

STOP HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY

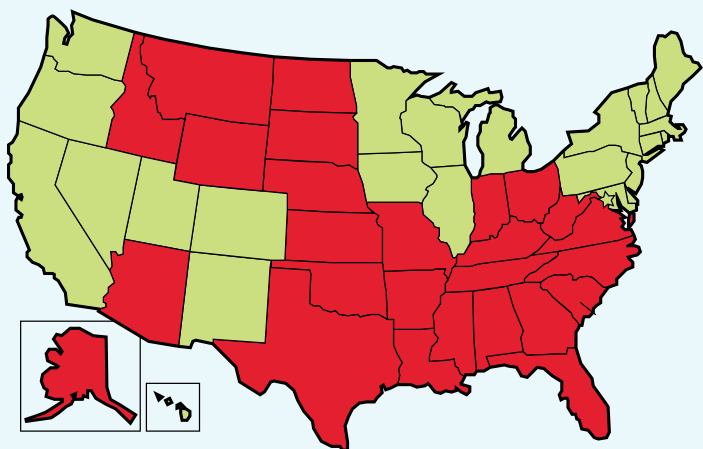
There are LGBT+ couples and individuals in every city and county of Virginia.

Currently, some of these families are being denied the opportunity to secure the housing of their choice because housing providers can legally discriminate against them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The LGBTStats Demographic Data Site by The Williams Institute reports that **Virginia is home to approximately 14,240 same-sex couples**, not including single individuals in the LGBT community, nor households uncomfortable indicating their relationship status in census reports and tracking surveys.

Of the reported same-sex coupled households, **16% are raising children**.

Twenty-two states, the District of Columbia, and at least 240 local jurisdictions already prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression. *Virginia is not one of them.*



HOME conducted 51 matched-pair email tests over the course of 2014 and 2015 to test the incidence of discrimination based on sexual orientation in Richmond, Northern Virginia, and Hampton Roads. For each test, we sent almost identical emails to housing providers to gauge their response to same-sex vs. different-sex couples. Our results compare responses from the same rental agent.

44% of those tests showed worse treatment of same-sex couples than opposite-sex couples.



One's sexual orientation or gender identity is irrelevant to the ability to be a good tenant and neighbor. Housing providers should not be able to use this characteristic to block qualified homeseekers from housing. Nobody should be denied the right to choose where they live because of who they are.

Now is the time to enact legislation which ensures equal housing opportunities for all Virginians regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Vote YES on HB 1663
Vote YES on SB 868

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

626 East Broad Street, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23219 • 804.354.0641
VA Relay: 711 • www.HOMEofVA.org/LGBT

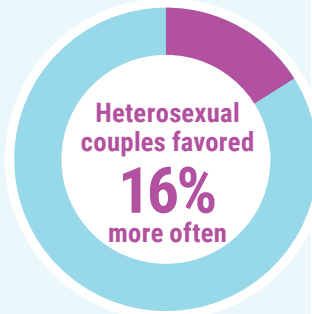


HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBT+ INDIVIDUALS EXISTS

The Kaiser Family Foundation reported that 11% of LGBT respondents had experienced housing discrimination.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s online rental study revealed that **heterosexual couples were favored almost 16% more often than both lesbian and gay couples.**

19% of the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force sample of transgender respondents have been or are homeless, 11% have faced eviction, and 26% were forced to seek temporary shelter.



LGBT+ YOUTH ARE 120% MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

LGBT youth comprise **22%-40% of all homeless youth.**

LGBT youth face numerous challenges that increases vulnerability to homelessness: peer and family alienation, higher rates of parental abuse and neglect, and higher rates of feeling unsafe, physical and verbal harassment at school.

LGBT homeless youth are also at a significantly higher risk of attempting suicide, using sex for survival, family substance abuse, as well as experiencing higher rates of previous, lifetime, and injection drug use.



HOME'S MATCH-PAIR TESTS DISCOVERED DIFFERENTIAL OR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT VIA EMAIL RESPONSES IN VIRGINIA, INCLUDING:

- Telling the same-sex couple that there is **availability in general** but telling the different-sex couple more **special information about availability** including number of units available and rent amount
- **Only mentioning a special** to the different-sex couple
- Encouraging the different-sex couple to **apply online** but **not mentioning an online application** to the same-sex couple
- **Offering a specific appointment time** to the different-sex couple but **only telling the same-sex couple general office hours**

THE FOLLOWING ARE ACTUAL RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE SAME LEASING PROFESSIONAL

Same-Sex Couple Response: T10-a

Feb 27, 2014 at 2:44pm

Hi David,

Thanks for your interest in [REDACTED]

Our Digital Brochure includes a lot of useful information- floor plans, photos, a list of our amenities, and more. From the Digital Brochure you can also request an appointment to tour our property. **Just click on the Schedule A Visit link and let me know what time works best for you. We do have limited availability, so please come by soon!**

If you would like additional information or if you have any questions I haven't answered, please reply to this email or give me a call at (804) [REDACTED]

Talk with you soon!

Different-Sex Couple Response: T10-b

Feb 27, 2014 at 3:33pm

Hi Jason,

I'd like to show you everything that [REDACTED] has to offer. **When would be the best time for you to take a tour? I have some time tomorrow afternoon anytime between 1:30pm -5pm.**

Inside our Digital Brochure, you'll also be able to view our floor plans, photos of property, and see our amenities. **You can even begin the application process with our Rental Application.**

If I haven't answered all of your questions, please contact me via email reply or give me a call at (804) [REDACTED]

Can't wait to show you around [REDACTED]