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INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF OFFICIAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
AGENCIES

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[IAOHRA@ss0.org](mailto:IAOHRA@ss0.org)

A District of Columbia  
Nonprofit Corporation

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Regional Representatives:

James L. Stowe, Atlantic

Bobbie Wanzo, Midwest

Beverly L. Watts, South

Sharon Ortiz, West

**2016 IAOHRA Conference**  
**August 7-11**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**  
**Resolution I**

**Title:** Civil Rights Protections for transgender people

**Purpose:** To ensure equality and access for transgender people

**Whereas**, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of over 140 state, county and city governmental human rights commissions in the United States of America and Canada; and

**Whereas**, IAOHRA goals are "to foster human and intergroup relations, to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world; and

**Whereas**, IAOHRA envisions a world community where justice and equality prevail and all people appreciate and, accept differences celebrate diversity, and live in peace and harmony; and

**Whereas**, IAOHRA's mission is to promote civil and human rights for all people around the world; and

**Whereas**, The states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia all have laws that protect the rights of transgender people in housing, employment and places of public accommodations.

**Whereas**, on Friday, May 13, 2016, the United States Department of Justice issued a letter stating that elementary and secondary schools must allow students to use the gender segregated facilities that corresponds with their gender identity or lose federal funding; and

**Whereas**, Several states are suing the United States of America, based on speculation that the Department of Justice's letter will cause irreparable harm; and

**Whereas**, There is no evidence that allowing transgender people to use the gender segregated facility that corresponds with their gender identity has increased sexual assaults and violence against women and children; and

**Whereas**, there is evidence that forcing transgender people to use the gender segregated facility that corresponds with the biological sex at birth increases the risk of sexual assault and violence against transgender people; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that IAOHRA supports civil rights protections for transgender people and the cities, counties, states and government entities that create those laws.

  
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Jean M. Kelleher  
President



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**2016 IAOHRA Conference**  
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**Resolution II**

**Title:** Indigenous Peoples' Day

**Purpose:** To Replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day

**Whereas**, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of over 140 state, county and city governmental human rights commissions in the United States of America and Canada; and

**Whereas**, IAOHRA goals are "to foster human and intergroup relations, to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world; and

**Whereas**, Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1937; and

**Whereas**, in 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to change Columbus Day into a day to strengthen unity and to provide an accurate historical record; and

**Whereas**, the United States endorsed the United Nations Declaration on December 16, 2010, which recognizes that Indigenous People have suffered from historic injustices; and

**Whereas**, August 26, 2013, IAOHRA, passed an International Human Rights resolution, "To promote and encourage a broader understanding of international human rights" as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

**Whereas**, IAOHRA opposes systemic racism towards Indigenous People; and

**Whereas**, at least nine cities in the United States have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day; and


**Whereas**, we all walk upon the traditional lands of Indigenous People who have inhabited the Americas since time immemorial; and

**Whereas**, Columbus' first voyage to the Americas initiated the slave trade and his second visit began the genocide of Indigenous People; and

**Whereas**, Columbus Day should be replaced by Indigenous Peoples' Day, a day to reflect upon the continued struggles of Indigenous People, recognize the contributions of Indigenous People of this great nation and celebrate a rich culture.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that IAOHRA recognizes the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

**Therefore, be it further resolved**, that IAOHRA encourages other governments, institutions and businesses to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day;

  
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Jean M. Kelleher  
President