

# Commission on Human Rights

---

## **KY Human Rights Commission chair statement on town of Vicco passing "Fairness Ordinance"**

Press Release Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Contact Information: Victoria Stephens

1.800.292.5566 - Commission Headquarters

502.641.0760 - Mr. Stephens Mobile

Louisville, KY Jan. 15, 2013 - The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is pleased that the small town of Vicco, Ky., in the Eastern Appalachian region of the state has this week become the fourth city in Kentucky to pass an ordinance that protects people from discrimination based on gender orientation and gender identity.

In addition, the Vicco ordinance will ban discrimination based on the classes of race, religion, gender and age. The local law will be enforceable in the areas of housing, employment and accommodations.

"The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is excited that this small town in the state's heartland has made a giant stand to protect vulnerable individuals from discrimination, in this case, because of their individual gender orientation or gender identity," said George W. Stinson, chair of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Board of Commissioners. "This act demonstrates a widening view by people everywhere that no one deserves to be mistreated, bullied, abused or otherwise victimized by the cruelty of discrimination," he said, "and this is great news for Kentuckians."

The commission is a member of the Kentucky Fairness Coalition, a consortium of groups seeking to expand the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and to encourage city and county governments in the state to pass ordinances that expand discrimination protections to people based on gender orientation and gender identity.

Vicco is now the fourth community in the state to have a "Fairness Ordinance" that includes the two protected classes and the first outside the urban centers of Louisville, Lexington and Covington.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state authority that enforces the Kentucky and United States Civil Rights acts, which make discrimination illegal. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act protects people from discrimination in the areas of employment, public accommodations,

housing, and financial transactions. It prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin, disability and gender. It protects people on the basis of age, 40-years old and over, in the area of employment. It protects people on the basis of familial status in the area of housing. Familial status protects families with children in the household under age 18-years old and protects pregnant women. Tobacco-smoking status is also protected in the area of employment. It is against the law to retaliate against any person who complains of discrimination to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

For help with discrimination, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566. The TDD telephone number is 502.595.4084. Visit the website at [kchr.ky.gov](http://kchr.ky.gov).