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Helen L. Chin
President

Lisa Michelle Dabbs
Jeanette Ellis Royston
Isabelle Gunning, Esq.
Derric J. Johnson
Jason Moss

Staff Members

Robin S. Toma, Esq.
Executive Director

Robert Sowell
**Assistant Executive
Director**

Commission's Policy and Advocacy Committee Meeting

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

August 18, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Isabelle Gunning, Chair

SUBJECT: Committee Meeting on August 18, 2025

Board of Supervisors

Kathryn Barger, Chair
Fifth District

Hilda L. Solis, Chair Pro Tem

Holly J. Mitchell
First District

Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Fesia Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

Edward Yen
Board Executive Officer

Our Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting will meet on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. The agenda is attached.

You may join meeting **Via Teams Calendar Invitation** [Click here to join the meeting](#). If you are unable to do so, you may Dial: [+1 213-204-2512,,625508884#](#) Please post the agenda visibly outside your location.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Brittany Martinez
L.A. County Commission on Human Relations

Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
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Los Angeles, CA 90020
(323) 719-9187



POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission

August 18, 2025 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Committee Members

Isabelle Gunning Esq
Helen Chin (ex officio)
Lisa Dabbs
Jeannette Ellis Royston
Derric Johnson
Jason Moss

Staff Members

Robin Toma
Robert Sowell

Agenda

- I. Call to Order – Commissioner Isabell Gunning,
Chair
- II. Definition of Antisemitism
- III. AB 715
- IV. Public Comments
- V. Adjournment

For translation to other languages o para más información, 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 meeting of the Policy and Advocacy committee of the Los Angeles County Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference
communication from the following corresponding locations: Helen Chin, 5844 Bowcroft St,
Los Angeles, CA, 90016, Jeanette Ellis Royston 1460 East Hold Ave Bldg 2, Rm 6,
Pomona CA, 91767, Jason Moss, 8716 Arcadia Avenue, San Gabriel, CA 91775, Isabelle
Gunning 3050 Wilshire Boulevard 90001

Proposal for LA County Commission on Human Relations to issue and send a letter of support for AB 715 (Educational equity: discrimination: antisemitism prevention)

Background

Since 1979, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has done an annual audit of antisemitic incidents. In 2024, ADL tabulated 9,354 antisemitic incidents across the United States. This represents a 5% increase from the 8,873 incidents [recorded in 2023](#), a 344% increase over the past five years, and a 893% increase over the past 10 years. It is the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents 46 years ago. In Southern California alone, the ADL recorded a total of 865 incidents... a 146% increase compared to 2022.

In our [2023 Annual LA County Hate Crimes Report](#), the data presented found that anti-Jewish hate incidents surged by 153% to the largest number of anti-Jewish crimes ever recorded in the history of this report. These incidents accounted for 90% of all religiously motivated hate incidents. And hate crimes taking place at schools grew 46% and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes.

It is important to note that incidents of antisemitism/anti-Jewish hate had been on the rise even before Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel. But since that time, the instances of anti-Jewish hate and sentiment have grown exponentially.

Sadly, the instances of anti-Jewish hate have grown and found their way into elementary, middle, and high schools over the last several years, Jewish students are increasingly experiencing bias-based incidents that disrupt their sense of belonging and ability to focus on learning. Schools must address these issues with care, transparency, and accountability to address the growing sense of intimidation and a lack of protection. In January 2024, the DOJ released a first-of-its-kind report stating that hate crimes had steadily increased since 2020. And the report also indicated that schools were now the third most common location for reported hate crimes in the US. And instances of anti-Jewish offenses were second to anti-Black or African-American offenses. According to the report, the most frequently reported offenses at schools were "Intimidation, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism, and Simple Assault."

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/29/us/schools-hate-crimes-doj-fbi-report>

And even with this report, we know that a significant majority of hate incidents, including anti-Jewish hate incidents, go unreported in schools as well as in society. When hate incidents occur at schools, most often school administrators attempt to handle them internally and rarely report them, despite a concerted effort by agencies like the LA County Commission on Human Relations to work with local school districts to encourage them to utilize outside resources.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of sufficient clarity and guidance, school administrators are ill-equipped to address antisemitic incidents, leaving students to feel unsupported.

AB 715 can help bridge this gap by ensuring schools are better equipped to respond appropriately and equitably.

When students do not feel safe in their learning environment, it is the responsibility of the schools to improve the situation. There is an urgent need and opportunity for California's schools to strengthen protections and cultivate a climate of inclusion for Jewish students, in alignment with how they already support other vulnerable groups. AB 715 offers a much-needed civil rights response to the rise in antisemitic incidents in K-12 settings. It brings parity to how antisemitism is addressed within existing anti-discrimination frameworks and offers a systematic and long-overdue response to the alarming rise in antisemitism across California's K-12 schools.

What does AB 715 do?

This bill strengthens protections against antisemitic learning environments in K-12 education by:

- Increasing accountability for local educational agencies
- Creating a state-level Antisemitism Coordinator
- Improving K-12 compliance with laws preventing discrimination
- Ensuring teacher trainings around antisemitism and uplifting prevention and education, as well as restorative practices
- Establishing guidelines for discussing controversial subjects
- Requiring districts that engage in discrimination to comply with corrective action plans
- Increasing compliance requirements for 3rd party contractors

AB 715 was developed with the support of four of California's Legislative diversity caucuses, including the Black Caucus, the Latino Caucus, and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus. In May, the State Assembly voted unanimously to approve the bill.

Proposal

AB 715 is consistent with the Commission's work to reduce bias and promote equity across all communities in LA County — including Jewish students, who are increasingly targeted in educational settings. I have checked and this bill aligns with the County Board of Supervisors' established legislative priorities, one of which is Equity that explicitly includes the declaration that "The County will support proposals that...Address and combat discrimination based on age, disability, disease status, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics."

With this in mind, I am formally asking that the LA County Commission on Human Relations issue a letter in support of AB 715, articulating how this bill supports the commissions ongoing work to combat and respond to hate and that this letter be sent to the State Senate Education and Judiciary Committee members, as well as the State Senators whose districts are within LA County's geographic boundaries.