

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Newsletter

1st Quarter 2024

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights (KCHR), created in 1960, is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act. KCHR consists of 11 Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor. They represent the seven judicial districts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and also the state-at-large.

Meet Our Commissioners

Dr. Raymond Burse
Chair
State-at-Large



Reverend Frank Smith, Jr.
Vice – Chair
4th District



Devine Carama
5th District



Anne Chaney
3rd District



Dr. James "Jim" Glenn
2nd District



Bernice Henry
7th District

Rabbi Shlomo Litvin
State-at-Large



Anita Parra
State-at-Large



Dr. Doris Sarr
1st District



Judge Joan "Toni" Stringer
State-at-Large



Rick Wurth
6th District

COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

January 18th	No meeting in July
February 15th	August 15th
March 21st	September 19th
April 18th	October 17th
May 16th	November 21st
June 20th	No meeting in December

Meetings usually occur the 3rd Thursday of the month; begin at 9:00 a.m.; and are held virtually and/or at the Louisville office. Occasionally, there are changes to the date and/or location for various reasons.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

*THE PROTECTOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS,
THE VOICE OF EQUALITY AND THE CATALYST
FOR POSITIVE CHANGE*

The agency issues resolutions as a tool to acknowledge, and/or bring attention to, civil and human rights issues and activities that affect the people of Kentucky; and, to recognize and/or memorialize individuals who have worked/work for the betterment of those who live here.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION PASSED IN JANUARY:

- Holocaust Remembrance Day Resolution

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN

FEBRUARY:

- A Resolution Calling for a Transgender Bill of Rights to be adopted in Kentucky
- A Resolution in Support of the CROWN Act
- KCHR Resolution in Memory of retired Jefferson County District Judge, J. Michael Brown
- KCHR Resolution in Memory of former Louisville Urban League President Ben Richmond
- KCHR Resolution Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the 1964 March on Frankfort

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The following bills have been identified as having an impact on the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and the Commission. The list of bills below is not exhaustive and is intended to summarize certain pieces of pending legislation this session. All information is current as of March 11, 2024.

- ◆ SB 134 would define “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” and would include them as protected classes under state law. STATUS – to the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 29.
- ◆ HB 18 prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances that prohibits landlords from refusing to rent to a person when that person’s source of income to pay rent includes funding from a federal housing assistance program. STATUS – passed the House and Senate on February 27; vetoed by Gov. Beshear on March 5; veto overridden and delivered to Secretary of State on March 6.
- ◆ HB 89, known as the “Ban the Box Act,” would prohibit employers from requiring the disclosure of criminal history on initial employment applications. STATUS – to the House Committee on Committee on January 3.
- ◆ HB 170 would incorporate the 2008 amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act into state law protections. STATUS – to the House Health Services Committee on March 1.
- ◆ HB 232, known as the “CROWN Act,” would define “protective hairstyle” and would provide for protections on that basis. STATUS – to the House Committee on Committees on January 10.
- ◆ HB 291 would add “weight” as a protected class for purposes of employment discrimination. STATUS – to the House Committee on Committees on January 17.

HAPPENINGS

Black History Celebration at Capital February 1, 2024

(Left) Priscilla Johnson, former Commission Chair and Juan Pena, Human Rights Specialist

(Middle) Dr. Raymond Burse, Commission Chair, Raoul Cunningham, Louisville NAACP President and Priscilla Johnson, former Commission Chair

(Right) Dr. Doris Sarr, Commissioner and Rocky Adkins, former House minority leader



Pictured to left: On February 22, 2024, Human Rights Specialist, Juan Pena participated in a **panel discussion on Tenant Rights at the Esperanza Latino Center in Covington, KY**. Mr. Pena spoke about fair housing laws. Kim Phillips, from the City of Covington Section 8 Department, and Kim Hartlage from the Kentucky Fair Housing Council were also panelists. Approximately 50 people attended.



Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Day at the Capitol, March 14, 2024

AKA Sorors met with legislators to address issues that are pertinent to their communities.

Bowling Green Human Rights Commission, 2024 Women of Achievement Awards, March 16, 2024

Nominees: Johnalma Barnett, Tanya Bunton, Minyarn Burton, April Necole Crain, Shante' Galloway, Michelle Hardesty, Jennifer Haynie, Mechelle Jones, Shanetti Jones, Laural Harper Knight, Courtney Meador, Huda Melky, Elinami Susan Mkanta, Lauren Myrick, Felese Shobe, Kadian Tidwell, Catherine Ward, and Savana Watkins



Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame

The Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame was established in 2000 by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the first induction was held during its 40th Anniversary celebration. This special recognition serves as a monument to brave men and women, living or deceased, who have made contributions and been leaders in the struggle for equality and justice in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Any adult may nominate someone for the Hall of Fame. Nominees' contributions may be in the areas of race, sex, religion, disability, age, economic status, and other human and civil rights issues.

Now accepting Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame nominations through May 3, 2024

Scan QR code to submit nomination online



Monthly Celebrations and Awareness

JANUARY

January 15th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



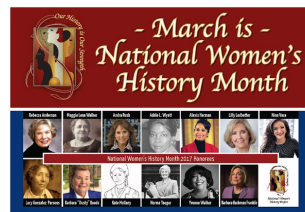
FEBRUARY

Black History Month

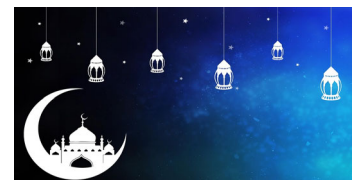


MARCH

National Women's History Month



March 11th—April 9th
Ramadan



March 21st Persian
New Year or Nowruz



Our New Address :

312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 020
Louisville, KY 40222
Phone: (502) 595-4024
Fax: (502) 696-5230
Website: kchr.ky.gov

**Office will be closed one-half day on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.