

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



MIKE COX  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 30212  
Lansing, MICHIGAN 48909

December 10, 2007

Ms. Alison Parker  
Deputy Director  
Human Rights Watch  
100 Bush Street, Suite 1812  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Parker:

I am in receipt of your letter regarding the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), a multi-national organization whose mission is to promote racial equality and non-discrimination. Specifically, you want to know whether this office has been contacted by the U.S. Government and to provide information regarding human rights violations in Michigan for their report to CERD.

While the Michigan Department of the Attorney General provides legal representation to various state departments and agencies, our Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) is the state agency given the authority to investigate and resolve racial discrimination complaints under the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2103 *et seq.* Because this office does not maintain a separate record of these complaints, we would be unable to provide any information related to this request.

In reference to this office being contacted by either the National Association of Attorneys General or the federal government regarding a CERD report, my staff has reviewed our correspondence database and is unable to locate any correspondence related to this report. Additionally, this office contacted the MDCR and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights but, again, we were unable to verify that such a request has ever been made or received by the state of Michigan.

In view of the foregoing, I sincerely regret my inability to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cox".

Mike Cox  
Attorney General



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
PO Box 080  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0080

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

ANNE MILGRAM  
*Attorney General*

November 6, 2007

Ms. Alison Parker  
Human Rights Watch  
Deputy Director, US Program  
100 Bush Street, Suite 1812  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Parker:

Attorney General Milgram referred to me your inquiry concerning the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. In response to your question, to our knowledge, this Office has not been contacted by Ms. West, nor has any information been requested from this Office concerning the Convention.

We hope this is of assistance to you in your research.

Sincerely,

Abbe R. Gluck  
Senior Advisor to the Attorney General

CC: Attorney General Anne Milgram





Rob McKenna

## ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

1125 Washington Street SE • PO Box 40100 • Olympia WA 98504-0100

November 1, 2007

Alison Parker  
Human Rights Watch  
100 Bush Street, Suite 812  
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: October 19, 2007, letter to Office of the Attorney General

Dear Ms. Parker:

Thank you for writing to the Washington State Office of the Attorney General (AGO) regarding the Human Rights Watch program. Your letter was assigned to me for response, as I am Chief Counsel to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC). I am not aware of the AGO receiving any formal request or statement regarding requirements of CERD, but please feel free to forward further communication on this project to me.

Furthermore, I gathered from your letter that you are seeking information from individual states "on issues related to racial discrimination." While I don't know specifically what information you are seeking, I can probably best assist you by referring your organization to the WSHRC for information about discrimination in Washington State.

The WSHRC is a separate State agency created for the purposes of implementing anti-discrimination rules and policies, investigating complaints of discrimination, and educating the public about discrimination issues. Thus, the WSHRC is most likely to have current data on this subject, and is probably in the best position to provide the information you need. The contact information is as follows:

Marc Brenman, Executive Director  
Washington State Human Rights Commission  
PO BOX 42490  
711 S Capitol Way, Ste 402  
Olympia, WA 98504-2490


Tel: 360-753-6770 or 1-800-233-3247 (toll free).  
Web: [www.hum.wa.gov](http://www.hum.wa.gov)

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Alison Parker  
November 1, 2007  
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I hope this information is of assistance to you. If I can be of further help, please don't hesitate to contact me again. As I mentioned above, I welcome additional information on the CERD program you are writing about.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Traci Friedl', with a stylized, cursive script.

Traci Friedl  
Assistant Attorney General

TJF:jb

Enclosure

cc: Marc Brenman, Executive Director, Human Rights Commission



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

PAUL J. MORRISON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597  
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296  
WWW.KSAG.ORG

October 25, 2007

Alison Parker  
Deputy Director, US Program  
Human Rights Watch  
100 Bush Street, Suite 1812  
San Francisco, California 94014

Dear Ms. Parker:

I am responding to your letter received by this office by fax on October 19, 2007, as the designated record custodian for Attorney General Paul Morrison.

You are attempting to gather information concerning the federal government's report to the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). You state that the federal government "frequently explains in its periodic reports to the CERD Committee<sup>1</sup> that large areas of law and policy fall within the jurisdiction of the States, which lack the time to keep track of and report to the federal government on issues relating to racial discrimination. Human Rights Watch would like to know if this claim of the federal government is accurate."

Thus, you ask the following questions:

**1. Are you aware of CERD and your state's responsibilities under it?**

It does not appear that Kansas was a party to any agreement or resolution passed by this body or the federal government. If you could cite to the pre-emptive federal law and/or Kansas statute adopting and imposing upon Kansas the 1969 resolution or creating a legal duty that applies to state officials we would perhaps be better able to respond to your question.

**2. Was your office contacted by Mary Beth West, who wrote the US Government's report to CERD? Our information indicates that these requests were sent out in the fall of 2006 by the National Association of Attorneys General.**

We have thus far located no documents that meet the terms of this request. However, we note that many contacts with the NAAG are via email, and such correspondence is typically

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/cerd.htm>

not retained very long. Thus, while it is possible that a request for information was received and responded to, it may be that the electronic e-mail containing that information no longer exists. In addition, there has since been a change in Attorney General administrations since 2006, and thus, some of the staff who handled NAAG matters in 2006 are no longer with this office. We will continue to look for any 2006 records concerning this matter and will again contact you should we locate same.

**3. Did you respond to Ms. West's request?**

See answer to question number 2.

**4. If you did not respond, what was the reason?**

See answer to question number 2.

**5. We have been informed that only the States of South Carolina, New Mexico, Oregon, and Illinois responded to Ms. West's Request. Is that correct?**

We do not know and have no way of ascertaining who responded to a request that our office did not make. We suggest you contact the individual agency or persons that were coordinating a search to determine the over-all results.

Please note that the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), K.S.A. 45-215 *et seq.* applies to public records existing at the time a record request is received; it does not require that public agencies answer questions or create records in order to provide information. Thus, if we do not already possess records that address the issues raised, we will not be able to provide additional information. If we locate any existing public records possessed by the Kansas Attorney General's office, and meeting the terms of your request, we will again contact you about this matter.

However, if you are interested in determining the scope of authority or Kansas involvement in racial discrimination matters, we suggest that you contact the Kansas Human Rights

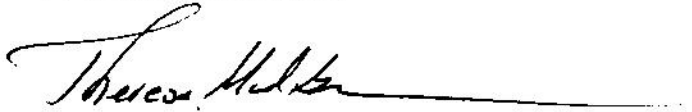
Alison Parker

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Commission (KHRC) as this completely separate state agency is the state entity authorized to investigate racial discrimination complaints.<sup>2</sup>

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
PAUL J. MORRISON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Marcel Bush", followed by a horizontal line.

Theresa Marcel Bush  
Assistant Attorney General

TMB:jm

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.khrc.net/> 900 SW Jackson, Suite 568-S, Topeka, KS 66612-1258, phone: 785.296.3206, fax: 785.296.0589