

5 Things You Should Know About National Origin Discrimination in Housing

- 1 In New Jersey, national origin discrimination and harassment are illegal in housing.** The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) protects you from national origin discrimination and national origin-based harassment in housing, even if you are a refugee, migrant, or non-U.S. citizen. This includes unfair treatment based on actual or perceived ethnicity, country of birth, culture, or language.
- 2 Housing providers must act to stop national origin-based harassment.** Housing providers, their employees, or fellow tenants cannot harass you because of your actual or perceived national origin. Housing providers must take appropriate action to stop harassment they know or should have known about. Harassment can include offensive gestures, use of ethnic slurs, and derogatory jokes.
- 3 Under the LAD, a housing provider must provide housing on equal terms without regard to your national origin.** Housing providers, including landlords, property managers, and real estate agents, cannot refuse to lease to you, charge you higher rent, offer you different amenities, point you to or away from certain housing opportunities, or refuse to make repairs based on your actual or perceived national origin.
- 4 The LAD protects against national origin discrimination when buying or selling a home.** For example, real estate agents cannot refuse to show you certain properties or encourage or discourage you from buying a home in particular neighborhoods based on national origin. Appraisers cannot devalue your home, and lenders cannot offer you higher interest rates because of your national origin.
- 5 Housing providers may not use neutral policies or rules to discriminate.** Neutral housing policies and rules that impact people of one national origin more harshly than another are prohibited unless necessary to serve a substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest. For example, rental practices limiting apartments to applicants who primarily speak English or do not have an accent could violate the LAD.

No one can retaliate against you for reporting LAD violations, filing a discrimination complaint, or exercising other rights under the LAD.

To find out more, or to file a complaint, go to [NJCivilRights.gov](https://www.njcivilrights.gov) or call 1-833-NJDCR4U (1-833-653-2748). DCR enforces the LAD, which protects all people from discrimination in New Jersey regardless of immigration status. To learn more, click [here](#).

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NJ Office of the Attorney General
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