

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

December 9, 2025

Affirming Los Angeles County's Commitment to Human Rights

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council that aims to improve human rights conditions in each of the 193 UN Member States. During the UPR, the human rights records of all UN Member States are reviewed every four to five years. This year, the current federal Administration decided to disengage the United States from the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and suspend the U.S.'s participation in the UPR (which had been ongoing since the UPR was established in 2006).

On November 7, in lieu of the formal UPR for the United States, the UNHRC convened state and municipal officials from the U.S., along with U.S.-based human rights nonprofit organizations, spoke out about their efforts to uphold the rule of law, protect civil rights and liberties, and ensure that international human rights standards remain a guiding framework in domestic governance. Supervisor Mitchell joined Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, alongside other U.S. government officials, to share the disturbing attacks our communities have experienced from the current federal Administration with the international human rights community.

The County of Los Angeles (County) already applies a human rights framework through initiatives such as the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) and LA vs. Hate, as well as through our ongoing efforts to implement an equity-focused and Care

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First approach across County programs and policies. In 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion¹ by Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl for the County to recognize and adopt the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). With this action, the County became the largest local government entity in the United States to formally incorporate CEDAW's comprehensive framework to address gender equity and advance human rights. The September 2025 report from the County's Commission on Human Relations, "A Human Rights Lens on LA County Government"², contextualizes the daily work of County agencies that reflect, realize, and reinforce fundamental human rights principles.

Unfortunately, many of the recent actions taken by the federal Administration that have adversely affected County residents over the past year also constitute violations when viewed through a human rights lens. As Los Angeles residents are all too aware, these violations include:

- a) the terrorizing of residents by masked, armed immigration agents who detain and remove residents without due process;
- b) unlawful domestic deployment of military forces;
- c) willful starvation of residents through denial of food aid; and
- d) drastic cuts to vital social safety net services, including health care.

These actions violate international human rights laws and principles, including due process and prevention of arbitrary detention, the prohibition on military policing of civilians, the right to food and to health, and other fundamental protections that reflect values shared across borders and cultures. The world's eyes and voices are essential to holding the U.S. accountable.

On the eve of World Human Rights Day on December 10, the County reaffirms its commitment to the ongoing and unfinished work of upholding the human rights and dignity of all our residents. It is a moral outrage that our own federal Administration not only refuses to share that same commitment but threatens and attacks our human rights and

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/151519.pdf>

² <https://lacounty.gov/2025/09/15/new-report-highlights-la-countys-work-to-advance-human-rights/>

dignity.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) branch, in consultation with County Counsel and the Human Relations Commission, to send a five-signature letter to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to affirm the Board's commitment to a human rights framework in its programs and policies, and call on the UNHRC to hold the United States accountable to international human rights principles, including investigation and documentation of human rights violations, through the Universal Periodic Review.
- 2) Direct the Human Relations Commission, in coordination with CEO LAIR, to explore how to strengthen the County's ongoing coordination with other state and local governments that participated in the above referenced November 7, 2025 UNHRC convening in an effort to submit joint documentation and improve accountability for the current federal administration, and report back to the Board in writing in 90 days with an update on ongoing County participation in international human rights reporting efforts.

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