

**Contact Information:**

Vermont Human Rights Commission

Amanda Garces

802-828-2580

[Amanda.Garces@Vermont.gov](mailto:Amanda.Garces@Vermont.gov)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO CALL FOR  
INCREASED FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS  
ENFORCEMENT IN VERMONT**

Defending Rights, Ensuring Justice: The case for Funding the Human Rights Commission on Human Rights Day

**Montpelier, VT, December 9, 2024** — In honor of Human Rights Day on December 10, the Vermont Human Rights Commission will host a virtual press conference to emphasize the importance of adequately funding the Human Rights Commission. This event, taking place at 12:00 PM on Zoom, seeks to shed light on the Commission’s vital work in advocating for and protecting human rights in Vermont.

With mounting challenges and increasing responsibilities, the Commission plays a crucial role in addressing discrimination, supporting marginalized communities, and ensuring equity. The event will feature testimonies from community members, advocates, and officials who have witnessed firsthand the impact of the Commission's work.

“We are at a critical juncture,” said Big Hartman. “Without sufficient resources, the Commission’s ability to carry out its mission and respond to growing needs will be severely hindered.”

The press conference will also unveil data on the number of cases handled by the Commission in the past year and a half illustrating the growing demand for its services and the pressing need for adequate funding. This data underscores the critical role the Commission plays in addressing human rights violations and supporting vulnerable communities.

**Details of the Event:**

What: Virtual Press Conference

When: December 10, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Where: Zoom Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqde-grz0iGtMeL2BusZWYfNnqRNPQKxoq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Why: To raise awareness about the Commission’s importance and advocate for sufficient funding

Speakers include:

Big Hartman, Executive Director, VHRC and advocates across issues

The mission of the Vermont Human Rights Commission (VHRC) is to promote full civil and human rights in Vermont. The Commission protects people from unlawful discrimination in housing, state government employment, and public accommodations

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