

The United Nations Human Rights Council



**The UNHRC Is The Successor To The UN
Commission On Human Rights.**

**A Subsidiary Of The United Nations General
Assembly.**

**Its Purpose Is To Make Recommendations to The General
Assembly About Situations In Which Human Rights Are
Violated.**

**It Has No Authority Except To Make Recommendations To
The General Assembly.**

**The General Assembly Has No Authority Except To
Advise The Security Council.**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA
ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HOPE FOR HUMANITY.



- **Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.**
- **Human Rights in the United States: Taser Abuse, Katrina, Criminal Justice, Racial Profiling, Conscientious Objection.**
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT).**

Canada



- Race, Color, Ethnic Origin, & Ancestry.
- Place of Origin and/or National Origin.
- Religion or Creed.
- Age.
- Disability.
- Sex or Gender.
- Sexual Orientation.
- Marital and/or Family Status.
- Source of Income.
- Political Belief.

Also - Discrimination Based on Association - Because of the relationship, actual or presumed, with an individual/class identified by a prohibited ground of discrimination. E.g., if a landlord refuses to rent to a mixed-race couple because one is black, the landlord has discriminated against the individual who is black & his/her partner - by association. (Manitoba, Nova Scotia, the NWT, Nunavut, Ontario, PEI, & Yukon; otherwise – implied).

Canada



- **Race, Color, Ethnic Origin, and Ancestry** (Nova Scotia includes Aboriginal origin. Québec, & the Yukon prohibit discrimination based on language & linguistic origin).
- **Place of Origin and/or National Origin** (Ontario and Nunavut also include citizenship, the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, & the human rights legislation of Manitoba; the NWT & Saskatchewan include nationality).
- **Religion or Creed** (Yukon includes religious belief, association, or activity).
- **Age** (Ontario - age protections related to housing apply to persons over 15 & under 65. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, & Newfoundland exempt housing for people over 55, & Alberta does not include age).
- **Disability** (including mental or physical disability; Nova Scotia also prohibits discrimination based on an irrational fear of contracting an illness or disease).

Canada



- **Sex Or Gender** (Including Pregnancy. Québec And Nunavut Include Pregnancy As A Separate Ground Of Discrimination. The NWT Includes Gender Identity).
- **Sexual Orientation.**
- **Marital And/or Family Status** (Québec Includes "Civil Status" & The NWT Includes "Family Affiliation").
- **Source Of Income** (Ontario And Saskatchewan Include "Receipt Of Public Assistance", Newfoundland Includes "Social Origin," And New Brunswick, Québec, & The Northwest Territories Add "Social Condition").
- **Political Belief** (8 Provinces/Territories Include Political Belief, Association, And/or Activity).

Europe



- Muslims In Europe Face Discrimination In Education, Employment, & Housing - & Are Often Victims Of Verbal Abuse And Physical Attacks, Reported in 2006.
- 33% Of EU States Are Failing To Ensure Equal Rights For Gays & Lesbians, A 2008 Report By The Bloc's Vienna-based EU Agency For Fundamental Rights. The Agency Was Particularly Critical Of The Lack Of Legal Same-Sex Marriages In Many Countries: "Equal protection by EU anti-discrimination law remains an ideal, not a fact, in many parts of the European Union."
- The European Commission Said It Was Seeking Information From The Belgian Authorities Over Complaints That French-speakers Are Discriminated Against Over Public Housing (September, 2008).



Russia

Attacks By Radical Nationalists in 2008



- Uzbeks (17 deceased, 22 victims).
- Kirghizes (10 deceased, 5 victims).
- Tajiks (9 deceased, 35 victims).
- Russians (8 deceased, 34 victims).
- Azerbaijanians (8 deceased, 23 victims).
- Armenians (4 deceased, 3 victims).
- Dagestans (2 deceased, 26+ victims).
- Chechens (2 deceased, 22 victims).
- Kalmyks (2 deceased, 6+ victims).
- Ingushes (2 deceased, 4 victims).
- Turks (2 deceased, 1 victim).
- Gypsies (2 deceased).
- Chinese (1 deceased, 13 victims).
- Moldavian, German, Tuvinian (by 1 deceased).
- Near East & North Africa (12 victims).
- Indians (4 victims).
- Koreans, Jews (3 victims).
- English, Mongols, Georgians (2 victims).
- Kazakhs (2 victims at least).
- Buryats, Lebaneses, Ossetins, Turkmen, Shri Lankians, French, Swedish, Japanese (by 1 victim).



U. S. DOJ Statement to Congress, December, 2008



- In FY08, 39% Of Total Cases And 45% Of Pattern Or Practice Cases Alleged Race Discrimination.
- Discrimination, Particularly Race & National Origin Discrimination, Has Become More Difficult To Detect.
- Fair Housing Testing Program Began In 1991.
- The Testing Program Is Conducted Primarily Through Paired Tests.
- Since Testing Began In 1992, The Department Has Filed 87 Lawsuits Alleging Unlawful Discrimination Based On Evidence From The Testing Program.

U. S. DOJ Report to Congress, December, 2008



“Operation Home Sweet Home”

- 1st Pattern Or Practice Case On Behalf Of Asian Americans Based On Testing. That Case, United States V. Pine Properties (D. Mass.), Settled In 2008, With The Defendants Paying \$158,000.
- In 2008: Pattern Or Practice Discrimination Cases On Behalf Of Families With Children, & The Division’s First Testing Cases On Behalf Of Guide-dog Users.

During 2000-2008, The Civil Rights Division Has Filed Almost Three Times As Many Housing-related Systemic Sexual Harassment Cases Against Landlords As Before.



The National Commission on Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity

- **Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, the National Fair Housing Alliance, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, & the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.**
- **To Investigate the State of Fair Housing in 2008.**
- **Co-Chaired by Two Former HUD Secretaries, Kemp & Cisneros. Bi-Partisan.**
- **2007-2008 Hearings in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Boston, & Atlanta.**

Commission Recommendations



- **Create an Independent Fair Housing Enforcement Agency.**
- **Revive the President's Fair Housing Council.**
- **Ensure Compliance with "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" Obligation.**
- **Strengthen Compliance with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Obligation by Federal Grantees.**
- **Strengthen the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP).**
- **Adopt a Regional Approach to Fair Housing.**
- **Strong, Consistent, Fair Housing Education Campaign.**
- **New Collaborative Approach to Fair Housing Issues.**

LCCR Legislative Priorities for 111th Congress



- **Combat Hate Crimes.**
- **End Employment Discrimination On Sexual Orientation And/Or Gender Identity.**
- **End Racial Profiling.**
- **Ensure Language Access.**
- **Create An Independent Fair Housing Enforcement Agency.**
- **Pass the Civil Rights Act of 2009.**

Proposed Civil Rights Act of 2009



- “Comprehensive bill addressing Supreme Court decisions that have undermined existing civil rights laws.” “...one of LCCR's highest priorities.”
- Corrects The Supreme Court's 2001 *Alexander V. Sandoval* Decision By Establishing A Private Right Of Action Against Entities Receiving Federal Funding Based On Evidence Of Disparate Impact.
- Strengthens Gender & Age Discrimination Protections.
- Improves Remedies For Victims Of Discrimination.
- Prevents Employers From Forcing Workers To Bring Workplace Claims To Arbitration Instead Of The Courts.
- Addresses Workplace Exploitation Of Undocumented Workers.

President's FY2010 Budget



- Full Funding for the CDBG Program – \$4.5 Billion.
- Increases Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- Increases Rental Assistance program.
- Increases Fair Housing Enforcement Funds to HUD to Combat Mortgage Fraud & Predatory Practices.