



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
**Missouri Commission on Human Rights**

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**Missouri Commission on Human Rights Condemns  
Ethnic and Religious Xenophobia in Missouri**

**August 16, 2021** – The Commissioners of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights (MCHR) are committed to advancing justice, mutual understanding, and respect for people of all races, ethnicities, national origins, and religions. Unfortunately, xenophobia based on ethnicity and religious affiliation has contributed to a disturbing rise in hate crimes and violence. Bigotry and harassment targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and persons of the Jewish faith are increasing and detrimental to the wellbeing of all Missourians.

The MCHR acknowledges the fear and anxiety this may cause in the AAPI and Jewish communities and reaffirms our commitment to combat all forms of harassment and discrimination by ensuring equal opportunity, inclusion, and belonging for all. We call on all Missourians to stand together to denounce hatred and to increase peace. We must unite to ensure that all people are treated with dignity, equity, and respect—no matter their ethnicity, the language they speak, or their religious beliefs.

The MCHR’s vision is to “promote a bias-free society,” and we want to assure all Missourians that we are committed to this vision. The recent violence and harassment against the AAPI and Jewish communities serve as a reminder of the challenges we face and the importance of the MCHR’s work. 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.

We work to prevent discrimination through education and outreach and to eliminate discrimination by the enforcement of the Act through the complaint process. 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](http://www.labor.mo.gov/discrimination) for more information about the Missouri Human Rights Act or the MCHR complaint process. Call us for more information at 573-751-3325, or email us at [mchr@labor.mo.gov](mailto:mchr@labor.mo.gov).

Derek M. Holland  
Commission Chair

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Executive Director

“Promoting a Bias-Free Society”