rights Director Jamil Dakwar.

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<sup>2</sup> The NGO Committee on the Status of Women awarded Los Angeles County the 2026 Cities for CEDAW Global Leadership Award, recognizing the County's implementation of its CEDAW ordinance and its pioneering Gender Impact Assessment Program. Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath attended the New York ceremony to accept the award on behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. <https://passblue.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NGO-CSW-Press-Release-2026-CEDAW-Award-LA-County.pdf>

### **2.1.6. Enhance the LACCHR’s Capacity as the Countywide Human Rights**

**Clearinghouse:** Identifying effective practices and issue patterns, aligning terminology and standards, and elevating local community concerns for joint documentation would enable the County to play a critically needed human rights leadership role.

Within County government, the LACCHR’s role as the human rights clearinghouse ensures that County department priorities, effective practices, risks, and implementation gaps are consistently captured and embedded in documentation and reporting. Countywide, that same clearinghouse function helps incorporate the priorities and concerns of both incorporated cities and unincorporated communities into joint documentation, so cross-jurisdiction reporting reflects the full range of experiences across Los Angeles County.

**2.1.7. Strengthening Collaborations within LA County:** An available method of enhancement is strengthening collaboration with jurisdictions and human relations organizations within Los Angeles County. When coordination is structured and sustained with local partners, the County is better able to respond to harms, measure progress, and demonstrate—through evidence, not only statements—that it is advancing human rights in ways that improve daily life for the people it serves. Consistent communication with local human rights partners ensures that documentation reflects lived experience, emerging risks, and practical concerns related to enforcement, access, and remedy. This matters because residents do not experience rights in silos: issues such as hate incidents, language access, disability access, community trust in public institutions, housing instability, and barriers to civic participation often cut across multiple departments and jurisdictions. Defining and operationalizing human rights protections—along with clear prevention, reporting, and response plans—for the World Cup tournament matches in Los Angeles this summer offers a timely opportunity to strengthen these local coordination systems in a real-world, high-pressure environment, while laying the groundwork for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This work can also accelerate progress toward a “no wrong door” reporting and response system—a [County goal](#) set forth by the CEO—advancing a more durable countywide system beyond any single event.

### **Directive 2.2: Update on Ongoing County Participation in International Human Rights Reporting**

This directive focuses on strengthening Los Angeles County’s ability to participate meaningfully in international human rights reporting by translating local conditions, outcomes, and community experiences into verifiable documentation that can inform international reporting mechanisms. In practice, this work helps the County elevate both human rights challenges that require scrutiny and remedy and proven local practices that can be scaled, while building the internal systems needed to report with greater accuracy, consistency, and credibility over time.

**2.2.1. Recent Efforts:** In May 2023, the LACCHR submitted to the [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement \(EMLER\)](#) a [response](#) to their call for input. Through that submission,

community-driven recommendations on public safety, accountability, transparency, and trust were translated into a human rights framework that connected local lived experiences to internationally recognized standards.

In July 2025, the LACCHR submitted a [response](#) to the call for input for [Human Rights Council Resolution 57/12 on Local Government and Human Rights](#). The submission demonstrated how LA County governance infrastructure and programs—capacity-building, coordination, service delivery, and access to remedy—can advance the rights identified in the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) in residents’ day-to-day realities.

In October 2025, the LACCHR led the design and conducting of a series of plenary sessions and multiple breakout sessions at the 2025 IAOHRA annual conference. These discussions informed LACCHR’s participation in the UPR session for the United States held by the UN Human Rights Council in November 2025 in Geneva. It is anticipated that federal accountability to international human rights standards will again be a major topic of discussion at the 2026 IAOHRA conference to be held in late summer.

### **2.2.2 Recommended Next Steps**

**(1) Create an internal County process for assessing human rights implementation that County departments can use to improve the level of detail available for international reporting:**

A standardized assessment process can strengthen the County’s international reporting capacity by improving the quality, comparability, and credibility of information collected across departments, moving beyond broad narratives to verifiable details about what is working, where gaps persist, and what corrective actions are needed. This reporting-ready posture translates into clearer benchmarks for how the County is promoting and protecting human rights, faster identification of inequities and service barriers that affect residents, and stronger follow-through on reforms because departments can be measured consistently and held accountable for improvements that show up in everyday service experiences.

An available method is the development of a standardized human rights impact assessment tool that County departments can use to evaluate how policies, programs, and operational practices affect local human rights outcomes. The tool can include shared definitions and prompts, recommended data elements, and documentation guidance. This method strengthens the accuracy and usefulness of reporting by grounding it in lived realities and measurable impacts. It also creates a transferable framework that can be shared with government partners, enabling peer jurisdictions to align documentation practices, learn from one another’s assessments, and contribute more robust evidence to joint submissions and international reporting processes.

**(2) Establish direct, ongoing connections with international human rights monitoring bodies to elevate local human rights successes and challenges:** Direct engagement with international human rights monitoring mechanisms strengthens the County’s reporting capacity by creating clearer channels for submitting localized documentation

and enhancing its ability to access global expertise, comparative practices, and accountability pathways.

- (3) Leveraging Treaty Bodies to Elevate Local Human Rights Issues and Outcomes:** An available method is structured engagement with United Nations (UN) Treaty-Based Bodies—committees of independent experts that review national compliance with core human rights treaties. The County can formalize a process, coordinated by LACCHR, to identify upcoming review opportunities and submit targeted documentation that highlights human rights conditions and outcomes in Los Angeles County. This method creates an additional accountability lever by ensuring that local realities inform the questions asked and recommendations issued by the experts.
- (4) UN Special Procedures Briefings and Submissions:** Another available method is engagement with UN Special Procedures—Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups whose mandates include country visits and communications to governments about allegations and broader patterns of concern. The County can develop a process for identifying when local conditions align with relevant thematic mandates—such as discrimination, state violence, or freedom of expression. This can include preparing briefings, submitting verifiable information, and, where appropriate, and facilitating access to local stakeholders and County leadership during country visits. A precedent exists for this approach: in 2007, LACCHR hosted and consulted with the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues in connection with UN anti-racism mandates, demonstrating that direct engagement can be activated when conditions warrant and relationships are in place. More recently, during its 2023 fact-finding visit to the United States, the UN EMLER visited multiple Los Angeles County detention facilities to examine systemic racism in the criminal justice system—showing how UN mechanisms can directly examine local conditions and elevate them into international accountability processes.
- (5) Institutionalizing Human Rights Treaties Through County Governance Systems:** The County should consider core international human rights treaties, like CEDAW, for confirmation and implementation, prioritizing instruments that closely align with Board priorities. Two strong options for the County would be to confirm and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) because both instruments closely align with Board priorities centered on child wellbeing, safety, health equity, homelessness, and “Care First” investments that strengthen family stability and community opportunity. The CRC sets out a comprehensive framework of children’s rights—protecting children from harm and discrimination while affirming their rights to survival and development, education, health, and participation in decisions that affect them. The ICESCR establishes core economic, social, and cultural rights—such as rights to housing, health, education, work with just conditions, social security, and an adequate standard of living—offering a clear rights-centered foundation for policies that address poverty, instability, and inequitable access to opportunity. It could also facilitate establishing clearer commitments, benchmarks, and measurable obligations that the County can document over time. Treaty

confirmation creates an impetus to identify overlooked harms, develop new programs and safeguards, and strengthen existing services in the systems people rely on most—health, housing, safety, education, and community services—while clarifying expectations for nondiscrimination, civic participation, transparency, and access to remedy. It also connects the County to the treaty-based ecosystems that follow each instrument (committees, NGOs, and networks of local and regional governments), expanding access to proven strategies and innovative solutions drawn from countries and local jurisdictions that reflect the lived experience and cultural backgrounds of the County’s diverse communities.

An approach for identifying and implementing additional treaties is to develop a County process modeled after the LACCHR-initiated CEDAW confirmation pathway:

- 1) Conduct a treaty-to-local priorities mapping that identifies which unratified instruments most directly advance Board goals and where the County has influence and leverage.
- 2) Convene a working group to gather stakeholder input and translate treaty principles into implementable department standards including policy guidance, training, impact assessments, and program design criteria.
- 3) Advance a Board action to formally confirm the treaty principles for County implementation.
- 4) Adopt an implementation plan with measurable indicators and integration into departmental planning and budgeting so progress can be tracked, reported, and continuously improved.

### **Resource Considerations for Sustainable Involvement**

The motion’s directives are achievable through a combination of targeted internal coordination and strategic use of external partnerships. Because Los Angeles County is large and operationally complex, sustainable international human rights reporting and engagement requires a clear scope and a disciplined approach to prioritization. With current resourcing, LACCHR can focus on 1) periodic, high-quality documentation of priority human rights themes aligned with Board priorities and 2) regular monitoring of external opportunities (such as calls for input, stakeholder reporting windows, and convenings) where County participation can be additive and verifiable. At this level, the County can institutionalize a baseline practice of maintaining an international reporting readiness posture: keeping a cross-department inventory of rights-relevant initiatives; aligning common metrics and narratives so they can be re-used across domestic and international contexts; and participating in select coordination platforms that create pathways to joint documentation.

With additional staffing and designated funding, the County could scale up efforts by expanding community engagement and narrative collection, conducting more systematic human rights impact assessments in priority service areas, producing more frequent public-facing updates, and formalizing interdepartmental workflows that link rights standards to policy design, procurement, program implementation, and grievance/complaint pathways. Partnerships with academic institutions, nonprofits, and professional networks can accelerate progress by providing research support, comparative models, and technical guidance while allowing the County to maintain public ownership of the governance commitments and accountability structures at stake.

This approach supports the Board’s priorities by framing them as rights-advancing commitments—particularly in areas such as child protection, health integration, Care First approaches, homelessness, environmental justice and climate health, immigration impacts, anti-racism and inclusion, and poverty alleviation—while also strengthening the County’s ability to communicate progress, challenges, and remedies in a coherent structure.

The practical goal is not simply better external reporting, but also stronger internal County government operations as exemplified by the Gender Impact Assessment program—using international standards as a common language for measuring whether County policies, programs, services, and institutional practices advance dignity, reduce discrimination, improve access, and expand the real freedoms and protections that constituents experience day to day. Put simply, coordination and reporting are the identified method; better protections and outcomes for people who live, work, and play in Los Angeles County are the intended result.

CC:  
Edward Yen, Executive Officer  
Joseph M. Nicchita, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel

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**Appendix A:** [5-Signature Letters from the Board of Supervisors to the United Nations](#)

**Appendix B: Brief Overview of International Human Rights Reporting for Local and Regional Governments**

International human rights reporting is traditionally organized around nation-states, because treaty obligations and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process formally apply to United Nations (UN) Member States. However, local and regional governments (cities, counties, states, and provinces) often carry direct responsibility for policy areas that determine whether residents experience rights in practice, including public safety, housing conditions, health access, education supports, nondiscrimination enforcement, language access, and civic participation. The importance of direct involvement in reporting becomes especially pronounced during periods when federal participation is limited or contested. In such situations, international human rights bodies may seek information about local realities, implementation gaps, and on-the-ground outcomes, including through stakeholder input and thematic calls for input coordinated by UN-related human rights monitoring mechanisms. When this occurs, local and regional governments can help ensure that residents lived experiences and the operational realities of domestic governance remain visible in international accountability conversations. Local and regional governments engage by contributing verifiable documentation, participating in convenings, collaborating with civil society organizations and academic partners, and aligning local governance practices with internationally recognized principles such as equality, participation, transparency,

accountability, and access to remedy. Joint reporting and shared documentation across jurisdictions can increase legitimacy, reduce politicization by grounding claims in evidence and comparative context, and accelerate the spread of effective practices.

Ways local and regional governments can engage with the UN human rights ecosystem include:

- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** A recurring (about every 4.5 years) review of every UN Member State’s human rights record, led by the UN Human Rights Council and informed by national reporting, UN information, and other stakeholder submissions. Local and regional governments can contribute localized data and implementation updates—directly through partnerships and coalitions—and help track follow-through on recommendations at the community level.
- **Special Procedures:** A system of independent experts (Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, and Working Groups) who monitor specific themes ( or countries by conducting visits, receiving information, and sending communications to governments about alleged violations. Local and regional governments can submit verifiable information, share local patterns and promising practices relevant to a mandate, and engage during visits to ensure lived realities inform findings and recommendations.
- **Treaty-Based Bodies:** Ten committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of core international human rights treaties by reviewing periodic reports from nation-states and considering information from other stakeholders. Local and regional governments can help ensure treaty reviews reflect local implementation conditions—sharing evidence on gaps, remedies, and effective practices so that expert questions and recommendations address real-world impacts.
- **OHCHR Field Presence:** The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights maintains regional and country presences (where established) that support monitoring, capacity-building, and coordination with national human rights institutions and local actors. Where relevant, local and regional governments can engage to share contextual information, learn best practices, and access technical guidance on implementing human rights standards.
- **Fact-Finding Missions/Commissions of Inquiry:** Investigative bodies established by the UN Human Rights Council to examine serious, often urgent, country-specific situations. While these are not routine channels for local governments, local documentation and cooperation can be important when such mechanisms are active and when local conditions are directly relevant to the mandate.

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*Horvath*

**BOARD UNANIMOUSLY  
APPROVES HORVATH  
MOTION TO INITIATE ICE-  
FREE ZONES IN LA COUNTY**

January 13th, 2025

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Chair Hilda L. Solis initiating the development of an ordinance to establish ICE-Free Zones across County-owned and County-controlled properties. The Board action directs County Counsel to draft and return an ordinance for Board consideration within 30 days.

As federal civil immigration enforcement increasingly occurs in public spaces nationwide, the approved motion begins the formal legislative process to ensure County property is used solely for its intended public purposes and is not used as staging areas, processing locations, or operations bases for unauthorized civil immigration enforcement. Coming on the heels of the killings of Renee Nicole Good and Keith Porter Jr., the motion responds to a national climate in which civil immigration enforcement has turned deadly and fear has spread into public spaces meant to serve the community.

“Los Angeles County will not allow our public property to be used by ICE to cause harm and to frighten people away from receiving services and support,” said **Supervisor Lindsey P.**

**Horvath.** “Across this country, civil immigration enforcement has too often turned deadly, and that fear follows people into parks, clinics, and public buildings. When residents are scared to seek care or show up in public spaces, something is deeply wrong. We may not control federal enforcement everywhere, but we do control our own property. That is why we are taking action to

ensure our public spaces remain safe, accessible, and free from fear.”

The motion follows a federal immigration enforcement action conducted in October 2025 at Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center, a Los Angeles County park in San Pedro, which disrupted public access and interfered with County operations.

“Our communities continue to navigate uncertainty, danger, and trauma as the Trump administration’s immigration raids target Angeleno families,” said **Hilda L. Solis, Los Angeles County Board Chair and First District Supervisor**. “As actions escalate across the country, here in Los Angeles County, we remain committed to exploring every option available to safeguard our communities. Fear, danger, and recklessness have no place here.”

If adopted by the Board, the proposed ordinance would prohibit County-owned and County-controlled property from being used for unauthorized civil law enforcement activities, require clear signage on County properties, establish a permit process for civil enforcement operations, and preserve lawful criminal law enforcement and the execution of valid judicial warrants.