

February 2026

Dear Friends and Community Members,

The past year has weighed heavily on many of us. Across the country and within our own communities, moments of harm, fear, and loss have reminded us how fragile safety and belonging can be—particularly for those who are already carrying the greatest burdens. These moments do not exist in isolation; they shape how people move through their days and how communities experience trust, stability, and care.

We recognize how difficult it can be to witness actions that cause fear or deepen uncertainty, and how challenging it can feel to know how to respond. And yet, even in these times, we continue to see something powerful: people choosing compassion over indifference, connection over division, and care over silence.

The Kitsap County Council for Human Rights pauses to honor the advocates, organizers, neighbors, and quiet supporters who continue to show up for human dignity in both visible and unseen ways. Your persistence and empathy remind us that solidarity is not reactive—it is intentional, steady, and rooted in shared humanity.

We know the path forward is not simple. Progress requires patience, courage, and a willingness to listen and learn from one another. We also know that lasting change is built not through harm or fear, but through accountability, understanding, and collective care.

As we move into the new year, we remain committed to supporting a community where every person is treated with dignity and respect. We invite you to continue walking alongside us—speaking up when you are able, supporting one another, and holding space for hope. Together, we can help shape a future grounded in justice, compassion, and belonging.

In solidarity,

The Kitsap County Council for Human Rights