

# YOU BELONG.

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2026

Happy Fall,

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As students and educators settle into a new school year, fall invites us to begin again. It's a season that encourages us to listen a little more closely, make space for one another, and meet difficult moments with kindness and courage. Civil rights work calls on us to defend dignity with heart and to treat the people beside us with care. When the work is challenging, small acts of compassion matter even more. In the months ahead, we also pause to learn, remember, and honor:

- Orange Shirt Day (September 30), honoring children, and families harmed by Indian boarding schools
- Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 12), recognizing Oregon's nine federally recognized nations and celebrating Indigenous peoples' living cultures, contributions, and sovereignty
- Veterans Day (November 11), honoring all who have served this country
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20), a day of mourning and solidarity. We remember transgender people whose lives were taken by anti transgender violence, honor their lives, and recommit to their safety and dignity
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25), honoring survivors, and those whose lives were taken by violence, and calling for prevention, protection, and accountability
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), a day for inclusion and action. We celebrate the contributions and leadership of people with disabilities and renew our commitment to removing barriers to equal rights, access, and participation

These observances encourage us to remember people and their life stories, honor their contributions, and turn our recognition into protection and belonging.

As the season changes, may care and kindness guide how we show up for one another — and may courage guide how we lead.

With hope and gratitude,

*Fay Gtetz-Waters*

Oregon DOJ Director of Civil Rights and Social Justice

# WHAT HAPPENED DURING LAST QUARTER?

## 8/8/26 Salvation Army Back to School Fair Multnomah Co

Our advocates and other nonprofits met with families, students and neighbors to prepare for success in the classroom and beyond.

## 7/27/26 Tittle 1-C Education Program Resource Fair

The Salem/Keizer Public Schools Title 1-C Education Program held it's 3rd annual resource fair. The CRU team joined to provide families and parents with information about both the Bias Response Hotline and Sanctuary Response Hotline.

## 7/30/26 Yakima Vallery Farm Workers Clinic Health Fair

This year the CRU team was invited to this family-friendly health fair. The health fair offered health screenings, preventative services, nutrition information and community resources in Salem.

## SCHOOL RESOURCES

- [Report-Dont-Repot Toolkit](#)
- [SAFE Oregon](#) created a toolkit for parents, educators and school staff to help integrate proactive safety messaging.
- [Every Student Belongs](#) rule prohibits hate symbols specifically symbols of Neo-Nazi ideology, the Confederate flag and the noose. Schools must have policies in place that prohibit hate symbols and bias incidents and must have procedures for addressing concerns if they arise.
- [Experiencing Discrimination? Resources for Families and Communities](#)

The Oregon Department of Education Civil rights Unit provides information, resources and training to schools, families, community members on nondiscrimination and civil

rights in Oregon K-12 public schools and schools and public charter schools. Do you have questions about discrimination? Contact your school/district Civil Rights Coordinator, or contact the Oregon Department of Education's Civil Rights Support Specialists at [ODE.CivilRightsSupport@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.CivilRightsSupport@ode.oregon.gov) or 971-673-2777.

- [Youthline](#): Call 877-968-8491

A chat-line for students. Teens are available to help daily from 4-10pm Pacific Time via call, text, chat or email (adults are available by phone at all other times). YouthLine is a free, confidential teen-to-teen crisis and help line.

- [FAN \(Family Access Network\)](#) is unique to Central Oregon, located in nearly all public school across Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties.



## SAFE OREGON

[Safe Oregon](#) is a school safety tip line for students, parents, staff, community members and law enforcement to report and respond to student safety threats.

- [Take it Down](#): A free service to help remove online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos and videos taken before age 18.
- [FAN \(Family Access Network\)](#) is unique to Central Oregon, located in nearly all public school across Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties.
- [McKinney-Vento Act Services](#): If your family is experiencing unstable housing or homelessness, the district provides specialized support, including immediate school supplies, clothing, and enrollment assistance. Reach out to the district's homeless liaison for more information.
- [Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program – Tuition & Fee Waiver](#): If you are 25 years or younger and experienced/currently experiencing homelessness you may be eligible for this waiver. This assistance can help you pay for college for up to 4 years. For more information on eligibility requirements please review this FAQ.
- [Oregon Kinship Navigator](#) maintains a 2026 School Resource List by county, including clothing banks, school supply distributions, and vouchers. If your county isn't listed, call 833 201 5557 for assistance
- [Oregon Food Bank Food Finder](#): locate nearby free food resources near you.
- [Leading the Change: Students Shaping No Place for Hate Webinar](#): Join ADL Education for a webinar featuring student leaders who are creating a more inclusive, respectful and welcoming school communities on October 15th, 2026 at 10:00 am.
- Watch [Making Social Media Safer: Practical Tools for Educators and Parents](#) on demand to gain practical tools and insights to enhance online safety for youth.
- [Public School and Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Laws](#)  
Oregon's Sanctuary Laws apply to public schools, because public schools are public bodies. Public schools in Oregon have a legal obligation to educate every child between the ages of 5 through 19 who has not completed the 12th grade, regardless of their actual or perceived immigration status or their parents' immigration status. [See Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 \(1982\)](#)
- DOJ created a [model policy](#) for kindergarten through grade 12 public schools, in compliance with SB 1538 (2026).
- The Oregon School Boards Association and Oregon Department of Education have issued a [January 22, 2025 joint statement](#) and a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) regarding immigration enforcement and student and family safety at Oregon schools.
- [The Federal Government challenges Oregon's in-state tuition policy](#)  
Last month the U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Oregon's educational policy which allows certain students without lawful immigration status to qualify for in state tuition. At this time the policy remains in effect, and you can read more from the Oregon Capital Chronicle.

# TRAINING AND LEARNING

**Right to Be** is offering free digital safety trainings to help provide security awareness and support for those facing online harassment.

[Online Harassment First Aid Training](#): November 4th, 2026 1-2pm

[Digital Safety](#) October 13th, 2026 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm

**Building Bridges 2026 Fostering a More Connected and Safer Community Through Collaboration:** Thursday, October 29th, 2026 | 9:00am - 3:00pm

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Sokhom Tauch Community Center, 10323 NE Glisan St., Portland, OR 97220.

Register here: [Building Bridges of Understanding in Our Communities](#)

Community Services Network is hosting several upcoming education workshops:

**Understanding OHP: An Introductory Class**

November 24, 2026 | 9:00-10:30 a.m. | Virtual

CSN is partnering with CareOregon's Connect to Care team to host this recurring virtual workshop, held every other month. It offers a foundational overview of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), including who may qualify, the benefits available, and how OHP works, so you can feel more confident helping others navigate their coverage.

Registration: [OHP 101 Registration Form](#)

**Climate Justice & Health 101**

October 13, 2026 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Virtual

Presented in partnership with the Multnomah County Environmental Health Department, this session digs into the connection between climate, health, and equity in Oregon: the basics of climate and environmental justice, the state's climate-related health risks, how those impacts land differently across communities, and ways we can work together toward healthier, more resilient, equitable communities.

Registration: [10.13.26 Climate Justice & Health 101 Workshop Registration Form](#)

**The Learning Community and National Network to End Domestic Violence**

is offering a 4-part virtual training for advocates to wish to assist survivors in their journey toward financial long-term security.

Participants will learn how to:

- Address financial safety planning
- Create realistic budgets
- Demystify credit
- Understand loans, banking and long-term planning

Register here: [Moving Ahead Training of Trainers](#)

Oregon Department of Justice's

## CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT



### Bias Response Hotline

**1-844-924-BIAS**

Report online at [StandAgainstHate.Oregon.gov](#)

### Sanctuary Promise Hotline

**1-844-924-STAY**

Report online at [SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov](#)

### Línea Directa de Promesa Santuario

**1-844-6-AMPARO**

Reporta en línea en cualquier momento en [PromesaSantuario.Oregon.gov](#)

National Crime Victim Law Institute Rights and Remedies shares the latest in legal news and analysis of issues surrounding victims rights enforcement.

- [Best Practices in Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence](#) By: Claire Harwell
- [Justice for Undocumented Immigrants Must Include Privacy Protection](#) by: Terry Campos, JD (NCVLI); Katelyn Sundstrom, J.D. expected 2025, Lewis & Clark Law School, Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MSt
- Watch: [Cultural Responsiveness & Humility](#) (Victims' Rights Attorney Toolkit)



### **Legal Advice for Victims of Hate and Bias Crime**

The Victims' Rights Advice website provides pro bono virtual victims' rights legal advice and resources. Get started here: [Victims' Rights Advice - Guiding Victims of Hate Crimes](#) !

### **The Fanciest 5K Ever November 7th, 2026**

Join and support Safety Compass for the Fanciest 5K. Safety Compass exists to extend relentless hope and navigational support for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Register here: [The Fanciest 5K. Ever.](#)



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