

## ***What should I do if my rights have been violated?***

If you feel that you have been discriminated against, there are several ways to get help.

First, write down exactly what happened as soon as possible and keep detailed notes and any documentation related to the incident (e.g. a copy of a discriminatory sign that was posted in your building).

Next, report the incident to a local agency or Brooklyn A. We can help you to take further action. This action could be a formal complaint to HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), a complaint to another agency, or taking other legal action.

If successful, courts can order that the illegal discrimination stop and that a housing provider take steps to ensure integration and equality. You could also receive financial compensation.

It is crucial that we work to stop housing discrimination. Unequal treatment is unacceptable. If you suspect that you may be a victim, speak up!

## **Fair Housing Resources**

### **NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Brooklyn office: 275 Livingston St., 2nd Floor,  
Brooklyn NY 11217  
(718) 722-3130  
[www.nyc.gov/html/cchr](http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr)

### **NY STATE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

TOLL FREE: (888) 392-3644  
Bronx (Headquarters): One Fordham Plaza, 4th  
Floor Bronx, NY 10458  
(718) 741-8400  
Brooklyn office: 55 Hanson Place, Room 1084  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
(718) 722-2385  
[www.dhr.state.ny.us](http://www.dhr.state.ny.us)

### **US DEPT. of HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

New York Regional Office  
Complaints\_office\_02@hud.gov  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532  
New York, NY 10278-0068  
(212) 542-7519 or (800) 496-4294  
Housing Discrimination Hotline: (800) 669-9777  
[www.HUD.gov](http://www.HUD.gov)

### **OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU**

120 Broadway  
New York, NY 10271  
(212) 416-8259  
[civil.rights@ag.ny.gov](mailto:civil.rights@ag.ny.gov)  
[www.ag.ny.gov](http://www.ag.ny.gov)

### **NY STATE HOMES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL (HCR)**

Fair and Equitable Housing Office  
38-40 State St.  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 473-3089  
[FEHO@nysher.org](mailto:FEHO@nysher.org)

### **FAIR HOUSING JUSTICE CENTER**

5 Hanover Square, 17th Floor New York, New York  
10004  
(212) 400-8201  
[www.fairhousingjustice.org](http://www.fairhousingjustice.org)

### **BROOKLYN A**

260 Broadway, Suite 2  
Brooklyn NY 11211  
(718) 487-2300  
[bka.org](http://bka.org)

# **Know Your Fair Housing Rights**

- **What are Fair Housing Laws?**
- **Who do they protect?**
- **What should I do if my rights have been violated?**



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

260 Broadway, Suite 2  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(718) 487-2300  
[bka.org](http://bka.org)



Office of the Brooklyn Borough President  
Eric L. Adams

## Meet Brooklyn A

Through innovative neighborhood-based advocacy, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A assists individuals, families, organizations, and coalitions in sustaining vibrant healthy communities primarily in Brooklyn and throughout New York City. For over 44 years, we have embraced the meaningful role that lawyers play in combating poverty and housing discrimination. We firmly believe that legal services organizations are accountable to low-income communities and are charged with the responsibility of understanding their needs and collaborating with them to address the problems they confront. Together with the voices of our communities, we advance social, economic, and fair housing justice.



### Fair Housing Project

Though there are a multitude of laws that protect against housing discrimination, we know that it happens far too often in our communities. Brooklyn A seeks to educate and engage Brooklyn residents about their fair housing rights. This brochure provides a brief overview of these rights; we are happy to give additional information or schedule a workshop.

## What are Fair Housing Laws?

Fair housing laws **protect us from housing discrimination** based on protected characteristics.

### What are “protected characteristics?”

Discrimination Based On:	Examples of who are protected:
<b>Race</b>	People who are Latino, African American, Asian, Caucasian, etc.
<b>Color</b>	People who are brown, black, white, etc.
<b>National Origin</b>	People who are immigrants or refugees, or whose family is comprised of immigrants
<b>Religion</b>	Christians, Muslims, Jews, Atheists, etc.
<b>Sex</b>	Male or Female
<b>Disability</b>	People with any physical, medical, mental, psychological impairment, or if they are regarded as having such an impairment
<b>Family Status</b>	Families with children under 18, including pregnant women
<b>Age</b>	Adults, elderly people, and children
<b>Military Status</b>	Active or reserve members in the U.S. Army, Navy, etc. Includes honorably discharged veterans
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals
<b>Partnership Status</b>	Individuals in a domestic partnership
<b>Alienage/Citizenship Status</b>	Immigration status or citizenship of an individual
<b>Lawful Occupation</b>	An individual’s lawful profession
<b>Lawful Source of Income</b>	Any form of public or housing assistance, including Section 8 vouchers
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Individuals who are gay, lesbian, queer, heterosexual, etc.
<b>Limited English Proficiency</b>	A landlord may be violating your fair housing rights based on your “national origin”

Sometimes, it can be hard to identify housing discrimination. **Below are examples of behavior that are illegal when based on a protected characteristic.**

Owners  
Landlords  
Tenants  
Subtenants  
Managers  
Real estate brokers  
Real estate agents

### CANNOT

- Refuse to sell, rent or lease housing
- Misrepresent the availability of housing
- Set different terms, conditions, or privileges in the sale, rental, or leasing of housing
- Provide different housing services or facilities to certain tenants for discriminatory reasons
- Steer renters toward or away from specific areas in a building or neighborhoods in an effort to segregate communities
- Advertise or make a statement that expresses preference, limitation, or discrimination
- Refuse to make a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability
- Refuse to make a reasonable modification to a living space for a person with a disability
- Harass or threaten a person who stands up for his or her fair housing rights, or who helps others to do so