WHAT IF...

- A property management company states that families with children can only rent 1st floor units.
- The real estate agent tells you the NE area will be a better neighborhood for your family instead of the NW area?
- You inquire about a vacant unit listed in the paper and are told that it's rented. A few days later the unit is still listed in the paper?
- The landlord requires that all Latino tenants pay their rent in cash?

These may be incidents of illegal housing discrimination and are prohibited under the DC Human Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

If you think your rights have been violated contact the Office of Human Rights @ (202) 727-4559 or www.OHR.dc.gov

Please be prepared to provide:

1. Your name and address
2. The name and address of the person your complaint is against
3. A brief description of the alleged violation; and
4. The date of the alleged violation

Notice of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code Section 2-1401.01 et seq., (Act) the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, which is also prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is also prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action.

The Office of Human Rights is a substantially equivalent agency certified by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This certification gives OHR the authority to investigate and prosecute claims of fair housing discrimination under federal law.

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It's your right!

Equal Access to Housing

The D.C. Office of Human Rights
441 4th Street N.W., Suite 570N
or
3220 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C.
(202) 727-4559

Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

Prohibitions: Local and federal law

In the Sale and Rental of Housing:

- Refusal to rent or sale
- Refusal to negotiate
- Make housing unavailable based on protected classes
- Deny a dwelling
- Establish different terms and conditions or privileges
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
- Persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting) for financial gain
- Steer an individual from their neighborhood of choice and or steer an individual to certain types of financing
- Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service related to the sale or rental of housing

In addition, it is illegal to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising their fair housing rights or assisting others who exercise that right;
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion sex, familial status or disability;
- Retaliate against an individual or persons for exercising their right to file a complaint and/or their participation as a witness.

The Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq., Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 with the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988) prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing on the bases of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18).

The DC Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, is the local equivalent to the federal fair housing laws, but also includes additional protected classes,specifically:

- age
- marital/family status
- personal appearance
- place of residence/business
- sexual orientation
- family responsibility
- political affiliation
- matriculation
- source of income

Housing which is not covered:

The law does not apply to noncommercial housing operated by religious organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy solely to members.

Are you A Victim of Housing Discrimination?

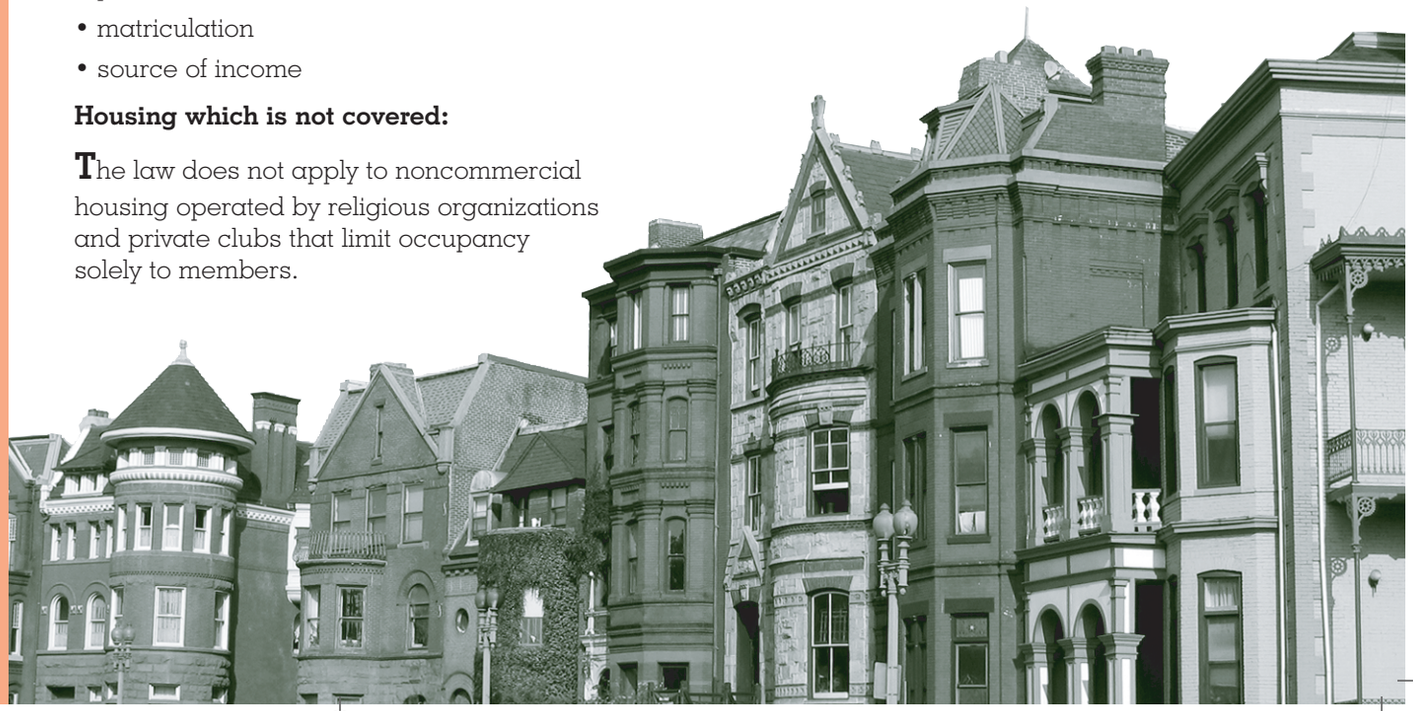
Were you denied housing because you came from another country, or because you do not speak English?

Has your landlord made repairs for some tenants but not others, based on their race, color or national origin?

Did your landlord make you pay more money or refuse to rent to you because you have a large family?

Did a property manager refuse to rent to you because you use a wheelchair?

Did your landlord refuse to rent to you based on your Section 8 Voucher?

If this happened to you contact;

The D.C. Office of Human Rights at (202) 727-4559