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U. S. Commission on Civil Rights to Release Report: *The Civil Rights and Protections During the Federal Response to Hurricanes Harvey and María*

On Wednesday, September 21, 2022, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will release its 2022 statutory enforcement report, *Civil Rights and Protections During the Federal Response to Hurricanes Harvey and María*. The report examines the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster response and compliance with federal civil rights laws and policies in Texas and Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Harvey and María.

As part of the examination, the Commission held three briefings, [Civil Rights and Protections in the Federal Response to Hurricanes María and Harvey](#) on June 25, 2021 in Washington D.C.; [Civil Rights Implications of Disaster Relief: Hurricane Harvey in Texas](#) on October 21, 2021; and [Civil Rights Implications of Disaster Relief: Hurricane María in Puerto Rico](#) on December 10, 2021.

To inform this report, the Commission received testimony from federal officials such as FEMA's Office of Response and Recovery, Inspectors General from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the President of the Emergency Management Association of Texas, the Texas General Land Office, the Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, and the former Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Commission also heard from advocacy leaders, legal experts, and researchers in the field, and met with impacted community groups, persons, and stakeholders.

The report will be available in full on the Commission's website at <https://www.usccr.gov/reports/annual-statutory-enforcement> on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 10 am Eastern time. For more information on each briefing and to view written testimony visit: <https://www.usccr.gov/meetings/public-briefings>.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).