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**Call for Inputs: Human Rights Council Resolution 57/12 on  
Local Government and Human Rights**

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

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**1. What capacity building initiatives have been taken by your local or regional government to realize economic, social and cultural rights (such as the embed human rights-based approaches into the work of your local or regional government)?**

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) has been a cornerstone in promoting human rights and fostering healthy intergroup relations since its formation. Initially created by the LA County Board of Supervisors (the Supervisors) in January 1944 as the Joint Committee for Interracial Progress (the Committee), the group was formed in response to what has come to be called the “Zoot Suit Riots”. It was in June 1943 that escalating interracial and interethnic tensions and repeated clashes erupted into violence in the streets of downtown Los Angeles. Hundreds of sailors, soldiers, marines, and others caravaned into downtown and attacked local Brown and Black young men. The assaults finally ended when military command confined their members to their barracks after 4 days during which local police either stood silently by or actually participated in the prejudice-powered hostility. In the immediate aftermath, the LA City Council banned zoot suits, and local papers justified the violent violations of rights as acceptable vigilante justice to quell an alleged, unsubstantiated immigrant crime wave.

State and County government leaders were far less biased in their analysis and response. This included the Supervisors’ creation of the Committee to which they assigned responsibility for identifying and eliminating the causes of interracial tensions that erupted as human rights violations in downtown streets the previous summer. Two years later, the Supervisors realized the rights that needed support and the relations that needed strengthening included other intergroup challenges in addition to interracial conflict. So, they renamed the group the Los Angeles County Committee on Human Relations. In 1958, the Supervisors, to provide essential structure and additional resources needed to fulfill human rights that fuel human relations, elevated the Committee into the Commission on Human Relations.

Over the past 25 years, carrying out this function has included representing LA County in multiple national and international human rights monitoring and advocacy initiatives. For example, in 2001 LACCHR led local preparation for and participation in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism. This included hosting a preparatory session for LA County and Southern California with the U.S. State Department. It also included serving as a member of the Southern California delegation to the Conference in Durban, South Africa later

that year and meetings there preceding it. In 2008, LACCHR began leading the international human rights work of the national network of governmental human rights agencies, IAOHRA, which resulted in sessions on international human rights at more than 15 annual IAOHRA conferences since then. In 2009, LACCHR hosted and consulted with the Independent Expert on Minority Issues for the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. In 2010, LACCHR was included as an advisory member of the U.S. Delegation to the Universal Periodic Review session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2012, LACCHR participated in the proceedings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the UN offices in Geneva. Furthermore, LACCHR hosted an official of the National Human Rights Commission of South Korea to intern with the agency for over a year for cooperative learning on approaches and programs. And LACCHR participated in an international conference in Bellagio, Italy that featured U.S., British, Indian, and Australian government human rights officials to consult with U.S. leaders on developing its own National Human Rights Institute.

Nationally, LACCHR has actively participated in the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network, and the U.S. Human Rights Network. Since 2008, the LACCHR Executive Director (LACCHR ED) has promoted coordination and cooperation on internationally recognized human rights by leading education and application of human rights among IAOHRA member state, county, and city government human rights agencies through plenary and/or breakout sessions with this focus during the organization's annual conferences. For these annual conferences, he has frequently engaged officials and leaders from all levels of government to speak on human rights challenges and achievements. Examples include representatives from the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the City of Los Angeles, as well Special Rapporteurs on human rights issues and Mexico City's Human Rights Commission President. LACCHR ED also worked regularly with the U.S. Human Rights Network when it was a leading force in linking U.S. domestic human rights nongovernmental organizations with international and UN human rights bodies and mechanisms. During the first two years of the Obama Administration, LACCHR ED served on a national task force that included White House officials and U.S. Senate leadership focused on crafting a federal bill to establish a National Human Rights Institution. In 2024, LACCHR consulted with The Carter Center in Atlanta and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights and then participated in a national gathering to discuss building a human rights culture in the U.S.

One of the highlights of LACCHR engagement in promoting human rights locally is the implementation of the principles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This was the result of an effort in collaboration with the University of California, Irvine, Law School. LACCHR brought together the heads of the County's Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) and the County's Commission on Women with support from staff of the County CEO. The result was a motion brought to the Supervisors by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and unanimously approved in January 2021. The motion declared that the CEDAW principles "are fully consistent with Los Angeles County's values and actions" and called for a new County ordinance to implement them. The new ordinance was adopted in November that same year. In January 2022 WGI launched a countywide initiative to coach every department in conducting a Gender Impact Assessment to apply an intersectional gender lens when analyzing their policies, services, programs, workforce, and leadership. By using this methodology and assessing gender data, departments can pinpoint gender imbalances within their organization and the services it offers County residents. In November 2022, the Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to require all departments in the County to develop gender equity goals and track accomplishment as part of executive performance appraisal.

In the spring of 2025, LACCHR was asked to develop and implement the Human Rights Action plan for the Los Angeles host committee for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

LACCHR continues its legacy of supporting human rights to strengthen healthy relations by bringing people together across boundaries of diverse identities and histories to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace. The work currently is accomplished through five programming streams:

- Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy. LACCHR staff promotes and protects human rights across Los Angeles County through advocacy, education, and strategic support. Staff provide tailored assessments, justice-advancing policy recommendations, and inclusive community engagement to address urgent and emerging challenges. Guided by international human rights standards, LACCHR helps build sustainable, rights-based practices that promote inclusive fairness and needed systemic change. By partnering with

organizations, government agencies, and communities, LACCHR works to create environments where the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals are respected, protected, and fulfilled, ensuring that every person is valued, empowered, and free from discrimination.

- **Hate Documentation and Data Analytics.** Since 1980, LACCHR has advanced human rights by exposing and analyzing hate-based harm across Los Angeles County. LACCHR's annual *Hate Crime Report* and *Hate Incident Report* highlight how acts of bias violate fundamental rights to dignity, equality, and security. Customized reports of hate activity are prepared and presented throughout the year in response to special requests from County and community partners. By documenting hate crimes and incidents, staff informs public understanding, supports community resilience, and equips decision-makers with data to develop policies that prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of all residents.
- **LA vs Hate.** In 2019, LACCHR launched LA vs Hate, which is a human rights initiative dedicated to uniting communities in the fight against hate and supporting individuals impacted by bias and discrimination. Grounded in the principles of dignity, equity, and inclusion, the initiative fosters intercommunity solidarity, empowers residents to recognize and report hate, and provides access to comprehensive victim support services. Through a robust and confidential reporting system operated by 211LA, LA vs Hate ensures that those affected receive the care and resources they need to heal. Guided by internationally recognized human rights standards, LA vs Hate works to protect fundamental freedoms, foster accountability, and cultivate a safer, more just Los Angeles County where every individual can live free from fear and discrimination.
- **Training.** LACCHR staff designs and facilitates transformative learning experiences that help individuals and organizations recognize the importance of cultivating a culture rooted in human rights, justice, and mutual respect. The Training Team equips participants with the tools to respond constructively to conflict, address implicit bias, and develop the skills necessary for fostering effective intercultural collaboration. Through engaging and purposeful trainings, the team empowers participants to create inclusive, equitable environments, free from discrimination that actively advance and protect human rights.
- **Transformative Justice.** LACCHR advances human rights by reimagining community safety in Los Angeles County that is fair, accountable, and fosters healing. Rooted in dignity and justice, the team challenges systemic racism,

violence, and discrimination embedded in public safety systems by uplifting community-driven advocacy and alternative crisis response models. Central to this work is the facilitation of community dialogue and the collection of lived experience narratives, which inform participatory policy development with law enforcement and policymakers. By bridging communities with decision-makers, the team promotes inclusive, trauma-informed safety infrastructures that protect fundamental rights, reduce harm, and ensure that those most impacted help shape the policies and practices meant to serve them. Guided by human rights principles, this work transforms inequity into justice.

Beyond our specific agency, other units in LA County also actively engage in work that demonstrates the County's commitment to safeguarding and promoting economic, social and cultural rights as it is emphasized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The ICESCR defines the fundamental rights necessary for individuals to live with dignity and equality, including the rights to life, liberty, adequate standard of living, work, housing, health, education, cultural participation, and social protection. Los Angeles County helps fulfill these human rights principles through its departments, programs, and strategic frameworks. Following are some examples of how this work to operationalize and advance the economic, social, and cultural rights articulated in the ICESCR is being carried out.

The [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors](#) plays a critical role in advancing and protecting human rights for all residents of LA County. As the County's governing body, the Board has embedded economic, social, and cultural rights into its [2024–2030 Los Angeles County Strategic Plan](#). This Plan reflects a comprehensive response to complex and systemic human rights challenges and aligns with internationally recognized human rights standards, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Board's key priorities include health integration; addressing homelessness; supporting immigrant communities; combating racism while promoting diversity and inclusion; and alleviating poverty. Through these priorities, the Board affirms its commitment to upholding the dignity, equality, and well-being of every individual in Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office](#) (CEO) advances and supports dignity, equity, and access to essential services. By promoting the rights to housing, access to information, and participation in governance, the CEO ensures that residents can benefit from an adequate standard of living

and be actively involved in public life. Through targeted programs such as the [Homeless Initiative](#), the CEO administers the [Homeless Prevention Program](#), which provides short-term rental assistance and legal aid to help individuals and families remain housed and avoid entering emergency shelters, advancing the right to housing. Across its programs and priorities, the CEO works to ensure that all residents of Los Angeles County benefit from its programs and priorities to ensure that all residents are protected, informed, and empowered.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services](#) (DPSS) plays a vital role in advancing and protecting human rights by working to eliminate poverty and implementing initiatives that promote equitable access to employment opportunities, a dignified standard of living, and equal treatment for all residents. Through programs like the [Refugee Employment Program](#), which offers vocational training, job placement, and support services such as childcare and transportation, DPSS upholds the rights of refugees and immigrants to economic opportunity and social inclusion. Its broader efforts, including the [Skills and Training to Achieve Readiness for Tomorrow program](#), support all residents in securing employment and earning a living wage. By promoting access to social services, income security, and workforce development, DPSS not only strengthens individuals' economic rights but also enables residents to participate in civic life and enjoy a better quality of life. These efforts reflect the County's commitment to ensuring that every person, regardless of background or legal status, can enjoy the full spectrum of their human rights.

The [Los Angeles County Development Authority](#) advances and supports the rights to access affordable housing, economic opportunity, and education for low-income residents across the county. Through its core programs and collaborative efforts with other departments, the agency supports access to public services and the preservation of well-being, while contributing to broader goals of sustainable development and inclusive infrastructure. Its nonprofit partner, the [Los Angeles Community Development Foundation](#), furthers this mission by addressing generational poverty and expanding opportunities for public housing residents. By providing youth and adults with access to education, career development, life skills training, mentorship, and after-school programs, the Foundation reinforces essential rights to education, personal development, and equal opportunity. Together, these efforts reflect a commitment to ensuring that every person regardless of

socioeconomic status can live with dignity, security, and the ability to reach their full potential.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs \(DCBA\)](#) protects housing, education, and labor rights through advocacy and enforcement. Programs such as the [Wage Enforcement Program](#) uphold the rights to fair wages, just working conditions, and equal pay for equal work, by helping workers in unincorporated areas file wage violation claims and ensuring compliance with minimum wage laws. DCBA also secures the right to self-determination and economic development by offering learning opportunities, equity assessments, and support for small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. Its foreclosure prevention unit protects the rights to adequate housing and the security of the home, while other specialized programs provide critical services to vulnerable populations such as immigrants, seniors, and migrant workers upholding rights to humane treatment, legal protections, and emergency care. Through its commitment to economic justice and the protection of marginalized communities, DCBA ensures that all residents regardless of race or ethnicity can access the resources, protections, and opportunities necessary to live with dignity and economic security.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity \(DEO\)](#) advances and supports rights to fair employment, equal opportunity, and economic development for all residents, regardless of race, gender, or background. Through initiatives like the [Economic Mobility Initiative](#), DEO coordinates county-wide services and resources to foster economic resilience, build generational wealth, and close persistent racial and gender wealth gaps. These efforts facilitate financial inclusion and non-discrimination in access to economic resources such as family benefits, loans, and credit. By striving to ensure that all communities have equitable opportunities to thrive, DEO reinforces the right to economic self-determination and contributes to the creation of inclusive, just, and prosperous local economies. Its work reflects a broader commitment to human dignity, economic justice, and equal access to opportunity across Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative](#) advances and supports the rights to equality, fair employment, and an adequate standard of living. Its targeted goals: increasing postsecondary credentials with labor market value, raising stable employment for individuals earning at or above 250% of the federal poverty line, increasing the

percentage of families above this income level, reducing first-time felony convictions for adults, reducing infant mortality, and to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of people of color. These goals address disparities in education, economic opportunity, and health outcomes, reinforcing every resident's right to equity, dignity, and full participation in society. Through these efforts, the Initiative embodies the County's broader commitment to advancing justice, inclusion, and equal treatment for all communities.

The [Los Angeles County Commission for Women](#) is dedicated to advancing and protecting rights to equality, education, participation in cultural life, work at chosen profession and an adequate standard of living. Through its [2023 Report on the Status of Women in Los Angeles County](#), the Commission highlighted key areas of focus; education, health, safety, and economic security all of which reflect essential human rights that support women's dignity, well-being, and full participation in society. The Commission upholds the right of women to engage in public life and policymaking, and connects them with resources that protect and empower, particularly survivors of domestic violence. With a diverse membership that reflects the wide range of women's experiences in the County, it ensures that programming addresses critical rights-based issues such as the health-wealth gap, childcare equity, and sexual assault. The Commission's [Resilience Scholarship Program](#) exemplifies its commitment to equal access to education and economic opportunity, having awarded scholarships to over 300 young women across the County, thereby advancing the human rights to education and financial independence.

The [Justice, Care and Opportunities Department](#) (JCOD) is a newly established agency that unifies Los Angeles County's efforts to support vulnerable and justice-impacted individuals and communities, with a strong emphasis on upholding fundamental economic, social and cultural rights. Through community-based responses and support programs, the department advances and promotes the rights to equality, education, work at a chosen profession, housing, adequate standard of living, and participation in cultural activities. [Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions \(D.O.O.R.S.\)](#) is an inclusive and innovative initiative that offers a wide range of resources for those impacted by the justice system, a space where individuals, their families, and the broader community can find healing, support, wellness, and hope. D.O.O.R.S. provides housing assistance, benefits enrollment, employment support and placement, educational

opportunities, mental wellness services, community events, and healing through the arts. The department also upholds the right to participate in public life through initiatives such as [LA Free the Vote](#), which helps justice-impacted residents reestablish their right to vote. Additionally, programs like [Providing Opportunities for Women in Reentry](#) promote gender equality by supporting women in achieving their economic rights and personal goals.

The [Los Angeles County Aging and Disabilities](#) Department plays a vital role in promoting and securing the rights to an adequate standard of living, access to social security benefits, and rest and leisure. It works to ensure that older adults, dependent adults, and individuals with disabilities can live with dignity, independence, equity, and inclusion. Its mission and services reflect core human rights principles, including the right to self-determination, the preservation of health and well-being, and the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be fully included in the community. The department delivers meals to homebound individuals and provides [programs](#) that support older and disabled residents to live safely at home. Its fourteen [Community and Senior Centers](#) offer essential health, educational, employment, social, and recreational services that promote personal and social development, safety, and well-being. By ensuring access to these critical resources, the department fosters environments where individuals are supported in maintaining their autonomy and quality of life, actively advancing the realization of human rights for some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) advances and supports the economic, cultural and social rights of veterans and their families by ensuring access to essential [services](#) such as employment, housing, education, and mental and physical healthcare. Through its efforts to connect individuals with federal, state, and county benefits, the department fulfills fundamental rights to health, well-being, and social support, while promoting dignity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all veterans, including those with physical or mental health conditions. These services reflect the County's commitment to protecting the rights of those who have served, ensuring they are not left behind and are fully supported in their reintegration into civilian life with the tools and resources necessary to thrive.

The [Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission](#) regulates labor relations to ensure fair treatment, equal opportunity, and protection from discrimination in the workplace. In alignment with international human rights standards, including those that uphold the right to work and eliminate racial

and other forms of discrimination, the Commission safeguards the rights of workers to form, join, and participate in trade unions. It emphasizes the right to desirable and dignified employment under just and favorable conditions, as well as the right to an adequate standard of living. By fostering equitable labor practices and supporting collective representation, the Commission plays a critical role in promoting economic justice, workplace fairness, and the overall dignity of workers throughout Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Health Services](#) (DHS) advances the rights to equitable healthcare and housing services to those facing systemic barriers. Through its broad mission of enriching lives through effective and caring service, DHS ensures access to public healthcare and upholds the right to equality, personal security, and dignity. Its [Housing for Health program](#) further protects economic human rights by reaching out to vulnerable and unhoused populations, supporting their right to stable and adequate housing. The program's use of Multi-Disciplinary Teams, including mental health and substance use specialists, demonstrates a commitment to addressing the specific needs of individuals with mental health conditions or substance use challenges, ensuring they receive appropriate care and support. By integrating health, housing, and social services, DHS plays a critical role in affirming the human rights of marginalized communities throughout Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health](#) advances and supports the rights to access essential mental health and housing [services](#) that are equitable for all residents, including unhoused and incarcerated individuals, children, families, and people with disabilities. By promoting the rights to health, freedom of expression, access to information, and freedom of thought, the department fulfills critical human rights obligations rooted in international and regional frameworks. Programs like the [Alternative Crisis Response](#) strengthen coordinated care, allowing individuals in crisis to receive timely, compassionate, and effective support. Specialized services for vulnerable populations, including children and women further affirm the rights to dignity, well-being, and equal access to care. Through its comprehensive approach, the Department of Mental Health ensures that mental health is treated not as a privilege but as a fundamental human right for every person in Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) (DPH) advances the rights to equitable access to healthcare, the right to work, full participation in

society, and respect for the dignity of all individuals, including those with disabilities. Grounded in international human rights principles, DPH ensures that all residents, regardless of gender, immigration status, income, race, or ability have access to essential health services that uphold their rights to health and well-being. The [Office of Women's Health](#) exemplifies this commitment by enabling women to fully participate in educational, economic, and civic life. DPH's public health clinics further this mandate by expanding access to life-saving vaccines, affordable care for refugees and immigrants, sexual and reproductive health services, and family planning resources, reflecting a comprehensive, rights-based approach to healthcare. The [Center for Health Equity](#) strengthens the public health workforce and addresses structural racism to promote racial and social justice. DPH also leads the implementation of the [Gender Impact Assessment \(GIA\)](#), a groundbreaking initiative to ensure gender equity across all County departments. The GIA addresses equity in employment, compensation and promotional opportunities. The GIA's institutionalization was solidified in 2021 when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors formally adopted the principles of the [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), despite the treaty's lack of ratification at the federal level. Additionally, the [Office of Violence Prevention](#) works to dismantle the root causes of violence, promote social rights, and affirm the right to live in safety and dignity. Through these integrated initiatives, DPH serves as a model for embedding human rights into public health policies and practices, reinforcing the County's obligation to protect the rights to health, equality, safety, and nondiscrimination for all residents.

The [Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts](#) (Districts) advance human rights by protecting health, ensuring access to clean water, and maintaining sanitary living conditions for over 5.5 million residents. Their work upholds the right to health and environmental wellbeing by transforming waste into valuable resources like recycled water and renewable energy, enabling communities to benefit from safe, clean, and sustainable environments. In 2023 alone, the Districts produced over [91,000 acre-feet of high-quality recycled water](#), much of it filtered through the soil to recharge groundwater, contributing to the preservation of public health and access to essential services. These efforts align with the obligation to provide children with the highest attainable standard of health and access to clean water, while promoting equitable access to safe sanitation and sustainable resource use for all. Through comprehensive waste management, water recycling, and environmental

stewardship, the Sanitation Districts affirm the fundamental human rights to health, safety, and a dignified standard of living.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Works](#) advances human rights through its commitment to safety, cultural awareness, transparency, and innovation. The department upholds the rights to an adequate standard of living, high standards of physical health, and participation in cultural life. It accomplishes this by designing, building, and maintaining essential infrastructure that supports safe, healthy, and inclusive communities. Its work in code enforcement, infrastructure inspection, and housing development directly enhances quality of life and supports access to safe, affordable housing across the County. Public Works also promotes environmental sustainability and community well-being through programs like [CleanLA](#) and the [Safe Clean Water Program](#), which provides education, resources, and funding to improve water quality, waste management, and public spaces. These efforts contribute to long-term community resiliency and environmental justice, ensuring that all residents, regardless of background can enjoy clean, safe, and accessible living environments. By integrating human rights principles into every aspect of its work, Public Works helps build a more equitable and sustainable Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Office of Education](#) (LACOE) advances human rights by promoting inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education for all students, regardless of background or ability. Through its commitment to service, leadership, and advocacy, LACOE upholds the right to education as recognized in international human rights frameworks and ensures that all students have opportunities to achieve a better quality of life and contribute meaningfully to society. Its [Special Education and Inclusion program](#) supports staff with technical assistance and professional development to foster accessible learning environments, affirming the rights of students with disabilities to participate fully in education. LACOE also works collaboratively with school districts to design curricula and instructional strategies that reflect principles of racial equity, social justice, and equal opportunity, aligning with the right to non-discrimination and the best interests of the child. In doing so, LACOE protects children's rights to safety, well-being, and protection from harm, while supporting global goals for gender equality, inclusive education, and the recognition of diverse talents and skills. Through these efforts, LACOE ensures that all learners are supported in reaching their full potential in an environment rooted in dignity, respect, and human rights.

The [Los Angeles County Public Library](#) advances and supports rights to education and access to information by providing free, open, and equitable access to books, information, ideas, and technology. The library also ensures that every individual can seek, obtain, and apply knowledge, that will assist them in pursuing economic opportunities, enjoy social programming and appreciate different cultures. By creating inclusive, informed spaces for discussion, study, and discovery, the library strengthens democratic participation, supports human dignity, and fulfills the right of every person to access information that enables them to understand and advocate for their rights.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture](#) advances and supports equitable access to cultural resources and economic opportunities of underrepresented artists and fostering inclusion across the County's diverse communities. Through initiatives such as the [Cultural Equity & Inclusion Initiative](#), which outlines 13 recommendations to eliminate barriers to participation, the department ensures that every resident has the opportunity to engage with and benefit from the arts. Programs like [Public Artists in Development \(PAiD\)](#) further upholds rights to economic empowerment, freedom of expression, and cultural participation by providing training, mentorship, and project opportunities for emerging artists. These efforts align with international human rights standards that call for the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of equal access to education, cultural life, and creative expression. By integrating cultural equity into its programs and policies, the Department affirms the right of all individuals to enjoy and contribute to the arts, enhancing quality of life and reinforcing the dignity and diversity of Los Angeles County's communities.

The [Los Angeles County Museum of Art \(LACMA\)](#) advances the rights to participate in cultural life, education, expression of ideas, and enjoy artistic heritage across diverse communities. Through the collection, conservation, and exhibition of art from a wide range of cultures and historical periods, LACMA transforms its holdings into educational, intellectual, and cultural experiences that are accessible to all. This work affirms the rights to cultural development, the preservation of cultural institutions, the enjoyment of art, and the beneficial use of leisure time, as recognized in international human rights frameworks. By championing the freedom of expression for artists, curators, educators, and visitors alike, LACMA serves as a vital space for inclusive dialogue, cultural exchange, and creative exploration, ensuring that

all individuals, regardless of background, can engage with and contribute to the cultural life of Los Angeles County.

The [Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History](#) (NHMLAC) advances and protects the rights to access scientific knowledge, cultural understanding, and lifelong learning for all. Through the integration of a vast collection of artifacts and global research with dynamic, educational experiences, the museum upholds the rights to information, cultural and social participation, and the enjoyment of the arts. Comprising three distinct institutions, NHMLAC offers diverse perspectives on natural, historical, and cultural heritage, fostering inclusive learning and cultural enrichment. These efforts reflect the rights to access information and education, aligning with global goals for sustainability, equity, and cultural diversity. By making scientific discovery and cultural heritage accessible to all, NHMLAC empowers individuals and communities to explore, learn, and engage with the world around them in meaningful, rights-affirming ways.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors](#) advances and promotes the rights to equitable access to public spaces, cultural participation, and recreational opportunities for all residents. Upholding the rights to freely access and enjoy public services and natural resources, the department manages 18 public beaches visited by over 70 million people annually, promoting inclusion, environmental stewardship, and well-being. Through initiatives like the [Russell Walker WATER Youth Program](#), the department fosters community engagement and empowers youth from under-resourced communities to explore the coast, enjoy nature safely, and discover new career pathways. These efforts reinforce rights to health, leisure, and association, while promoting equal participation in public and cultural life. By prioritizing sustainability through efforts such as the [Coastal Resilience Study](#), the department also contributes to environmental justice and the long-term protection of coastal resources, ensuring that all communities, regardless of background can fully enjoy and benefit from Los Angeles County's public spaces.

The [Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation](#) advances and promotes equitable access to public services and fostering inclusive community development. By ensuring all residents especially children, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals can safely enjoy parks and recreational programs, the department upholds the rights to life, health, education, peaceful assembly, and participation in cultural and public life. Programs such

as the [“I Matter – Girls Empowerment Conference”](#) and [“Pride at the Park”](#) affirm commitments to equality, non-discrimination, and child protection, ensuring that underserved and marginalized groups have equal access to outdoor spaces, leadership opportunities, and community support. The department also promotes environmental health and sustainability through policies on operating hours, fees, and land preservation, aligning with global goals for sustainable cities, inclusive communities, and life on land. Through its inclusive and environmentally conscious approach, the Parks Department fulfills critical human rights obligations and helps build healthier, more just, and resilient communities throughout Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County also safeguards fundamental human rights in Law Enforcement through a coordinated framework of transparency, [accountability](#), and community engagement within its law enforcement systems. The [Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department](#) (LASD) plays a key role in advancing rights to liberty, humane treatment during detention, and equality before the law. Informed by recommendations from the [Civilian Oversight Commission](#) (COC), LASD has adopted reforms such as a zero-tolerance policy on deputy gangs to prevent abuse and promote equitable, community-centered policing.

To strengthen its efforts to eliminate deputy gangs and address other threats to human rights, LASD established the [Office of Constitutional Policing](#). This office is dedicated to upholding fair, accountable, and humane treatment of all residents, in alignment with international human rights standards. The [Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations](#) (LACCHR) strengthens the social and cultural rights of residents by fostering inclusive civic participation and improving police-community relations through public dialogues and reports such as [Redefining Policing with Our Community](#). Both the COC and the [Office of the Inspector General](#) (OIG) help safeguard rights to information, protection from racial discrimination, and fair treatment within the justice system. Their oversight efforts ensure accountability and reinforce the County's commitment to upholding international human rights standards, including the ICESCR. Together, these bodies operationalize the County's human rights obligations by embedding dignity, participation, and equality into public safety practices.

Los Angeles County departments exemplify localized implementation of the economic, social, and cultural rights established in the ICESCR. Through community engagement, inclusive governance, and rights-based

programming, the County affirms its commitment to human dignity, equity, and well-being for all residents.

**2. Please describe to what extent your local or regional government has integrated international human rights norms and principles, including labour standards, into public procurement processes. Please provide examples of capacity building initiatives in this regard.**

Los Angeles County has integrated international human rights norms and principles, including labor standards into its public procurement processes through a robust set of contractual requirements, oversight mechanisms, and policy frameworks. These standards apply to all contractors and vendors who do business with the County, reflecting its commitment to fair labor practices, non-discrimination, human dignity, and workplace safety.

**Integration of International Norms and Labor Standards in Procurement:**

All County contracts incorporate provisions that align with international human rights and labor standards. Contractors are required to:

- Comply with the [Federal Fair Labor Standards Act](#), ensuring fair wages, working hours, and labor conditions.
- [Adhere to nondiscrimination mandates](#) in all phases of employment, irrespective of race, gender, age, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. Contractors must have written anti-discrimination policies, conduct workforce analyses, and implement corrective actions when disparities are identified.
- Observe civil rights protections consistent with the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) and related federal and state regulations.
- Comply with the [County's Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking](#), which mandates immediate removal of any contractor or staff convicted of a trafficking offense.
- Follow [California Division of Occupational Safety and Health](#) (Cal/OSHA) standards, enforced locally by the Department of Public Health's Office of Worker Health and Safety. This office advances safe and healthy workplaces through co-enforcement strategies, education, and research.

**Living Wage Ordinance and Enforcement:**

The County's [Living Wage Program](#) mandates that contractors with agreements exceeding \$25,000 pay workers a minimum of \$15 per hour, significantly above the federal minimum. To ensure compliance:

- Contractors must complete living wage forms and submit payroll records.
- They must have formal complaint procedures for employees.
- Dedicated contract analysts review payroll records to verify compliance.
- Violations may result in debarment, suspension, or termination of contracts.

### **Capacity-Building Initiatives:**

The County supports capacity building by requiring:

- Contractors to maintain transparent employment practices through documented policies and periodic self-assessments.
- Outreach and training activities led by the [Office of Worker Health and Safety](#) to promote workplace safety standards.
- Ongoing compliance monitoring and technical assistance from County contract analysts to help contractors meet labor and human rights requirements.

Through these measures, Los Angeles County ensures that its procurement processes are aligned with internationally recognized human rights standards and labor protections, advancing ethical governance and safeguarding the rights of workers across the region.

### **a. What has been done by your local or regional government to incorporate international human rights norms and principles, including labour standards and the principles of equality and non-discrimination into the selection and award criteria for public procurement?**

While California law prohibits the use of race or gender-based preferences in public contracting due to the passage of [Proposition 209](#) in 1996, Los Angeles County has taken significant steps to integrate the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and inclusive economic opportunity into its procurement selection and award processes through innovative, race- and gender-neutral strategies.

In alignment with international human rights norms and labor standards, the County developed the [Equity in County Contracting \(ECC\)](#) initiative to address systemic disparities and enhance access for small, local, and diverse

businesses. The ECC platform (<https://doingbusiness.lacounty.gov/ecc/>) supports equitable participation without violating state constitutional constraints by embedding transparency, access, and capacity-building into the contracting process.

Key ECC strategies include:

- Standardized solicitation practices and clear requirements to reduce barriers and ensure a fair and predictable bidding environment.
- Training sessions and technical assistance to equip diverse vendors with the tools necessary to submit competitive proposals.
- Collaboration with community-based organizations to expand outreach and improve access for diverse business owners.
- Contract restructuring, such as breaking large contracts into smaller ones or creating tiered contracting opportunities, allowing small and emerging vendors to compete more effectively.
- Efforts to increase participation of small, local, and diverse businesses in both solicitation and award phases by removing procedural and informational barriers.

Through these mechanisms, Los Angeles County integrates the principles of equality and non-discrimination into its procurement practices while remaining in compliance with Proposition 209. These efforts reinforce the County's broader commitment to human rights, inclusive economic development, and fair labor practices in public contracting.

**Are there practices in place that provide preferential contracting to groups that face discrimination or that are in situations of vulnerability?**

While California state law, specifically Proposition 209 prohibits the use of race and gender-based preferences in public contracting, Los Angeles County has implemented programs that support equitable access to contracting opportunities for groups that may face structural disadvantages.

The [Equity in County Contracting \(ECC\)](#) initiative (see previous response) is designed to assist diverse and small businesses by providing training, technical assistance, and tools to better compete for County contracts. Although ECC does not confer preferential treatment, it helps level to improve diversity and equity in procurement.

Additionally, Los Angeles County has established preferential categories for certain business types that reflect vulnerability or promote social equity:

- **Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBES):** The County grants preference to businesses certified by the State of California as DVBES or verified as service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **Social Enterprises:** These are businesses that have been operating for at least one year and provide transitional or permanent employment to individuals from a Transitional Workforce (e.g., formerly incarcerated individuals, foster youth, or persons experiencing homelessness), or that offer services advancing social, environmental, or human justice. Social Enterprises receive bid preferences in County procurement.
- **Local Small Business Enterprises (LSBES):** Certified by the County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, LSBES receive bid price preferences and are eligible for set-aside contracting opportunities. To qualify, businesses must meet federal small business size standards and be registered on the federal database.

Through these targeted programs, Los Angeles County promotes inclusive economic participation and addresses structural barriers faced by vulnerable and marginalized groups, while remaining in compliance with applicable state laws.

**b. In what ways are human rights considerations, including labour standards and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, integrated in contract performance clauses for public procurement in your local or regional government?**

Los Angeles County incorporates human rights considerations, including labor standards and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, into the performance clauses of all public procurement contracts. These provisions are not only embedded in the contract language but are actively monitored and enforced throughout the life of the contract.

Each County contract includes explicit clauses requiring adherence to principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment in all phases of employment and service delivery. These include prohibitions against discrimination based on race, gender, age, national origin, disability, religion, marital status, political affiliation, or other protected characteristics.

To ensure accountability, the County requires that all contractors comply with a [Quality Assurance Plan](#), which outlines performance expectations and establishes methods of oversight. Contract Monitors are assigned to oversee implementation, and contractor performance is formally reviewed at least annually. This review assesses whether the contractor is meeting all contract terms and conditions, including compliance with human rights, labor, and anti-discrimination standards.

Through this structured and ongoing monitoring process, Los Angeles County ensures that contractors uphold the County's commitment to human rights and labor protections, not only at the point of selection but throughout the execution of services.

**Are there mechanisms that allow for contracts to be amended or annulled when adverse human rights impacts are identified?**

Yes, Los Angeles County has established mechanisms that allow contracts to be amended or annulled in cases where adverse human rights impacts are identified, particularly those involving violations of labor standards, discrimination, or other breaches of internationally recognized human rights principles.

Under the [Quality Assurance Plan](#), contractor deficiencies, such as wage violations, discriminatory practices, or failure to comply with labor protections are formally documented and reviewed. If such deficiencies are determined to be significant or recurring, and if they jeopardize contract performance, the issue is escalated. A report is submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the contractor is listed in the appropriate performance database.

This report includes any corrective or improvement measures undertaken by both the County and the contractor. If the contractor fails to demonstrate improvement in accordance with the agreed upon corrective action plan, the County reserves the right to terminate the contract or impose other penalties as specified in the contract terms. Through this process, Los Angeles County ensures accountability and maintains its commitment to upholding human rights throughout the duration of contractual relationships.

**Does your local or regional government apply performance indicators explicitly linked to the realization of human rights to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of public procurement?**

To ensure accountability, the County requires that all contractors comply with a [Quality Assurance Plan](#), which outlines performance expectations and establishes methods of oversight. Contract Monitors are assigned to oversee implementation, and contractor performance is formally reviewed at least annually. This review assesses whether the contractor is meeting all contract terms and conditions, including compliance with human rights, labor, and anti-discrimination standards.

Through this structured and ongoing monitoring process, Los Angeles County ensures that contractors uphold the County's commitment to human rights and labor protections, not only at the point of selection but throughout the execution of services.

**c. Is there a complaint mechanism to address human rights grievances at any stage of the procurement process to ensure accountability and access to remedy?**

Yes, the County of Los Angeles has multiple mechanisms in place to address grievances and complaints related to equity, discrimination, and labor rights. The County Policy of Equity (CPOE) establishes a standard for workplace conduct that promotes dignity, respect, and professionalism, while protecting the rights of all members of the County workforce to be free from discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), retaliation, and other inappropriate conduct based on protected characteristics. This policy applies not only to County employees but also to contractors, unpaid volunteers, interns, and others providing services under a County contract. In appropriate circumstances, complaints from members of the public may also be investigated under the CPOE.

Individuals can file complaints through the [Elevate – LAC Equity Policy](#) platform, which provides a dedicated channel for reporting violations of the CPOE. Additionally, the [Department of Consumer and Business Affairs](#) (DCBA) operates a complaint process specifically for workers who have labor rights concerns, through its [Office of Labor Equity](#).

For procurement related grievances, the [Services Contract Solicitation Protest Policy](#) allows any individual or entity to request a Solicitation Requirements Review if they believe the solicitation process for a County service contract is unfair or lacks clarity. This review mechanism ensures that County procurement processes uphold transparency, fairness, and equity.

**3. Please describe the existing practices of your local or regional government to engage in the work of the UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, either directly or through the national mechanism for implementation reporting and follow-up on human rights (NMIRF).**

**a. How is your local or regional government involved in the review processes conducted under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UN Treaty Bodies and the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including their country visits and annual thematic reports?**

On behalf of LA County government, our agency, the LA County Commission on Human Relations is positioned to take on this function. As mentioned earlier, in 2009, LACCHR hosted and consulted with the Independent Expert on Minority Issues for the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. In 2010, LACCHR was included as an advisory member of the U.S. Delegation to the Universal Periodic Review session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2012, LACCHR participated in the proceedings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the UN offices in Geneva.

In the absence of a national mechanism in the US for implementation reporting and follow-up on human rights, the LACCHR worked with the US Human Rights Network previously to help fill the void. The Network is no longer active.

However, through its membership and leadership in IAOHRA (on the board of directors since 2007), the U.S. network of governmental human rights agencies, has led IAOHRA in focusing its member agencies on providing information to the UN human rights council and the UPR in different ways. It has collaborated with the Human Rights Institute of Columbia Law School (previously led by Risa Kaufman and Joann Kamuf Ward), to participate in the UPR and UN treaty body proceedings, including the submission of shadow reports.

LACCHR is currently working closely with Northeastern University School of Law Professor Martha Davis, who leads the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network; and with Prof. David Kaye of University of California at Irvine Law School's International Justice Clinic, on engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

**b. How does your local or regional government ensure that the recommendations made by the UN human rights mechanisms are implemented at the local or regional level?**

Though there is no UN human rights mechanism in the U.S., our agency (LACCHR) monitors and advocates for recognition and implementation of human rights in LA County.

Previously LACCHR led a collaborative effort to approve and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by our elected executive/legislative body, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We are currently reviewing other international human rights instruments not ratified by the U.S. for the possibility of approval and implementation in LA County.

**c. Is your local or regional government a member of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up on human rights (NMIRF), or does the NMIRF consult with local or regional governments? If yes, please provide concrete examples.**

There is no NMIRF in the U.S. for us to be a member of or to consult with.

**d. How could the engagement of local and regional governments in the work on the UN human rights mechanisms be strengthened?**

Currently, we are collaborating with The Carter Center in Atlanta and the UN Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights to support establishment of human rights culture in local jurisdictions in the U.S.

In addition, we are collaborating with local municipalities and agencies to craft the Human Rights Action Plan for FIFA World Cup 2026 events in the Los Angeles area. If there were UN support to protect and advance human rights through international and domestic sporting events, given the attention and resources expended on such events, there would be an opportunity to strengthen and promote the use of UN human rights mechanisms and international human rights awareness and integration into major urban centers. (See responses to questions 4 and 5 below for additional ideas.)

**4. What are the existing practices to ensure coordination and cooperation between and among national, regional and local governments to implement human rights at all levels of government?**

Existing practices are as follows:

- 4.1. Currently, our agency (LACCHR) regularly works with the national/international association of governmental human rights agencies ([www.IAOHRA.org](http://www.IAOHRA.org)) to educate and discuss why and how human rights can be implemented at all levels of government, which for the U.S. is federal, state, county and city governments. One example is that annually since 2008, our LACCHR Executive Director (LACCHR ED) has led education and application of international human rights to our IAOHRA member state/county/city government human rights agencies by ensuring plenary and/or breakout/workshop panels on international human rights at the yearly IAOHRA national/international training conferences, which promotes coordination and cooperation among human rights/civil rights/human relations agencies based in local and regional government.
- 4.2. Another practice is that at these annual IAOHRA conferences, the LACCHR ED has also regularly invited human rights officials and leaders from all levels of government, to promote increased understanding and connections among the different levels of government, and between local and regional leaders from other nations. Over the years, there have been representatives from the UN OHCHR, the US State Department, the US Department of Justice, Special Rapporteurs on human rights issues, Mexico City's Human Rights Commission President, the human rights officer of the Canadian province of British Columbia, the City of Los Angeles, etc. to educate about their human rights role, challenges and achievements.
- 4.3. LACCHR also regularly engages in collaboration with human rights centers at law schools to promote implementation of human rights at the state and local level (such as Columbia University School of Law Human Rights Institute which for years helped IAOHRA collect examples of human rights implementation in state and local governments to include in shadow reports to UN and other international human rights bodies; and University of California at Irvine Law School International Justice Clinic which has helped us develop a report that shows how everyday county government operations are fulfilling human rights; and Northeastern University School of Law).
- 4.4. Through IAOHRA, we participate in annual educational visits with US congressional lawmakers and national NGOs (e.g., NAACP, Leadership

Conference on Civil and Human Rights, etc.) in Washington DC to discuss a range of human rights issues in the US, the purpose of which is to ensure shared understanding and alignment on human and civil rights priorities between national human rights NGOs (including IAOHRA) and the regional and local government human rights agencies. The human rights issues and topics become part of the resolutions discussed and passed at IAOHRA's business meetings that occur at each annual conference.

- 4.5. An additional example is that the LACCHR ED also worked regularly with the US Human Rights Network when it was a leading force in linking US domestic human rights NGOs with the international and UN human rights bodies and mechanisms, promoting cooperation between NGOs and national/regional/local government officials.

**5. Please provide examples, good practices, challenges, and recommendations with regard to the above-mentioned issues.**

- 5.1. To overcome the lack of coordination and cooperation among different levels of government to implement human rights, an example of a recommended approach is for the UN OHCHR with partner philanthropic organizations to facilitate periodic gatherings with national/regional/local governmental and NGO human rights agencies, for the purpose of sharing information and developing potential programs or projects to advance the integration of human rights in the U.S. An example is that our agency LACCHR was one of 3 governmental agencies (City of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) HRC, Los Angeles County (California) HRC, and the State of Missouri's HRC) invited to meet with the UN OHCHR and The Carter Center (former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's nonprofit foundation) in discussing strategies to build a human rights culture in the U.S.
- 5.2. Another recommendation is for the UN OHCHR to support local/regional/national governments in the development and implementation of human rights action plans for major international entertainment and sports events which require human rights action plans, such as FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 and the Summer Olympics 2028. Both are taking place in Los Angeles County, and our agency LACCHR is the lead agency developing the human rights action plan for the local LA host organization to submit to FIFA.

- 5.3. In addition to the examples already provided in the response to the previous question, above, a good practice that was developed to meet the challenge of the U.S. not having a U.S. Human Rights Commission (NHRI based on Paris Principles), is for the national nonprofit network of governmental human rights agencies, IAOHRA, to work to fill that gap through its annual conferences and webinars, and annual visits to engage with federal executive officials (US EEOC, HUD Fair Housing, DOJ Civil Rights, etc.) and members of Congress.
- 5.4. As for recommendations, one would be that until the US government establishes a Paris-Principles compliant NHRI, the UN OHCHR can work with IAOHRA and other national NGOs in the field of human rights to develop practices, provide resources and tools, to build a human rights culture and practices at the state and local level, working with the natural partners of state and local governmental human rights agencies.
- 5.5. Another recommendation is that there be a quarterly meeting between the OHCHR, and LACCHR and IAOHRA, to discuss what the challenges are for state and local governments, and what has been learned by the OHCHR from other subnational governments that are effectively implementing human rights at all levels.
- 5.6. Also recommended is for the OHCHR to facilitate/support placement of staff from human rights agencies of different government levels and nations into others as special interns or cooperating volunteers. An example of this is that the LACCHR arranged for an education unit staff member of the National Human Rights Commission of South Korea to intern with our agency for over a year, enabling learning and sharing of distinct approaches, practices and programs of human rights education and operations.
- 5.7. Given the lack of a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in the U.S., a recommendation for the OHCHR is to support efforts to create one or a similarly functioning body. For example, the LACCHR ED worked on a national task force that included White House officials, US Senate leadership, and Human Rights NGO leaders on developing a federal bill to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) during the first two years of the Obama administration. Another recommended approach is to connect different key governmental and NGO leaders about different NHRI models, to learn distinct models of NHRI and subnational roles in human

rights mechanisms. The LACCHR ED participated in an international conference in Bellagio, Italy, led by Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Funded by philanthropic organizations, the conference featured both US, British, Indian and Australian governmental human rights officials, to inform leaders in the US on developing its own NHRI.