

National Origin

You are protected from housing discrimination regardless of citizenship, immigration, or refugee status.

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.


National Origin:

Where you are from or perceived to be from. This includes ancestry, ethnicity, birthplace, culture, and language. Sometimes national origin discrimination is based on perceptions or stereotypes related to the language someone speaks or their citizenship status.

Everyone is protected regardless of their immigration or citizenship status.



Examples of discrimination include:

- Requiring applicants to speak English.
 - Steering tenants of the same nationality to one area of the property.
 - Requiring only people from different countries provide extra documentation or identification.
 - Requiring a co-signer because of immigration or refugee status.
 - Advertising tenant preferences based on language or ethnicity.
 - Refusing to rent to someone because they need a language interpreter to communicate.
 - Lying about housing availability after hearing a person's accent.
- “English Only”  “Go back to your own country”
- Targeted harassment such as:
 - ▶ Making offensive or derogatory statements about a person's culture.
 - ▶ Using racial or ethnic slurs.
 - ▶ Threatening to report families to the police or immigration authorities.
 - ▶ Vandalizing a family's home with ethnic threats and slurs.
 - ▶ The owner or management failing to take action within their power to stop harassment by an employee, agent, or another tenant.



You have a right to fair housing, HOME of VA can help!

Report Housing Discrimination at HOMEofVA.org/Report

FairHousing@HOMEofVA.org • 804-354-0641 • VA Relay 711

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**.

HOMEofVA.org/NationalOrigin



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.