

Public Statement from Bergen County Human Relations Commission

In light of the unprecedented measures and growing impact of the COVID19 virus on our community, and on behalf of the Bergen County Human Relations Commission, we, the undersigned, are committed to promoting and supporting all Bergen County residents no matter their race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, faith, disability, medical history, or socioeconomic status.

Now is a time for us to come together as a community to support each other, respect our differences, and promote not only tolerance but acceptance of the fact that we are all in this together. No one will be untouched by our current circumstances.

It is a time for us to practice compassion, kindness, generosity, and inclusion. We encourage our neighbors to rise to our highest moral character and resist the negative impulses of bigotry, discrimination, labeling, bullying, exclusion, and harassment.

Stay informed. Stay vigilant. Follow government orders, rules, and recommendations. Be kind. Call your neighbors. Offer to supply the vulnerable.

While we must distance ourselves physically to prevent the spread of this virus, we must also stay connected socially and pull together as a community, one neighborhood at a time.

In response to this crisis, we encourage you to honor this Bergen Community Human Relations Commission Pledge:

“I pledge my allegiance to you, my neighbor, to act in good faith with the ideals of justice, civility, and compassion for all humanity as my guide, to accept you for who you are, and to help shape a community that reflects these ideals.”

We invite you to support one another by sharing information, learning about each others' cultures and faiths, and gathering together online.

Names of signatories:

Elizabeth Rebein, Chairwoman
Reverend Willard Ashley, Vice Chairman
Karen Beckford Bennett
Nvair Beylerian
Leslie Billet
Imam Mohammad Charaf
Father Minhy Cho
Jyoti Gandhi
Ira Goodman

Romi Herrera
Esmilda Abreu Hornbostel
Joy Kurland
Jonathan Lancaster
Anthony Paradiso
Ron Rosensweig
Janet Sharma
Borahm Song
Anthony Torres