What we do.
The DC Office of Human Rights is a DC government agency that mediates and investigates complaints of discrimination, and works to prevent discrimination from occurring. If you believe you were discriminated against in DC, you can file a complaint with our office at no cost, and we will investigate to determine whether enough evidence exists to show discrimination occurred. If discrimination is found, monetary or other damages may be awarded.

Our office also enforces the Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act, Fair Criminal Record Screening for Housing Act, Protecting Pregnant Workers Act as well as oversees implementation of the Language Access Program, Citywide Youth Bullying Prevention Program and Street Harassment Prevention.

How we serve the District
- Investigate complaints
- Secure language access
- Address bullying
- Prevent discrimination
- Raise awareness

Who we protect.
Whether a resident, a commuter or just a visitor to DC, the DC Human Rights Act protects you from discrimination based on 20 traits (exceptions apply):

1. Race
2. Color
3. Religion
4. National Origin
5. Sex
6. Age
7. Marital Status
8. Personal Appearance
9. Sexual Orientation
10. Gender Identity & Expression
11. Family Responsibilities
12. Political Affiliation
13. Disability
14. Matriculation
15. Familial Status
16. Genetic Information
17. Source of Income
18. Place of Residence or Business
19. Status as a Victim of an Intrafamily Offense
20. Credit Information

What discrimination looks like.
Discrimination can be obvious. Other times it is more difficult to identify. Here are some scenarios that may be discrimination, depending on the details:

- You are denied service or treated in a hostile way at a restaurant or business because of your protected trait.
- You are denied a job, refused a promotion, treated differently, or fired because of your protected trait.
- Your housing application changes or is denied, or you’re treated differently than other tenants because of your protected trait.
- Your college or university holds you to different academic or other standards because of your protected trait.

What to expect.
1. Questionnaire: submit questionnaire to start the process
2. Intake Appointment: contact you and setup a time to discuss the incident further
3. Mediation: mandatory session is held in an attempt to find a resolution
4. Investigation: if mediation fails, full investigation of the incident begins
5. Decision: if probable cause of discrimination is found, case sent to Commission on Human Rights

What you can do.
If you believe you were discriminated against because of a protected trait, file a complaint with our office by completing the complaint questionnaire online at ohr.dc.gov/page/complaint, or in person at 441 4th Street NW, Suite 570N.

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When we can help.

Our office can take a discrimination complaint if it meets the four criteria below:

Criteria I - The incident occurred in one of the following four areas:
  - Employment
  - Public Accommodations
  - Housing
  - Educational Institutions

Criteria II - The incident occurred in the last year. If you are a DC government employee filing against your employer, it must have occurred in last six months.

Criteria III - The incident occurred in DC. However, we cannot accept complaints against the US government.

Criteria IV - You were treated differently in a harmful way because of one of the protected traits.

Services in your language.

Our Language Access Program works to ensure people who speak limited or no English can access government services in their language by enforcing the Language Access Act of 2004.

If you speak little or no English and need services or information from a DC agency, you must be offered an interpreter and/or translated documents. If you are denied assistance in your language, you can file a complaint online at ohr.dc.gov/page/languageaccess or in-person at 441 4th Street NW, Suite 570N.

Then What Happens?

We interview you for more details, and work to ensure you receive the services you were seeking. We mandate remedies in cases where violation of the law occurs.

Our efforts to address bullying.

Our Citywide Youth Bullying Prevention Program assists youth-serving government agencies, grantees and schools with implementing effective bullying prevention policies in compliance with law.

Definition

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among youth that involves a real or perceived power imbalance, and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated.

Our approach discourages an overreliance on discipline and instead adopts a public health approach focused on prevention, supporting at-risk youth and addressing incidents to change behavior.

How You Can Help

Youth-serving agencies, schools and organizations receiving government grants must have a policy. Ask for it, and see how you can support its objectives.

Visit our Website

ohr.dc.gov

Call Us

(202) 727-4559

To view and share our latest awareness campaigns, visit ohr.dc.gov/page/campaigns.

To receive the latest updates on our work, you can follow us on:

Facebook

facebook.com/dcohr

twitter.com/dchumanrights

Instagram

instagram.com/dchumanrights

We are here for you.

If you have questions about the work of our office, how to file a complaint, or you want to request a training or presentation, you can:

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441 4th Street NW, Suite 570N
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202.727.4559
Fax: 202.727.9589

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