



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life



SPRING GREETINGS!

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and view interesting interviews on our YouTube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/wkladky1>! Or, check out

<http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on topics about Fair Housing, community development, etc.!

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MARYLAND NEWS

For the benefit of all Marylanders, the [Maryland Commission on Civil Rights](#) will be relaunching Civil Rights Coalition of Maryland. In today's challenging times, it is important now more than ever that we come together in order to protect and promote our civil and human rights won in hard fought victories over many decades. Are you interested in learning more about the Civil Rights Coalition of Maryland and becoming a member? Please [register](#) and join MCCR at one of our virtual informational open houses! *Please note - membership on the Civil Rights Coalition of Maryland will be reserved for organizations, agencies, nonprofits, and other stakeholder groups that want to work collaboratively to advance civil rights for all Marylanders. Private individuals will not be given membership on the Coalition.*

Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) Takes Action Against Erie Insurance for Discriminatory Business Practices. The MIA has acted against certain insurers of the Erie Insurance Group after a market conduct examination uncovered unlawful practices resulting in fewer Erie policies written and renewed in urban ZIP codes, particularly in Baltimore City. The examination resulted in a Market Conduct Examination Report. As stated in the report, the examination found that Pennsylvania-based Erie encouraged agents affiliated with its companies to engage in a practice they called "front line underwriting," in which the agents were encouraged to reject otherwise qualified applicants who they deemed might be unprofitable. Once an insurer establishes its underwriting eligibility guidelines and rates and files those rates with the MIA, it cannot under Maryland insurance law refuse to issue a



policy to anyone who meets those guidelines. The MIA's examination also found that Erie agents were penalized if their books of business resulted in a certain loss ratio, regardless of whether their



customers qualified for Erie coverage. The penalties included reduced commissions and termination. The MIA found that this reliance on loss ratio primarily impacted insurance agents serving urban areas such as Baltimore. As part of the Market Conduct Examination Report, the MIA and Erie agreed to a consent order with corrective actions. Under the order, Erie must: Cease and desist from all unlawful practices, including front line underwriting and direct or indirect use of adverse loss ratios, except as permitted by law; Submit a corrective action plan for review and approval to the

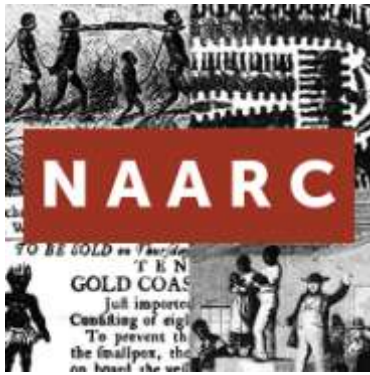
MIA; Submit a list of all agent terminations and commission reductions, with an explanation of the actions, and prepare an efficient process for resolving any adverse findings concerning the proprietary of those actions; and Pay an administrative penalty of \$400,000, due within one year of the order (If the MIA finds that the company is in continued compliance with the order, \$200,000 of the penalty will be waived). The investigations began in 2021, based on complaints from four insurance agencies about Erie's practices. In 2023, the MIA issued four public determination letters stating that Erie had violated Maryland state insurance law. Erie maintains that it did not violate the Insurance Article but agreed to the directives and corrective actions in the report. [Read the March 13, 2025 MIA article.](#)

Abell Foundation Report Discovers Systematic Racial Bias in Home Appraisals in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

A just-released report, authored by the [Reinvestment Fund](#) and funded by a grant from the [Abell Foundation](#), examined new data from the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) Uniform Appraisal Dataset (UAD) to analyze potential racial bias in home appraisals in the Baltimore metro area during 2013-2022. The report found that neighborhoods with larger non-white populations tend to have a higher percentage of homes with appraised values that are lower than the contract sale price than in predominantly white neighborhoods. Conversely, predominantly white, non-Hispanic neighborhoods tend to experience a higher percentage of homes with appraised values that exceed the contract price.



While these racial differences in appraisal accuracy have lessened somewhat in recent years, negative patterns are continuing. Analysis of the public appraisal data suggests the presence of systematic appraisal bias that undervalues homes in predominantly Black communities in Baltimore City and the surrounding counties. Key observations from the neighborhood level analysis are: Neighborhoods with a predominant percentage of residents who are not-white, not-Hispanic tend to have higher rates of under-appraising than neighborhoods that are predominantly white, not-Hispanic; Neighborhoods with a predominant percentage of residents who are not-white, not-Hispanic tend to have lower rates of over-appraising than areas that are predominantly white, not-Hispanic; and Between 2018 and 2022, these patterns show signs of improvement, but they remain in the data. It is important to consider that any evidence it provides of racial bias in appraisals potentially understates the problem. One recent example is that in 2024, a Black couple - professors at Johns Hopkins University - who claimed mortgage lender loanDepot denied a refinancing of their mortgage because it relied upon a racially biased, considerably low appraisal of their Baltimore home agreed to a legal settlement in which the lender vowed to change how it handles complaints of racially biased appraisals. The settlement filed in the U.S. District Court for Maryland also includes an undisclosed financial amount for the couple.. [Read the March 25, 2025 Abell Foundation report.](#) [Read the March 26, 2024 Insurance Journal article.](#)



State Legislature Creates a Maryland Reparations Commission, One of Few States with a Statewide Panel.

The House of Delegates has given final approval on April 2nd to a bill that would create a Maryland Reparations Commission, sending the measure to the governor for his signature. The 101-36 party-line vote would make Maryland one of the few states in the nation with a statewide body to study the inequality endured by African descendants. California became the first state in 2020 to pass legislation; then Illinois in 2021 and New York in 2023. According to the [American Association of Medical Colleges' Center for Health Justice \(ACHJ\)](#), as of March 6, 2024, 22 localities (including Washington, D.C.) have approved a reparations commission or task force and 11 states have introduced legislation to create one. If approved, the Maryland commission would assess specific federal, state and local policies from 1877 to 1965, the post-Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras. Those years “have led to economic disparities based on race, including housing segregation and discrimination, redlining, restrictive covenants, and tax policies,” according to the bill. The commission would also examine how public and private institutions may have benefited from those policies, and would recommend appropriate reparations, which could include statements of apology, monetary compensation, social service assistance, business incentives and child care costs. The all-volunteer commission would consist of 23 people, including two employees from the state’s four historically Black colleges and universities with expertise in the history of slavery; a representative from the [Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), and the state archivist or a designee from that office. The bill would go into effect July 1st and remain in effect until June 30, 2028.

Regarding reparations, you can [view a discussion](#) with Dr. Jamal Bryant and the Reverend Dr. Robert Turner, [National African American Reparations Commission \(NAARC\)](#) Commissioner and Pastor of Empowerment Temple, Baltimore, on the “Let’s Be Clear” Podcast. They explore reparations, the intersection of faith and justice, and the significance of the Tulsa race massacre centennial. Dr. Turner recounts his 1,169-mile advocacy journey and highlights the ongoing fight for equity and reparative justice. Source: *The Jamal Bryant Podcast “Let’s Be Clear,” YouTube*. It was made available by the NAARC. [Read the April 3, 2025 Maryland Matters article](#). [Read the April 2024 ACHJ article about reparations](#).

HUD Baltimore Field Office to Close, Along with Many Other HUD Field & Regional Offices.

The Baltimore field office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will soon be permanently closed, along with many other HUD field offices. The downtown Baltimore office, which employs about 90, is to be shut down. All who work there will likely be terminated by order of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency. The closure is part of HUD's reduction of regional and field offices. Eliminating the Baltimore office and transferring cases to other FHA offices will mean it will take longer to receive approvals and resolve issues between the loan originator and the agency. Boston or New York are already swamped with servicing the loans. HUD construction analysts, appraisers, underwriters, and, most importantly, asset management who know the market here are all going to be eliminated. It is going to make it much more difficult to finance and monitor housing. The biggest impact will be a severe slowdown in processing Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans for multi-family projects, one of the Baltimore office’s major functions. An observer commented, “It doesn’t make any sense to do this in the name of saving money. They finance anything from affordable- to market-rate projects, and they also asset manage them. They actually make money – billions – for the federal



government that gets put back into the general fund.” Created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression under the authority of the National Housing Act of 1934, the FHA is one of the main government agencies that offers low down payment mortgages for qualifying homebuyers. Other functions of the Baltimore office include Community Planning and Development (CPD), which administers local grants to promote better housing and expanded economic opportunities to low and moderate income persons, and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing-related activities. Another loss from the shutdown of the field office will be oversight of Section 8 and voucher housing and local public housing authorities. Because this office administers the money to public housing authorities and keeps a watch over those funds, there will be more opportunity for fraud. Responding after publication, the HUD Public Affairs Office said “no decisions have been finalized.” [Read the March 5, 2025 Baltimore Brew article.](#) [Read the March 5, 2025 Bloomberg article.](#)

US Lacks 7.1 Million Affordable Homes - 77% of Low-Income Marylander Renters are Severely Cost-Burdened. *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes* is published annually by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) highlighting the shortage of affordable homes for low-income renters throughout the nation. This year's report discovered a national shortage of 7.1 million affordable and available rental homes for extremely low-income renter households. There are only 35 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households nationwide. *The Gap* report also investigated the affordability and availability of rental homes for households of different income levels nationwide and in every state and major metropolitan area. The supply of affordable rental housing for extremely low-income households remains deeply inadequate nationwide and in Maryland. The states with the highest percentages of "Extremely Low-Income Renter Households with Severe Cost Burden" were Nevada (86%), Florida (82%), Texas and Arizona (81%), and Oregon and the District of Columbia (80%).



Some 77% of extremely low-income renters in Maryland are severely housing cost-burdened, spending more than 50% of their income on housing, with little left over for food, healthcare, or other basic necessities. That ranks Maryland ties for 9th with two other states. *The Gap* report found that there are 196,936 extremely low-income households in Maryland and just 35 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 of these households. Meanwhile, a new analysis from [Realtor.com](#) has found that while new home construction picked up for the first time since 2016 in 2024, the housing gap totaling 3.8 million remains. The company measured the housing supply gap using data on new home construction, household formations and pent-up housing demand. The analysis found that more than 1.6 million homes were completed in 2024, the highest level in nearly 20 years. [Read the March 13, 2025 NLIHC article.](#) [Read the March 12, 2025 The Hill article.](#)



NATIONAL NEWS

HUD Cuts Will Drastically Cut Government and Nonprofit Efforts to Reduce Housing Discrimination. The Trump administration’s cuts to fair housing funding have raised serious concerns about the ability to enforce civil rights laws and help people

find affordable housing. It will make it harder for Americans to find safe and affordable places to live and will allow even more housing discrimination to go unchecked, according to current and former government employees, fair housing experts, and local organizations. Advocates say the overhaul will ultimately alienate, discourage, and hurt people seeking help. Enforcement of the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws, which prohibit discrimination in public and private housing, is carried out by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as state, local and nonprofit agencies that receive federal funding. In 2024 there were over 34,000 fair housing complaints of all kinds, a record high for the third year in a row. But the enforcement power is rapidly being eroded and under increasing threat, according to fair housing federal employees. Cases dealing with alleged discrimination based on gender identity have stalled, with staffers afraid to keep working on them until they receive clear instructions on how to interpret terms such as “gender ideology,” referenced in an early executive order. People often call HUD hotlines to ask about their rights, register a complaint or get help in a crisis. But now they can only do so through an online form, with few exceptions for those with disabilities or who have tech or language barriers. Regional phone lines shut down in March, according to a HUD memo to fair housing staff. The HUD office that enforces the 1968 Fair Housing Act is expected to be cut by more than 75%. Employees say that will further strain an understaffed office with a hefty case backlog. One employee said that while the Fair Housing Act requires investigations to be completed in 100 days, “we’re lucky if we can meet that goal for 30% of cases.” In February, HUD and the U.S. DOGE Service canceled 78 fair housing grants to nonprofits, jeopardizing \$30 million in congressionally authorized funds. Four organizations later filed a class-action lawsuit against HUD and DOGE, and in March, a judge reinstated the funds with a temporary injunction. The Government Accountability Office is also investigating the cuts to congressionally earmarked funds. Relief came only after the groups - many of which have small offices and depend on federal grants -faced the prospect of laying people off or closing. Private nonprofits processed 75% of complaints in 2024, and they say that being in communities makes their work to fight discrimination more effective. [Read the April 6, 2024 Washington Post article.](#) [Read the February 14, 2025 NPR article on HUD cuts.](#)



Maryland Fair Housing Month 2025 Webinar Series & Forum.

(1) Wednesday, April 2, 12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M., "Redlining in Real Estate," Webinar Complete! This event will address the unique challenges that persist due to the lasting effects of redlining practices on historically marginalized communities. (2) Wednesday, April 9, 12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M., "Addressing Appraisal Bias, The Roles of Law Makers, Industry and Homeowners." [Register Online.](#) This event will address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities in the appraisal process. (3) Wednesday, April 16, 12:00P.M. to 1:30 p.m, "Enforcement." [Register Online.](#) This event will address the unique challenges faced when individuals experience housing discrimination. (3) Wednesday, April 23, 12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M., "Source of Income." [Register Online.](#) This event will address the unique challenges faced by individuals and families whose income sources are often overlooked or undervalued in housing and lending practices. (4) Fair Housing Forum 2025 Event Registration & Informational Flyer - Monday, April 28, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Fair Housing Forum, Howard County Community College, Smith Theater, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia 21044. [Register Online.](#) Join us for an insightful and interactive forum focused on Maryland's Fair Housing Laws. This event offers a unique opportunity to discuss, share, and address key issues and solutions in our state

Study Finds Meta & Other Social Media Platforms Attract and Spread Anti-Minority Hate Speech in India & Globally.

A recent report by the [Center for the Study of Organized Hate \(CSOH\)](#) on the role of social media platforms in the dissemination and amplification of verified in-person hate speech events in India in 2024 found that social media platforms - Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, Telegram, and X (formerly Twitter) - were key instruments in enabling, amplifying, and mainstreaming hate speech and extremist ideologies in India and globally. Shortly after a report by CSOH's [India Hate Lab \(IHL\)](#) project was released, Meta removed two Facebook groups and three Instagram accounts linked to BJP MLA T Raja Singh. The IHL report found 32 hate speeches by Singh, with 22 inciting violence, prompting Meta's latest crackdown. Singh had been banned from Meta's platforms in 2020 under its policy on "dangerous individuals and organizations," but he and his supporters found ways to go around the ban, continuing to share his speeches and event details through new groups and pages. This followed when on January 7, 2025, Meta had announced many changes to its existing policies, including changes to fact-checking and its enforcement of policies on harmful content. The [Center for Countering Digital Hate \(CCDH\)](#) analyzed these changes and found: content enforcement could be halted in 97% of key areas including hate speech, bullying and harassment, and violence or incitement of violence; changes to hate speech policy would be implemented worldwide and immediately; other major policy changes currently impacting only users in the U.S., would eventually be expanded beyond the U.S.; and Meta has failed to adequately explain to its users why or how the changes will be implemented across their platforms. Given the logic of virality, social media platforms facilitate the rapid and widespread circulation of hateful content while also elevating the most extreme instances of hate speech through algorithmic amplification. Despite their own community standards prohibiting hate speech, social media platforms failed to enforce their guidelines, allowing violative content to spread unchecked in the Indian context in 2024. Hate speech content remains available even after removal due to re-uploading, repackaging into shorter clips, and dissemination across multiple platforms. [Read the February 10, 2025 CSOH report.](#) [Read the February 24, 2025 CCDH report.](#) [Read the February 20, 2025 IHL release.](#)



HUD Secretary Scott Turner Commemorates Fair Housing Month Championing Faith, Freedom, and Fair Housing for all Americans. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Scott Turner has recognized April as Fair Housing Month, unveiling this year's theme: "Faith, Freedom, & Fair Housing." Secretary Turner marked the historical milestone with a message reaffirming HUD's responsibility to uphold the Fair

Housing Act and the department's ongoing commitment to support a free and fair housing market as part of the Golden Age of American homeownership. The Fair Housing Act, enacted on April 11, 1968, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability.

HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) Files Statement of Interest in New York in Support of Religious Muslim Community's Land Use Claim. The Justice Department filed a statement of interest in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York supporting a claim by a religious Islamic organization that the Town of Oyster Bay violated its



rights under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) when it denied the organization's site plan application to expand its current facility into a mosque that would meet the religious needs of its congregation. The lawsuit alleges that Muslims on Long Island (MOLI) have worshipped at a mosque in Bethpage, Long Island, since 1998, but that it has grown and now needs additional space for prayer, religious education, ritual washing, and religious counseling. In its complaint and motion for a preliminary injunction, MOLI claims that the Town's recently revised zoning code imposes more onerous parking requirements on houses of worship than on comparable nonreligious places of assembly like theaters, museums and libraries. MOLI alleges that the Town denied its application to expand its house of worship, relying on the Town's recently revised parking code. The USDOJ's statement of interest supports MOLI's argument that the zoning code treats religious uses less favorably than non-religious uses, in violation of RLUIPA's equal terms provision, and that the Town has failed to justify this unequal treatment. RLUIPA is a federal law that protects persons and religious institutions from unduly burdensome, unequal, or discriminatory land use regulations. More info about RLUIPA and the USDOJ's efforts to enforce it can be found on the Place to Worship Initiative's webpage. As part of this initiative, the department distributed a letter to state, county, and municipal leaders throughout the country to remind them of their obligations under RLUIPA, including its requirement that land use regulations treat religious assemblies and institutions at least as well as nonreligious assemblies and institutions. [Read the April 11, 2025 USDOJ press release.](#)

Four South Carolina Defendants Sentenced for Civil Rights Crimes

Targeting Hispanics. Three South Carolina men and one woman have been sentenced for violent crimes targeting Hispanics in Columbia, South Carolina. Charles Antonio Clippard, 27, was sentenced to 420 months in prison; Michael Joseph Knox, 29, was sentenced to 303 months in prison; Gabriel Brunson, 21, was sentenced to 100 months in prison; and Sierra Fletcher, 34, was sentenced to 200 months in prison. All four previously pleaded guilty to carjacking, conspiracy, firearms, and criminal civil rights charges in connection with the string of armed robberies. According to court documents, beginning in January 2021 and continuing through February 2021, the four defendants conspired to target Hispanic victims for armed robberies. The group would wait for their victims at gas stations and grocery stores and then follow them to their homes or other locations to rob their victims at gunpoint. All four defendants admitted their involvement in a January 30, 2021, armed robbery and carjacking targeting a Hispanic victim after following him from a gas station to his home. In another series of robberies that day, three members of the group carjacked one victim, and invaded the home of another group of victims. The group stole cash, cellphones, driver's licenses, and credit cards from multiple victims. [Read the April 2, 2025 USDOJ press release.](#)



FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

A Black Family's Home was Too Close to a White School. So D.C. Took it in 1931. A documentary *Diminished Returns: The Black Wealth Gap in Washington, D.C.* has been released highlighting several Black families in an analysis of the huge wealth gap between Black and White Washington. The film was written and directed by Dr. Sabiyha

Prince and executive produced by Temi F. Bennett. The Black Julien family - direct descendants of

George and Martha Washington's enslaved maid - had 0.38 acres of land and a house on Broad Branch Road in Northwest Washington. In the spot where it once stood is now a basketball court. It was taken from the family by the federal government's D.C. Commission in 1931. Because they were Black. "The Presence of this house, with its colored occupants, so close to a white school is a source of possible friction that is thought desirable to remove," Assistant Engineer Commissioner H.L. Robb explained in the *Evening Star*. They were not evicted because the new School needed the space: the new all-White Lafayette School was nearly constructed when they was told to leave. This was the end of Chevy Chase as a thriving Black neighborhood. These forced evictions and continuing housing discrimination have left the District's White households with 81 times the median savings and assets as its Black households, a 2016 report showed. The film makes the argument for giving reparations to families such as the Juliens in D.C. to right this wrong. [Read the February 28, 2025 Washington Post article.](#) [Read the December 4, 2024 Washington Informer article.](#)

Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#)

You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related issues. Or listen to one or more of our 15-minute fair housing radio shows: <http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm>.



The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides.

We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also distribute brochures and guides about housing and insurance. 410.357.1219 / <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.

What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it?

What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We appreciate constructive criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.

CALENDAR

Baltimore Fair Housing Month Resource Fair 2025 is April 26th! April is recognized as Fair Housing Month in the United States to commemorate the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. This landmark law prohibits

discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. This month serves as a crucial reminder of the ongoing struggle for equal access to housing and the need to address systemic barriers that perpetuate segregation and inequality. It is a time to reflect on the progress made, educate communities about their rights, and reaffirm commitments to fostering inclusive, diverse neighborhoods where everyone has the opportunity to live free from discrimination. Join the Office of Equity and Civil Rights and the Community Relations Commission for our upcoming Baltimore City Fair Housing Month Resource Fair! Learn more about your rights as a renter/homeowner in Baltimore City and be connected with resources to help you thrive in your communities. Lunch will be served, and activities are available for folks to bring their kids! Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025. Time: 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Baltimore Unity Hall, Address: 1505 Eutaw Place, Baltimore 21217. [Register Here!](#)



Free Baltimore Workshop On Access and Functional Needs (AFN) in Emergency Preparedness is May 1st.

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights and the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management, is pleased to invite you to an upcoming workshop focused on Access and Functional Needs (AFN) in Emergency Preparedness. This workshop will bring together community leaders, emergency planners, disability advocates, mental health professionals, and service providers working with the AFN community. We will discuss strategies for effectively including individuals with access and functional needs in emergency preparedness planning. Thursday, May 1, 2025, 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. (Doors open at 3:30 P.M.). The Arc Baltimore: Seton Day Employment Services, 6151 Metro Drive, Baltimore 21215. [Register here](#): Access & Functional Needs Emergency Preparedness Workshop – Eventbrite. Accessibility & Accommodations: We are committed to hosting an inclusive and accessible event where all individuals can fully participate. ASL interpreters will be available. If you require accommodations or assistance with registration, please contact Michelle "Shelly" Smith at: Michelle.Smith@baltimorecity.gov. 410-396-6188.



REST IN PEACE

Marian Turski, Holocaust Survivor Who Warned Against Silence, 98. Turski was a Polish Jew who survived Auschwitz and two death marches as a teenager and later became a resolute memory-keeper, civil rights advocate, and journalist, gathering testimony from other Holocaust survivors while warning younger generations against silence

and indifference. Turski was among Poland's most prominent living Holocaust survivors, recounting his story - and those of other Polish Jews he interviewed - while speaking out against hate and reminding the world of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. He battled against historical amnesia. Turski joined the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists in Alabama for the 1965 marches from Selma to Montgomery. Just before his death, he returned to Auschwitz to address world leaders and warned in his speech against "a huge rise in antisemitism." He felt a duty to confront neo-Nazis, including some he encountered at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in the 1960s, and to combat historical lies and revisionism, notably through an open letter he wrote to Mark Zuckerberg in 2020, urging the Facebook chief executive to ban Holocaust denial from his social media platform. Turski published testimony from Holocaust survivors and worked with groups including the Jewish Historical Institute in Poland. To fill a "vacuum" of Jewish life in the country, he helped spearhead the creation of the [POLIN Museum](#). "Marian dedicated his life to ensuring that the world never forgets the horrors of the past," Ronald Lauder, the cosmetics heir and president of the World Jewish Congress, said in a tribute. Turski, he added, "was a man who led by example, choosing good over evil, dialogue over conflict, and understanding over hostility." At a ceremony for the 75th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation, he urged the gathered dignitaries to remember that "Auschwitz did not fall from the sky" but "began with small forms of persecution." He cited what he called "the 11th Commandment": "Don't be indifferent." "Do not be indifferent when you hear lies, historical lies," he said. "Do not be indifferent when you see the past is stretched to fit the current political needs. Do not be indifferent when any minority is discriminated against." [Read the February 20, 2025 Washington Post article.](#) (Photograph courtesy of the POLIN Museum.)