

Our Mission

Advocate for the for the Human and Civil Rights of the residents of the City of New Bedford.

Educate the public about their rights and create greater awareness of human rights violations

Intake, mediate, or refer complaints of human rights violations

Provide outreach to, and work with public and private organizations to increase compliance with local, state, and federal laws. Raise the level of awareness and sensitivity to human and civil rights issues.

Are you a victim of discrimination?

We want to hear from you!

Visit our website:



Or Visit: <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-services/divisions/human-services/human-relations-commission-2/>

Contact Us

Marcelina Pina-Christian is the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission.

Department of Community Services,
181 Hillman Street, Bldg. #9

Marcelina.pina-christian@newbedford-ma.gov

Hours: Mon-Fri | 8:30 – 5:30 pm

508-979-1464

The New Bedford Human Rights Commission works closely with other civil rights agencies in resolving issues of discrimination, where there is tension and conflict, through mediation and dialogue or referral services, to resolve disputes.

Our partners include:

New Bedford Face to Face Mediation Program

Mass Commission Against Discrimination

The Department of Justice

Attorney General's Office

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Department of Community Services

508-979-1464

181 Hillman Street
New Bedford, MA, 02740

You can visit us on Facebook or on the HRC webpage. We want to hear from you!



Commissioners

Chair

Martin Bentz

Vice-Chair

Deloris Joseph

Secretary

Chad Freitas

Jeff Costa

Genesis Galan

Michael Mello

Sidney Murray II

Programs we sponsor

- Human Rights Day
- MLK Annual Programs & Essay Contest
- Film Series for Education and Discussion on Human and Civil Rights
- Town Hall Meetings
- Community Dialogues

About Us

Established by the City Council in 1987, the Human Rights Commission is a nine-member body appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The purpose of the commission shall be:

- To promote mutual understanding, respect, encouragement and assuring equality of opportunity for all people of the city without regard to their race, color, age, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, ancestry, and national origin
- To conduct such programs of education, study, research, investigation, and action
- To cooperate with governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations in the field of inter-group relations and equal opportunities
- To aid and assist in the enforcement of Massachusetts General Laws

From 2019 to present the H.R.C. has advocated for health equity within the community. The H.R.C. was instrumental in establishing Prostate Cancer Awareness week in New Bedford to educate and encourage support against the mortality rate, which is higher in Bristol County than in the rest of the State.

In 2018 the H.R.C. was instrumental in establishing Human Rights Day in the City of New Bedford on December 10, 2018.

In June 2010 through a grant from the Greater New Bedford C.O.A.S.T., the H.R.C. in collaboration with the New Bedford Women's Center developed the first brochure to address domestic violence within the Mayan community. The brochure is in the Mayan language of K'iche' and is available for distribution through the Women's Center. and is the only one of its kind. For more info on the above brochure call 508-996-3343



Human Rights Day Award