



Division of
Human Rights

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NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES FAIR HOUSING PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

New York State Division of Human Rights Commissioner Helen Diane Foster announced today the launching of a public information campaign designed to educate the public about their housing rights under the State's Human Rights Law.

"To use a person's national origin, sexual orientation, or familial status as criteria to deny housing is not only morally reprehensible but against the law in the State of New York," said Commissioner Foster. "Unfortunately people who have limited English proficiency are especially vulnerable to this type of abuse. We want to ensure they are aware of their rights and that the Division is here to enforce the Law."

The campaign *Fair Housing for All – 2015*, funded by a grant from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, includes five advertisements depicting different forms of housing discrimination in the six most spoken languages other than English in New York State: Chinese, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Russian and Spanish. The ads will run in newspapers, mass transit, commuter trains and radio.

As part of the campaign launch, the Division is hosting a panel discussion on pressing fair housing issues such as housing rights for people with disabilities and legislation to protect women and families from housing discrimination. In addition, there will be a presentation regarding the newly created joint enforcement Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force, a multiagency effort aimed at investigating and bringing enforcement actions against landlords who harass tenants. For more information about the campaign visit the Division website at www.dhr.ny.gov.

New York has the proud distinction of being the first state in the nation to enact a Human Rights Law, which affords every citizen "an equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life." The New York State Division of Human Rights is the agency in charge of enforcing this law, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and other jurisdictions, based on age, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, military status, and other specified classes.

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