



January 19, 2023

Officers

Chair

Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for
Women & Families

Vice Chairs

Margaret Huang
Southern Poverty Law Center
Derrick Johnson
NAACP

Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund

Secretary

Fatima Goss Graves
National Women's Law Center

Treasurer

Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees

Board of Directors

Abed Ayoub
American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination Committee
Gloria L. Blackwell
AAUW
Ray Curry
International Union, UAW
Jocelyn Frye
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Jonathan Greenblatt
Anti-Defamation League
Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees International Union
Damon Hewitt
Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law
David H. Inoue
Japanese American Citizens League
Virginia Kase Solomon
League of Women Voters of the
United States
Marc Morial
National Urban League
Janet Murguía
UnidosUS
Svante Myrick
People For the American Way
Janai Nelson
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
Christian F. Nunes
National Organization for Women
Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Religious Action Center
of Reform Judaism
Rebecca Pringle
National Education Association
Lisa Rice
National Fair Housing Alliance
Kelley Robinson
Human Rights Campaign
Anthony Romero
American Civil Liberties Union
Liz Shuler
AFL-CIO
Fawn Sharp
National Congress of American Indians
Maria Town
American Association of
People with Disabilities
Randi Weingarten
American Federation of Teachers
John C. Yang
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |
AAJC

President and CEO
Maya Wiley

The Honorable Lina M. Khan
Chair
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chair Khan,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, and its Media/Telecommunications Task Force, we write to strongly support the creation of a Civil Rights Office at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and to request a meeting with you and the Media/Telecommunications Task Force as soon as possible to discuss this recommendation and see how we can continue to build on the momentum the FTC has gained over the past year.

The Leadership Conference is committed to ensuring that media, telecommunications, technology, and privacy policies affirm and extend our nation's longstanding commitment to civil rights. In 2020, our Media/Telecommunications Task Force identified and developed a comprehensive list of [priority executive and legislative initiatives](#) that represent a path forward for our country in advancing social and economic justice. Among other things, they highlight the issues that we believe the FTC must advance to ensure that our technology future includes adequate consideration of — and commitment to — civil rights and social justice.

While these are areas of great concern to the communities we represent, we believe the current structure of the FTC makes it extremely difficult to address present and future threats to civil rights with the urgency and thoroughness that they demand. By establishing a civil rights office staffed with civil rights experts, the commission will be in a better position to confront the often complicated civil rights issues as they relate to the agency. The FTC would have a centralized hub to provide expertise across the agency and consistently coordinate with civil rights advocates — and all stakeholders in general — to identify and address civil rights concerns across the wide purview of the commission. A civil rights office would allow for the integration of a more comprehensive civil rights analysis throughout the commission, engender more transparency across government and the private sector, and improve partnerships with other agencies, stakeholders, and civil rights experts.

Civil rights offices play critical enforcement roles throughout the federal government. There are more than 30 other civil rights offices at federal departments and agencies, with a wide



array of structures and responsibilities that could serve as models for the commission. We have identified a number of best practices from other government offices that we would be happy to share with you and your staff.

Thank you for considering our views. If you have any questions about the issues raised in this letter, please contact Jonathan Walter, policy counsel for the media & tech program, at walter@civilrights.org, or Frank Nolan, senior campaigns and programs associate, at nolan@civilrights.org.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
ADL (the Anti-Defamation League)
American Civil Liberties Union
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
Black Women’s Roundtable
Color of Change
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America
Japanese American Citizens League
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Muslim Advocates
NAACP
National Action Network
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Consumer Law Center
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Urban League
PFLAG National
Sikh American Legal Defense Fund
UnidosUS
United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

CC:

Alvaro Bedoya, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission
Rebecca Slaughter, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission
Christine S. Wilson, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission