

Human Rights Commission Report and Work Plan

Eugene City Council
October 12, 2026

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Attributions of the City of Eugene's Human Rights Commission City Code 2.265

(1) The commission shall affirm, encourage and initiate programs and services within the community and advise and support city of Eugene services designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To support and promote human rights, the commission will:

- (a) Provide human rights education;
- (b) Be proactive in human rights efforts;
- (c) Address human rights violations;
- (d) Ensure active public participation;
- (e) Be transparent and open; and
- (f) Be publicly accountable for human rights progress.

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Roles of the Human Rights Commission

Community-oriented role

- Take a leadership role in fostering respect for social equity, civil rights, and human rights in the community by engaging in education, outreach, listening and collaboration.

Liaison role

- Maintain strategic HRC liaisons and engage in cooperative endeavors with the community and with City of Eugene advisory groups that support civil and human rights and social equity.

Advisory role

- Study and recommend actions on civil and human rights and social equity issues in areas of concern to the community and City organization.

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HRC 2026 Commissioners

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| • Councilor Lyndsey Leech | • Commissioner Jamie Bowman |
| • Councilor Jennifer Yeh | • Commissioner Vanitha Murthy |
| • Commissioner Dr Silky Booker | • Commissioner Tria Ward |
| • Commissioner Cinthia Cannon-Poindexter | • Commissioner Elaina Oommen |
| • Commissioner Kiana Cabuco | • Commissioner Brittany Banna |
| • Commissioner John Bradley | • Commissioner Juniper Christopherson |
| • Commissioner Martha Baldwin | |

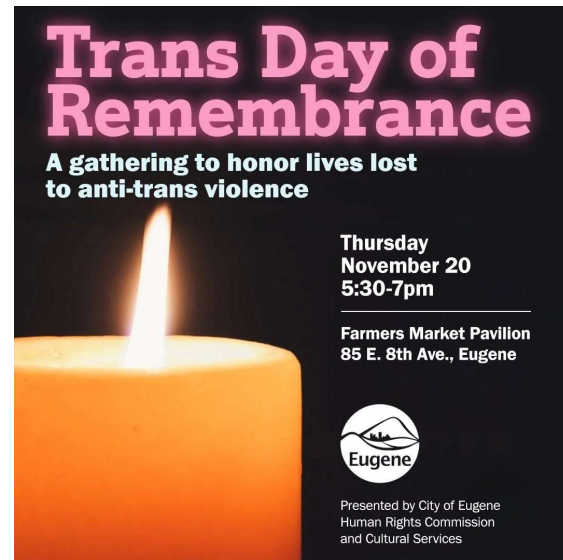
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Fiscal Year 2026 Work Plan Report

Events

- **Transgender Day of Remembrance event: 10/20/2025** - The HRC co-organized this hybrid event with OECE and Cultural Services staff.
- **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day: 12/21/2025** - The HRC organized this hybrid event, which included a resource fair with community partners.



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Sponsorship

- **NAACP** - Freedom Fund Event 2025
- **Comunidad y Herencia Cultural** - Noche Cultural
- **Catholic Community Services** – Welcoming our Neighbors
- **DisOrient** – DisOrient Film Festival
- **NAMI Lane County** – NAMI walks
- **HIV Alliance** - HIV Alliance's annual Big Night
- **United for Immigrant Justice** – Solidarity Bus
- **Turning Tides Music** - Ukrainian Band Kimmuna Lux concert
- **Queer Eugene** – Youth Pride Festival:
- **Japanese American Association** – Obon & Taiko festival at Yujin Gakuen
- **NAACP** - Freedom Fund Event 2026
- **CALC** – Our Stories Immigrants of America

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Special Grants

On February 9, 2026, the Eugene City Council approved [Resolution 5474](#) declaring a humanitarian crisis and providing direction to staff related to support for immigrant residents. City Council also directed \$50,000 in contingency funds to be made available for nonprofit organizations that support local immigrant families affected by recent immigrant enforcement actions.

The Human Rights Commission created an ad hoc group, which vetted applications and allocated all available funding to four local nonprofits:

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- Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad - \$23,000
- Grassroots Connect/OCAN - \$5,000
- The Oregon Aiga - \$2,000
- Catholic Community Services - \$20,000



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Support to City Staff

Approach to Community Engagement: The HRC supported the process of soliciting feedback from members of underserved and underrepresented communities and reviewed the draft document prepared by staff. That supported the completion of a new guide for community engagement to be used by City staff.

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Policy recommendation

OPEN Recommendation Summary

- In April 2024, the HRC forwarded a recommendation from the Organization for Polyamory and Ethical Non-monogamy (OPEN) urging City Council to add explicit non-discrimination protections for family or relationship structure.
- The recommendation seeks to ensure individuals are not discriminated against for being single, asexual, aromantic, or part of a consensual non-monogamous or other non-traditional relationship.

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2026-2028 work plan

Human Rights Commission

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HRC Commissioners

- Councilor Jennifer Yeh
- Commissioner Jamie Bowman - Chair
- Commissioner Tria Ward – Vice Chair
- Commissioner John Bradley
- Commissioner Vanitha Murthy
- Commissioner Elaina Oommen
- Commissioner Mahindra Kumar
- Commissioner Sara Connors
- Commissioner Leon Bote
- Commissioner Luna Chapman
- Commissioner Sarah Koski

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WeCU (Whole Eugene Community United) Work Group

Objective: Identify and implement strategies to enhance inclusion of underrepresented and underserved communities into the City of Eugene, local municipalities, educational institutions, healthcare networks, business community, and neighborhoods and to help deter or respond to hate, bias and discrimination, including but not limited to systemic and individual racism, queerphobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other religious hate, and ableism.

Members Jamie Bowman, Tria Ward, Vanitha Murthy, Leon Bote, Sara Connors,

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WECU actions (highlights)

- 1 - Community outreach and reporting access
- 3 - Economic advancement and wealth creation
- 11 - Indigenous representation and legislative options
- 13 - Naming and monument research and engagement

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Homelessness & Poverty Work Group

Objective: Monitor and report on laws and policies that have a disparate impact on people experiencing homelessness and poverty; propose policy recommendations to the Eugene City Council and procedural recommendations on issues related to homelessness and poverty to the City of Eugene; and engage in advocacy efforts that combat the marginalization of people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Members: John Bradley, Elaina Oommen, Mahindra Kumar, Luna Chapman, Sarah Koski

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HPWG actions (highlights)

9 - Legal protection and anti-criminalization advocacy

15 - Public-space enforcement, shelter access, and overnight resources

16 - Disaster and climate-response readiness



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Advisory Group

Objective: Maintain an introspective view of human rights issues in Eugene as they arise and develop advisory communication and recommendations to City Council to respond to and support human rights in Eugene. Develop and implement strategies to promote education, outreach, and public engagement. Propose and implement ad-hoc groups to actuate on work plan items and human rights issues brought by the Human Rights Commission.

Co-Leads: Chair, Vice Chair, work group leaders

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HRC actions (highlights)

4 - Public-space hygiene access

7 - Resources and awareness for people fleeing violence

17 - Partnership development

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Q&A

**Thank you for your support to human
rights work in Eugene**

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