

# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To all Marylanders,

Perhaps now as much as any time in our recent history we need to be bold in our commitment toward ensuring equity, opportunity, and inclusion for all people of our great state. The seeds of intolerance, exclusion, and indifference that have been planted over the past few years have now grown into acts of hate, violence, and open intimidation. A climate of acceptance of vile groups, including but not limited to the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, and skinheads, is being promoted by attempting to cast them as legitimate alternative voices. Let's be clear – these are not legitimate groups, these are not legitimate voices. They are the antithesis of everything we hope to be as a nation, as a state, and as a community.

We the staff of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights encourage all Marylanders to join us in fighting hate, unlawful discrimination, violence, and extremism in all of its forms. Whether through participating in a program offered by MCCR, or connecting with local efforts which promote acceptance and respect, or simply by seeking to build relationships with those of different religious, racial, and other backgrounds, each of us can do something positive and meaningful toward creating a more just and balanced community. Additionally, we have to directly repudiate hate, bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism at every turn and no matter its origins.

The vision of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is to have a state that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination. We can only realize this vision by working together with all Marylanders who share in it.

Alvin O. Gillard  
Executive Director