



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Missouri Commission on Human Rights

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Missouri Commission on Human Rights Calls on All Missourians to Work for Justice, Mutual Understanding, and Respect

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At-Large

August 19, 2020 – During this period of civil unrest, the Commissioners of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights (MCHR) are united in calling for all Missourians to respectfully engage in a conversation on race, justice, and healing, to examine our own hearts, and to take the initiative to reach out across any divide in order to bring about peace and reconciliation. For over 60 years, we and our staff have stood at the ready to help Missourians do the work necessary to bring about positive change in support of equality for all people in our great state and nation. Our vision, “to promote a bias-free society,” motivates us to continue our work to bring Missourians together and work toward greater unity, equity, and justice more fervently than ever before.

As enacted in the Missouri Human Rights Act of 1957 (the Act), it is the purpose of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights to encourage fair treatment of racial, ethnic, religious, as well as other groups and individuals protected by the law, to discourage discrimination against them, and to foster mutual understanding and respect. These unprecedented times compel us to denounce racism, bigotry, and violence and to voice our strong support for equal justice for every Missourian and the inalienable human rights of each citizen of our state.

By prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation, the State of Missouri is working to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, and age (in employment), and families with minor children (in housing). In addition to these bases, the Act makes it unlawful to retaliate against individuals for having opposed any practice prohibited by the Act or for having filed a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted under the Act.

As more and more Missourians express their support of human rights, it is imperative to be well informed of rights and responsibilities under the Act. MCHR endeavors to prevent discrimination through education and outreach, including such highly rated training topics as Implicit Bias and Harassment Prevention. We also work to eliminate discrimination by the enforcement of the Act through its complaint process, where MCHR serves as an impartial fact-finder to determine whether there has been a violation of the Act.

With Commissioners from each congressional district across the state, the MCHR is an eleven-member independent commission housed in the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Visit www.labor.mo.gov/discrimination for more information about the Missouri Human Rights Act or the MCHR complaint process.

Martha Staggs
Commission Chair

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Commission Executive Director

Our Vision: “Promote a Bias-Free Society”