

# You Are Protected From Harassment in Your Home and Neighborhood

By law, you may not be denied or treated differently in the rental, sale, financing, or insuring of housing anywhere in Virginia on the basis of any of the protected classes you belong to including race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, familial status, being over 55 years old, source of funds, military status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

## Targeted Harassment is Discrimination.

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.

**HOME encourages community members to resist assertions that certain people do not "belong" in their neighborhoods.**



## Examples of harassment include:

- A homeowner uses racial slurs 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 makes unwanted verbal sexual remarks.
- Other tenants use discriminatory slurs or isolate a tenant because of their gender identity.
- A neighbor vandalizes or writes graffiti on their property with slurs or derogatory phrases.

Everyone deserves a harassment and discrimination-free neighborhood.



Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia can help determine if you have been discriminated against, and may help you seek the remedies that are available to everyone under fair housing laws. As a non-profit provider, our services are provided statewide and are **free and confidential**.

Report Housing Discrimination at [HOMEofVA.org/Report](https://www.homeofva.org/report)

[FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org](mailto:FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org) • 804-354-0641 • VA Relay 711

