

FAIR HOUSING

RELIGION

Housing Discrimination Based on Religious Beliefs Is Illegal

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in the rental or sale of housing on the basis of persons who are or perceived to be Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, or of another religious group.

Religious Discrimination in Action:

- Refusing to rent to people based on their religious attire, such as hijabs or turbans
- Repeatedly yelling antisemitic slurs or painting a swastika on a Jewish tenant's door
- When screening tenants, the landlord asks for identification documents only from Muslim applicants



Where can this happen?

- Rental Housing
- Housing Advertisements
- Home Sales
- Mortgage Lending
- Housing Assistance
- Home Insurance



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HOME is a private, non-profit fair housing agency serving the Greater Cincinnati area.

FAIR HOUSING: RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

This can also look like...

- Prohibiting use of a community room for religious purposes, while allowing tenants to use them for other gatherings, such as parties.
- Allowing tenants to put up Christmas lights, but telling other tenants they cannot put up decorations for their non-Christian holiday
- Telling tenant applicants that they won't like a neighborhood because there isn't a mosque, synagogue or church nearby.



Religious Institutions

Religious institutions providing housing (*that don't receive federal funds*) may give a preference to people of the same religion only if:

- It's offering the housing for non-commercial purposes (*i.e. to provide housing to faith leaders or emergency housing not offered to the general public*)
- The religion does not discriminate on any other protected characteristics.



Think you've experienced discrimination?

Contact HOME for help! We will:

- Record the facts about what happened to you
- Investigate and help to resolve the complaint
- Offer advice and counsel about enforcement options



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The work behind 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. HOME is 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.