



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

*"The most enduring network of U.S. government human and
civil rights agency leaders serving over 250 million people."*

2026 IAOHRA CONFERENCE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

August 18, 2026

New Orleans, Louisiana

Proposed Resolutions

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RESOLUTION #1

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of state, county, and city governmental human rights commissions in the United States of America and several statutory human rights agencies in Canada, and IAOHRA's goals are "to foster human and intergroup relations, to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world;" and

WHEREAS, governmental human rights agencies have shaped their enforcement mechanisms and investigative procedures in accordance with federal legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policies have led to significant funding reductions for governmental civil rights agencies, thereby leading to the elimination of the positions of thousands of civil and human rights professionals who are key to the ability of these agencies to fulfill their mandated missions to address issues of discrimination and foster improved human relations; and

WHEREAS, discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and other areas covered by human rights ordinances and statutes continues to severely impact the quality of life of thousands of individuals and families in the jurisdictions represented by the IAOHRA membership; and

WHEREAS, without the full and adequate funding of governmental civil and human rights agencies, many victims of discrimination, particularly those with low incomes, will have no recourse to protect themselves from unlawful, discriminatory acts which impact their access to decent and affordable housing, gainful employment, and equal access to public places and services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) respectfully requests the federal government restore full funding to governmental civil rights agencies, to ensure that these critical public resources are fully equipped to fulfill their mandated responsibilities to address issues of discrimination and foster improved human relations.

Adopted this 18th day of August 2026, by the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

President

RESOLUTION #2

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

TITLE: RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RESTRICTIONS IN THE USE OF AI IN HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTHCARE, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of state, county, and city governmental human rights commissions in the United States of America and several statutory human rights agencies in Canada, and IAOHRA's goals are "to foster human and intergroup relations, to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world;" and

WHEREAS, artificial intelligence (AI) systems are increasingly used in housing, employment, healthcare, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated that AI systems can replicate, amplify, and institutionalize existing racial, economic, and social biases embedded in historical data and decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS, algorithmic bias has been documented in facial recognition technologies, hiring tools, predictive policing, and healthcare algorithms, disproportionately harming marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS, the rapid deployment of AI technologies in government and private sector risks undermining long-established civil rights protections under federal laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, unchecked AI deployment in surveillance technologies, including facial recognition and predictive analytics, raises significant concerns regarding racial profiling, unlawful surveillance, and violations of privacy and First Amendment rights.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that IAOHRA affirms that entities developing or deploying AI systems for high-stakes decision-making (including housing, employment, healthcare, and criminal justice) should be required to conduct independent algorithmic impact assessments, including racial equity analyses, prior to implementation and on an ongoing basis, and be required to ensure transparency by sharing clear explanations of how decisions are made and offering accessible appeal mechanisms for impacted individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAOHRA will advocate for policies to mandate that individuals have the right to:

- Know when AI is being used in decisions affecting them
- Challenge and appeal automated decisions
- Seek remedies for harm caused by algorithmic discrimination

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that IAOHRA requests the passage of legislation that ensures technology serves as a tool for equity and empowerment rather than a mechanism for discrimination, surveillance, or systemic exclusion.

Adopted this 18th day of August 2026, by the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

President

RESOLUTION #3

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) IN LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a global network of state, local, and national governmental human rights and civil rights agencies committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing a culture of human rights; and

WHEREAS, diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to effective governance, ensuring that public institutions reflect and serve the full breadth of the communities they represent; and

WHEREAS, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are not illegal, and no federal or state law prohibits governments or institutions from adopting policies that advance fairness, reduce discrimination, and protect human rights; and

WHEREAS, recent court decisions, including the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, have created confusion and a chilling effect on DEI programs nationwide, despite the ruling applying specifically to higher education admissions and not prohibiting DEI policies in government, workplaces, or public institutions; and

WHEREAS, eliminating DEI programs in local and state government would cause significant harm, including increased disparities, weakened civil rights protections, reduced access to equitable public services, and diminished capacity to identify and address systemic discrimination;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that IAOHRA reaffirms its strong support for DEI policies as essential tools for eliminating discrimination, advancing human rights, and ensuring equitable treatment for all individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAOHRA urges local and state governments to maintain, and strengthen DEI programs that promote fairness, reduce disparities, and uphold the dignity of all residents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that IAOHRA stands with advocates, public servants, and communities committed to building inclusive, equitable, and rights-affirming institutions that reflect the values of justice, equality, and human dignity.

Adopted this 18th day of August 2026, by the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

President

RESOLUTION #4

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

TITLE: RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR.

WHEREAS, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a global network of state, local, and national governmental human rights and civil rights agencies committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing a culture of human rights; and

WHEREAS, Reverend **Jesse L. Jackson Sr.** devoted his life to the advancement of civil rights, human dignity, economic justice, and equal opportunity in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson, as founder of **Rainbow/PUSH Coalition** in **Chicago**, led groundbreaking work to expand political access, promote economic inclusion, protect voting rights, advocate for labor and educational equity, and champion the rights and human dignity of all people—particularly those historically marginalized and excluded; and

WHEREAS, through the vision of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Reverend Jackson advanced the principle that our strength as a nation lies in the collective power of diverse communities united in common purpose, thereby shaping a broader understanding of justice rooted in opportunity, fairness, and shared humanity; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson was a champion for creating a human rights culture in the United States and across the globe—connecting domestic civil rights struggles to international human rights frameworks and reminding the world that the fight for justice knows no borders; and

WHEREAS, his moral leadership, courageous advocacy, and steadfast belief in the inherent worth of every person inspired generations of public servants, human rights advocates, elected officials, faith leaders, and community organizers; and

WHEREAS, the work of IAOHRA members—who daily enforce anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, public accommodations, and other areas—stands firmly on the foundation built by Reverend Jackson and other civil rights pioneers who transformed conscience into action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that IAOHRA formally honors the life and legacy of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., and recognizes his extraordinary contributions to the advancement of civil and human rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAOHRA reaffirms its commitment to carrying forward Reverend Jackson’s vision of justice, equality, and dignity by strengthening state and local human rights institutions, elevating the voices of impacted communities, and promoting a sustainable human rights culture in every community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAOHRA expresses its deepest condolences to Reverend Jackson's family, colleagues, and the countless individuals and communities whose lives were transformed by his leadership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official record of IAOHRA and shared with its members and partners as a testament to Reverend Jackson's enduring impact on the global human rights movement.

Respectfully adopted this 18th day of August 2026, by the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

President