



U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Report Release & Conference Call

Are Rights a Reality? Evaluating Federal Civil Rights Enforcement

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 10:45 am ET

On November 21, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chair Catherine E. Lhamon will hold a public conference call on the Commission's forthcoming report, *Are Rights a Reality? Evaluating Federal Civil Rights Enforcement*, which examines federal government civil rights enforcement efforts in Fiscal Years 2016 through 2018. With this evaluation, the Commission fulfills its critical statutory charge to report on the effectiveness of federal civil rights enforcement. The Commission asked: what are the key elements for effective civil rights enforcement? Do federal agencies have sufficient resources to fulfill their enforcement responsibilities? And, most importantly, is the federal government satisfying its obligation to the American people to protect and vindicate their civil rights across the justice system and other issue areas, such as education, employment, healthcare, housing, and immigration?

Our report discusses the civil rights enforcement record of thirteen cabinet Departments and agencies:

- U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
- U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and Civil Rights Center
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, External Civil Rights Compliance Office
- U.S. Department of Transportation, External Civil Rights Programs Division of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Resolution Management
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
- U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Civil Rights

In November 2018, the Commission held a full-day [public briefing](#), hearing from current and former senior federal government officials, academic and legal experts, and

advocates, and members of the public. We invite you to view the morning and afternoon panel [sessions](#) and the [public comment](#) session, and the briefing [transcript](#).

Are Rights a Reality?, based on expert and public input, and research and analysis, will offer actionable recommendations to the President, Congress, and numerous federal agencies. The report will be available on our [website](#) on the day of the conference call.

We will provide additional details prior to the call. Please stay abreast of updates at www.usccr.gov and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights.
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