



November 5, 2008

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCIES

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCIES**

THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA

REPLY TO:

On behalf of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) and our one hundred forty state and local agency members, I am proud to extend our congratulations to Senator Barack Obama upon his election to the Presidency of the United States of America. This election victory is a testament to an outstanding campaign and the change that has already occurred within the hearts and minds of the people of this nation.

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As Senator Obama prepares to take the oath of office as the 44th President of this republic, the statutory human rights agencies, whose responsibility is the enforcement of the nation's state and local anti-discrimination laws, look forward to a federal administration that places priority status on the protection and extension of civil and human rights. We pledge to work with the new administration to insure that the partnership between our agencies and all of our federal partners is enhanced and that a new more supportive environment is created in order to foster our joint mission.

We look forward to working with an administration that recognizes that in spite of the gains exemplified by the election of a President who is African-American, that there are tens of thousands of Americans who are treated adversely when they seek, employment and housing or seek to enjoy the benefits of places of public accommodations, because of their skin color, their national origin, their gender, their sexual orientation and gender identity, or because they are people with a disability. We will work with this new administration to remedy the affects of such mal-treatment and we pledge to join with federal agencies to vigorously and judiciously enforce the laws of this land.

We congratulate President-elect Obama and we congratulate the voters of this nation who have determined that he is the leader that we need at this time.

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