

Town of Belmont

Belmont Human Rights Commission

Statement on Human Rights During COVID-19 Pandemic

Belmont Human Rights Commission reminds all members of the community of the human rights we all care about even in the midst of the most challenging health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate. It affects all of us regardless of class, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, social and legal status, physical or mental abilities or any other way we may define ourselves.

The Commission urges all residents of Belmont to look out for one another, regardless. It is a remarkably stressful time when people are worried about their exposure to the virus, their mental and physical health, their loved ones, managing responsibilities day-to-day, and their livelihoods. We are social creatures, and it is difficult to be separated from all of our support systems. Please find ways to keep these intact and build the ones you need safely.

At this time, it is important to avoid blaming or scapegoating groups of people for the situation we find ourselves in. There have been reports of increased harassment directed at individuals perceived to be of East Asian origin, especially Chinese, both within and outside of our community. Both children and adults have been and continue to be targets. The rhetoric of calling it the “Chinese virus” has legitimized this targeting for some.

We all have a right to be safe and secure during these uncertain times, and always.

The Commission is available for your concerns. Contact us at belmont.hrc@gmail.com or 617-933-2795.

Stay healthy. Keep connected in safe ways. Look out for one another. Recognize that others need your kindness, especially now. We're all in this together.

Carl Brauer, Chair

Fran Yuan, Vice Chair

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