

# N E W S

FROM THE

## Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

Office of Media Relations ☎ (213) 974-7654



For Immediate Release:  
For further information, contact:  
Cherylynn Hoff  
(213) 974-7629 Telephone  
(213) 687-4251 Facsimile  
Email: [choff@hrc.co.la.ca.us](mailto:choff@hrc.co.la.ca.us)

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### **L.A. County Human Relations Commission's Youth Group Produces New Anti-Hate CD**

L.A. County Human Relations Commission's newest program, the Youth Advisory Council Team (Youth ACT) has just completed production of an anti-hate CD. "Confessions of the Discriminated" is a compilation of songs these young county residents wrote as a result of their exploration of personal experiences with discrimination, harassment and bullying in their schools. Musical artists Michael Franti and Spearhead, as well as popular L.A. band Ozomatli, have contributed tracks to the CD. A CD release party will take place September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hard Rock Café, 8600 Beverly Blvd, West Hollywood. A press conference at the same location will precede the event.

"This CD will be used by youth-serving organizations and LA County teachers to spur discussions on how we treat others, and how disrespect and bias severely affect our youth," announced Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Commission.

Youth ACT is the newest program of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. Its intent is to bring a youth voice to the Commission's Youth Public Education Initiative to improve intergroup relations, cross cultural understanding, and issues of equity among L.A. youth through programs and a mass media campaign.

Chavonne Taylor, an 18 year-old El Camino College freshman, joined Youth ACT as a high school senior because of its dedication to achieving results. "Youth ACT was a group that didn't just complain about the problems in L.A., but also sought to change them by informing youth of the effects of discrimination in its many forms."

Farah Ali, another passionate 16 year-old, from Culver City High School, explains her involvement: "As a young woman of Muslim faith, racism and discrimination have affected me throughout my life, and more so after September 11, 2001. Youth ACT has been a life-changing experience for me. Investing my time in this organization has taught me to deal with and affect the ignorance of our society. It also has given me greater confidence in myself," says Farah.

Juventino Aceves, age 19, another Youth ACT member, believes that working with such an eclectic group of young people has helped him to look at his own stereotypes. "I understand myself, my family and other people better. I hope that other youth from across the county can have the same experience as I have had in Youth ACT."

For further information on the Youth ACT program and its members, please contact the program's coordinator, Cherylynn Hoff, Senior Intergroup Relations Specialist at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, (213) 974-7629 or [choff@hrc.co.la.ca.us](mailto:choff@hrc.co.la.ca.us).

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations is one of the oldest and largest agencies of its kind in the United States. The Commission works to foster harmonious and equitable inter-group relations, empower communities and institutions, engage in non-violent conflict resolution and promote an informed and inclusive multicultural society.