

STATE OF MICHIGAN



GRETCHEN WHITMER, Governor

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HATE CRIMES AND ACTS OF DESECRATION

WHEREAS, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is a public body established under Article V, Section 29 of the Michigan constitution, which vests the commission with the power “to investigate alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin in the enjoyment of the civil rights guaranteed by law and by [the] constitution, and to secure the equal protection of such civil rights without such discrimination”; and

WHEREAS, The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act provides additional protected classifications that enjoy the Commission’s constitutionally sanctioned protection, including age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, height, weight, genetic information, arrest record, physical and mental disability, familial status, and marital status; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Civil Rights Commission understands that the security of civil rights within the State of Michigan may require appropriate laws that

criminally outlaw and punish harmful behaviors and activities that perpetuate attitudes and beliefs that form the basis for discrimination against certain protected classifications identified in the Michigan Constitution and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan has acknowledged the appropriateness of criminally penalizing certain harmful behaviors and actions perpetrated against citizens in certain protected classification, affirmatively protecting the right of citizens to be free from unlawful intimidation by making “[a] person...guilty of ethnic intimidation if that person maliciously, and with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, gender, or national origin,” engages in specific acts as set forth in the Michigan Penal Code, MCL 750.147(b); and

WHEREAS, Acts of desecration within the State of Michigan that are motivated by hatred for and discrimination against classifications of individuals protected under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act should be responsibly addressed through appropriate executive and legislative action; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, That the Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports and encourages executive and legislative efforts intended to deter, prohibit and where necessary criminally penalize actions and activities of hate crimes and desecration against appropriate classifications of individuals protected under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.



Passed on Monday the 24th day of July 2023, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Commissioner Portia Roberson, Chair
Commissioner Gloria E. Lara, Secretary
Commissioner David Worthams
Commissioner Rosann Barker

Commissioner Zenna Faraj Elhasan, Vice Chair
Commissioner Richard Corriveau
Commissioner Luke Londo