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Vice President / Secretary

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Fredrick Sykes
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Serena Zeise-Oberstein.

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Robert Sowell
Assistant Executive Director

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Board Executive Officer

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

January 5, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Helen Chin, President

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Commission/Executive
Committee on Human Relations, January 5, 2026

Our Commission will meet on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.,

at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9th Floor, Room TK02, 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: [+1 213-204-2512,477739579#](tel:+12132042512477739579)
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, January 2, 2026.

*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 (213) 738-2788

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Monday, January 5, 2026 – 12:30-2:00 pm

LA County Vermont Corridor Bldg. - 510 S. Vermont Ave. - LA, CA 90020
9th Floor Terrace Conference Room

Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204 2512,,980587174#](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/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 December 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes***
- 3. President's Report (12:33)**
 - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner: Reena Hajat Carroll, Executive Director, Confluence Rising
 - 3.2. Dec 7th Press Conference for Our Annual Report on Hate Crimes
 - 3.3. New Year Message
- 4. Executive Director's Report (12:45)**
 - 4.1. Budget, Admin and Program Updates
 - i Release of Annual Report on Hate Crime in LA County*
 - ii Board of Supervisors' motion for human rights*
 - iii Commission staff service awards
 - iv Budget actions and impact on HRC programs and services
 - v Commission staff changes and known departmental organizational changes
 - 4.2. Communications Update (Robert Sowell)
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
 - 5.1. Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning)
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**
 - 7.1. Transformative Justice Committee's Recommendation to sunset
 - 7.2. LA County Human Rights Award update
 - 7.3. Impact of Sept 30th budget actions on HRC staff and services
 - 7.4. Federal immigration activities in LA County and County/Commission/Community responses
 - 7.5. Nonviolent Direct Action Training
- 8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) (1:55)**

9. Adjournment in honor of rights activist/movie director/producer Rob Reiner; and the 15 Killed in the December 16th Anti-Jewish Hate Shooting in Bondi Beach, Australia

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: Isabelle Gunning, 6215 Acacia Street, Los Angeles, CA 90056, Azuela Favela (Virtual) 700 S Flower, Los Angeles, CA, 90017, Derric Johnson 515 S. Figueroa St. Suite 900, 5th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071, Jeanette Ellis-Royston 460 East Holt Ave #142, Room 6, Pomona, CA, 91767, 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 December 1, 2025

PRESENT:	Michael Gi-Hao	Derric J. Johnson
	Cheung**	Preeti Kulkarni
	Helen Chin	Jason Moss
	Ilan Davidson	Fredrick Sykes
	Dandy De Paula*	Serena Oberstein
	Jeanette Ellis-Royston	Gay Yuen
	Isabelle Gunning*	Kevork Keushkerian*
ABSENT:	Lisa Dabbs	Azusena Favela
STAFF:	Monica Lomeli	Robin Toma
	Brittany Martinez	Siranush Vardanyan
	Robert Sowell	

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Helen Chin called to order the meeting of the Executive Committee at 12:37 p.m. President Chin began by reading the LA County Land Acknowledgment, which can be found at the following link: [Land Acknowledgment – \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/land-acknowledgment). 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 November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** The proposed minutes of the Commission meeting of November 3, 2025 as submitted by VP/Sec. Davidson were presented to the Commission. A motion to approve the November 3, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Sykes. The motion passed with no opposition, and Commissioners Johnson,

* 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 counted for quorum or for votes.

3. President's Report

3.1 Spotlight on a Partner: Candace Reyes of Task Force: Candace Reyes delivered a comprehensive update on ongoing outreach and public engagement activities. She reported a new distribution opportunity achieved through a partnership that allowed artwork and campaign messaging to be included on 1,000 sandwiches delivered to customers, creating an innovative way to reach individuals who had not previously been engaged. Candace outlined the neighborhoods where materials have recently been distributed, including Westlake, San Pedro, Koreatown, Long Beach, and South Los Angeles, noting that each community received its own uniquely designed lawn signs, posters, and artwork tailored to local residents. She presented photos of the materials displayed throughout these neighborhoods, illustrating strong community participation. Additionally, she highlighted broader regional interest, sharing that multiple neighborhoods and cities have voluntarily opted in to distribute the materials within their own communities. Candace emphasized the diversity and creativity of the artwork produced, reflecting the cultural identities of the residents and generating enthusiasm among those displaying the pieces in their homes and businesses. She concluded her update by reiterating the positive reception of the campaign and invited questions from the group.

3.2 Lessons from Recent Participation in HRC's Voter Protection Project: President Chin shared reflections on their recent experience serving in a protective, de-escalatory role during election-related activities. She explained that the Commission's responsibility was to prevent any dismantling of established voting protocols, ensuring that the public could cast their ballots free from intimidation. She emphasized that a key aspect of their role was not to escalate tensions, but rather to actively de-escalate potential threats—whether from protesters or possible federal presence. President Chin described the personal preparation required, including maintaining focus on the dignity and humanity of all individuals involved, even those who might contribute to disruption. She reiterated that their primary objective was safeguarding voters' ability to participate without fear. President Chin noted that a formal debrief with the Registrar's Office is forthcoming, as this experience will inform planning for the 2026 election cycle. She concluded by acknowledging the significance of the moment and expressing appreciation for the Commission's willingness to step up in support of this critical work.

3.3 Anniversary of Watts Uprising Event: President Chin reported that she recently participated as a panelist at the LA City/County Human Relations Commissions' event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Watts uprising. She referenced the photos previously shared by a colleague and highlighted the range of panels held during the program, including an elders panel and discussions on the origins of both the County and City Commissions. She reflected on the significance of the gathering, noting its blend of historical recognition, community storytelling, and institutional reflection.

4. Executive Director's Report:

4.1 Budget, Admin and Program Updates

- i. **Report on Preventing Hate, Conflict and Election Disruption for LA County, UN meetings on human rights, Council on Immigration Inclusion:** Executive Director Robin Toma (ED Toma) noted that a colleague who previously supported Commission efforts has now joined the Registrar-Recorder's office to assist with anticipated electoral challenges, referencing recent concerns raised when the President of the United States announced plans to send federal monitors to Los Angeles for upcoming elections. ED Toma emphasized the importance of preparedness and encouraged commissioners and community members who are interested in serving during the 2025–2026 election cycle—including both the primaries and the general election—to consider receiving training

and taking on protective, voter-support roles. These responsibilities, they explained, are significant both for local communities and the nation. ED Toma then transitioned the meeting to Assistant Executive Director (AED) Robert Sowell, inviting him to provide an update on the first phase of the Commission's final project. Assistant Executive Director (AED) Robert Sowell provided an overview of the intensive work schedule during the recent election period, noting that some team members served two full days while others worked extended hours from Saturday through Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Tuesday from 6:00 a.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m. He emphasized that Vote Centers remain open past closing time whenever voters are still in line at 8:00 p.m., and shared that their own site concluded close to 10:00 p.m. on Election Day. The Registrar-Recorder's office is preparing for a significantly larger operation—estimated to be two to three times the scale—for the upcoming June primary and November midterm elections. To support planning, the office has distributed a post-election questionnaire to troubleshooters and Election Assistant Resource Liaisons (EARLs), and an in-person debrief is scheduled for next week. AED Sowell encouraged commissioners interested in participating in the 2026 election cycle to notify them by email or text so they can be added to the participation list and receive future opportunities.

ED Toma continued reporting on the recent United Nations meeting on human rights held in Geneva, sharing a flyer from one of the events in which the Commission participated. The event was organized by the Center for Constitutional Rights and brought together several prominent leaders and human rights advocates. Participants included the Mayor of Chicago, who joined by livestream early in the morning from his local time zone, and Larry Krasner, the District Attorney of Philadelphia, recognized for his progressive prosecutorial work. Supervisor Holly Mitchell also attended and expressed enthusiasm for taking part, noting that the experience brought back memories of participating in Model UN as a teenager. ED Toma emphasized that Supervisor Mitchell represented the Board of Supervisors with distinction. Additional participants included the chairperson of the Commission, the speaker, Dr. Joanne Como-Ford (Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights), Dr. Lisa Ward, and the Director of the ACLU's Human Rights Program. ED Toma characterized the event as a meaningful opportunity for collaboration, visibility, and representation of the County's human rights work on an international stage.

ED Toma additionally reported that they supported Supervisor Holly Mitchell during the Geneva meetings and noted that Supervisor Mitchell has since accepted a draft motion to be introduced at the December 9th Board of Supervisors meeting, scheduled for the day before International Human Rights Day. The proposed motion would reaffirm Los Angeles County's commitment to human rights and highlight the County's participation in the recent UN convening. The motion also underscores that Los Angeles County is the largest local government entity in the United States to formally incorporate CEDAW—the International Women's Bill of Rights—despite the treaty not being adopted at the national level. Additionally, the motion references the Commission's Human Rights Lens Report on LA County government, produced in partnership with local law schools under Robert's leadership. The Board would also direct the Commission to work with the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to prepare a five-signature letter to the UN Human Rights Council affirming the County's commitment to a human rights framework and urging the Council to hold the United States accountable to international standards. ED Toma described this as a meaningful follow-up to the Geneva meetings and emphasized that Supervisor Mitchell represented the County with distinction, speaking effectively to the UN Human Rights Council, non-governmental organizations, country delegations, and various leadership bodies.

- ii. **Budget actions and impact on HRC programs and services:** ED Toma provided an update on staffing impacts resulting from recent countywide budget cuts. He explained that one team member, Tony, has been reassigned to serve the broader department rather than the Commission specifically, which prevents him from continuing to participate in Commission

meetings and share updates on his work. In addition, the manager of the Human Rights Team, Aneisa Bolton, has left the agency for a position with the Department of Economic Opportunity due to budget-related restructuring. The Commission is also unable to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Senior Human Relations Consultant Lolan Gilbert earlier in the year; this position, along with another lead role, has been frozen and subsequently deleted from the budget. These reductions significantly limit the Commission’s capacity and make recovery from staffing losses more difficult. ED Toma further noted that one to two additional Senior Human Relations Consultant positions remain under review and are likely to be affected as well. He concluded by emphasizing that the Commission is simultaneously being asked to outline how it would absorb an additional 8.5% budget reduction, underscoring the ongoing operational strain.

- iii. **Outcomes of LA vs Hate “United Against Hate Week” Oct 19-24:** Item spoken about in 3.1.

- iv. **Commission staff changes and known departmental organizational changes:** ED Toma began by informing that there has been many discussions focused on the significant budget challenges facing the Human Relations Commission (HRC), including two senior positions that remain vacant and an additional request to absorb an 8.5% reduction in the current fiscal year budget. While the cuts are a part of a broader request from the Board of Supervisors’ Executive Office, HRC is experiencing a disproportionately larger reduction than other commissions, with staff cuts having a substantial impact on the overall budget. ED Toma expressed that the department is preparing its budget request for the next fiscal year under instruction not to request restoration of lost positions. ED Toma emphasized that this represents the most severe budget cuts in more than 30 years. The budget outlook remains uncertain due to multiple external factors, including liabilities from abuse lawsuits, fluctuations in the estate market affecting property tax revenues, and federal actions related to court decisions, some of which remain unsolved. Although, the collective bargaining process has stabilized part of the situation, there is ongoing concern and uncertainty regarding the overall budget environment.
AED Robert Sowell clarified that HRC has experienced staffing cuts, including both vacant and filled positions while other commissions including HIV Commissions, have also had cuts, and the overall impact varies, making the situation complex. HRC has received only general information about these reductions, and the lack of an updated organizational chart—despite significant staff movement since July—continues to limit transparency and understanding of those staffing changes.

- v. **Upcoming release of hate crime report:** Staff Dr. Monica Lomeli presented updated hate crime reporting data for 2024, noting that the County received a total of 3,202 reports, compared to 3,548 the previous year. Although this reflects a slight decrease of a few hundred cases, she emphasized that overall reporting remains high. When viewed across a 10-year span, the data—featured in the bar graph to be presented in Thursday’s report—shows that 2024 represents the second-highest peak ever recorded, indicating both increased reporting and strengthened community willingness to come forward. Dr. Lomeli explained that the primary challenge is not the volume of reports but the limited narrative detail provided by some reporting agencies. In certain cases, incidents are coded broadly—for example, simply as “anti-Asian”—without accompanying context that would allow the Commission to assess whether additional factors, such as anti-immigrant slurs or overlapping biases, were present. This lack of detail affects the depth of analysis and the Commission’s ability to track emerging or intersectional patterns. Dr. Lomeli

concluded by pausing for questions. Commissioner Jason Moss thanked her for the presentation and asked whether the slight drop in numbers was attributable to insufficient narrative data. Lomeli clarified that the decrease is minimal and unrelated to reporting quality, reiterating that the overall trend remains significantly elevated and that the main concern is depth of narrative rather than volume.

4.2 Communications Update: AED Sowell reported that before his reassignment, Tony assisted the Commission in producing brochures, including materials previously discussed regarding public communication. Tony also coordinated the establishment of a new “Newsroom” section on the Commission’s website. This section, now accessible through the top navigation bar, houses videos, public press releases, media coverage, and related communications materials. Although Tony is no longer able to support the Commission directly due to staffing changes, he has ensured that the Newsroom infrastructure is in place, and he will continue to provide limited support to help maintain updated content on the page.

5 Committee Reports

5.1 Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning): Chair Gunning informed the Commission that there has been a decision to close this Committee and asked for this change to be calendared as an action item in the next Commission meeting.

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

7. Action/Discussion Items

7.1 LA County Human Rights Award update: ED Toma informed that staff provided an update that the Human Rights Commission has moved forward with its decision to recommend the plaintiffs and attorneys in the *Vasquez-Perdomo* lawsuit for an award. The lawsuit successfully halted the Department of Homeland Security immigration enforcement actions in Los Angeles, significantly disrupting ICE operations, despite a later reversal of the injunction. Immigration actions that occurred afterward were on a much smaller scale. The award is expected to move forward in January and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors, providing an opportunity to highlight an important, human rights-based victory for the community.

7.2 Impact of Sept 30th budget actions on HRC staff and services: Reported on Agenda Item 4.1 item ii.

7.3 Federal Immigration Activities in LA County and Commission/Community Responses: ED Toma noted that the previous meeting was adjourned in the memory of Terri Villa-McDowell and Kent Wong. It was noted that prior to his passing, Kent Wong was actively engaged in advancing large-scale nonviolence training rooted in the trainings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and the civil rights movement, with the goal of strengthening community understanding of nonviolent direct action. Staff shared that discussion are underway to explore how to support and potentially partner on similar efforts to promote nonviolence within the community. ED Toma expressed that this work aligns with the Commission’s guiding principles and values in community.

7.4 Developing Nonviolence Training: ED Toma reminded the Commission that the previous meeting was adjourned in memory of both Terri Villa-McDowell and

Kent Wong. They highlighted Kent Wong’s significant contributions prior to his passing, particularly his leadership in developing large-scale trainings on nonviolence grounded in the traditions of Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the broader civil rights movement. Given the current climate, ED Toma noted that revisiting and revitalizing this work is especially timely, as communities may benefit from renewed guidance on nonviolent direct action. Preliminary discussions are underway to explore how the Commission might help share and strengthen this training within local communities, including identifying appropriate partners and implementation strategies. ED Toma expressed enthusiasm for this potential initiative, noting its strong alignment with the Commission’s guiding principles and longstanding commitment to nonviolence. ED Toma also referenced the Commission’s formal public statement—issued following the murder of George Floyd—affirming support for nonviolent direct action and civil disobedience. The speaker closed by emphasizing that the ongoing discussions are in the spirit of that continued commitment.

8. **Commissioner Announcements:** Commissioner Kulkarni shared reflections on the emotional impact of the day’s Transformative Justice Committee meeting, noting that the extensive staffing changes and uncertainty surrounding the future roles of Paul and Josh made the discussion particularly challenging. Although the Committee ultimately voted to sunset its work, Commissioner Kulkarni emphasized that this was a difficult and regrettable decision, shaped by the recognition that the Commission could not responsibly move the work forward without adequate staff support. She expressed concern about the broader repercussions that ongoing staffing reductions will have on the Commission’s overall capacity, particularly in areas where specialized support is essential. The commissioner concluded by acknowledging the sadness and discomfort shared by committee members, underscoring the significant effect these changes will have on the Commission’s ability to fulfill its mission. VP/Sec. Davidson offered a brief remark related to earlier discussions on voting rights, encouraging attendees to see the production *Suffs* at the Pantages Theater before its run concludes on December 7. He described the show as a powerful and worthwhile artistic portrayal of the women’s suffrage movement, highlighting its relevance to contemporary issues surrounding voting rights and civic participation. Lastly, Commissioner Ellis-Royston announced that Supervisor Hilda Solis, who appointed them to represent District 1, has entered a congressional campaign and will term out at the end of 2026. Commissioner Ellis-Royston noted that their own term will likely conclude at the same time. She expressed deep appreciation for the Commission, emphasizing that although she will no longer attend meetings in person on the first Monday of each month, they plan to continue participating via Zoom for the remainder of Supervisor Solis’s term. Commissioner Ellis-Royston thanked her colleagues for the diverse perspectives and rich discussions that have shaped their understanding of social justice and human relations, stating that their experience on the Commission has been profoundly meaningful and personally transformative. She concluded by expressing gratitude for the shared work, conversations, and learning they have gained during their service.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was proposed to be adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Davidson, and seconded by Commissioner Kulkarni, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilan Davidson
Commission Vice President-Secretary



formerly known as CCEJ



Reena Hajat Carroll, M.S.W.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (she/hers)

Reena joined Confluence Rising (formerly CCEJ) in 2020 as a seasoned non-profit leader with over 14 years in the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity field. Her experiences run the gamut from program management, streamlining operations, volunteer and board cultivation, public speaking, to fundraising. She holds a Masters of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis Brown School of Social Work with an emphasis on social and economic development and an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Occidental College in Los Angeles.

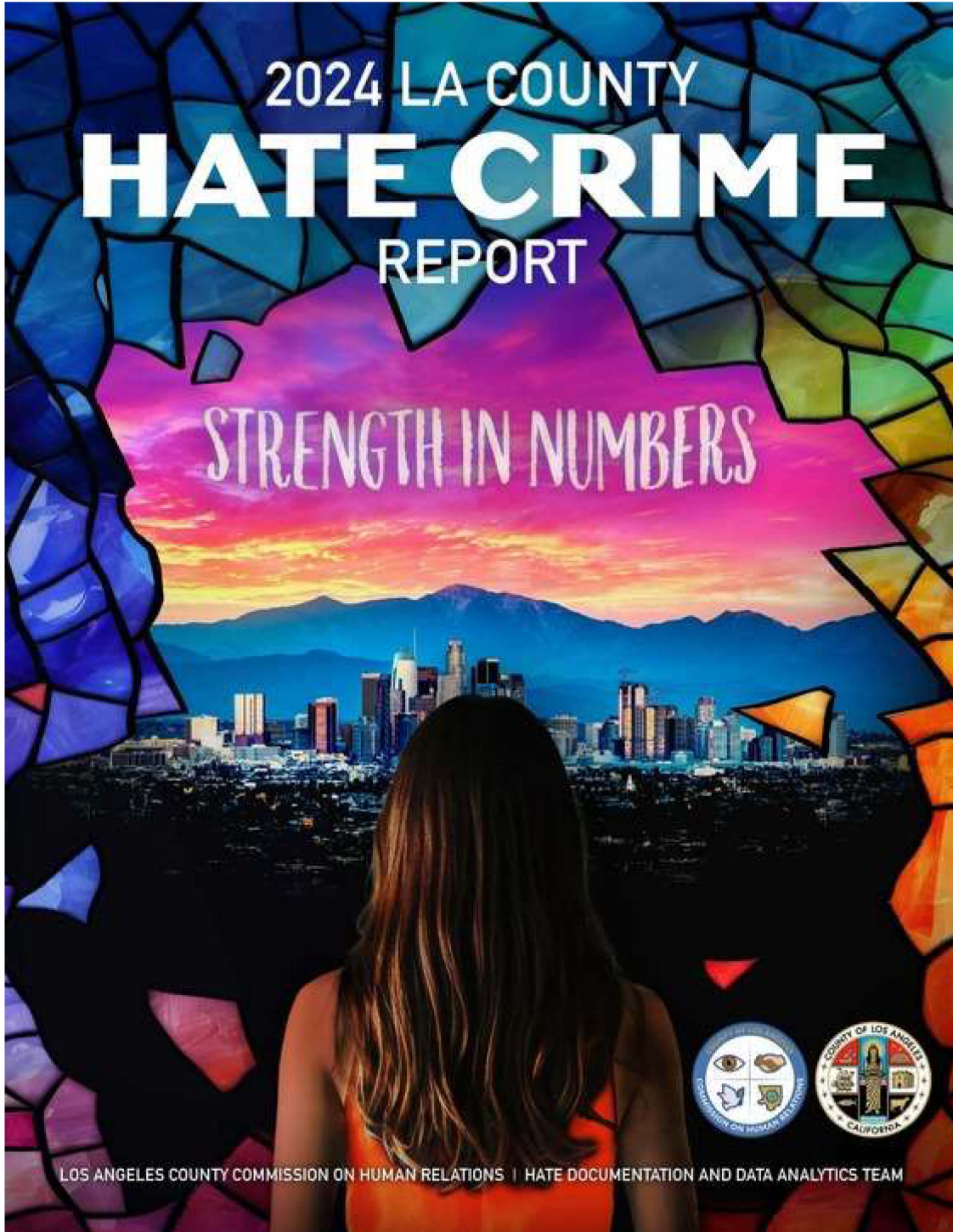
Reena's drive to work collaboratively with underserved communities is rooted in her strong belief that equity and inclusion are not negotiable in any segment of society. This value made her the ideal candidate to take



Director, she was also an adjunct faculty for Washington University in St. Louis lecturing about the corporate and community implications of exclusion and discrimination. Her experience working with corporate clients, schools, and the St. Louis community in the aftermath of Michael Brown's death in Ferguson make her a sought-after speaker and trainer. Reena has trained over 11,000 people throughout the United States on issues of diversity, inclusion, equity and the importance of using dialogue instead of debate as a means to understand different perspectives.

LA County Releases Annual Report on Hate Crimes: Second-Highest Total of Hate Crimes in 44 Years

Key findings show high levels of victimization across multiple groups, with record levels of reported hate crimes targeting African Americans, LGBTQ+ individuals, Jewish people, Latino/as, Middle Easterners, women, Israelis, Muslims, and Scientologists.



The LA County Human Relations Commission released its annual Hate Crimes Report on Thursday, December 4. The report revealed the second-highest total number of hate crimes in LA County in 44 years.

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

(LACCHR) released its [annual analysis of hate crimes](#) reported throughout Los Angeles County in 2024. Since 1980, LACCHR has compiled, analyzed, and produced this annual report of hate crime data submitted by over 100 law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. **There were 1,355 reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County in 2024, the second highest ever in the 44-year history of this report.**

Key findings reveal record-highs in reported hate crimes across multiple groups, including those against African Americans, LGBTQ+ individuals, Jewish people, Latino/as, Middle Easterners, women, Israelis, Muslims, and Scientologists. Additionally, the report notes significant increases in crimes occurring in schools, and cases connected to conflicts in the Middle East.

“Now more than ever, Los Angeles County stands firm in supporting victims of hate and confronting the divisiveness that fuels these crimes,” said **Los Angeles County Chair and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis**. “While our communities continue to navigate and recover from an unprecedented year, the commitment and resilience with which we take care of one another continue to light our way forward. We honor the richness of our differences while also recognizing our commonalities, and our strengths. Together, we work toward a more inclusive, compassionate County where everyone is valued and protected.”

“It is deeply disturbing to see anti-Black hate crimes among the forms of hate that have increased, and to know that every number in this report represents someone in our communities. The LA County Hate Crimes Report is a painful and necessary snapshot of the acts of violence we know about, underscoring why we must remain committed to addressing the root causes of hate and supporting our communities in creating meaningful change. We owe it to every survivor, every individual who intervened or reported a hate crime, and to our shared humanity not to normalize these statistics” said **Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District**.

“Each of these numbers represents a person whose dignity was violated and whose community feels that harm. This year’s report makes clear that hate isn’t slowing—it’s evolving and appearing in the daily lives of far too many Angelenos. As a County, we will not accept this as our new normal,” said **Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath**. “We are strengthening our partnerships with schools, community organizations, and survivors to confront hate early, directly, and with compassion. No matter who you are or how you show up in the world, you deserve to be safe and supported in Los Angeles County. We will not rest until that is true for everyone.”

“We are seeing a second wave of unprecedented data reflecting the impact of hate across diverse communities in L.A. County,” said **Helen Chin, President of the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations**. “As one of the County’s longstanding institutions dedicated to advancing justice and protecting human rights, the Commission remains a trusted leader in advocating for targeted communities and coordinating the County’s efforts to combat hate and protect human rights.”

“These numbers show that our communities in L.A. County are under attack from multiple fronts—just like the rest of the nation,” said **Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations**. “In these challenging times, our *LA vs Hate* system is more vital than ever—providing victims/survivors with confidential multilingual services,

gaining valuable data to inform hate prevention strategies, and ensuring that every person feels seen and supported.”

“Hate crimes are serious offenses and when someone is targeted for who they are, it’s not just a crime against that individual but against our entire community,” said **Sheriff Robert G. Luna**. “The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department investigates all hate-motivated acts with the highest priority and seeks to hold offenders accountable. We want our community to know that we are here to protect them and that hate has no place in Los Angeles County.”

“The LAPD will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our law enforcement and governmental partners to ensure that hate crimes are addressed in a timely manner and that suspects involved in this heinous activity are quickly identified and brought to justice,” said **Alan S. Hamilton, Chief of Detectives at Los Angeles Police Department**.

To view the complete report, including hate crime maps, graphs, and tables, please visit hrc.lacounty.gov.

For specific race/ethnicity data and examples, visit the links below.

The report’s significant findings include the following:

- Reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County decreased slightly by 1% from 1,367 in 2023 to 1,355 in 2024, the second highest total in the history of this report.
- African Americans were again grossly over-represented in the overall total of those targeted and made up 51% of racial hate crime victims. The 345 anti-Black crimes were the highest number ever reported.
- There were 102 anti-transgender crimes, the largest number ever documented in this report. A staggering 95% of these crimes were violent.
- Anti-Latino/a crimes slightly decreased from 145 to 143, the second highest number recorded in the history of this report.
- Anti-Middle Eastern crimes sharply increased 118% from 22 to 48, the largest count in our current database.
- Anti-female crimes grew 75% from 20 to 35 and set a record for the highest number ever recorded.
- Anti-Israeli crimes increased 27% from 22 to 28, the highest count in our current database.
- Hate crimes targeting non-binary people sharply increased 275% from 4 to 15, higher than 2023 when we began tracking this targeted group.
- Race, ethnicity, and national origin was by far the most common motivation, constituting 48% of all hate crimes. The 678 victims in 2024 was the highest count in our current database.
- Crimes targeting Muslims and Scientologists set records for the highest counts ever and anti-Jewish crimes were the second highest ever recorded in the history of this report.
- Seventy-two percent of crimes motivated by sexual orientation targeted gay men. This was the second largest number ever documented for this motivation.
- Hate crimes taking place at schools grew from 139 to 147 and accounted for 11% of

all hate crimes. This is the highest count ever documented in this report.

- Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased 64 to 81. This is the largest number ever recorded since we began tracking this phenomenon in 2007.

For complete information about the 2024 Hate Crime Report, click [here](#).

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



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](#).



About the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors

The LA County Commission on Human Relations is housed within the Executive Office of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. [The Executive Office](#) provides a multi-functional support role for the Board of Supervisors in administering and managing technology, staffing, procurement, and facilities resources, as well as the publication of information for the Board, various County departments, and the public. The Executive Office also administers and oversees over 30 County commissions and offices, and its mission is to provide excellent customer service and support the Board in achieving its objectives.



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES HELD IN ROOM 381B
OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

9:30 AM

6. Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights

Revised recommendation as submitted by Supervisor Mitchell: Direct the Acting Chief Executive Officer, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, in consultation with County Counsel and the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission, to send a five-signature letter to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to affirm the Board's commitment to a human rights framework in its programs and policies, and call on those entities ~~the UNHRC~~ to hold the United States accountable to international human rights principles, including investigation and documentation of human rights violations, through the Universal Periodic Review. Instruct the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission, in coordination with the Acting Chief Executive Officer, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to explore how to strengthen the County's ongoing coordination with other State and local governments that participated in the above referenced November 7, 2025 UNHRC convening in an effort to submit joint documentation and improve accountability for the current Federal administration, and report back to the Board in writing in 90 days with an update on ongoing County participation in international human rights reporting efforts. (25-6722)

Cruz and Roy Humphreys addressed the Board. Interested person(s) also submitted written testimony.

Supervisor Mitchell revised her motion as detailed above.

On motion of Supervisor Solis, seconded by Supervisor Mitchell, this item, as revised, was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Supervisor Mitchell, Supervisor Hahn, Supervisor Barger and Supervisor Solis

Absent: 1 - Supervisor Horvath

- Attachments:** [Motion by Supervisor Mitchell \(Exempt From Cluster\)](#)
[Revised motion by Supervisor Mitchell](#)
[Five-Signature Letter](#)
[Report](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)
[Audio](#)

The foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the regular meeting held December 9, 2025, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Executive Officer-Clerk
of the Board of Supervisors

By 

Edward Yen
Executive Officer



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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Los Angeles, California 90020
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PROPOSED MINUTES TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Meeting of December 1, 2025
In Person and via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing
510 South Vermont Avenue, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90020*

PRESENT:	Isabelle Gunning *	Jeanette Ellis-Royston
	Derric Johnson	Preeti Kulkarni
	Fredrick Sykes	
STAFF:	Pierre Arreola	Paul Smith
	Robert Sowell	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 11:05 AM, with a quorum in attendance. Chair Gunning joined the meeting virtually from a previously disclosed, publicly accessible location per Brown Act requirements. Chair Isabelle Gunning 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. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis-Royston arrived at 11:15 AM, after the previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
- 2. Review & Approval of October 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Chair Isabelle Gunning invited a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Derric Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of the Transformative Justice Committee meeting on October 6, 2025, as presented by staff. Commissioner Fredrick Sykes seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Johnson

Seconded: Sykes

Ayes: Kulkarni, Johnson, Sykes

Nays: None

Abstain: Gunning

Absent: Favela, Ellis-Royston (arrived after the vote)

Vote: 3 – 0 – 1

The motion was adopted by a majority.

3. Discussion: Transformative Justice Team

3.1. Program Update: Staff member Pierre Arreola gave a program update and shared budgetary challenges have reduced staff capacity across Commission programs. Due to these changes, he announced his immediate transition to the Human Rights Monitoring & Advocacy Team, while Staff members Joshua Parr and Paul Smith will remain with the Transformative Justice Team. Staff member Pierre Arreola also mentioned that, due to these budget cuts, Paul Smith may no longer be employed by Los Angeles County, potentially leaving the Transformative Justice Team with one remaining staff member. The Committee engaged in discussion about options for moving forward, including considering sunseting the Transformative Justice Committee.

Chair Gunning inquired whether Staff members Joshua Parr and Paul Smith required assistance, support, or advocacy from the Transformative Justice Committee to complete their current projects. It was agreed that the current Transformative Justice projects do not require committee input and may proceed without further committee involvement. Committee members reflected on the Committee's accomplishments in the past decade, and agreed its legacy will endure through the incorporation of committee initiatives into the wider endeavors of the Commission and subsequent projects that are consistent with its mission.

Commissioner Ellis-Royston motioned to sunset the Transformative Justice Committee. Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Ellis-Royston

Seconded: Kulkarni

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Johnson, Sykes, Kulkarni

Nays: None

Abstain: Gunning

Absent: Favela

Vote: 4 – 0 – 1

The motion was adopted by a majority.

4. Discussion: Sheriff Accountability

4.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives: The Committee discussed the feasibility of implementing the proposed narrative collection projects focusing on Mental Health Assistants and Sheriff Deputies in County jails. The Committee agreed that due to limited staff capacity it would not be feasible to implement both projects, as worthwhile as they are. The Committee requested that staff update the project proposals as discussed at previous committee meetings, and share them with LASD acknowledging the impact of budgetary challenges and desire to work together in the future if resources permit.

5. Discussion: Staff & County Updates

5.1. Watts Uprising 60th Anniversary Commemoration: Staff member Pierre Arreola debriefed the Committee on the commemorative event for the 60th anniversary of the Watts Uprising, produced in partnership with the LA City Human Relations Commission and other community stakeholders. The event took place on November 8, 2025 at Children's Institute – Watts Campus.

5.2. AV Unhoused Narrative Collection Project: Staff Paul Smith provided an update on the narrative collection project focused on understanding police-community relations with the unhoused

community in the Antelope Valley. The Transformative Justice team has completed transcribing the collected narratives by hand to protect participants' anonymity. The next phase is analysis and collaboration with the Lancaster Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to obtain their perspective as the lead law enforcement agencies in the region.

5.3. Collective Trauma Healing Project: Staff Joshua Parr provided an update on the Collective Trauma Healing Project aimed at addressing intergenerational trauma in LA County. The Transformative Justice team is conducting a thorough literature review on Collective Trauma Healing, in collaboration with subject-matter experts Nkem Ndefo and Lumos Transforms. The goal is to complete the literature review by the first quarter of the new year.

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

7. **Action Items**

7.1. LA County Custody Reform Initiatives: Due to the previously discussed staffing changes and budget constraints, the Committee agreed not to proceed with the L.A. County Custody Reform initiative.

8. **Commissioner & Staff Announcements:** None.

9. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Derric Johnson presented a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Preeti Kulkarni seconded the motion, and the vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Johnson

Seconded: Kulkarni

Ayes: Ellis-Royston, Gunning, Sykes, Kulkarni, Johnson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Favela

Vote: 5 – 0

The motion was adopted unanimously. Seeing no further business come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pierre Ivan Arreola

Transformative Justice Team Manager