



Division of Human Rights

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Governor

HELEN DIANE FOSTER
Commissioner

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Statement from NYS Division of Human Rights Commissioner Helen Diane Foster on Human Rights Day

“Today we celebrate Human Rights Day commemorating the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot, in Paris.

Three years earlier, New York became the first state in our nation to enact a Human Rights Law, with the goal of eliminating discrimination in employment based on race, creed, color and national origin. Since then, the law has been amended to include greater and more comprehensive protections than its creators could have ever envisioned.

This year we have seen civil rights struggles surface throughout the nation; some of these battles have been fought before, but some are new and remind us that our fight is far from over.

As we celebrate this important event and honor all those who have dedicated their lives to create a world where social justice and equality prevail, let us renew our own commitment to move forward and protect those who suffered discrimination in our state.”

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