



New York City Bans Calling People Illegal Aliens Or Threatening to Call ICE to Deport Them

It's now against the law in New York City to threaten someone with a call to immigration authorities or refer to anyone as an "illegal alien" when motivated by hate. The 29-page directive from the city's Commission on Human Rights instructs that "the use of certain language, including 'illegal alien' and 'illegals,' with the intent to demean, humiliate, or offend a person or persons constitutes discrimination." The restrictions are punishable by fines of up to \$250,000 per offense! Mayor Bill deBlasio's Office of Immigrant Affairs announced a joint \$1-million investment with the state to guarantee free legal services to immigrants facing imminent deportation. -GEG

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The restrictions – violations of which are punishable by fines of up to \$250,000 per offense – are outlined in a 29-page directive released by City Hall's Commission on Human Rights.

“'Alien' – used in many laws to refer to a 'noncitizen' person – is a term that may carry negative connotations and

dehumanize immigrants, marking them as 'other,'" reads one passage of the memo. "The use of certain language, including 'illegal alien' and 'illegals,' with the intent to demean, humiliate, or offend a person or persons constitutes discrimination."

The directive goes on to list several examples of acts and comments that would run afoul of the restrictions, including harassing people over their accents or grasp of English, or wielding the threat of a call to Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a tool of hate.

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