



The Fair Housing Act makes housing discrimination illegal.

YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM HARASSMENT IN YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing, and in other housing-related transactions based on several protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, familial status and being at least 55 years old. ***Discrimination includes targeted harassment.***

Harassment may involve interference, coercion, threats, and/or intimidation. "Interference" refers to anything that negatively effects residents' enjoyment of their home to a reasonable standard. This can include actions designed to drive residents from their homes because of their membership in a protected class. For an action to be considered harassment, it does NOT require a show of force or violence and CAN be based on oral statements.

Examples of harassment that may be illegal under the Fair Housing Act include:

- A homeowner uses a racial slur against a neighbor
- A hate group distributes hate mail to intimidate a minority neighborhood
- A landlord bangs on your door, turns off your heat in the winter, or verbally abuses you in order to get you to vacate your apartment because of a protected characteristic
- A landlord or neighbor threatens to report you or your family members to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE")
- A landlord retaliates against a resident for filing a fair housing complaint
- A maintenance worker uses home inspections as an excuse to enter your apartment and ask you on a date
- A neighbor or landlord make unwanted verbal sexual remarks
- Other tenants use discriminatory slurs or isolate a tenant because of their gender identity

HOME encourages community members to resist assertions that certain people do not "belong" in their neighborhoods. Everyone deserves a harassment and discrimination-free residence and neighborhood.

If you or a loved one are facing or have faced targeted harassment in your home or neighborhood and are not in immediate danger, please call HOME at 804-354-0641 or email fairhousing@HOMEofVA.org.

