

A Human Rights Lens on LA County Government

An Overview of How Los Angeles County Government
Priorities and Operations Reflect and Implement
Internationally Recognized Human Rights



County of Los Angeles
Commission on Human Relations
HUMAN RIGHTS
MONITORING AND ADVOCACY TEAM

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INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

This report is the result of collaboration between the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR), the International Justice Clinic at UC Irvine School of Law, and Northeastern University School of Law Center for Global Law and Justice. The aim is to raise awareness of often-unrecognized ways the daily work of LA County agencies reflects, realizes, and reinforces fundamental human rights principles. This is part of an ongoing process that enables diverse stakeholders across the County to understand, contribute to, and participate in the localization of global human rights norms.

LA County departments and agencies share a core mission: to measurably improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Los Angeles County with integrity, inclusivity, compassion, customer orientation, and equity. This report seeks to make explicit how this shared purpose aligns with globally recognized human rights standards, offering a framework through which local work can be linked to broader international commitments.

The report is not a comprehensive description of all the County does. It is a compilation of some examples to represent the vast array of County services. A list of County agencies referenced in this report is on page 42. The example agencies are listed alphabetically in five categories: Public and Community Safety, Social Services and Support, Health, Community Services and Civic Engagement, and Operational Support. By presenting the work of the County in the human rights framework, we aim to foster greater collaboration, accountability, and mutual learning between local agencies and human rights bodies at the local, state, national, and international levels.

We recognize that many government functions, ranging from the provision of healthcare and education to the maintenance of public infrastructure and dissemination of information may seem routine or bureaucratic. Yet our research reveals that nearly every responsibility undertaken by LA County relates to one or more human rights, such as the right to health services, to education, to civic participation, and to an adequate standard of living. This report is not the result of an assessment, nor offered as a statement, of the effectiveness of County agencies in implementing human rights. It describes how the functions assigned to the various agencies connect to human rights. The result is evidence that underscores ways LA County is already doing the work of human rights. LACCHR works to support, amplify, and expand these efforts.

To indicate alignment of the County's work with human rights, we reference twelve key international documents, known as "instruments". The description of each County agency's work ends with a list of abbreviations in parentheses that identify particular instruments relevant to that unit's functions and services. At the bottom of each page is a list that identifies the referenced instruments. Each instrument promotes specific rights and freedoms. All the instruments share a common commitment: that governments respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of all people within their jurisdiction, without discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability, or other status. A complete list of the referenced international instruments begins on page 33.

This report can serve as a resource for public officials, advocates, and community members to help them recognize that advancing human rights is not an abstract or distant goal, but a lived, daily responsibility already being carried out across Los Angeles County.



ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

The [Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations](#) (LACCHR), part of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, has a unique and essential role as a champion of human rights across the County. Human rights are foundational, inalienable, indivisible freedoms, protections, and benefits to which all individuals and groups are entitled as human beings. They are based on the equal, intrinsic dignity and value of every person. LACCHR's crucial work is rooted in foundational human rights principles. And it operates as a key communications link with local, state, national, and international groups and agencies that monitor and advance these rights.



THE EARLY YEARS

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”.¹ 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 by silently 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.²

State and County government leaders were far less biased in their analysis and response.³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵

LEGAL MANDATE

The establishing ordinance for the Commission identifies “injustices... resulting from prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination” as the impetus for creating LACCHR and tasked it with the responsibility to “eliminate such prejudice and...thereby promote public health, welfare, and security” by providing “practices to achieve better human relations” and assisting “persons and

¹ *A 25 Year History: a time for thought...a time for action*. Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, 1969.

² History.com Editors. “Zoot Suit Riots.” September 27, 2017. <https://www.history.com/articles/zoot-suit-riots>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, 1969.

⁵ Ibid.



groups...in promoting good will and better relations among all people.”⁶ These aims are supported by California state law which mandates that when local jurisdictions establish Human Relations Commissions they must “foster mutual respect and understanding among all people...make...studies in...any field of human relationship in the community...inquire into incidents of tension and conflict...[and] conduct and recommend...educational programs.”⁷ Eliminating injustice and prejudice, and promoting public security, good will, and better relations among all people, are the very same objectives of internationally recognized human rights. These outcomes are rooted in mutual respect, universal dignity, and nondiscrimination.

HUMAN RIGHTS ALIGNMENT

Four years after the Committee was formed, international bodies began to formally recognize the reality that enabling healthy relations requires ensuring human rights. In May 1948 the Ninth International Conference of American States approved the foundational “American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man”.⁸ The Preamble of this declaration affirms that mutually beneficial relationships are reasonable to expect when we acknowledge that all people are “equal, in dignity and in rights”.⁹ The Preamble of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (the Universal Declaration), approved just seven months later by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948, agrees, recognizing that injustices such as prejudice and discrimination deny “the inherent dignity and...equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” and declares these rights to be the “foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world”.¹⁰ The Universal Declaration calls for “every individual and every organ of society...to promote respect for these rights...and by progressive measures...to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.”¹¹ These principles demonstrate the alignment of LA County’s values and intention expressed in the establishment of LACCHR with international human rights norms. And they align LACCHR’s assigned function to protect human rights as a foundation for healthy community relations with the broader, internationally recognized human rights framework.

PAST HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past 25 years, carrying out this function has included raising the visibility of human rights issues in 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

⁶ Los Angeles County Code, Title 2 Administration, Division 3 Departments and Other Administrative Bodies, Chapter 2.78. [Chapter 2.78 - COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS | Code of Ordinances | Los Angeles County, CA | Municode Library](#)

⁷ CA Government Code Title 5. Division 1. Part 1. Chapter 1. Article 10 “Human Relations.” https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=50264.&nodeTreePath=6.1.1.1.12&lawCode=GOV

⁸ Organization of American States. “American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.” <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/mandate/Basics/american-declaration-rights-duties-of-man.pdf> (1948).

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ United Nations. “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights/universal-declaration/translations/english> (1948).

¹¹ Ibid.



member of the Southern California delegation to the Conference in Durban, South Africa later that year and meetings there preceding it. 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.

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, declaring that the CEDAW principles "are fully consistent with Los Angeles County's values and actions"¹² and calling for a new County ordinance to implement them. The new ordinance was adopted in November that same year.¹³ 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. 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.¹⁴

¹² "Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles," Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Page 14, Item 9. https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1101631_010521.pdf

¹³ "Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles," Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Page 9, Item 4. https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1115926_111621.pdf

¹⁴ "Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles," Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Page 20, Item 14. https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1133658_111522.pdf



CURRENT PROGRAMMING

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 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 provides tailored assessments, justice-advancing policy recommendations, and inclusive community engagement to address urgent and emerging challenges. This work includes active engagement in advocacy and training on behalf of the rights of immigrant residents in LA County. Currently, staff is planning special efforts to protect human rights during upcoming international sporting events. In addition, staff is participating in a national collaboration led by The Carter Center in Atlanta and the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to cultivate a human rights culture in the U.S.
- **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 partners.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Transformative Justice.** LACCHR advances human rights by reimagining community safety in Los Angeles County that is fair, accountable, and fosters healing. 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. Bridging communities with decision-makers, the team promotes inclusive, trauma-informed safety infrastructures that protect fundamental rights, reduce harm, and ensure those most impacted help shape the policies and practices meant to serve them.



HUMAN RIGHTS WORK OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is critical to protecting and advancing human rights for all residents of LA County. As the County's governing body, the Board has embedded human rights principles such as the rights to liberty, safety, public services that preserve health, adequate standards of living, and economic, social, and cultural development 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 Child Protection; Health Integration; [alternatives to incarceration](#) through a "Care First, Jails Last" approach; Homelessness; Environmental Justice & Climate Health; Immigration; Sustainability; Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Poverty Alleviation. With these priorities, the Board demonstrates its commitment to upholding the dignity, equality, and wellbeing of every individual and community in Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender office upholds fundamental human rights by ensuring that individuals who cannot afford legal representation and who cannot be served by the Public Defender due to a conflict of interest, receive zealous advocacy in criminal proceedings. The office protects internationally recognized human rights standards for due process, fair trial, and freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention. It also defends the rights to civil and legal recognition, equitable access to justice, and humane treatment in custody. By providing legal counsel to those who might otherwise go unrepresented, the office safeguards liberty, equality before the law, and the inherent dignity of all individuals. Additionally, it ensures that clients are promptly informed of charges in their preferred language and have access to free interpretation services, reinforcing the County's commitment to justice, fairness, and the protection of human rights for all. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR)



ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

The Los Angeles County Animal Care & Control Department aligns with human rights by promoting public health services, safety, and wellbeing for both people and animals. Through its enforcement of rabies vaccination and pet licensing laws,



American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (American Declaration) | Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) | Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW) | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) | Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)



the department helps prevent the spread of disease, protecting rights to health preservation and safe living conditions. Its collaboration with law enforcement, fire services, and other government agencies makes it a vital part of the County's public safety infrastructure. These efforts support the right to the highest attainable standard of health, especially for children, and align with broader obligations to maintain sanitary environments through public health measures. By ensuring that communities can access safe and healthy public spaces, the department upholds fundamental human rights and contributes to a more secure and livable environment for all Los Angeles County residents. (American Declaration; CRC; CRPD; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), established by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1981, reinforces human rights by bringing together the elements of a local justice system that is as large and complex as typical statewide structures. The committee promotes interagency coordination among county, municipal, state, and federal agencies and develops plans aligned with internationally recognized human rights in upholding key protections such as the presumption of innocence, the right to legal recognition, access to courts, and protection from unlawful arrest and cruel or degrading treatment. Its efforts to improve system efficiency by transcending traditional agency lines to address system issues from a countywide perspective align with the principle that justice systems must support the dignity, reformation, and social rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals. The committee's initiatives also reflect commitments outlined in other international human rights standards, including the elimination of racial discrimination and the right to legal remedies for civil rights violations. CCJCC's work includes a long-standing partnership with the County's Commission on Human Relations to combat hate crimes. CCJCC partners with the Commission on Human Relations to support law enforcement agencies with information, resources, training, and the development of best practices for preventing and responding to acts of hate. Through its work, CCJCC not only influences policy and practice but also reinforces the County's obligation to respect and promote the human rights of individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office holds significant power and responsibility in upholding human rights across the County. Its mission to advance an effective, ethical, and racially equitable system of justice that reflects a commitment to protecting the community, restoring victims of crime, and honoring the rights of the accused incorporate principles that align with international human rights standards. The Office plays a key role in securing the rights to due process, access to justice, personal integrity and security, and legal remedies for civil rights violations.





Through its [Bureau of Victim Services](#), the Office also provides free resources to support children, seniors, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other violent crimes. These services affirm the rights to equality, freedom from discrimination, access to public support systems, and the dignity and protection of vulnerable individuals. In both its prosecutorial role and its victim support efforts, the District Attorney's Office helps safeguard the fundamental human rights of all residents in Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICMW; UDHR)

JUSTICE, CARE, AND OPPORTUNITIES DEPARTMENT



The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department unifies Los Angeles County's non-clinical efforts to support vulnerable and justice-impacted individuals and communities, with a strong emphasis on upholding fundamental human rights. Through [community-based responses and support programs](#), the department addresses root causes that increase the likelihood of justice system involvement, thereby protecting the rights to life, liberty, and equality before the courts. Its person-centered approach affirms the right to be treated with humanity and dignity in all interactions with the justice system and promotes legal protection against attacks on honor and reputation. By reducing inequality, fostering accountable institutions, and advancing equitable justice, the department ensures that the right to wellbeing through community resources is realized in practice. It further upholds the right to participate in governance through initiatives like [LA Free the Vote](#) and the [Justice-Involved Panel](#), which elevate community voices in shaping services. Additionally, programming such as [Providing Opportunities for Women in Reentry](#) and [D.O.O.R.S.](#), justice-impacted individuals can receive support to fulfill their economic rights and goals. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; SDG 16; UDHR; UNDRIP)

FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Los Angeles County Fire Department upholds fundamental human rights, particularly the rights to life and public services for health and wellbeing. Guided by its mission to protect lives, the environment, and property, the department implements core principles found in international human rights instruments. By providing prompt and skillful fire protection and emergency medical services, the Fire Department promotes equality and nondiscrimination in access to critical care. By offering programs such as [Community Emergency Response Team training](#) and public education initiatives, the department acts on its commitment to ensuring access to public services while fostering community participation in safety and resilience-building efforts. These initiatives equip and empower residents with the knowledge to protect themselves and to safeguard their homes and communities. Additionally, they enhance quality of life and health, while upholding the rights to live independently, maintain housing, and access essential public services. In safeguarding individuals during emergencies and disasters, the Fire Department affirms the County's broader obligation to protect human dignity, security, and the conditions necessary for all people to live safely and freely. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner carries out the fundamental human right to life by investigating deaths and working to prevent further loss of life. Through public alerts about unsafe consumer products and the provision of tissue and organs for transplantation, the department affirms the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life. It also advances related rights, including access to information, the preservation of health through public resources, and the right to benefit from scientific progress. Importantly, the department actively engages in efforts to protect unhoused individuals from preventable death, reinforcing the obligation to uphold the right to life without discrimination. In doing so, the department contributes to a broader human rights framework that prioritizes dignity, equality, and protection for all residents, particularly those most vulnerable. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General safeguards human rights by promoting transparency, constitutional policing, and the fair and impartial administration of justice within the Sheriff's and Probation departments. Through its oversight of policies, procedures, and operations, the office advances core human rights such as the right to liberty and the right to be treated with humanity and dignity in all interactions with the justice system. By addressing issues such as deputy gangs and unlawful conduct, and by increasing oversight of the Probation Department, the Office of the Inspector General helps prevent abuses of power and reinforces public trust. Its work strengthens the accountability of justice-related institutions and enhances the protection of rights already supported by the Sheriff's Department, Superior Court, and Justice, Care and Opportunities Department, contributing to a broader County-wide commitment to dignity, equity, and justice for all. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)



PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has a central role in implementing human rights by promoting rehabilitation, personal healing, and the preservation of life and liberty. Guided by its mission of “rebuilding human lives” and the County’s “Care First, Jail Last” initiative, the department is responsible for maintaining a justice system focused on reformation and social reintegration rather than punishment. The department also safeguards the right to be free from discrimination through the work of its Ombudsman, who investigates and addresses administrative concerns involving unequal treatment based on race, gender, national origin, citizenship, or other protected identities. (ICCPR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)





PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission protects human rights by guiding the Probation Department toward meaningful criminal justice reform and ensuring alignment with the Board of Supervisors' goals, including the "Care First, Jail Last" initiative. As the first civilian oversight body of its kind in the nation, the Commission reinforces the right to be treated with humanity and dignity during incarceration and promotes a justice system focused on reformation and social rehabilitation, as outlined in international human rights frameworks. Through its authority to review policies and investigate grievances, the Commission helps protect individuals from abuse, neglect, or discrimination within the probation system. The Commission informed a shift in department management, which now places greater decision-making power with staff who work directly with impacted individuals. This represents a significant step toward participatory governance and more responsive, rights-based oversight. By embedding accountability and transparency into the probation system, the Commission ensures that the rights to dignity, development, and fair treatment are upheld for all individuals under its jurisdiction. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; UDHR; UNDRIP)



PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

The Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office upholds fundamental human rights by ensuring that all individuals, regardless of financial status or citizenship, have access to legal representation and a fair trial. By defending the rights to liberty, due process, and equality before the law, the office protects individuals from unlawful detention and guarantees equal application of the law for all. Its work ensures that those unable to afford a lawyer are not denied justice, reinforcing the right to legal counsel and access to the courts. The office also plays a critical role in advancing racial justice by implementing the [Racial Justice Act](#), with a dedicated team focused on addressing and correcting historical bias in the criminal legal system. Through this work, the Public Defender's Office contributes to the elimination of racial discrimination and promotes the right to fair and equitable treatment under the law. By advocating for prompt judicial review of arrests and the appropriate treatment of youth in detention, the office further affirms its commitment to human dignity and the protection of vulnerable populations. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP; SDGs)



SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

The Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission advances human rights by fostering transparency, accountability, and trust between the Sheriff's Department and the public. Through its ongoing review and analysis of department policies and practices, the Commission upholds the rights to information, protection from arbitrary arrest, and freedom from racial discrimination. By addressing systemic issues, the Commission actively works to prevent abuse of power and protect individuals in custody from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. Its oversight helps ensure that law enforcement operates





in accordance with principles of dignity, equality, and justice, and that all community members are safeguarded from discriminatory or unlawful practices. Through its work, the Commission strengthens public accountability and reinforces the County's commitment to protecting the fundamental human rights of all residents. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR)

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has a critical responsibility to protect human rights by protecting the community, upholding the rule of law, and fostering public trust through transparency and accountability. As one of the most visible and wide-reaching departments in the County, it is uniquely positioned to safeguard a range of fundamental rights, including freedom from cruel or degrading treatment, protection from unlawful or arbitrary detention, humane conditions during custody, freedom of movement, and equality before the law. The department has undertaken meaningful reforms aligned with human rights principles, including adopting a zero-tolerance policy on law enforcement gangs in response to feedback from the Civilian Oversight Commission. Central to this work is the department's [Office of Constitutional Policing](#), which leads and coordinates human rights-focused initiatives. In June 2025, the department also launched its first LGBTQ+ webpage, a public-facing resource that affirms its commitment to equity, visibility, and engagement with LGBTQ+ communities. Another example is the department's diligent, expert documentation of hate incidents and investigation of hate crime. The department's efforts reflect strong commitment to ensuring safety and dignity for all residents, protecting the right to access public services, participate in oversight and advocacy, and preserve wellbeing through accountable and equitable public systems. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



SUPERIOR COURT

The Los Angeles County Superior Court protects fundamental human rights, including the rights to a fair trial, equality before the law, presumption of innocence, and prompt judicial review. By providing language assistance and accessible court facilities, the Court ensures that all community members regardless of language ability, citizenship, or immigration status can fully participate in the judicial process. Its [Language Access Services Division](#) offers free interpretation in over 200 languages, including rare and indigenous dialects, enabling individuals with limited English proficiency to understand their charges, engage in proceedings, and defend their rights. This commitment reinforces the principles of non-discrimination, equal protection, and meaningful access to justice. In alignment with international human rights standards, the Court prohibits immigration enforcement actions on its premises without a valid federal judicial warrant, ensuring that all residents feel safe and protected when seeking legal redress. Through these efforts, the Court affirms every person's right to justice, dignity, and equal treatment under the law. (American Declaration; CEDAW; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)





SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS



The Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections upholds the human rights of incarcerated individuals in Los Angeles County by regularly inspecting jail conditions and publicly reporting on issues such as access to basic amenities, facility cleanliness, overcrowding, and the treatment of individuals by staff. These efforts help ensure that all people in custody are treated with humanity and dignity, as required by international human rights standards. The Commission also monitors the separation of juveniles from adults in detention, reinforcing the right to age-appropriate treatment. By supporting the County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion goals, the Commission advances the principle that all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, or other status are entitled to equal and humane treatment. Its work not only improves detention conditions but also strengthens accountability and transparency in alignment with the broader goal of eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and affirming the inherent dignity of every person. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

SOCIAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

AGING & DISABILITIES



The Los Angeles County Aging and Disabilities Department promotes and protects human rights by ensuring that older adults, dependent adults, and individuals with disabilities can live with dignity, independence, and inclusion. Its mission and services reflect core human rights principles, including the right to life, liberty, self-determination, the preservation of health and well-being, and the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. The department delivers meals to homebound individuals, investigates reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and provides tailored programs that support aging safely at home. Its fourteen [Community and Senior Centers](#) offer essential health, educational, social, and recreational services that promote personal 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. (American Declaration; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES



The Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department reflects fundamental human rights by ensuring that children are safeguarded from violence, abuse, and neglect, and that they have the right to be raised by or maintain a relationship with their parents. Through the [Parentage Opportunity Program \(POP\)](#), the department enables eligible parents to establish legal parentage free of charge, protecting the rights of children to familial connection and the rights of parents to legal recognition without facing the financial and procedural burdens of the court system. It also upholds the right to protection, care, and assistance for mothers and children, including in cases of family separation. To promote economic



justice, the department offers services to reduce child support debt, modify orders, and ensure child support obligations are fair and equitable for all parties. Additionally, it ensures that all community members can access services in their preferred language, reinforcing the right to equal access to public services and support. (American Declaration; CRC; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UNDRIP)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services safeguards the human rights of children by implementing programs that ensure their safety, wellbeing, and protection from harm. Upholding every child's right to be free from violence, neglect, and unlawful separation from their families, the department takes a comprehensive, family-centered approach rooted in care, prevention, and support. Through initiatives like [Partnerships for Families](#), it provides targeted interventions that address the underlying factors contributing to abuse and neglect, helping families create safer, more nurturing environments. The [Child Protection Hotline](#) serves as a critical tool for identifying when children are at risk and for mobilizing timely support to ensure their care and protection. In addition to safeguarding children from immediate harm, it advances their broader human rights by promoting access to essential public services, encouraging self-advocacy, enabling access to information and redress, and expanding lifelong opportunities for growth and learning through community-based resources. These efforts reflect a sustained commitment to ensuring that every child in Los Angeles County can grow up with dignity, safety, and the opportunity to thrive. (CEDAW; CRC; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; SDG; UNDRIP)



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women protects and promotes the human rights of women, including their rights to equality, safety, health, education, and economic opportunity. In 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 right to education and financial independence. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICERD; UNDRIP; UDHR; ICCPR; ICESCR)





DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



The Los Angeles County Development Authority upholds human rights by advancing access to affordable housing, economic opportunity, and community development for low-income residents across the county. Through its core programs and collaborative efforts with other departments, the agency supports the right to adequate housing, access to public services, and the preservation of wellbeing, 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

FIRST 5 LA



First 5 LA implements human rights by ensuring that all children have access to health, developmental, and educational services while actively working to eliminate racial disparities that undermine equitable opportunity. Through its [Whole Child, Whole Family](#) framework, First 5 LA addresses structural barriers faced by underserved communities by using disaggregated data to guide targeted support. Its initiatives uphold every child's right to the highest attainable standard of health and development by providing early intervention, quality early learning, and family-centered care. First 5 LA also affirms the right to be free from racial discrimination by promoting culturally and linguistically appropriate services and advocating for systemic policy changes that improve outcomes for children and families from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. By focusing on racial equity and ensuring inclusive, responsive systems of care, First 5 LA helps create conditions in which all children can thrive and fully enjoy their fundamental human rights. (CRC; ICERD; American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; UNDRIP; ICMW; ICESCR; UDHR)

LGBTQ+ COMMISSION



The Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission advances human rights by advising the Board of Supervisors and County departments on issues affecting the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ communities, ensuring that public policies and programs uphold their rights to liberty, equality, and freedom from discrimination. Through its reviews and recommendations, the Commission promotes rights such as freedom of expression, protection from hate-based advocacy, equal treatment under the law, and meaningful participation in governance. By creating space for LGBTQ+ individuals to shape public policy and advocate for their interests, the Commission affirms the right to self-determination and collective advocacy. Its [Community Engagement Subcommittee](#) further strengthens this mission by fostering inclusive community participation, improving outreach, and enhancing the Commission's capacity to reflect



and respond to the needs of diverse LGBTQ+ residents. These efforts underscore the County's commitment to dignity, equity, and human rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDG 10; UDHR; UNDRIP)

MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS



The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs upholds the human 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 services 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. (CRPD; ICESCR; ICCPR; SDGs; UDHR)

OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION



The Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection (OCP) advances human rights by strengthening the child welfare system to ensure that children and families receive the support necessary to promote safety, health, and overall well-being. Through coordination across county departments, partnerships with community-based organizations, and collaboration with individuals with lived experience, the office works to prevent unnecessary family separation and uphold every child's right to be raised by or maintain a relationship with their parents. By emphasizing prevention and early intervention, OCP safeguards the rights of children to grow up in nurturing environments and supports parents in fulfilling their role in guiding their children's development in accordance with their values. These efforts reflect a deep commitment to protecting the dignity, stability, and development of children and families across Los Angeles County. (CRC)

OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS



The Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) protects human rights by advancing the wellbeing of immigrants. OIA connects them with needed resources and services including printed materials, guidance for family preparedness planning, detention support, immigrant-specific legal services, referrals, community resources, resource navigation, special events, and workshops. Multiple customized "Know Your Rights" workshops, for example, are conducted on a regular schedule. For those who have been granted asylum by a federal agency, OIA offers orientation to programs, services, and resources available to them. These efforts implement the County's express priority on Immigration to serve immigrants so deeply integrated into all aspects of County life. In these many ways, OIA champions basic rights of immigrants, including life, liberty, freedom from discrimination, equality before the law, and full participation in cultural life. (ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR)



PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services puts into effect human rights by working to eliminate poverty and ensure all residents can access the right to work, economic security, and a dignified standard of living. 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](#) which supports 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 enhances their ability to support their families, 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. (American Declaration; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)

YOUTH CLIMATE COMMISSION



The Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission realizes human rights by amplifying the voices and priorities of youth in shaping local responses to climate change. Through its leadership in climate mitigation and adaptation, the Commission upholds children's rights to life, health, identity, and cultural preservation, while also ensuring their right to participate in decisions that affect their futures. By advocating for environmental sustainability, the Youth Climate Commission works to safeguard the natural environment for future generations, supporting the broader human right to a healthy, safe, and livable planet. Its efforts further the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, access to information, and participation in public life, empowering youth to play an active role in creating a just and sustainable future. In doing so, the Commission ensures that youth are not only protected from the harms of environmental degradation but are also central to shaping solutions rooted in equity, dignity, and intergenerational justice. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

YOUTH COMMISSION



The Los Angeles County Youth Commission implements human rights by empowering young people to advocate for themselves and their communities, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping policies and programs that impact their health, wellbeing, and quality of life. The Commission upholds the rights of children to freely express their views, access information, assemble peacefully, and participate fully in decisions affecting them. It also affirms the right of children with disabilities to live with dignity, self-reliance, and full inclusion in community life. Through initiatives that provide education, training, professional development, mentoring, and mental health services, the Youth Commission promotes the preservation of health and wellbeing while addressing the unique needs of youth who have experienced foster care, juvenile justice, or homelessness. By centering the perspectives of

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marginalized youth in County affairs, the Commission ensures that human rights principles are not only protected but actively realized in the daily lives of young people across Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) upholds human rights by promoting equitable access to education, vocational opportunities, and supportive services that empower young people to thrive. With a mission to reduce youth involvement in the justice system through care-first approaches, the department supports the right of all youth to develop in environments that foster their economic, social, and cultural well-being. A key initiative, the [My Brother's and Sister's Keeper program](#), provides targeted support, including educational guidance, job placement, and mental health resources for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous youth of all gender identities, helping to eliminate barriers rooted in systemic inequality. By focusing on the needs of marginalized communities, the department affirms the right of all children to reach their full potential and supports racial equity and inclusion as fundamental components of human dignity. Through its coordinated programs and services, DYD ensures that vulnerable youth in Los Angeles County are not left behind, but are instead given the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to succeed and fully enjoy their human rights. (CEDAW; CRC; ICERD; SDG 4; UNDRIP)

HEALTH

COMMISSION ON HIV



The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV advances human rights by promoting the rights to life, health services, dignity, and freedom from discrimination for people living with HIV and those at risk. Through coordination with the Board of Supervisors, the Commission ensures access to prevention, care, and support services that uphold the right to an adequate standard of living and equitable healthcare. Its formal guidance is outlined in [the Los Angeles County Comprehensive HIV Plan \(2022–2026\)](#), a blueprint for collective action aimed at achieving optimal health outcomes and reducing disparities. The plan recognizes the right of individuals to benefit from scientific progress and new technologies, ensuring that people living with HIV are not excluded from advancements in treatment and care. By securing these rights, the Commission fosters greater inclusion, empowers individuals to participate in public life, and ensures their ability to express ideas freely, thereby reinforcing a more just and equitable society. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR)

HEALTH SERVICES



The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) advances human rights by providing essential healthcare services and promoting the rights to life, health preservation, and adequate housing for all residents, especially those

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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 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

MENTAL HEALTH

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health advances human rights by ensuring access to essential mental health services for all residents, including unhoused and incarcerated individuals, children, families, and people with disabilities. By promoting the rights to health services, 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 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; UDHR)



PUBLIC HEALTH

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) advances core human rights by promoting personal autonomy, equitable access to healthcare, the right to work, full participation in society, and respect for the dignity of all individuals. DPH works to ensure that all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, income, or ability have the resources and opportunities needed to fully realize their rights to safety, health, wellbeing, and freedom from discrimination. This commitment is exemplified by the following:



- The [Office of Women's Health](#) implemented an abortion safe program in Los Angeles County with education and training for County staff and a robust website with referrals and educational materials, all vital measures for advancing gender equality and safeguarding women's right to bodily autonomy. This protection enables women to fully participate in educational, economic, and civic life.
- DPH's public health clinics expand 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](#) builds the collective ability of the public health workforce to address structural racism to promote racial and social justice.
- DPH leads the implementation of the [Gender Impact Assessment \(GIA\)](#), a groundbreaking initiative to ensure gender equity across all County departments. 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.
- The [Office of Violence Prevention](#) works to address the root causes of violence and support survivors by advancing policies and practices that are grounded in racial equity, promote community healing, and affirm the right of all to live in safety and dignity.
- The African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative is a coalition facilitated by DPH and led by community members with lived experience in partnership with First 5 LA and others to address the unacceptably high rates of Black infant and maternal deaths countywide and ensure healthy and joyous births for Black families in LA County.
- The Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health promotes equitable access to resources that reduce the negative impacts of climate change and eliminate disproportionality in exposures to toxic hazards.

Through these and other integrated initiatives, DPH anchors equity in public health policies and practices, reinforcing the County's obligation to secure human rights for all residents. (CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

SANITATION DISTRICTS

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts uphold 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 services 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 preservation, safety, and a dignified standard of living. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)





COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ARTS & CULTURE

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture advances human rights by promoting equitable access to cultural resources, supporting the professional growth 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 uphold 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)



BEACHES & HARBORS

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors protects human rights by ensuring equitable access to public spaces, cultural participation, and recreational opportunities for all residents. Upholding the right 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 wellbeing. 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 leisure, association, and public services that preserve health, 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. (CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR)



CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

The Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) advances human rights by promoting environmental sustainability, equity, economic opportunity, and climate resilience for all residents. By providing policy guidance to the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and regional partners, the office supports the rights to an adequate standard of living, liberty, participation in cultural and public life, and access to public resources. Through initiatives like the ["Our County"](#) sustainability plan and its ongoing update, the CSO ensures that sustainability efforts are inclusive, community-driven, and



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responsive to the most urgent environmental challenges. Its work fosters conditions that uphold the right to live in a safe, healthy environment that supports social, cultural, and economic development. By prioritizing interagency collaboration and public participation, the CSO reflects the human rights principles of dignity, inclusion, and shared responsibility in shaping a more just and sustainable future for all communities across Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services implements human rights by promoting civic engagement, improving access to public services, and enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of local government systems. By identifying redundancies, recommending streamlined service delivery, and leveraging economies of scale, the Commission helps ensure that all residents, especially those in underserved communities, benefit from effective, equitable, and accessible public resources. Its commitment to transparency, accountability, and community responsiveness aligns with international human rights standards that affirm the right to participate in public affairs and access essential services that support health, well-being, and dignity. Through ongoing oversight and implementation of its recommendations, the Commission plays a vital role in building inclusive governance structures that reflect and respond to the needs of all people in Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; UDHR; UNDRIP)



CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) upholds human rights by protecting economic, housing, and labor rights through education, advocacy, enforcement, and direct support services. Programs such as the [Wage Enforcement Program](#) uphold the right 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 right 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 of Los Angeles County can access the resources, protections, and opportunities necessary to live with dignity and economic security. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR)





ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity promotes human rights by supporting access to decent work, equal opportunity, and economic development for all residents, regardless of race, gender, or background. Through ventures 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 uphold rights to fair employment, 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS AND RECORDS COMMISSION



The Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission protects human rights by safeguarding and promoting access to cultural heritage and historical memory. As an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, the Commission identifies and recommends local sites for designation as California Historical Landmarks or Points of Historical Interest and provides input on applications to the National Register of Historic Places. In doing so, the Commission upholds the right to participate in cultural life and the preservation of cultural identity, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. By maintaining historically significant sites and ensuring public recognition of diverse cultural narratives, the Commission plays a vital role in honoring community heritage and reinforcing the collective right to cultural inclusion and historical continuity across Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)

LIBRARY



The Los Angeles County Public Library safeguards human rights by providing free, open, and equitable access to books, information, ideas, and technology, empowering all residents to exercise their rights to education, freedom of expression, and access to information. In alignment with international human rights standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the library ensures that every individual has the opportunity to seek, obtain, and hold knowledge, especially about human rights and fundamental freedoms. The library serves as a vital public space where people of all ages and backgrounds can explore new ideas, engage in lifelong learning, and participate in the cultural and intellectual life of their communities. 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR)



METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY



The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) protects human rights by promoting freedom of movement and equitable access to transportation for all residents, particularly individuals with disabilities, seniors, low-income communities, and veterans. Through its mission to enhance quality of life across the region, MTA works to identify and eliminate barriers to accessibility, ensuring that public transit systems support the dignity, autonomy, and inclusion of all users. Its [Coordinated Plan Development](#) strengthens connections between public transportation and human services, aiming to close mobility and service gaps. Local strategies, including expanded on-demand transit, cross-jurisdictional coordination, and extended service hours to prioritize the travel needs of historically underserved populations. By fostering safe, accessible, and inclusive transportation infrastructure, MTA upholds essential human rights such as access to public services, participation in community life, and the right to mobility and independence for every person in Los Angeles County. (CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

MUSEUM OF ART



The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) implements human rights by promoting the freedom to participate in cultural life, express 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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (NHMLAC) implements human rights by promoting access to 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 participation, and the enjoyment of the arts, as recognized in international human rights frameworks. 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 science and education and align 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. (CRC; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission advances human rights by protecting and promoting the cultural identity, self-determination, socioeconomic wellbeing of Indigenous communities throughout the County. Its mission aligns with the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their distinct cultural, political, and social institutions, as well as the right to preserve, revitalize, and transmit their histories, languages, oral traditions, and cultural expressions to future generations. By increasing access to federal resources and advocating for equitable policies, the Commission ensures Indigenous communities can access public services and fully participate in civic life. Through events and gatherings that celebrate Native cultures, the Commission fosters cultural exchange, public education, and community pride, affirming the right to cultural participation and the protection of Indigenous heritage. These efforts also safeguard the right to freedom from the subjugation or erasure of Indigenous cultures and histories, reinforcing the County's commitment to justice, inclusion, and human rights for all Native peoples. (SDGs; UNDRIP)



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; SDGs; UNDRIP)



PARKS & RECREATION

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation implements human rights by protecting the natural environment, promoting 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, wellbeing, education, peaceful assembly, and participation in cultural and public life.





Following are examples of multiple ways the department supports the health and wellbeing of children and families by addressing key social determinants of health—safety, belonging, access, equity, and environment—through a human rights lens:

- Rights to Health & Wellbeing - By creating safe, welcoming spaces through programs like *Every Body Plays*, *Parks After Dark*, and *Our SPOT Centers*, children and youth gain consistent access to physical activity, mental health supports, and positive social engagement, which are foundational to healthy development.
- Rights to Education & Participation - Programs such as *I Matter – Girls Empowerment Conference* and *Pride at the Park* provide leadership development, identity affirmation, and educational enrichment, particularly for girls and LGBTQ+ youth—helping young people develop self-efficacy, resilience, and a sense of civic voice.
- Rights to Child Protection & Equality - By prioritizing inclusion for underserved and marginalized groups, the department addresses structural barriers that often compromise wellbeing. This ensures equitable access to healing, play, and community, especially for those facing trauma, isolation, or systemic bias.
- Rights to Family & Community Support - Recreational spaces serve as protective environments where families can gather, build social connections, and access vital programming that supports caregiving, mental health, and positive parent-child relationships.
- Right to Environment Health Sustainable land use policies and equitable access to green space promote long-term physical and emotional wellbeing for families, aligning with global goals for safe, inclusive, and climate-resilient communities.

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. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR)

PUBLIC WORKS



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works carries out human rights by designing, building, and maintaining essential infrastructure that supports safe, healthy, and inclusive communities. Through its commitment to safety, cultural awareness, transparency, and innovation, the department upholds the rights to an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of physical health, and participation in cultural life. Its work in code enforcement, infrastructure inspection, and housing development directly enhances the quality of life and supports access to safe, affordable housing across the County. Public Works also promotes environmental sustainability and community wellbeing through programs like [CleanLA](#) and the [Safe Clean Water Program](#), which provide education, resources, and funding to improve water quality, waste management, and public spaces. These efforts contribute to long-term community resilience 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. (CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR)



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Redistricting Commission protects human rights through its redistricting process by promoting fair representation, civic participation, and social order. By appointing an advisory Boundary Redistricting Commission to study proposed changes to district boundaries, the Board ensures that community voices are included in shaping political representation. This process aligns with international efforts, such as those of [the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence](#), which recognize the identification and maintenance of administrative boundaries as essential to equitable governance. The County's commitment to transparency and inclusive decision-making reflects international human rights principles which call for a social and international order in which rights and freedoms can be fully realized. Through this work, the Commission supports the right of individuals to participate in public affairs and reinforces the foundational importance of just and representative governance in a human rights-based society. (UDHR)



REGIONAL PLANNING

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning implements human rights by promoting equitable development, inclusive community engagement, and sustainable land use across the County's unincorporated areas. Through its planning efforts, the department upholds rights to liberty, security, education, cultural participation, and an adequate standard of living, ensuring residents, especially those in historically underserved areas, benefit from thoughtful and inclusive growth. The [County General Plan](#) focuses on ensuring development that benefits communities rather than displacing residents. Initiatives like the [Gateway Planning Area Rezoning Program](#) support the right to housing by increasing the supply of affordable units, while broader planning strategies advance economic development, clean energy access, and poverty reduction. The department's integration of the County's anti-racism and inclusion goals into development review further supports marginalized communities and promotes equal opportunity. Additionally, its Historical Preservation work affirms the right to participate in cultural life and maintain community identity through the protection of heritage and public spaces. In all its efforts, Regional Planning serves as a key driver of equitable, rights-based development throughout Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)



REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk advances human rights by upholding free and fair elections and ensuring that all residents can exercise their rights to vote, participate in public affairs, and access public services. These rights, recognized under international human rights frameworks, are central to democratic governance and civic inclusion. Through its oversight of approximately 200 elections annually including for schools, cities, and special districts, the RR/CC promotes transparency, accessibility, and equity in the electoral process. Its [Community and Voter Outreach Committee](#) plays a vital role in safeguarding these rights by working with community partners to ensure elections are fair and accessible, providing language services, and disseminating essential voter





information. Beyond elections, the RR/CC protects civil rights through its management of vital records such as birth, marriage, and death certificates, supporting the rights to legal identity, family life, and equal access to civil registration. Collectively, these efforts affirm the right to participate in governance, freedom of expression, and the equal recognition of all individuals before the law in Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; UDHR; UNDRIP)

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

The Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures aligns with human rights by safeguarding public health, environmental quality, and consumer protection through its regulation and oversight of food, agriculture, and commerce. Aligned with international human rights standards, including the right to life, health, and an adequate standard of living, the department ensures access to safe, nutritious food and clean water by regulating pesticide use, detecting and controlling invasive weeds, and enforcing health and safety standards. Its four bureaus work collectively to combat disease, prevent malnutrition, reduce environmental pollution, and promote fair market practices, all of which contribute to the well-being and dignity of County residents. By protecting the food supply, promoting sanitary and sustainable agricultural practices, and ensuring marketplace integrity, the department plays a critical role in upholding fundamental rights and supporting healthy, safe, and equitable communities throughout Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; SDGs)



ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE

The Los Angeles County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) advances human rights by working to eliminate systemic racism and uphold the right to be free from discrimination, as articulated in international human rights principles. ARDI's mandate is rooted in a commitment to end discrimination and its lasting harmful effects throughout the County and its mission aligns with the duty to advance equal protection under the law. ARDI coordinates implementation of the County's [Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#) focused on five targeted goals: increasing postsecondary credentials with labor market value, reducing first-time felony convictions for adults, raising stable employment for individuals earning at or above 250% of the federal poverty line, increasing the percentage of families above this income level, and reducing infant mortality. These goals address disparities in education, economic opportunity, criminal justice, and health outcomes, reinforcing every resident's right to equity, dignity, and full participation in society. Through these efforts, ARDI embodies the County's broader commitment to advancing justice, inclusion, and equal treatment for all communities. (ICERD, CEDAW, ICERD, and UNDRIP)





ASSESSOR

The Los Angeles County Assessor's Office protects human rights by ensuring fairness, accuracy, and transparency in property assessments, promoting equitable access to information, and working to eliminate discrimination in property valuation. By upholding the right to access public information, own and inherit property, and benefit from fair public services, the office supports the broader rights to equality, adequate living standards, and civic participation. Its commitment to public trust is demonstrated through the publication of comprehensive annual reports and the provision of accessible property data on the [County's Open Data website](#), empowering residents to understand and engage with the property tax system. The Assessor's Office also plays a national leadership role in addressing systemic bias by collaborating with assessors across the country and coordinating with the White House to promote transparency and fairness in property appraisals. These efforts reflect a dedication to reviewing and reforming local and national policies that may perpetuate racial discrimination, in alignment with global human rights standards calling for equity, accountability, and the elimination of structural inequality. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICERD; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)



AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

The Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller protects human rights by promoting integrity, accountability, and transparency in the use of public resources, thereby upholding the right to access information and participate in governance. Through regular audits and reviews of financial procedures, management structures, and program effectiveness, the Auditor-Controller ensures compliance with fiduciary responsibilities and supports the effective delivery of public services. By publishing detailed financial reports, including the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#), the office safeguards the public's right to obtain information and form opinions without interference. These efforts help ensure that County departments use resources efficiently to support the progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights for all residents. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office advances human rights through transparent governance, strategic coordination, and the implementation of initiatives that uphold 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. The CEO's [Countywide Communications](#) efforts make vital information about County operations and priorities accessible to all, aligning with the right to seek, receive, and impart information. The Office also plays a key role in coordinating policies that preserve the health, safety, and well-being of residents across Los Angeles County, while fostering accountability and public trust in County governance.





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. Additionally, the establishment of the [DOJ Compliance Office in 2023](#) reinforces the County's obligation to treat incarcerated individuals with dignity and humanity, consistent with international human rights standards. Across its programs and priorities, the Chief Executive Office safeguards a broad spectrum of rights, economic, civil, and social; working to ensure that all residents of Los Angeles County are protected, informed, and empowered. (American Declaration; CAT; CEDAW; CRPD; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; SDGs; UDHR; UNDRIP)

COUNTY COUNSEL

The Los Angeles County Office of County Counsel safeguards human rights by providing legal representation and guidance to the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and public agencies, thereby upholding the rights to equal recognition before the law and access to legal remedies. In addition to its legal responsibilities, the Office demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and antiracism, fostering a workplace culture that respects the rights to work, free choice of employment, and just and favorable working conditions. This commitment has been recognized with the State Bar of California [DEI Leadership Silver Seal](#) awarded for implementing evidence-based practices that support equity and belonging. By integrating legal integrity with human rights principles in both public service and internal operations, the Office of County Counsel ensures that justice, accountability, and nondiscrimination are embedded in the County's governance and workforce systems. (American Declaration; CEDAW; ICCPR; ICERD; UDHR)



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission protects human rights by regulating 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 be free from discriminatory practices. 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. (ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; ILO; UDHR; UNDRIP)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Executive Office of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors advances human rights by providing critical multi-functional support 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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (American Declaration) | Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) | Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW) | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) | Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)



public, enabling County units to fulfill their public service missions. The Executive Office also administers and oversees over 30 County commissions and offices, including the County's Commission on Human Relations. In accomplishing its mission to provide excellent customer service and support the Board in achieving its objectives, the Executive Office supports rights such as access to public services, participation in governance, freedom of information, peaceful assembly, and the ability to petition government with a prompt response. A key example is its support for the [Assessment Appeals Public Education Program](#), which educates residents about the appeals process in American Sign Language and Spanish translation as well as English. These efforts reinforce the rights of residents, regardless of ability or language, to accessible information, economic participation, inclusive communication, and full engagement in civic life. The Executive Office also oversees implementation of the [County's Equity Policy](#) to protect the rights of employees to be free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICCPR; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources (HR) advances human rights by promoting equitable access to employment, protecting the right to work under just and favorable conditions, and fostering a discrimination-free work environment. HR oversees implementation of [equal employment mandates](#) as detailed in County ordinance and policies. Through the implementation of inclusive policies and practices, the department upholds the rights to fair compensation, rest and leisure, social security, and freedom from workplace discrimination, as outlined in international human rights standards. Programs like the [County Employee Youth Mentoring Program](#) exemplify this commitment by connecting County employees with youth in need of positive role models, supporting both the right to work and the broader right to an adequate standard of living. By partnering with local organizations and facilitating mentorship opportunities, the department not only invests in the development of the future workforce but also reinforces the principles of dignity, opportunity, and equal treatment for all individuals across Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; ICMW; UDHR; UNDRIP)



INTERNAL SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Internal Services Department (ISD) reinforces human rights by providing essential infrastructure, communication systems, and emergency support services that enable both the County and its departments to uphold the rights and wellbeing of residents. ISD supports the rights to access public services, participate in governance, benefit from scientific and technological progress, and be free from arbitrary interference with correspondence through its management of communication systems, including vital phone lines. Its oversight of election-related systems also safeguards the right to vote in free and fair elections. In response to emergencies, ISD has implemented projects such as signage for safe distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic and collaborated with the [Department of Economic Opportunity](#) to assist nonprofits and small businesses displaced by wildfires. These actions reflect global human rights commitments to health, safety, and economic recovery. By enhancing Countywide responsiveness and resilience, ISD plays a foundational role in ensuring that all residents, particularly those



American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (American Declaration) | Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) | Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW) | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) | Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)



affected by crises, can access services and exercise their rights in safe, inclusive, and equitable environments. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRDP; ICCPR; ICERD; ICESCR; UDHR; UNDRIP; SDGs)

QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION



The Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission advances human rights by improving the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of County services for its approximately 10 million residents. Through its support for good governance and innovation, the Commission upholds key rights such as the right to an adequate standard of living, social security, civil society participation, and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Its [Productivity Investment Fund](#) enables County departments to enhance operational efficiency, expand service reach, and better meet the needs of residents. The Commission's [Prosper LA](#) program further supports the rights to work under just and favorable conditions, benefit from scientific progress, and access essential public services by streamlining contracting, supporting local businesses, and identifying cost-saving measures. These efforts not only align with County priorities but also ensure that governance is inclusive, responsive, and rights-based, ultimately improving the quality of life for all people in Los Angeles County. (American Declaration; CEDAW; CRC; CRPD; ICERD; ICESCR; UDHR; UNDRIP)

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR



The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) supports human rights by upholding the right to freedom of expression and access to information through transparent communication of the County's financial activities. By publishing data such as cash flow, audited financial statements, investment reports, and budget information, the TTC ensures residents can seek, receive, and understand information essential to public accountability and governance. This transparency strengthens civic engagement and public trust in government operations. Additionally, the TTC promotes accessibility by offering financial data in multiple formats, including screen reader-compatible web features and high-contrast visual options, supporting the rights of individuals with disabilities to access information equally. These inclusive practices align with the global human rights principles of equal access, non-discrimination, and the right to participate fully in public life. (American Declaration; CEDAW; UNDRIP; ICERD; ICCPR; ICESCR; UDHR)



REFERENCED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MAN ***(American Declaration)***

Adopted by the Organization of American States: 1948

U.S. Ratified: No

Purposes: To affirm all people are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights. To affirm essential human rights by the American States together with the guarantees given by the internal regimes of the States. To establish the initial system of protection considered by the American States. And to strengthen that system of human rights in the international field as conditions become more favorable.

Key Provision: Article XI – Rights to the preservation of health and to wellbeing.

Other Human Rights Protections:

- Life, liberty, and personal security
- Equality before the law
- Freedom of religion and worship
- Freedom of investigation, opinion, expression, and dissemination
- Protection of honor, personal reputation, and private and family life
- Family and protection of family
- Protection for mothers and children
- Residence and movement
- Inviolability of the home and transmission of correspondence
- Preservation of health and wellbeing
- Education
- Benefits of culture
- Work and fair pay
- Leisure time and its use
- Social security
- Recognition as a person in court and for civil rights
- Fair trial
- Nationality
- Vote and participation in government
- Assembly
- Association
- Property
- Petition
- Protection from arbitrary arrest
- Due process of law
- Asylum



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CAT)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1984

U.S. Ratified: Yes, 1994

Other Nations: 173 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the CAT.

Key States that have not ratified: China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Syria

Purposes: Prohibits torture under any circumstances. Places a responsibility on nations to proactively prevent it. Mandates accountability for perpetrators through legal action and remedies for victims. Promotes global standards for humane treatment and international cooperation to combat torture and protect human rights.

Key Human Rights and State Obligations:

- To be free from torture, meaning any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted
- To include prohibition of torture in a nation's laws
- To provide nations the greatest measure of assistance in helping other nations uphold the prohibition of torture To include prohibition of torture in a nation's laws
- To include education about and information on the prohibition of torture in all law enforcement training

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1979

U.S. Ratified: No

Other Nations: 189 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the CEDAW.

Key States that have not ratified: United States, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga

LA County Adopted CEDAW in 2021

Purposes: To eliminate discrimination against women in all spheres of life, including political, social, economic, and cultural areas by promoting their full participation in public life, including politics and decision-making processes. To ensure women have equal access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Key Human Rights and State Obligations:

- To adopt legislative and other measures to ensure the equality of men and women before the law
- To repeal penal provisions that constitute discrimination against women
- To promote the development and advancement of women in all political, social, economic, and cultural fields
- To provide equal education to men and women, including the same opportunities to participate in sports and physical education



- To receive equal healthcare treatment, including receiving information about healthy families and care related to family planning
- To have their choice in marriage partners and marital status

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 2006

U.S. Ratified: No

Other Nations: 191 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the CRPD.

Key States that have not ratified: United States, China, Hungary, Guatemala, Nigeria, Somalia, Bhutan, Malaysia

Purposes: To promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, i.e., persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.. To promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Key Human Rights and State Obligations:

- To ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities
- To ensure access to justice for all persons with disabilities through appropriate accommodations
- Liberty and security, including the right to be free from arbitrary detention
- Freedom from all forms of exploitation, violence, and abuse
- Respect for their physical and mental integrity on an equal basis
- Education, including an inclusive learning system at all levels
- Work on an equal basis as others
- Social protection, including an adequate standard of living and continuous improvement of living conditions

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1989

U.S. Ratified: No

Other Nations: 196 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the CRC.

2 States have not ratified: United States, South Sudan

Purposes: To recognize that children, defined as any individual under the age of 18, have the same rights as adults, in addition to rights that require special protection to ensure the healthy development, safety, and wellbeing of all children. Establishes that the best interests of the child should be the primary consideration in any act that concerns children.



Key Provision: Article 28 – Children have a right to education, and education and vocational materials should be available and free to all.

Other Human Rights and Duties:

- To ensure rights guaranteed in the other core human rights treaties are also applied to children
- To maintain an identity, including a nationality, a name, and family relations
- To remain with their parents and not be forcefully separated
- In the event of any type of family separation, to be reunified in a positive, humane, and expeditious manner
- Freedom of expression

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (ICERD)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1965

U.S. Ratified: Yes, 1994

Other Nations: 177 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the ICERD.

Key States that have not ratified: Myanmar, North Korea, South Sudan, Tonga

Purposes: To eliminate all forms of racial discrimination in public life, including education, employment, health care, housing, and the justice system. To create a world in which all people, regardless of race or ethnicity enjoy equal rights and opportunities and are treated with dignity and respect inherent to all human beings.

Key Human Rights and State Obligations:

- To be free from racial discrimination, meaning any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin
- To receive equal treatment before the law, including before all tribunals
- To be free from violence or harm caused by the State
- Movement and residence within a State
- Own and inherit property
- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of assembly and association
- To work and one's own choice of employment, and receive equal pay for equal work
- To participate in cultural and political life, including the right to access places for the public's general enjoyment



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES (ICMW)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1990 **U.S. Ratified:** No

Other Nations: 56 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the ICMW.

Key States that have not ratified: United States, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Singapore

Purposes: To protect the rights, welfare, and dignity of migrant workers. To ensure that migrant workers are not subject to exploitation, discrimination, or abuse.

Key Human Rights and State Obligations:

- Life, liberty, and security of person for migrant workers and their families
- Freedom from torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment
- Freedom from violence perpetrated by the State
- Freedom from arbitrary stops or arrests by law enforcement

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1966

U.S. Ratified: Yes, 1992

Other Nations: 170 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the ICCPR.

Key States that have not ratified: China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Vietnam, Belarus, Egypt, Somalia, Malaysia

Purposes: To establish legally binding obligations on countries to respect and protect the civil and political rights of individuals within their jurisdictions. To protect a broad mandate of rights without discrimination based on race, gender, nationality, or other status. To ensure all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, have access to fundamental human rights protections.

Key Provisions:

Article 6 - Every human being has the inherent right to life, and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their life.

Article 19 - Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas.

Article 25 - Every citizen has the right and opportunity to take part in public affairs through voting, and have access to public service.

Article 26 - All persons are equal before the law without discrimination, and all persons are entitled to equal protection from discrimination

Other Human Rights Protections:

- Self-determination: freedom to pursue their economic, social, and cultural development
- Freedom from torture or cruel, unusual, or degrading punishment
- Freedom from slavery



- Liberty and security
- Dignity and respect inherent to all humans while in detention
- Movement, including right to enter one's own country
- Equality before the court, including right to fair and free hearing
- Privacy
- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion
- Peaceful assembly
- Freedom of association
- Enjoyment of own culture, religion, and language for anyone in any ethnic, religious, or linguistic minority group

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1966

U.S. Ratified: No

Other Nations: 172 UN Member States have ratified or acceded to the ICESCR.

Key States that have not ratified: United States, China, South Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Belarus

Purposes: To guarantee that all people can fully realize their basic human rights to live with dignity and equality. To ensure the protection and promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights for all individuals, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or economic status. To foster global social justice. To ensure access to basic human rights across all facets of life. To hold States accountable for fulfilling their obligations in these areas.

Key Human Rights:

- Enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work, including fair wages and equal pay
- An adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing, and housing
- Safe and healthy working conditions
- Adequate leave with pay or adequate social security benefits following childbirth
- Freedom from hunger
- Enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Participation in cultural life
- Education, focused on the full development of the human personality

State Obligations:

Minimum Essential Levels - States are required to ensure the enjoyment of the minimum essential levels of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCRs).

Prohibition of Retrogression - States cannot implement measures that would diminish the current enjoyment of ESCRs. For example, States must ensure their policies do not undermine access to health care or social security benefits.

Prohibition of Discrimination - States cannot deploy discriminatory laws, policies, or practices, no matter the intent. Protecting the rights of marginalized communities must be a priority, even where resources are limited.



Use of Maximum Available Resources - States have a duty to use their maximum available resources for the progressive realization of ESCRs. A State with limited resources should strive to introduce targeted, low-cost programs to efficiently assist those most in need.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly: 1948

U.S. Ratified: Yes, 1948

Purpose: To provide a universal standard for all peoples and all nations.

Human Rights Protections:

Article 1 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 2 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status

Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 4 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

Article 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6 Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Article 8 Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights.

Article 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10 Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of rights and obligations and of any criminal charge.

Article 11 Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

Article 12 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy.

Article 13 Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within each State.

Article 14 Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

Article 15 Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Article 16 Men and women of full age, without limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.

Article 17 Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.



Article 20 Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Article 21 Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Article 22 Everyone has the right to social security.

Article 23 Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24 Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family. 2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26 Everyone has the right to education.

Article 27 Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Article 28 Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29 Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

Article 30 Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UNSDG)

Purpose: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. It centers in 17 Sustainable Development Goals which comprise an urgent call for action by all countries, developed and developing, in a global partnership. The goals reflect the conviction that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 1 End poverty in its forms everywhere.

Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.



Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15 Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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