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

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Kathryn Barger, Chair Fifth District

> Hilda L. Solis First District

Holly J. Mitchell Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath Third District

> Janice Hahn Fourth District

## COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

#### Commissioners

Helen Chin

#### President

Ilan Davidson Vice President/Secretary

Preeti P. Kulkarni Fredrick Sykes Kevork Keushkerian Vice Presidents

Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Lisa Michelle Dabbs
Dandy De Paula
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Azusena Favela
Is a belle Gunning,
Esq.
Derric J. Johnson
Guadalupe Montaño, Ed.
Jason Moss
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

### Philip R. Valera Honorary Member

Staff Sharon Williams Siranush Vardanyan Administrative Support

Sal Avila
Valentina D'Alessandro
Oscar Hernandez
Josh Parr
Gustavo Partida
Yadira Pineda-Siordia
Fidel Rodriguez
Intergroup Relations Specialists

# Tony Cowser Public Information Associate

Pierre Arreola April Johnson Monica Lomelí, Ph.D. Managers

Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

Robin S. Toma, Esq. Executive Director June 11, 2025

Statement to Urge Respect for Basic Human Rights for Angelenos

The Commission on Human Relations joins with the Board of Supervisors and the many other community voices calling on federal government officials and agents to respect and protect <a href="https://www.human.nights">human rights</a> and civil rights in Los Angeles County. Recent federal immigration enforcement activity appears to disregard well-established human and civil rights, including indiscriminate targeting of members of Latino communities and interference with the freedoms of speech and assembly. The Supervisors' special <a href="Priorities">Priorities</a> include Immigration and Anti-Racism, with commitments <a href="to advance the well-being of immigrants">to advance the well-being of immigrants</a> and <a href="to combat identity-based hate">to combat identity-based hate</a>. The Commission works every day bringing people together in support of those targeted by discrimination and hate in LA County.

The U.S. Constitution's 4th Amendment guarantees the security of all persons by requiring arrest and search warrants based on probable cause and including specific descriptions of the persons and property to be seized. The 5th Amendment requires that no person be arrested without procedural due process, including the opportunity to a hearing before a neutral decisionmaker. The right to due process is reinforced in the 14th Amendment and includes the requirement of equal protection under the law. The 1st Amendment guarantees that the government shall not prohibit or abridge free speech or the rights to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

In addition, the U.S. Constitution stipulates that all treaties are included in the supreme law of the land. Among treaties the federal government has ratified are some agreements recognizing basic human rights. Two of those are the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These agreements cite the inherent dignity of all human beings as a recognized basis of fundamental rights. With ratification of these documents, our government has committed to being accountable for protecting the rights of all persons to security of person; equality before the law; protection from advocacy of hatred to incite discrimination, hostility, or violence; protection from unlawful or arbitrary arrest or detention, including arrest for civil matters; impartial and public hearing when accused; access to courts to ensure legal rights and remedy for violation of civil rights; the right to peaceful assembly; and protection for non-citizens from being expelled without legal process.

We are committed as a County, state, and nation that the manner in which we conduct official actions will not deny human dignity or violate human rights. Even legitimate ends do not justify unjust means. The fullest possible expression and experience of human rights for every person and all peoples is the minimum required to affirm the intrinsic worth and dignity of all. Anything less denies our common humanity.

Statement to Urge Respect for Basic Human Rights for Angelenos Page 2 of 2 June 11, 2025

To express solidarity with this statement, please use <u>info@hrc.lacounty.gov</u> to send us your name and any relevant organizational affiliation.