



## **Transcript: Christine Clarke, Chair and Commissioner of the NYC Commission on Human Rights Appears on *Spectrum News* “*News All Day*”**

*Commissioner Clarke appeared Spectrum News NY1 “News All Day” with Shannan Ferry to new campaign, highlighting protections for transgender New Yorkers.*

*A transcript of the interview is available below.*

**Shannan Ferry:** This Pride Month, the city is running a new campaign aimed at protecting transgender New Yorkers. “Trans Rights are Human Rights” public service announcements are currently featured on LinkNYC kiosks, in public transit, and in print advertisements. The campaign comes as gender discrimination is on the rise in the city; reported complaints are at a 5-year high and account for nearly 20% of complaints filed with the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Christine Clarke is the Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights and joins us now to discuss. Commissioner it’s great to have you, so thank you for being here. For those who don’t know this Commission, tell us exactly what it can do, what you are looking for in order to protect New Yorkers.

**Christine Clarke:** The New York City Commission on Human Rights is an enforcement agency and so what happens is people can make complaints to us in employment discrimination or housing discrimination, and we will investigate and prosecute those complaints. And if we find unlawful discrimination, we get people restitution, back pay, things like that.

**Shannan Ferry:** And your office actually shared some examples of what that could look like because it might not be exactly what you think, which I found really interesting. And if we could pull them up on the screen because this could be really helpful to people. It says: a doctor refusing a transgender woman hormone therapy can be discrimination, security guards at a nightclub denying entry to a transgender woman, and you can see a few more here. A landlord, for example, learning an applicant is intersex and rejecting that application. Tell me about what stands out to you here, why this nuance is so important.

**Christine Clarke:** I think there’s a large spectrum of discrimination against trans people and intersex people that can come up. I think housing discrimination is one that’s really overlooked, and people don’t understand as well. I’ve had clients – you know, I was a civil rights lawyer before I came to the city – clients who were discriminated by their landlord because their landlord wanted to sexually harass them and thought that they were a vulnerable population that wouldn’t fight back. As well as landlords that just openly are bigoted against trans people, and then you know, ultimately, try to evict them.



**Shannan Ferry:** And why do you think complaints are on the rise? Those numbers are really startling.

**Christine Clarke:** I think we can all recognize that over the last five, six years the federal national discourse around trans people has gotten really toxic. I think there's really a lot of targeting, and attacks, and hatred, and bigotry coming from the President of the United States all the way down. And it's really emboldened people, I think, to do levels of overt discrimination and express levels of hatred that they wouldn't have previously.

**Shannan Ferry:** How does the Mayor and this city administration deal with that? Because Mayor Mamdani has created this warm, in some ways, collaborative relationship with President Trump, so how does he balance that?

**Christine Clarke:** I think this campaign is a great example of exactly how to do that, which is – the most important thing for us – is that every New Yorker knows that New York City Law hasn't changed. And the New York City government has the backs of trans people and will constantly protect them and enforce transgender discrimination laws no matter what happens at the federal level.

**Shannan Ferry:** Well, I think it's also important, as you mentioned, that so much has changed, and it just seems like this news cycle is evolving, and I specifically wanted to ask you about healthcare because last week we learned that Mt. Sinai is planning to share trans patients' medical records with the federal government in response to a subpoena. Is there anything that the city can do? What is your message to viewers watching?

**Christine Clarke:** Our message is that New York City law remains the same, and it is illegal under New York City law to deny healthcare to trans people just because they're trans. We have a number of investigations open into a number of healthcare institutions around this issue, and we do take it very seriously.

**Shannan Ferry:** In our last final moments, anything else that you would like to share about Pride Month, visibility, protections that you are working to create and hope to see in the future as well?

**Christine Clarke:** I just want to celebrate our campaign. I think it's really joyful and wonderful. The artist who made it is a friend of a friend who is a trans artist, and I think he really wanted to lean into the joy of Pride Month and the joy of trans people, and I'm really glad that we have an opportunity to celebrate that.

**Shannan Ferry:** Look for it all around the city. Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights Christine Clarke good to have you.



Commission On  
Human Rights

**Christine Clarke:** Thank you so much.