

# District of Columbia

**A Model for Human and Civil Rights Protections**





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# Director's Note

Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends:

Forty-five years ago, the passage of D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 set an incredible precedent for the protection of human and civil rights in the District by becoming one of the most comprehensive human rights laws in the nation.

In 2022, we expanded the HRA to include two more protected traits—homeless status and sealed eviction records—bringing the total number to 23. While this is a remarkable accomplishment, we still have so much more work to do to bring an end to discrimination in the District for our employees, residents, and visitors.

Often, because the journey is long and arduous, it can be hard to see just how far we have come in this fight against discrimination and prejudice. This booklet presents an opportunity for us to reflect and be inspired by our achievements. As a city and a community, we have so much to be proud of.

I hope that you find our selected timeline as informative as I did and use it as an invitation to learn more about the District's journey to become a model city for human and civil rights protections.

In Celebration,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'H' and 'K' intertwined.

**Hnin Khaing**  
Director



# Introduction

2022 marks the 45th anniversary of the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. It was and remains one of the most comprehensive human rights laws in the United States. The HRA reflects D.C.'s tradition of being a leader and a model for the protections of human and civil rights. To celebrate the 45th anniversary as well as the continued leadership of the District, the D.C. Office of Human Rights presents this booklet, "D.C.: A Model for Human and Civil Rights Protections" as a reminder of where we have been and where we are going.

District of Columbia  
Office of Human Rights

**45<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**CELEBRATING THE DC  
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977**

# A Tradition is Born

D.C. has a long and rich tradition of being progressive and forward thinking, though it has not come without struggle or adversity. Each successive event described below builds on and expands the protections for human and civil rights before it. This is not a comprehensive list.



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



**First Women's Rights Convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York (1848)**



**The Normal School for Colored Girls (1851)**

The University of the District of Columbia was originally founded on December 3, 1851, by Myrtilla Miner as the Normal School for Colored Girls. It is the second oldest HBCU in the nation. Today, UDC is the only public university in the District and its notable alumni include Johnny Grier, Euphemia Haynes, Norma Holloway Johnson, Dolores Kendrick Washington, Cathy Lanier, Brian Thompson, and Nadine Winter.



**Emancipation in the District (1862)**

Despite being a thriving center for the trade in human captives, the District also served as a hub for anti-slavery activity. This tense struggle came to an end on April 16, 1862, when the D.C. Compensated Emancipation Act was passed by Congress. Though the act ended slavery for approximately 3,100 enslaved African Americans, it also reimbursed their enslavers for loss of property.<sup>1</sup>





### **Gallaudet University founded (1864)**

Gallaudet University was founded in 1864 as a grammar school for deaf and blind children. It was named for Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, who founded the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Person's in Hartford, Connecticut. Gallaudet is credited with establishing the first formal education for the hard of hearing in the U.S. Today, it remains the only higher educational institution in the world in which all programs and services are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students.



### **Black Male Suffrage (1865)**

On December 19, 1865, the U.S. Congress passed a law giving Black men the right to vote in the District, and the following February, Black men in D.C. were legally able to vote three years before the passage of the 15th amendment. As a result, newly freed Black men helped elect progressive white Republicans and even managed to secure several seats for themselves. Unfortunately, Jim Crow would set in before the turn of the century and the window for racial progressivism closed, but not before one of D.C.'s new Black council members set the stage for a mass movement to end discrimination in the city.



### **Freedman's Bureau purchases 375 acre-tract (1867)**

After the Civil War, many formerly enslaved African Americans were living in makeshift housing in the District, and white landowners did not want them in their neighborhoods. General Oliver O. Howard transferred \$52,000 from the Freedman's Bureau to be held in trust by himself, Senator Samuel Pomeroy, and John Elvans for the use of three institutions, Howard University, Richmond Normal School, and St. Augustine Normal School. They also used some of these funds to purchase a 375-acre tract of land in Anacostia in 1867 from Julia Barry, a white landowner, that would eventually come to be known as Barry Farm-Hillsdale. The land was



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event

subdivided into one-acre plots, which could be purchased over a period of seven years. Because the community was isolated from the rest of D.C., its residents were forced to build their own homes, benevolent and literary societies, independent press, churches, and schools. As a result, it became the home base for an emergent Black political class, including Frederick Douglass.<sup>2</sup>



### **Howard University founded (1867)**

Howard University, affectionately known as “The Mecca,” was chartered on March 2, 1867. The historically Black institution was named for General Oliver Otis Howard, a Civil War veteran who was a founding member of the University and a commissioner for the Freedman’s Bureau. It is ranked as the top producer of Black undergraduates who later earn science and engineering doctoral degrees and produces more on-campus Black doctoral graduates than any other university in the nation. Some of the most notable alumni of the institution include Thurgood Marshall, Vice President Kamala Harris, Toni Morrison, Elijah Cummings, Diane Nash, Stokely Carmichael, Paul Laurence Dunbar, David Dinkins, Adrian Fenty, Pauli Murray, and Zora Neale Hurston.



### **Fourteenth Amendment ratified (1868)**



### **National Woman Suffrage Association founded (1869)**



### **Fifteenth Amendment ratified (1870)**



### **The Lost Laws (1872 and 1873)**

In the early summer of 1872, Lewis Douglass, the son of Frederick Douglass and an elected city council member, proposed the first Equal Services Act, which barred discrimination in places of entertainment, restaurants, bars, and hotels. Any business to violate this prohibition was fined



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



\$100 and/or had their business license suspended for a year. The first cases brought under this Act occurred at the Concordia, then at 463 Pennsylvania Ave N.W., and later at Sebastian Aman's restaurant at 316 9th St. N.W. in August 1872. Both owners were fined and had their licenses suspended. By the end of the year, both owners appealed Judge William B. Snell's decision, won, and had their restaurants reopened for business.

The following year, the city council passed the Equal Services Act of 1873. It stipulated those facilities had to be open for "any respectable, well-behaved person without regard to race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

In 1874, President Grant and Congress changed the city's system of governance and the city lost home rule. This meant that Congress had to review all legislation passed by council before it could become law. Both ordinances stopped being enforced, and by 1901 they were removed, but not repealed, when Congress recodified the city's laws. Despite recodification, copies of the laws remained in the Supreme Court library, the Library of Congress, and the District of Columbia Public Library.<sup>3</sup>



### **Charles Curtis becomes the first Indigenous U.S. Senator (1907)**



### **Woman Suffrage Procession (1913)**

Thousands of women marched along Pennsylvania Avenue on March 3, 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration, in a procession organized by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The march was the first large, organized march on Washington for political purposes.<sup>4</sup>



### **Smith-Sears Veterans Rehabilitation Act of 1918**



### **The Smith-Fess Act of 1920**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



## **Nineteenth Amendment ratified (1920)**



## **Indian Citizenship Act of 1924**



## **Charles Curtis serves as first Indigenous U.S. Vice President under President Hoover (1929)**



## **Indian Reorganization Act of 1934**



## **Chinese Community Church (CCC) established (1935)**

The CCC is the oldest dedicated to serving the Chinese community in the District and the last one still in operation. It first began offering bilingual masses in English in Cantonese and after the passage of the Hart-Cellar Act of 1965 it began offering masses in Mandarin.



## **Social Security Act of 1935**



## **Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936**



## **Little Palace Cafeteria Protest (1943)**

In 1943, Pauli Murray, Ruth Powell and two other female students from Howard University went to the Little Palace Cafeteria on U Street, which was a whites-only establishment. Three of the students entered the restaurant and requested to be served, while a fourth waited outside. After being refused service, they sat down. Every five minutes more students entered the restaurant until it was filled with students waiting to be served. Management became overwhelmed and refused to serve the students, so they decided to close the restaurant for nearly an hour. The students moved their protest outside and within two days the restaurant changed its segregation policy. This protest is the earliest recorded student protest of the Civil Rights Movement.<sup>5</sup>



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event





## **National Congress of American Indians founded (1944)**



## **Lost Laws rediscovered (1944)**

Pauli Murray, then the only woman and the top student in Howard University's School of Law class of 1944, rediscovered the 1872 and 1873 laws.



## **National Mental Health Act of 1946**



## **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**



## ***Segregation in the Nation's Capital* published (1948)**

Four years after their rediscovery, the Lost Laws were published in *Segregation in the Nation's Capital*, a scathing 1948 report produced by President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights. The Committee included over 100 national figures including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Helen Hayes. Truman declared, "We shall not...finally achieve the ideals for which this Nation was founded as long as any American suffers discrimination as a result of [their] race, or religion, or color, or the land of origins of [their] forefathers." The 91-page report gave an honest account of segregation and its impact in the city; it mainly addressed segregation in the city's recreation areas.<sup>6</sup>



## **Thompson's Restaurant Protest (1950)**

Shortly after the report was released, Mary Church Terrell and others formed the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of D.C. Anti-Discrimination Laws. On January 27, 1950, Terrell met Rev. William H. Jernigan, Geneva Brown, and David Scull at Thompson's Restaurant at 725 14th Street NW. It was one of the many places in the District that had a whites-only policy, and Scull was the only white person in the group. As the group began looking at the menu, Levin Ange, the manager, informed the group that Thompson's did not serve colored people. Once Terrell clarified that they would



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event

not be served, the group left. This response was expected and wanted as it would allow them to take the first step in testing the Lost Laws.



### **District of Columbia vs. John R. Thompson Co. (1953)**

The case was brought before Municipal Court Judge Frank Myers on March 31, 1950. Judge Myers ruled that the Lost Laws were no longer enforceable as they had been repealed by implication. Undeterred by Judge Meyer's decision, Terrell returned to Thompson's restaurant on July 27th. The District appealed Meyers' decision, setting the stage to bring the case before the Supreme Court. On April 27, 1953, the Supreme Court heard the arguments and issued its decision on June 8th. The Court ruled unanimously in favor of the city and ruled that restaurants must open their doors to all regardless of race.<sup>7</sup>



### **Bolling v. Sharpe (1954)**

A companion case to Brown v. Board of Education, Bolling v. Sharpe resulted in the Supreme Court ruling that segregation in D.C. schools was unconstitutional.



### **Hernandez v. Texas (1954)**



### **Vocational Rehabilitation Amendment of 1954**



### **Dalip Saund is sworn in as first Asian-American, first Indian American, and first Sikh in the U.S. Congress (1957)**



### **Mattachine Society of Washington formed (1961)**

The Mattachine was D.C.'s first gay activist group and fought for civil rights in security clearances and job discrimination. It was founded by Dr. Franklin Kameny, Paul Kuntzler, Eva Freund, Jack Nichols, Lilli Vincenz, and others.



### **National Indian Youth Council established (1961)**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event





## **Equal Pay Act of 1963**



## **March on Washington (1963)**

In August 1963, nearly 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to draw attention to the challenges and inequities faced by African Americans, to protest racial discrimination, and to show support for pending major civil rights legislation. Formally known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the massive protest was organized by A. Phillip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Anna Arnold Hedgeman, and Martin Luther King Jr. During the protest, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.



## **Civil Rights Act of 1964**



## **Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964**



## **Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta form United Farm Workers (1965)**



## **Hart-Cellar Immigration Act of 1965**



## **Higher Education Act of 1965**



## **Medicare and Medicaid established by the Social Security Amendments of 1965**



## **Patsy Mink sworn in as first Asian American woman and first woman of color to serve in Congress (1965)**



## **The Homosexual Citizen published (1966)**

The Mattachine Society publishes D.C.’s first local civil rights magazine, the Homosexual Citizen.



## **Cuban American Adjustment Act of 1966**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



### **Walter E. Washington appointed Mayor-Commissioner (1967)**

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson replaced D.C.'s three commissioner government with a single commissioner, an assistant commissioner, and a nine-member city council. Washington was appointed as the first and only Mayor-Commissioner and served until he was elected as the first Black mayor in D.C. and the first Black mayor to lead a major American city in 1975.



### **Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967**



### **American Indian Movement founded by Dennis Banks and Clyde Bellecourt (1968)**



### **Civil Rights Act of 1968**



### **Mexican American Legal Defense and Education fund opens (1968)**



### **Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968**



### **Stonewall Riots (1969)**



### **COHR and OHR established (1971)**

The Commission on Human Rights and the Office of Human Rights were established on July 8, 1971, by Commissioner's Order No. 71-224.



### **Kameny runs for Congress (1971)**

Dr. Franklin Kameny becomes the first openly gay man to run a political campaign in the District.



### **D.C. School Board extends LGBTQ Protections (1972)**

On May 23, 1972, the D.C. School Board passed a fair employment resolution covering all school employees. The decision prohibited discrimination in hiring, employment,



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



retirement, and/or job classification practices regardless of sex or sexual orientation. This gave LGBTQ teachers job security for the first time.



### **Independent Living Movement initiated (1972)**



### **Schaefer et al. v. Wilson (1972)**

The city agreed that considering both case law privacy in the U.S. and the legislative history of the D.C. sodomy law that it would no longer prosecute anyone for private, consensual adult sodomy.<sup>8</sup>



### **Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)**



### **Title 34 (1973)**

On November 17, 1973, D.C. City Council adopted Regulation No. 73-22, also known as Title 34 or the Human Rights Law, after finding that the “failure to provide equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life...not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants, but menaces the institutions and foundations of a free democratic society and threatens the lives, limbs, health, comfort, quiet of all persons and the protections of all property in the District.”

Title 34 was an expansive human rights law that included prohibiting discrimination in educational institutions, employment, housing, and public accommodations based on one’s race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. It made D.C. one of the first major cities in the country to provide protections for the LGBTQ community.



### **Lau v. Nichols (1974)**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



### **Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974**



### **Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (1974)**



### **Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975**



### **D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977**

Title 34 laid the foundation for the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977.



### **Chinese Service Center founded (1977)**

The CCC founded the CSC to provide social and human services to the Asian immigrant community. Many of the CSC's programs were focused on providing assistance to recently arrived Asian immigrants living in and around Chinatown.



### **American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978**



### **The Longest Walk (1978)**



### **Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978**



### **President Carter proclaims a week in May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week (1979)**



### **Vietnam War Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. and was designed by Maya Lin (1982)**



### **Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986**



### **Dr. Lauro Cavazos becomes first Latino appointed to presidential cabinet (1988)**



### **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**



### **Capitol Crawl Protest for the ADA at U.S. Capitol (1990)**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event





### **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) first introduced to Congress 1990**



### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990**



### **President Bush declares the month of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**



### **Sharon Pratt becomes Mayor of DC (1991)**

In 1991, Sharon Pratt became the first female and first African American female mayor of the District.



### **D.C. Parental Leave Act of 1994**

As of August 17, 1994, all employers in the District are required to provide an eligible employee with up to 24 hours of leave during a 12-month period to attend or participate in a school-related event for their child in which the child is a participant or subject.



### **President Clinton swears in Norma Mineta as the first Asian American U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the first to serve in a presidential cabinet**



### **Same-Sex Domestic Partnerships legalized (2002)**

In 1992, the City Council legalized same-sex domestic partnerships through the Health Benefits Expansion Act. The measure was not approved by Congress, however, until 2002. Despite Congress' inaction, partners of District employees were able to gain benefits since 1992.



### **Language Access Act of 2004**

The Language Access Act of 2004 was enacted by Mayor Anthony A. Williams on April 21st, with the purpose of providing greater access and participation in public services, programs, and activities for limited-English speaking (LEP) and non-English speaking (NEP) residents, visitors, and employees.



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



### **Genetic Information added to HRA (2005)**

In 2005, three years before the passage of the federal GINA, D.C. added genetic information as the 17th protected trait under the HRA. Protections apply in the areas of employment and public accommodations.



### **President Bush reauthorizes key provision of Voting Rights Act and it is renamed the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and Cesar Chavez Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006**



### **Gender Identity and Expression added to HRA (2006)**

In 2006, Gender Identity and Expression was added as the 18th protected trait under the HRA. Protections apply in all four enforcement areas.



### **Status as a Victim of Intrafamily Offense (2007)**

In 2007, Status as a Victim of Intrafamily Offense was added as the 19th protected trait under the HRA. Protections only apply to housing.



### **D.C. Becomes a Human Rights City (2008)**

On the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 2008), the City Council for the District of Columbia unanimously adopted City Council Resolution (CER-17-461), making D.C. the first human rights city in the nation. Adoption of the resolution was made possible by the urging of the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning and the American Friends Service Committee's DC Peace and Economic Justice Program, and supported by the D.C. Office of Human Rights, more than 20 community organizations, individuals, churches, and colleges. As a result, D.C. joined a successful worldwide network movement that includes more than 40 cities in 26 countries.



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A human rights city is “one whose resident and local authorities, through ongoing discussions and creative exchanges of ideas at the community level, come to understand that human rights, when widely known as a way of life, assist in identifying the issues and informs the actions in our D.C. communities for meaningful, positive economic and social change.”



### **Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008**



### **GINA becomes law on May 21st, 2008**



### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**



### **Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act of 2009**



### **Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act (2009)**



### **Global Accessibility Awareness Day and World Down Syndrome Day established (2012)**



### **Unemployed Anti-Discrimination Act of 2012**

The UADA became effective on October 1, 2015, and prohibits employers, employment agencies or entities acting on an employer's behalf from discriminating against an individual applicant because they are unemployed.



### **Same-sex marriage legalized (2013)**

Same sex marriage in the District was legalized by Mayor Adrian Fenty in 2009, six years before it was federally recognized in all 50 states. As a result, D.C. became the only jurisdiction below the Mason-Dixon line to allow same-sex marriages until Maryland legalized it on January 1, 2013.



### **Protecting Pregnant Workers Fairness Act of 2014**

The Act requires D.C. employers to provide reasonable workplace



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accommodations for employees whose ability to perform their job duties is limited because of pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, or a related medical condition. All District employers are required to post and maintain a PPW workplace poster in a conspicuous place and provide an employee notice of the law within 10 days of an employee notifying them of their pregnancy or other condition addressed in the Act.



### **Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act is updated (2014)**



### **Fair Credit in Employment Act of 2016**

The Fair Credit in Employment Amendment Act of 2016 prohibits employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations from discriminating against employees or applicants based on their credit information. The law became enforceable on October 1, 2017. As a result, Credit Information became the 20th protected trait.



### **Fair Criminal Record Screening for Housing Act of 2016**

On October 1, 2017, OHR began enforcing the Fair Criminal Record Screening for Housing Act of 2016, which prevents unlawful screening of a housing applicant's criminal background. The Act included requirements for rental housing providers: 1) provision of written notice of rent eligibility criteria to applicants and 2) not making an inquiry or asking any questions related to an applicant's criminal background or arrest history at any time prior to making a conditional offer of housing to the applicant.



### **Same-Sex adoption (2017)**

On February 15, 2017, Mayor Muriel Bowser signed a law that allowed commercial surrogacy contracts for all couples. The measure was passed unanimously by a vote of 13-0.



### **Prevention of Street Harassment Act of 2018**

In 2018, the Street Harassment Prevent Act became the first



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legal measure of its kind in the nation by 1) creating a legal definition of street harassment; 2) establishing a community-based Advisory committee to study street harassment and develop model policies and trainings; and 3) requiring a public information campaign on street harassment.



**Status as a Victim or Family Member of a Victim of Domestic Violence, Sexual Offense, or Stalking becomes 21st protected trait (2019)**

The Employment Protections for Victims of DVSAOS Amendment Act of 2019 became enforceable on October 1, 2019. The law prohibits employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations from discriminating against victims and family members of victims of DVSAOS.



**Care for LGBTQ Seniors and Seniors with HIV in Long-Term Care Facilities (2020)**

In 2020, the D.C. Act on the Aging was amended to include LGBTQ seniors and seniors with HIV. The HRA was also amended to establish an LGBTQ and HIV long-term care bill of rights to provide rights and legal protections for LGBTQ residents and residents with HIV in long-term care facilities. The amendment prohibits discrimination against an individual by a long-term care facility or its staff because of an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or HIV status.



**Electric Shock devices banned for use on people on the autism spectrum or those with developmental disabilities (2020)**



**Washington National Football League begins the process of rebranding (2020)**



**Kamala Harris is sworn in as the first Black, first Asian American, and first female Vice President of the United States (2021)**



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



**Rep. Deb Haaland of New Mexico is confirmed as the Secretary of the Interior, the first Indigenous person to lead a cabinet agency (2021)**



**Washington National Football League becomes the Washington Commanders (2022)**



**Homeless Status added as 22nd trait (2022)**

On October 1, 2022, the Human Rights Enhancement Amendment Act (A24-491) became effective. Three main aspects of this bill include: 1) specifically adding independent contractors to the definition of an “employee” covered by the HRA; 2) adding homeless status as a protected trait across all four enforcement areas; and 3) redefining and expanding the definition of hostile work environment.



**Sealed Eviction Record added as 23rd trait (2022)**

Also on October 1st, parts of the Eviction Record Sealing Authority and Fairness in Renting Amendment Act of 2022 (A24-357) became effective as of October 1. The main aspects of the bill related to OHR include: 1) adding sealed eviction record as a protected trait in housing and requiring landlords to comply with various provisions with respect to tenant screening; and 2) explicitly establishing certain conduct as a form of source of income discrimination.



Local Event



National Event



Local/National Event



# Protected Traits Under the HRA

The HRA protects residents, employees, and visitors against discrimination based on 23 protected traits across four enforcement areas: educational institutions, employment, housing, and public accommodations or government institutions.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Age  | accommodations)- added in 2005   |
| 2. Color  |  |
| 3. Disability                                   | 18. Matriculation (applies to employment, housing, and public accommodations)  |
| 4. Family Responsibilities                      |  |
| 5. Gender identity or expression- added in 2006 | 19. Place of Residence or Business (applies to housing and public accommodations)  |
| 6. Homeless status- added in 2022               |  |
| 7. Marital Status                               | 20. Sealed eviction records (applies to housing)- added in 2022  |
| 8. Personal appearance                          |  |
| 9. Political affiliation                        | 21. Source of Income (applies to educational institutions, housing, and public accommodations)   |
| 10. National Origin                             |  |
| 11. Race  | 22. Status as a Victim of an Intrafamily Offence (applies to housing)- added in 2007   |
| 12. Religion                                    |  |
| 13. Sex   | 23. Status as a Victim or Family Member of a Victim of Domestic Violence, a Sexual Offense, or Stalking (applies to employment)- added in 20 |
| 14. Sexual orientation                          |  |
- Additional traits applicable to some areas:
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 15. Credit Information (applies to employment)- added in 2017                                 |  |
| 16. Familial status (applies to educational institutions, housing, and public accommodations) |  |
| 17. Genetic information (applies to employment and public                                     |  |

# A Ceremonial Resolution

## IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize December 10, 2008, as “Washington, DC Human Rights Day” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, December 10, 2008, marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

WHEREAS, The United Nations passed resolution A/RES/62/171 proclaiming the year commencing on December 10, 2008 the international Year of Human Rights Learning;

WHEREAS, This is an opportunity to call attention to human rights violations around the world and to continue to promote the importance of educating our citizens about human rights;

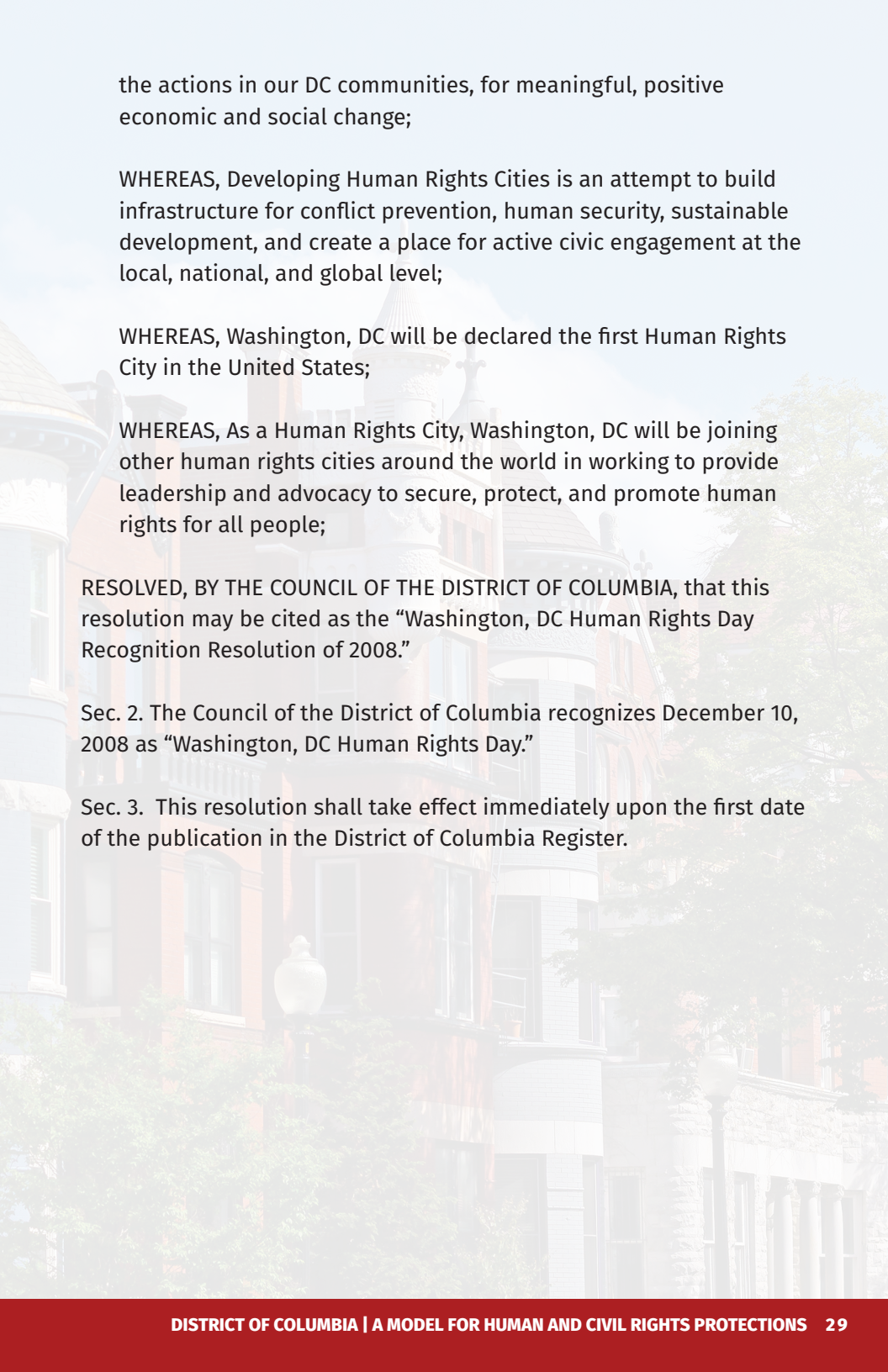
WHEREAS, The District of Columbia Public Schools has partnered with the American Friends Service Committee to create courses that teach our students about human rights issues;

WHEREAS, On this day, citizens of the nation’s capital, led by individuals and organizations, affirm their commitment to human rights by declaring Washington, DC, a Human Rights City;

WHEREAS, Washington, DC being a Human Rights City makes it a model for communities around the world to witness practical ways the human rights framework can make every citizen a partner of sustainable change;

WHEREAS, A Human Rights City is one whose residents and local authorities, through on-going discussions and creative exchanges of ideas, come to understand that human rights, when widely known as a way of life, assist in identifying the issues and informs





the actions in our DC communities, for meaningful, positive economic and social change;

WHEREAS, Developing Human Rights Cities is an attempt to build infrastructure for conflict prevention, human security, sustainable development, and create a place for active civic engagement at the local, national, and global level;

WHEREAS, Washington, DC will be declared the first Human Rights City in the United States;

WHEREAS, As a Human Rights City, Washington, DC will be joining other human rights cities around the world in working to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people;

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Washington, DC Human Rights Day Recognition Resolution of 2008.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes December 10, 2008 as “Washington, DC Human Rights Day.”

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of the publication in the District of Columbia Register.

# References

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7. Jones, M. (2017). Eat Anywhere! Mary Church Terrell, the Lost Laws, and the end of Segregation in D.C. restaurants. <https://boundarystones.weta.org/2017/06/08/eat-anywhere-mary-church-terrell-lost-laws-and-end-segregation-dc-restaurants>.
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**Office of Human Rights**  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA