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Jason Moss
Gay Q. Yuen, Ph.D.

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Robert Sowell
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

August 1, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting, August 4, 2025

Our Commission will meet on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.,

at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9th Floor, Room TK09, Los Angeles.

You may also join meeting **Via Teams Calendar Invitation** [Click here to join the meeting](#). If you are unable to do so, you may Dial: [+1 213-204-2512](tel:+12132042512), [980587174#](tel:+1213980587174). Please Post Agenda in your location.

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

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

If you are unable to join the meeting, please call me at (323) 719-9187 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday, August 1st.

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

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, 510 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020 – (323) 719-9187



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

AGENDA
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
Monday, August 4, 2025 – 12:30-2:00 pm
LA County Vermont Corridor Bldg. - 510 S. Vermont Ave.- LA, CA 90020
9th Floor Terrace Conference Room (TK09)

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

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

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment** (12:30)
- 2. Review & Approval of July 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes***
- 3. President's Report** (12:33)
 - 3.1. Spotlight on our new Commissioner: Serena Oberstein
 - 3.2. Message for the start of 2nd term and new fiscal year
 - 3.3. Report on Press Conference Unveiling LA vs Hate Muslim Community Mural on July 21st
 - 3.4. Report on LA vs Hate's Healing Fields Community Event on August 3rd
- 4. Executive Director's Report** (12:45)
 - 4.1. Report on July 21st and August 3rd LA vs Hate events
 - 4.2. International and National Human Rights meetings in Geneva and Atlanta – July 22nd-23rd; August 4th
 - 4.3. Other Budget, Admin and Program Updates
 - i BOS Motion on Measure B and other budget updates
 - ii Potential organizational changes
 - 4.4. Communications Update (PIO Cowser)
- 5. Committee Reports** (12:55)
 - 5.1. Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning)
 - 5.2. Human Rights Committee (Yuen)
 - 5.3. Strategic Planning Committee (Kulkarni)
- 6. Public Comment** (3 minutes per person) (1:05)
- 7. Action/Discussion Items** (1:10)
 - 7.1. FY 2025-26 Commission Committees*
 - 7.2. Human Rights Award Criteria and Timeline*
 - 7.3. Submission to UN Human Rights office*

- 7.4. Federal Immigration Activities in LA County and Commission/Community responses
- 7.5. Strategic Plan Follow Up
- 7.6. Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI)

8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) (1:55)

9. Adjournment in remembrance of those LA County community members who were wrongfully detained, incarcerated and/or deported

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

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

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

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by teleconference communication from the following corresponding locations: Michael Gi-Hao Cheung, 923 N Broadway, Los Angeles, Ca 90012, Dandy De Paula, 21815 Pioneer Blvd. Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716, Kevork Keushkerian, 1115 Valley View Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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

PROPOSED MINUTES

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of July 7, 2025

PRESENT:	Helen L. Chin	Kevork Keushkerian*
	Dandy De Paula*	Guadalupe Montaña
	Jeanette Ellis Royston	Jason Moss*
	Azusena Favela*	Fredrick Sykes
	Isabelle Gunning	Gay Yuen
ABSENT:	Michael Cheung	Derric J. Johnson
	Lisa Dabbs	Preeti Kulkarni
	Ilan Davidson	
STAFF:	Tony Cowser	Robin Toma
	Robert Sowell	Siranush Vardanyan
	Jenita Raksanoh	

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called the meeting to order at 12:42p.m. with a quorum in attendance. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](http://lacounty.gov). She recognized the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples as original inhabitants of these lands, honoring and paying respect to their elders and descendants; acknowledged that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma; and reminded us of our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County.
- 2. Review & Approval of June 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of June 2, 2025 as submitted by Vice President/Secretary Ilan Davidson (VP/Sec. Davidson) were presented by President Chin. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Guadalupe Montaña and seconded by Commissioner Fredrick Sykes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

3. President's Report

3.1 Spotlight on Partner: LA County Youth Commission Director: President Chin stated that the LA County Youth Commission Director is unable to join the meeting.

3.2 Reflections on the Federal Government actions in LA, Juneteenth, and the Vincent Chin

Events: President Chin expressed that she had the opportunity to attend the Vincent Chin Commemoration and how it was a chance to collectively reflect on what happened with Vincent Chin in the historical events that culminated in his death, and also reflect on how it looks similar to what we are all going through right now.

3.3 Updates on QPC Leadership Conference, LA Youth Poet Laureate event, Commissioner Networking Forum, and Commissioner re-appointments of Ilan Davidson and Dandy De Paula:

President Chin shared that Commissioner Keushkerian attended the QPC Leadership Conference and invited him to share about his experience. Commissioner Keushkerian stated that he appreciated that they discussed the January fires and the many efforts to rebuild the community and those who were affected. Additionally, Commissioner Keushkerian shared that he attended the Commissioner Networking Forum and learned about the different types of Artificial Intelligence (AI), how much AI improves with data collection. President Chin also shared that she attended the Commissioner Networking Forum and learned about the county's AI policy, attended the LA Youth Poet Laureate event and was impressed with the talent in Los Angeles. Lastly, President Chin acknowledged and congratulated the Board of Supervisors' reappointments of Commissioners Ilan Davidson and Dandy De Paula.

4. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director (ED) Robin Toma shared that like so many has been in shock about what is going on in our county and country as a result of the federal government actions, and spoke about how it affects our work, referring to item 4.2.

4.1 Anti-Trans hate crime, SD2 Compton KYR 6/7/25 workshop and QPC Leadership Conference:

ED Toma reported on the case of Sabrina de la Pena, a 61-year-old transwoman who was attacked multiple times in the Westlake/MacArthur Park area. ED Toma reported that HRC was unable to hold a planned press conference because partners were unavailable and the press were preoccupied with the federal immigration arrests and protest that had erupted, but we still did pursue support for Sabrina, that resulted in Supervisor Solis obtaining Board of Supervisors' approval for a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of two assailants still at large.. Additionally, we sought to add \$5,000 to that amount to promote greater response. ED Toma also reported that he presented on our Commission programs that can assist persons facing bias-motivated harassment by anyone at Supervisor Mitchell's Know Your Rights workshop at a Compton school on June 7th. He also highlighted one takeaway from the QPC Leadership Conference regarding the data reflecting the reality of immigrants' integration in the regional economy.

4.2 Budget, Admin, and Program Updates

- i. **Board of Supervisors' approval of LA vs Hate contract (211LA) & motions naming LACCHR:** ED Toma shared that the Board of Supervisors passed two motions in June that named LA County Commission of Human Relations- one was directing us to with other county agencies like ARDI and the LGBTQ+ Commission to develop a resource guide for the LGBTQ+ community. The Board also voted unanimously to approve our contracting with AAPI Equity Alliance to partner with

us and administer the LA vs Hate Rapid Response Network program.

- ii. **Public statements by the Commission on respecting human and civil rights and Juneteenth:** ED Toma reported that soon after the community upheaval resulting from the eruption of federal immigration activities in LA County, HRC and LA vs Hate posted statements calling for respect for human and civil rights by the federal government, based on concern for Latino/a county residents being targeted for arrest and questioning not based on specific information about particular individuals, but rather on stereotypes-based profiling. ED Toma also mentioned that when news of the possibility of cancellation of the federal government recognition of Juneteenth (the late day when the announcement of the end of slavery took place in major slave communities in the US), we posted a statement on LA County's support for Juneteenth and its significance.
- iii. **Personnel updates- departures of Roland Gilbert and Jenita Raksanoh:** ED Toma shared that an HRC employee, Roland Gilbert (senior staff on the Human Rights team), unexpectedly passed away in June, and we are all saddened by this news. He also shared that temporary employee working as the interim secretary Jenita Raksanoh had received an offer for a permanent position with the Department of Mental Health and will be leaving HRC. ED Toma introduced the new temporary employee filling the interim secretary position, Brittany Martinez, who just started working on the Commission staff.
- iv. **Budget, Program and Administrative Updates:** ED Toma noted that projected budget cuts for the Commission and various county departments have increased from 3% to 8.5%, creating uncertainty around staffing—including holds placed on filling two key positions, (secretary and senior human relations staff, left vacant respectively by Grace Lowenberg and Roland Gilbert). ED Toma shared that the Commission was honored with a National Association of Counties' Achievement Award for LA vs Hate. Another highlight was the Commission's ongoing work on the Human Rights Action Plan for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, and the invitation to the UN Human Rights gathering in Geneva (Switzerland) this July. Though we were not given approval to participate, due to budget constraints and other concerns, the invitation underscores the Commission's growing recognition by international bodies as a leader among local and regional governments in the US on human rights. Finally, ED Toma reported that the IAOHRA Conference venue has changed from Philadelphia to Anchorage, Alaska, and will take place in October. Budget considerations remain a factor in limiting the number of Commission participants, but he expressed hope for future opportunities and emphasized the importance of local government involvement in protecting and advancing human rights.

4.3 Communications Update — Commission Public Information Officer (PIO) Tony Cowser provided a recap of recent HRC community outreach, which included speaking at the LA Youth Poet Laureate ceremony and presenting an award to Samantha Rios, the new winner of the 2025 LA Youth Poet Laureate competition. PIO Cowser also mentioned the statements that the commission sent out in June, urging respect for fundamental human rights for all Angelenos in the face of the ICE raids. PIO Cowser also mentioned the statement we issued in honor of Juneteenth. PIO Cowser showed photos of LA vs Hate collateral materials at the Juneteenth Unity celebration hosted by Supervisorial District 2. Next, PIO Cowser reported that at the Vincent Chin Commemoration with the Chinese American Museum, ED Toma was a guest speaker at the event, led by Commissioner Yuen. PIO Cowser also showed the commissioners the new "Signs of Solidarity" (SOS) signs and posters, including new billboards in eight different locations around LA County, new signs and

posters created for the Antelope Valley in Supervisorial District 5, and new signs and posters for Koreatown in District 2, as well as Pico Robertson in District 3. (SOS posters and signs in District 1 were reported on in past meetings.) He then informed everyone that a mural unveiling would be taking place at the Islamic Center of Southern California on July 21st, which Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell would be speaking at the event. PIO Cowser then presented the final five HRC logos for the Commission to vote on. The winner was option B4 which won with seven votes (Commissioners Sykes, Favela, Gunning, Ellis-Royston, Yuen, De Paula, Moss), over the runner up option C4A with three votes (Commissioners Keushkerian, Moss, and Davidson). PIO Cowser indicated he would have the creative team finalize the logo and create a logo style guide.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning): Chair Gunning reported that the Committee met, covering two main updates. First, the group is preparing for a remote meeting with the Sheriff next Thursday to present their Commission-approved custody visit report. The Committee discussed what will be highlighted in the presentation and a proposal to collaborate with the Sheriff's department and the Constitutional Policing Unit. This partnership would involve gathering narratives from custody staff and addressing mental health support for incarcerated individuals—aiming to improve data collection around mental health concerns in custody. Second, it was reported that the Committee is supportive of a collaborative commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Watts Uprising that include partnerships with Supervisor Holly Mitchell, the LA City Human Relations Commission, Assemblymember Mike Gibson, Councilmember Tim McOsler, and the Children's Institute's Watts campus as a potential venue. Proposed elements of the event include an elders panel, discussions on the origins of commissions, cultural performances, interactive protest sign-making, and a focus on linking past and present social movements. The event is tentatively set for late August or early September, with the exact date still to be finalized.

5.2 Human Rights Committee (Yuen): Commissioner Yuen stated that the committee held a meeting on June 24th and is setting the parameters of what the committee is responsible for, and current Human Rights projects and programs. ED Toma explained that this the first time this county has been asked to a human rights action plan for any international sporting event, and it is especially important in this difficult moment in time.

5.3 Strategic Planning Committee (Kulkarni): Tabled for next meeting since Chair Kulkarni is not in attendance.

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

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1 Elections of Commission Officers: President Chin referred the Commissioners to the elections packet for review of the election ballot, per the Commission Bylaws. Commissioner Montañó presented the candidates as follows: Commissioner Chin for President for a second term, Commissioner Davidson for VP Sec. and Commissioners Johnson, Keushkerian and Sykes as Vice Presidents. The motion to elect was moved by Commissioner Yuen and seconded by Commissioner Gunning. The vote on the motion was unanimous with no objections or abstentions.

7.2 Report on Alignment of County Government with Human Rights: ED Toma recognized the wonderful work of staff Assistant Executive Director Robert Sowell, as well as Human Rights manager Aneisa Bolton as well as our partners. UC Irvine Law

School's International Justice Clinic and Northeastern University School of Law's Center for Global Law and Justice. ED Toma said that this report —aims to help LA County government recognize how its regular operations contribute to fulfilling internationally recognized human rights. It was discussed that the report emphasizes that human rights are not distant issues, but deeply relevant to local governance and everyday public service. The report is also intended for broader distribution, including to international bodies like the UN Human Rights Council and domestic partners such as The Carter Center. Commissioner Gunning made a motion in support of approval of the report, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellis Royston. The motion passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

7.3 Federal Immigration Activities in LA County and Commission/Community responses: No objections were made to table this item due to lack of time.

7.4 Strategic Plan Follow Up: No objections were made to table this item due to lack of time.

7.5 Collaboration with County Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI): No objections were made to table this item due to lack of time.

- 8. Commissioner Announcements:** Commissioner Montaña shared that today is her last meeting because Supervisor Horvath is moving her to the Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission; and that although she is extremely sad, she is also proud to continue her work there. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude in working with her and thanked her for her years as a commissioner. Commissioner Ellis Royston asked where the certificates and trophies that HRC received are being housed. ED Toma shared that they are now being stored because very little is allowed to be displayed on the walls in this building (510 S. Vermont). She also shared that she has taken a class for sky breathing for meditation that she would like to share digitally. Lastly, staff Pierre Arreola shared that ICE agents are presently at MacArthur Park, and informed attendees to avoid getting stuck traffic in that area.
- 9. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn in memory of Roland Gilbert was moved by Commissioner Montaña and seconded by Commissioner Gunning, which was approved without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary

LA vs Hate Joins Local Leaders to Unveil Mural Celebrating the Muslim Community at the Islamic Center To Bring Healing and Solidarity Against Hate

New LA vs Hate mural reflects growing community response to rising hate crimes and calls for unity and action.

[Media Assets Available Here](#)



Dr. Nasser Karam, Board Chair, ICSC (eighth from left), Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District (Center), Robin Toma, Executive Director of LA County Human Relations Commission, and Daniella Urbina, Senior Advisor for Supervisor Solis, Chair Pro Tem, First District (in white suit jacket) took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Muslim mural unveiling at the Islamic Center of Southern California in Los Angeles on Monday, July 21.

LOS ANGELES, CA – LA vs Hate joined faith leaders, elected officials, artists, and community members at the Islamic Center of Southern California to celebrate the unveiling of a new mural titled “Sabr at Fajr”, created by Palestinian-American artist Saj Issa. The event, hosted by LA vs Hate in partnership with MPAC, CAIR-LA, is part of LA vs Hate’s Signs of Solidarity campaign. Launched in April, [Signs of Solidarity](#) is a grassroots initiative aimed at countering rising hate, hostility, and discrimination by distributing community signage—such as yard signs, posters, and murals—to foster a shared neighborhood identity rooted in inclusion and respect for diversity.

The mural’s title, which means “Patience at Dawn,” depicts a symbolic Sabr (cactus) plant taking root in an ethereal landscape that evokes both Los Angeles and the Middle East, echoing the strength and identity of the Muslim community in LA County. Developed through months of community engagement and MuralColors Artist Residency Program, the placement of the mural could not have come at a better time. In May, the Islamic Center was defaced with hate-motivated graffiti—an attack that galvanized the community and spurred renewed efforts to combat hate in all its forms.



Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, gave a speech of inclusion and togetherness to local leaders and community partners at the Muslim mural unveiling at the Islamic Center of Southern California in Los Angeles on July 21.

Leaders, including Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District; LA County Commission on Human Relations Executive Director Robin Toma; Deputy LA City Mayor Jacqueline Hamilton; MPAC President Salam Al-Marayati; CAIR-LA Civil Rights Managing Attorney Dina Chehata; and Dr. Nasser Karam, Board Chair of the Islamic Center of Southern California, stood together in solidarity. The community unveiling also featured live music, food, children's art activities, and the distribution of *Signs of Solidarity* posters and yard signs that attendees took home to visibly signal their commitment to inclusion.

"Through art and outreach, our community has made it resoundingly clear that love, resilience, and unity will prevail over the act of hate that happened at this sacred place of worship," said Holly J. Mitchell, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Second District. "This mural embodies the spirit of LA County's Signs of Solidarity campaign, which is about reclaiming space, amplifying community voices, and making visible our shared values of inclusion and belonging. We are standing together to show that hate has no home in LA County."

"The unveiling of 'Sabr at Fajr' is a powerful reminder of our community's resilience in the face of hate," said Hilda L. Solis, Los Angeles County Chair Pro Tem and First District Supervisor. "At a time when acts of hate seek to divide us, this mural stands as a vivid symbol of hope, healing, and unity. I'm proud to stand with LA vs Hate, the Islamic Center of Southern California, and all those working to ensure Los Angeles County remains a place where diversity is not only welcomed but celebrated."

LA vs Hate Joins Local Leaders to Unveil Mural Celebrating the Muslim Community

Daniella Urbina, Senior Advisor, representing Supervisor Solis, Chair Pro Tem, First District (in white suit jacket) presented scrolls to local leaders, teachers and a student for their positive work with the community at the Islamic Center in Los Angeles on Monday, July 21.

“This mural is not just a response to hate—it’s a vision for what solidarity looks like,” said Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. “We know that public art has the power to heal and to inspire, especially when it is rooted in community voice. Through the Signs of Solidarity campaign, we’re creating visible reminders across the county that hate will not divide us—and that unity, respect and inclusion are values we will stand for every day.”

“This mural affirms the vital role the Muslim community plays in the fabric of Los Angeles—woven into its communities, culture, and civic life,” said Salam Al-Marayati, President, Muslim Public Affairs Council. “In the face of hate and division, we respond with dignity, expression, and a shared commitment to justice and to benefit humanity.”

“This imagery serves as a reminder that we are never truly alone, so long as we remain steadfast in our faith,” said Saj Issa, who created the mural. “It also speaks to the beauty of endurance and the shared human story of finding belonging after hardship.”

“Over the last 21 months, the American Muslim community and our allies have faced an increase in Islamophobic, xenophobic, and racist hate here at home while watching a U.S.-funded genocide against our communities abroad happen in real-time,” said Dina Chehata, Civil Rights Managing Attorney for CAIR-LA. “But in a time of growing hostility, we gather today not in fear, but in faith and resolve. This mural is more than art on a wall: it is a declaration of presence, belonging, and enduring. It is a statement that we will not be erased; that when our communities are targeted and our mosques defaced, we will not meet hate with silence, but with unity, solidarity, and strength.”

Founded in 1953, the Islamic Center of Southern California serves as a spiritual and cultural anchor for Muslims in Los Angeles and beyond. With a mission rooted in faith, inclusion, and civic engagement, the Center promotes a balanced understanding of Islam and encourages collaboration with interfaith and community partners to build a more compassionate and just society.

The mural unveiling is part of LA vs Hate’s growing [Signs of Solidarity](#) campaign, which aims to combat the sharp rise in hate crimes by reclaiming public space with messages of inclusion. The 2023 Hate Crime Report revealed a 45% increase in hate crimes across LA County, prompting a strategic expansion of efforts to foster visibility, connection, and collective resistance to hate. The campaign has already launched in Westlake, San Pedro, Pico-Robertson, and Koreatown; Signs of Solidarity will launch in Hollywood, Florence,

Culver City, Santa Monica, Burbank, and Antelope Valley next.

In addition to murals, Signs of Solidarity includes countywide distribution of yard signs, posters, and public art installations—each designed in collaboration with local artists and organizations—to encourage visible community solidarity, empower residents to show that hate is not welcome in their neighborhoods, and to remind them of free confidential support by reporting to LAvsHate.org/211. In August, LA vs Hate will reveal another new mural in South LA by artist Kenneth Webb located at the Upendo House.

Signs of Solidarity builds on the success of LA vs Hate's 2023 [Summer of Solidarity](#) mural program by expanding its vision for community-driven public art as a tool for healing and resistance. While Summer of Solidarity brought murals to all five county districts to celebrate LA's diverse communities, Signs of Solidarity takes that work further—pairing public art with grassroots outreach in areas most impacted by hate. These projects are shaped by community input and reflect the unique identities of each neighborhood, reinforcing LA vs Hate's belief that visible, local expressions of unity are essential to shifting culture, reclaiming space, and building long-term community resilience.

Launched by the LA County Commission on Human Relations in 2019, LA vs Hate provides a free, confidential, and anonymous hotline for victims and witnesses to receive free support for any hate incident or hate crime via online reporting to LAvsHate.org or by calling 2-1-1 in LA County, in turn receiving free follow-up services and supportive resources.

To learn more about the Signs of Solidarity campaign or to request a free sign or poster, visit: www.lavshate.org/signsofsolidarity.

About LA vs Hate

LA vs Hate is a community-centered program designed to support all residents of Los Angeles County. Led by the County's Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate is a system of creating and amplifying diverse anti-hate messaging; providing easy ways to report and get help for hate; and expanding networks for actions against hate. Its mission is to ensure that every person feels a sense of belonging and safety in our county. LA vs Hate boosts reporting of hate activity, helps hate victims to access a broad range of assistance and support, and prevents hate from happening in the first place. LA vs Hate is based on continuous campaigning and a unique approach in arts-based messaging that recognizes the diversity of community identities, and the value of knowing about hate incidents, in addition to hate crimes, to inform our strategies and priorities.

About the LA County Commission on Human Relations

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

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

The Brief

The most important stories for you to know today

Unique mural at LA mosque

The artwork symbolizes patience and endurance

By [Yusra Farzan](#)

Published July 22, 2025 1:13 PM



Named "Sabr at Fajr," the mural by artist Saj Issa captures the themes of patience, endurance and resilience.

(Courtesy Jose Garcia)

Topline:

A sabbaar — the Arabic name for a prickly pear cactus — is at the heart of a new mural unveiled at the Islamic Center of Southern California Monday. The unveiling comes a month after the mosque in Koreatown was targeted with hate-motivated graffiti.

Symbolism in the mural: The mural is named *Sabr at Fajr*, meaning patience at daybreak. And it is rich in symbolism: The cactus at its heart is a cultural anchor for Chicano, Latino and Muslim communities — and a plant known for its resilience. Artist Saj Issa chose to place the cactus in a broken pot to depict the displacement of Native people. Four jugs pour water on the arid, desert backdrop, representing the different cultures who call L.A. home and the diversity of the Muslim community.

Why it matters: Community leaders say the mural is the first at a mosque in the U.S. Dina Chehata, the civil rights managing attorney for the Los Angeles chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights organization, said the mural comes at a time when anti-Muslim hate crimes are rising.



BUDLONG AVE
41ST ST

LA VS HATE Y HEAR ME OUT
PRESENTA

LOS CAMPOS CURATIVOS

PRESENTACIÓN Y CELEBRACIÓN DEL MURAL

Domingo, 3 de Agosto de 2025
12:00 pm-4:00 pm
4123 S Budlong Ave,
Los Ángeles, CA 90037

Sembrando conciencia, amor y solidaridad
en nuestra lucha colectiva en contra del odio
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RSVP: <https://qrco.de/healingfields>

LA VS HATE
HEAR ME OUT



“From Local Realities to Global Accountability: Embedding Local and Regional Governments in Human Rights Reporting and implementation”



SUMMARY

Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) are at the forefront of human rights implementation, yet their contributions remain inadequately captured by the international human rights system. A recent workshop in Geneva explored how national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRFs) i.e central government structures with a mandate to report and follow-up on human rights, can serve as bridges between global human rights norms and local realities.

The hybrid event organized on 23 July in Geneva brought together more than 100 government officials, local and regional governments, city networks, civil society, independent experts and UN actors to identify practical pathways drawing on the experiences of over 40 countries represented for integrating LRGs into national reporting frameworks—through digital innovation, inclusive data practices, and institutional reform.





The discussions underscored that recognizing LRGs as co-owners of the human rights monitoring cycle is not only a matter of justice but of effectiveness.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **LRGs are already implementing human rights:** From non-discrimination and equal access to public services and from poverty reduction to inclusive education, many local policies align with international human rights recommendations—even if not explicitly framed that way.
- **LRGs are essential human rights actors:** LRGs have an obligation to fulfil states' human rights commitments. As the closest level of governance to communities, they are frontline providers of rights and are well positioned to capture granular, often overlooked data, implement rights-based policies and support vulnerable rights holders.
- **NMIRFs can be strategic enablers:** Positioned between international and domestic spheres, NMIRFs can coordinate or at least promote LRG engagement in both human rights reporting and implementation.
- **Digital human rights tracking tools are game changers:** Platforms like SIMORE Plus, IMPACT OSS/SADATA and OHCHR's NRTD enable multi-level data integration and accountability tracking. If LRGs are given access to existing digital tools, they could be pragmatically included in national human rights reporting and implementation processes, ensuring their data and actions are systematically captured and recognized.
- **Civil society, NHRIs and networks of local and regional governments are vital connectors:** Where formal mechanisms are weak, these actors facilitate LRG participation and amplify local voices.
- **Recognition and incentives matter:** LRGs need visibility, resources, and institutional recognition to sustain their engagement with the international human rights system.

CHALLENGES

- **Structural exclusion:** The international human rights system remains largely national government-centric offering few formal entry points for LRGs.
- **Fragmented data ecosystems:** Local data often fails to reach national or international levels due to siloed systems and lack of effective communication channels. When NMIRFs include LRGs as members, these set-ups vary significantly from one country to another and are often in early stages, which can make it difficult to formulate clear recommendations to strengthen such mechanisms.
- **Political resistance, security and trust barriers:** In some contexts, national governments are reluctant to share space or authority with local actors, failing to recognize the role and importance of LRGs as duty bearers at local level.





- **Fragmented and complex recommendations:** The volume, duplication and legalistic framing of recommendations often make them difficult to interpret and prioritize at the national and local levels, making connection with other processes including on the SDGs more impermeable for policy implementers.
- **Lack of awareness and training:** LRGs may be unaware of their role in human rights reporting and implementation or lack the tools to act on it.
- **Resource constraints:** Many LRGs lack the technical capacity, human and financial resources to engage meaningfully in human rights reporting and implementation processes.

EMERGING SOLUTIONS

- **Framing and incentives:** Promoting a positive and relatable narrative around human rights and more entry-points in the UN system and offering tangible benefits for LRG engagement with the international human rights system.
- **Flexibility in reporting to UN human rights mechanisms:** Using annexes to national reports to capture more data from LRGs is already an option opened in reports to UN treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. Some States have already used this good practice. Using UPR mid-term reports which are also voluntary and without word limits should be further encouraged.
- **Inclusive NMIRFs:** Designing NMIRFs or expanding existing structures to formally include LRGs in both reporting and implementation cycles.
- **Digital integration:** Use of AI-powered digital human rights tracking tools to map recommendation lifecycles, assign responsibilities, and analyse trends across governance levels.
- **Bridging SDGs and human rights:** Aligning local SDG reporting, which LRGs are more involved in, with human rights obligations to streamline efforts, reduce reporting burdens and strengthen implementation on the ground.
- **Peer learning and networks:** Leveraging networks or associations of local or regional governments which exist in many countries to share best practices and build collective capacity.
- **Capacity-building and training:** Providing targeted training for LRG representatives on UN human rights mechanisms and procedures, as well as on national human rights monitoring and implementation strategies, to enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully.



- “We already see ourselves as partners of the international human rights system. What we need is recognition—not to bypass national governments, but to be acknowledged as actors of transformation.”
— José Alvarez, United Cities and Local Governments
- “Digital human rights tracking tools are not just technical fixes—they represent a structural opportunity to bridge the gap between global norms and local realities.”
— Domenico Zipoli, Geneva Human Rights Platform
- “Engaging with the UN human rights systems does come with a cost — in expertise, capacity, and resources — but the long-term benefits are clear. It provides legitimacy and visibility for LRGs’ human rights work, helps identify gaps and opportunities, prioritize investments in certain sectors and benchmark with others. It also enables LRGs to hold national governments accountable to their international commitments”
— Anh Thu Duong, Global Cities Hub
- “This event is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together as a human rights community. OHCHR offers a unique space for peer learning and the exchange of good practices—recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all. With the upcoming launch of the National Mechanisms’ Hub, we are taking this spirit of collaboration to the next level” — Nosy Ramamonjisoa, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



THE CARTER CENTER MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Standing Strong: Human Rights in US in a New Era August 3-4, 2025

Time	Activity	Objectives/Logistics
Sunday August 3, 2025: Indigo Hotel and South City Kitchen		
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome dinner, introductions	Setting the stage, getting to know other participants
Monday August 4, 2025: Zaban Room		
08:00 – 08:30	Breakfast/networking	(Lower commons)
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome/introduction	Barbara Smith , Vice President, Peace Programs, The Carter Center Susan Marx , Director, Human Rights Program, The Carter Center Jordan Long , Senior Associate Director, Human Rights Program, The Carter Center Hadar Harris , Facilitator, Rights & Justice Consulting
09:00 – 10:30	What has succeeded in the US regarding promoting and protecting human rights?	Objective: Participants discuss what has worked on the national, state and local level to both promote and protect human rights in the US, distilling key learnings.
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	(Lower commons)
11:00 – 12:30	What have been the challenges and failures in promoting and protecting human rights?	Objectives: Participants focus on what has <u>not</u> worked in promoting and protecting human rights in the US, distilling key learnings.
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:00	Lessons learned from President Carter's legacy of promoting and protecting human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Schneider, former Principal Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights (Carter Administration) - <i>invited</i> • Roberta Cohen, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights (Carter Administration) - <i>invited</i> • Gay McDougall, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (during the Carter Administration) Discussion facilitated by Karin Ryan , Senior Policy Advisor, The Carter Center
14:00 – 15:15	What have we learned from promoting and protecting human rights in the US and abroad?	Objective: Based on the previous two sessions, participants will discuss lessons learned from the challenges in the US and integrate perspectives from other contexts to distill relevant lessons for the current moment. <i>Small group with guided questions and debrief.</i>
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break	(Lower commons)
16:45 – 17:15	How do these discussions inform how we move forward to promote and protect human rights in the US?	Objective: Concretely identify how the day's findings can inform ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights in the current moment (who and what are missing from the conversation? How does this discussion link to ongoing efforts? What role can the Carter Center play as a convener and facilitator?) <i>Full group facilitated discussion</i>
17:15 – 17:45	Closing and Thank You	Paige Alexander , Chief Executive Officer, The Carter Center



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

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Monday, August 4, 2025 | 10:45AM – 12:15PM

510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
9th Floor, Press Room

[Via Microsoft Teams](#)
Or Call In at +1 (213) 204-2512
Phone Conference ID: 333 921 796#

Chair: Commissioner Isabelle Gunning | **Secretary:** Commissioner Azusena Favela

Members: Commissioners Preeti Kulkarni, Fredrick Sykes, Derric Johnson,
Jeanette Ellis-Royston

Staff: Robin Toma, Robert Sowell, Pierre Arreola, Joshua Parr, Paul Smith

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples (10:45)**
- 2. Review & Approval of July 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes (10:47)**
- 3. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability (10:50)**
 - 3.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives
- 4. Discussion: Staff & County Updates (11:30)**
 - 4.1. Watts Uprising 60th Anniversary
 - 4.2. Regional Projects
- 5. Public Comment (3 Minutes Per Person) (12:00)**
- 6. Action Items (12:05)**
 - 6.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives
 - 6.2. Watts Uprising 60th Anniversary
- 7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements (12:10)**
- 8. Adjournment (12:15)**

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by conference telephone communication from the following locations: Preeti Kulkarni, 3419 Federal Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066.

For translation to other languages o para más información en Español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us at PArreola@hrc.lacounty.gov. An asterisk () denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.*

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



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 11th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

PROPOSED MINUTES TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Meeting of July 7, 2025
In Person and via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing
510 South Vermont Avenue, 15th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90020*

PRESENT:	Chair Isabelle Gunning Secretary Azusena Favela* Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Fredrick Sykes
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola* Robert Sowell	Paul Smith* Joshua Parr

**Attended Virtually in Compliance with the Brown Act*

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples:** Chair Isabelle Gunning called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM, with a quorum in attendance. Commissioner Azusena Favela joined the meeting virtually from a previously disclosed, publicly accessible location per Brown Act requirements. Chair Isabelle Gunning then acknowledged that settler colonization has caused intergenerational trauma and the loss of lands and lives to the native cultures who lived here prior to the later waves of migrants who came to what is now called Los Angeles County.
- 2. Review & Approval of June 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Chair Isabelle Gunning invited a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes motioned to approve the minutes of the Transformative Justice Committee meeting on June 2, 2025, as presented by staff. Commissioner Ellis-Royston seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Sykes

Seconded: Ellis-Royston

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Sykes, Favela

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson, Kulkarni

Vote: 4 – 0

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability

3.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives: The Committee discussed preparation for the upcoming meeting with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), scheduled for July 17. Committee members and staff discussed the best structure for this engagement, emphasizing the need to use the limited meeting time effectively and to prioritize clear, constructive communication. The committee affirmed its commitment to a partnership approach.

The Committee discussed a narrative collection initiative focused on custody staff, aiming to surface the unique stressors, workplace challenges, and mental health support needs of staff working in county custody facilities. The Committee discussed an initiative concerning narrative collection with mental health assistants residing in the FIP Step Down program, which the Committee identified as an optimal starting point for building trust and a productive working relationship with LASD. The Committee agreed that while reentry-focused narrative collection is important, it should be addressed separately in partnership with a community-based organization.

A key theme running through these discussions was the Committee's dual concern for both incarcerated individuals and the wellbeing of custody staff, especially in relation to mental health, trauma exposure, and occupational stress. Members highlighted the importance of collecting narratives that reveal barriers and needs that may not be captured in existing formal reports or data.

For the July 17 meeting, the committee structured its inquiry into three main thematic areas. The first relates to staff and personnel concerns, with the committee planning to ask LASD what constitutes an optimal custody staff-to-inmate ratio in each facility to ensure safety, security, rehabilitation, and staff well-being. The second area focuses on inmate education and labor, with questions about the economic impact of incarcerated individuals' labor on county operations, the fairness and equity of compensation for work performed, and the possibility of reclassifying certain inmates to alleviate staff shortages and offer more opportunities for rehabilitation. The third area addresses the inmate welfare fund, specifically inquiring about expenditure management and the transparency and accountability mechanisms in place to ensure funds are used as intended.

To facilitate meaningful dialogue, the committee agreed to send these questions to LASD in advance, accompanied by a carefully framed introduction emphasizing the Committee's intention to collaborate and support positive change. It was decided that there would be no need to present the full report during the meeting, as it has already been shared with LASD, but a concise PowerPoint summary will be provided to LASD in advance of the meeting. The Committee also plans to propose a follow-up meeting to address any questions requiring further research.

4. Discussion: Staff & County Updates

4.1. Watts Uprising 60th Anniversary: Staff Pierre Arreola presented a proposal to support a commemorative event for the 60th anniversary of the Watts uprising, in partnership with the LA City Human Relations Commission and other community stakeholders. The event, which is tentatively scheduled for late August or early September 2025 at the Children's Institute in Watts, would feature panels, intergenerational dialogue, cultural programming, and interactive activities. Staff will circulate a visioning document and a list of partners as the event planning progresses. Committee members voiced their support for this initiative, recognizing its significance for both historical reflection and ongoing community-building.

4.2. Regional Projects: There were no regional projects discussed due to time constraints.

5. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this meeting.

6. Action Items

6.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives: The Committee agreed to proceed with the script as presented by staff with the revisions requested by Committee members. Staff Pierre Arreola will incorporate the revisions and will send the finalized script to all Committee members for their review and approval in advance of the meeting with LASD.

6.2 Watts Uprising 60th Anniversary: Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston presented a motion to support a commemorative event for the 60th anniversary of the Watts Uprising. Chair Isabelle Gunning seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Ellis-Royston

Seconded: Gunning

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Sykes, Favela

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson, Kulkarni

Vote: 4 – 0

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Commissioner & Staff Announcements: Staff Joshua Parr informed the group about an immigration enforcement action that was happening in real time, in MacArthur Park.

8. Adjournment: Commissioner Fredrick Sykes presented a motion to adjourn. Chair Isabelle Gunning seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Sykes

Seconded: Gunning

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Sykes, Favela

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson, Kulkarni

Vote: 4 – 0

The motion passed unanimously. Seeing no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pierre Ivan Arreola

Transformative Justice Committee Staff

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR)
Commission Committees FY 2024-2025
To Consider for Action at Commission Meeting August 4, 2025

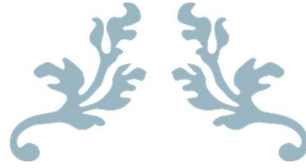
JAF AWARDS EVENT COMMITTEE	TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE	LA VS. HATE COMMITTEE	POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE	AD HOC STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
<i>Ilan Davidson</i> (Chair)	<i>Isabelle Gunning</i> (Chair)	<i>Guadalupe Montaño</i> (Chair)	<i>Isabelle Gunning*</i> (Chair)	<i>Preeti Kulkarni</i> (Chair)
Ilan Davidson	Jeanette Ellis Royston	Helen Chin**	Lisa Dabbs	Derric Johnson
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Guadalupe Montaño	Preeti Kulkarni	Jason Moss	Derric Johnson	Jason Moss
Gay Q. Yuen	Azusena Favela	Gay Q. Yuen	Jason Moss	
	Fredrick Sykes	Ilan Davidson		
Staff: Robert Sowell	Staff: Robert Sowell Pierre Arreola Joshua Parr	Staff: Robin Toma Fidel Rodriguez Valentina D'Alessandro	Staff: Robin Toma	Staff: Robin Toma Robert Sowell
			*Appointed by Pres. Helen Chin with Guadalupe Montano departure	

(*) Our Commission Bylaws (Article IX) require that each year, our Commission ratify the committees and its members.
(**) The Commission President is an ex-officio member of all committees, per the Commission's Bylaws.
9/4/2024 12:02 AM

[illegible]

Human Rights Award 2025 – Proposed Timeline

- July 29 – Human.Rights.Committee.Meeting
Initial discussion of award criteria and key considerations for the 2025 selection process.
- August 25 – Human.Rights.Committee.Meeting
Finalize award criteria and selection process.
- September 8th – Formally request Human Rights award presentation during December 9th Board meeting.
- September 30 – Human.Rights.Committee.Meeting
Presentation and review of nominees for the 2025 Human Rights Award.
- October 28 – Human.Rights.Committee.Meeting
Final decision on award recipient.
- November 3 – Commission.Meeting
Human Relations Commission votes to approve the selected awardee.
- November 4 – Board.Notification
Notify the Board of Supervisors of the awardee selection.
- November 7 – Scroll.Request.Submission
Submit request for the creation of scrolls to be presented at the award ceremony.
- December 9 – Board.of.Supervisors.Meeting
Official presentation of the 2025 Human Rights Award to the recipient.



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



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

hrc.lacounty.gov



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integration of International Norms and Labor Standards in Procurement:

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

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

Living Wage Ordinance and Enforcement:

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

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

Capacity-Building Initiatives:

The County supports capacity building by requiring:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key ECC strategies include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Existing practices are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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