



**The Fair Housing Act makes housing discrimination illegal.**

## **FAIR HOUSING LAWS PROTECT IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS**

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing, and in other housing-related transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, familial status and being at least 55 years old. *Everyone is protected regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.*

**It is illegal for a landlord to treat you differently because of your immigration status, national origin, or religion. That means people involved in renting homes cannot:**

- Refuse to rent to you because you are an immigrant or refugee
- Ask you to identify your religion
- Tell you not to cook food you like because of the smell
- Charge you more rent or a higher security deposit because of where you are from, your immigration status, or because of your religious faith
- Require you to get a co-signer because you are an immigrant, refugee, or because of your religious faith
- Ask you to remove your hard scarf, hijab, burka, keffiyeh, kippah, or other religious clothing or symbol
- Refuse to rent to you because you or some of your family members do not speak English
- Tell you that you must speak English when outside of your apartment
- Force you to choose an apartment near other people who are from the same country, speak the same language as you, or are of the same religion
- Threaten or harass you because of your religion, your refugee status, or immigration status. These can include:
  - Threatening to report you to the police or immigration authorities
  - Saying you will be deported
  - Telling you to go back to your own country
  - Painting graffiti or writing on your home, including using slurs or threats to harm you or your family if you do not move out
  - Yelling racial, ethnic, or religious slurs at you and your family
  - Blocking access to your home, your belongings, or property amenities



**If you or someone you know have been the victim of housing discrimination because you are an immigrant or refugee, because of where you are from, or because of your religious faith, call Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME) at 804-354-0641 or email [fairhousing@HOMEofVA.org](mailto:fairhousing@HOMEofVA.org). HOME offers free services, including interpreter services in many languages.**



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[www.HOMEofVA.org](http://www.HOMEofVA.org) • [help@HOMEofVA.org](mailto:help@HOMEofVA.org)

