



HOLDING THE LINE:

**WHAT VERMONT'S CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS
ARE ASKING OF US IN 2026**



In November of 2025, the HRC convened a 3-day hybrid **Civil Rights Summit** in Randolph with over 300 people participating.

The goals of this event were (1) to bring community members and advocates together and (2) to discuss strategies for strengthening civil rights in Vermont. We covered a range of topics including: housing, immigrant justice, trans rights, disability access, educational equity, equal protection, and racial justice.



HOUSING ACCESS

- Create a State-funded Rental Subsidy
- Just Cause Eviction Law
- Housing Status as a Legally Protected Category
- Advance Inclusionary Zoning
- Update the Roadmap to End Homelessness



IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

- State-Funded Access to Legal Counsel for Immigrants in VT Detention Centers
- Removal of Barriers to Medical and Legal Services in Detention
- Safeguard Community Spaces
- Fund a State “Office for New Americans



QUEER JUSTICE

- Establish the Gender-Affirming Care Fund (H.576)



CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

- Increase Resources for the HRC and the AGO's Civil Rights Unit



DISABILITY RIGHTS

- Expand Access to Local Elections
- Expand Public Access and Participation in Public Meetings
- Create an Olmstead Commission
- Guarantee a Livable Wage for In-Home Care Providers



JUSTICE FOR ALL

- Pass the Equal Protection Constitutional Amendment
- Replace Incarceration with Accountability and Support
- Increase Training and Support for Fair and Impartial Policing



EDUCATION EQUITY

- Ensure Effective Statewide Harassment Prevention Programs, Training, & Tools
- Increase Access to Public Data About HHB
- Support Schools in Implementing New Education Quality Standards
- Remove “Severe or Pervasive” Harassment Standard in 16 VSA §570f
- Expand Representation and Role of the HHB Advisory Council

