

## **Salem Human Rights Commission – 2023 Year in Review**

As 2023 comes to a close and a new year begins, the Salem Human Rights Commission reflects on the past year, and looks forward to what is to come in 2024.

### **Community Belonging survey**

In May the Salem Human Rights Commission partnered with Western Oregon University students to conduct a survey regarding discrimination in Salem. The survey provides insights into community members' experiences with discrimination, and survey results inform the commission's work advising City Council on human rights and relations issues. The 2023 survey report and results can be viewed on the [City's web page here](#).

### **Resources for LGBTQIA+ community members**

The LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Rights Task Force of the Human Rights Commission created an online list of community organizations of benefit. Please visit [this web page](#) for the list.

### **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

On Nov. 20, 2023, community members joined the Human Rights Commission at Loucks Auditorium and online for [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#), to recognize and honor the more than 350 individuals worldwide whose lives were lost due to anti-transgender violence or suicide.

### **Events**

Human Rights Commission members have enjoyed meeting people at community events such as Worldbeat and Salem PRIDE in the Park. Reach us if you have an event – we welcome the invitation! You may also have an organizational meeting or group, and we welcome invitations to liaison!

### **Looking forward to 2024**

The Salem Human Rights Commission will continue to receive and review reports of discrimination, bias crimes, and bias incidents, and look for more ways to improve life in the city for all Salem residents. Areas of focus in the coming year include:

- 1) Reporting Hate Crime to Law Enforcement: Examining structures and options for improving comfort and increasing trust with reporting hate or bias;
- 2) Sanctuary Policy: Exploring ideas for assisting indigenous Mexican/Latino/a/e and other community members to fully experience feeling safe and welcome;
- 3) Welcoming Spaces: Seeking solutions to decrease acts of discrimination in places of public trust, such as parks, sidewalks, medical facilities, and restaurants. This may include recommendations about publicly owned places, such as practical ideas to increase access for people with mobility disabilities at large community events.

Information about the Salem Human Rights Commission is on the City of Salem's website at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/boards-commissions/commissions/salem-human-rights->

[commission](#). Meetings are generally on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Anyone who has experienced discrimination in Salem can contact the Human Rights Commission at 503-540-2371 (711 for Relay), or [humanrights@cityofsalem.net](mailto:humanrights@cityofsalem.net)