CELEBRATING EQUALITY
THE FAIR HOUSING ACT
1968 - 2018
MEDIA KIT
NFHA
National Fair Housing Alliance
ABOUT NFHA

Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Washington DC, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) is the only national organization dedicated solely to ending discrimination in housing. NFHA works to eliminate housing discrimination and to ensure equal housing opportunity for all people through leadership, education and outreach, membership services, public policy initiatives, community development, advocacy and enforcement.

Today NFHA is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals from throughout the United States. NFHA recognizes the importance of “home” as a component to the American Dream and hopes to aid in the creation of diverse, barrier free communities across the nation.

OUR MISSION

The National Fair Housing Alliance is the voice of fair housing. NFHA works to eliminate housing discrimination and to ensure equal housing opportunity for people through leadership, education, outreach, membership services, public policy initiatives, community development, advocacy and enforcement.

To schedule an interview with NFHA fair housing experts, email Jessica Aiwuyor, Associate Director of Communications at jaiwuyor@nationalfairhousing.org.
On April 11, 1968—seven days after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—President Lyndon Johnson signed into law Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, commonly known as the Fair Housing Act. The legislation was co-sponsored by then-Senators Edward Brooke and Walter Mondale and advanced an ambitious and progressive vision: to eliminate housing discrimination and residential segregation in this country. As envisioned, the Fair Housing Act is an important tool for achieving both justice and equity. In signing the bill, President Johnson proclaimed: “At long last, fair housing for all is now a part of the American way of life. We have come some of the way—not near all of it.

The year 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, as well as the 30th anniversary of the creation of the National Fair Housing Alliance. As the nation’s leading fair housing advocacy organization, NFHA is uniquely positioned to plan and lead the 50th Anniversary activities. Far more than a celebration, the year-long commemoration will move us closer to being a nation where fair housing and opportunity are the norm in all communities.
The Fair Housing Act, also known as the Civil Rights Act of 1968, was passed seven days after the death of Martin Luther King Jr. It was passed in honor of his push for "open housing," an effort to end residential segregation and to ensure that all people have access to quality housing.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Act into law on April 11, 1968.

Residential segregation did not happen by accident — it is a direct result of many decades of government policies and housing industry practices. This includes several New-Deal Era policies, including one that labeled some neighborhoods as desirable and others as hazardous (mostly based on the racial composition of the neighborhoods) and institutionalized redlining in the U.S. housing market.

The Fair Housing Act protects everyone. It protects families with children. It protects people with disabilities. It also protects people that are discriminated against based on gender, race, and ethnicity.

There are 4 million instances of housing discrimination each year in the rental market according to an analysis based on HUD’s FY 2006 annual report on fair housing.

Unfortunately, we are more segregated in 2018 than we were in 1920.

There were 28,181 reported complaints of housing discrimination in 2016.

Our schools are more segregated today than they were in the 1960s. The average Black student attends a school where only 28 percent of his or her fellow classmates are White (down from 35% in 1991).

More than half of the people who live within 2 miles of a waste facility are people of color.

72.2 percent of non-Hispanic White families own a home compared to only 41.7 percent of Black families and 46.3 percent of Latino families.

Access to quality housing is directly related to a historically race-based wealth divide. According to the Federal Reserve, in 2016 the median wealth of White families was 10 times that of Black families and eight times that of Latino families. Put another way, the median wealth of White families in the U.S. was $171,000 compared to only $17,600 for Black families.

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Shanna Smith  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Shanna Smith is the founding president and chief executive officer of NFHA. Her vision, commitment, dedication and tenacity has lead the agency, 30 years from its inception, to being the leading voice for fair housing in America. Shanna is responsible for the strategic direction of the agency as NFHA seeks to eradicate all forms of housing discrimination and make every community a place full of opportunities to grow and thrive. Shanna has pioneered groundbreaking testing and investigative strategies and has played a leadership role in precedent-setting cases brought under the nation's fair housing laws.

Lisa Rice  
Executive Vice President  
In her capacity as Executive Vice President with the National Fair Housing Alliance, Ms. Rice oversees the resource development, public policy, communication and enforcement divisions of the agency and helping to lead the agency’s efforts to expand equal access to quality, sustainable credit. She is responsible for helping to achieve the organization’s goal of addressing the crisis of segregation in America and the ultimate objective of achieving equal housing opportunities for all Americans.

Morgan Williams  
General Counsel  
Morgan Williams is responsible for leading the National Fair Housing Alliance’s strategic and tactical legal initiatives and affairs. Morgan leads NFHA’s efforts to pursue pioneering litigation under the federal Fair Housing Act, often utilizing testing-based evidence and working in partnership with its network of local fair housing centers, and coordinates NFHA’s actions to file amicus briefs to promote sound fair housing jurisprudence. Morgan provides training and technical support to local fair housing centers across the country on investigation and enforcement strategies, as well as training to housing providers and servicers on a range complicated and emerging topics. Morgan also assists with NFHA’s federal public policy advocacy, in coordination with legislative offices and federal agencies, and assists local advocates regarding state and local legislative matters.
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Shanti Abedin
Director of Inclusive Communities

Shanti Abedin is the Director of Inclusive Communities at the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA). In this role, Ms. Abedin oversees the administration of community relief grants to African American and Latino neighborhoods that were negatively affected by discriminatory practices following the foreclosure crisis. She manages a number of grants in six metropolitan areas across the country. Additionally, Ms. Abedin supports NFHA’s efforts around affirmatively furthering fair housing and provides research and analytical support for a number of enforcement actions.

Debby Goldberg
Vice President, Housing Policy and Special Projects

Debby works to ensure that federal housing policy effectively addresses the needs and rights of people of color, families with children, people with disabilities and others protected under our nation’s fair housing laws. She also leads NFHA’s work with its members and allies to ensure that all neighborhoods are communities of opportunity, using the framework of HUD’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulation along with other strategies.

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

Sherrill Frost-Brown
Vice President of Member Services and Community Development

Sherrill Frost-Brown is responsible for coordinating technical assistance to National Fair Housing Alliance member organizations and for growing the membership. Sherrill also directs NFHA’s Community Development programs including the National Housing Accessibility Partnership (HAP) program which provides grants to fair housing centers to modify homes and apartments for persons with disabilities. She represents NFHA at national and regional events and presents on fair housing workshops.

Jorge Andres Soto
Director of Public Policy

Jorge Andres Soto is responsible for advancing the National Fair Housing Alliance’s public policy priorities and directs the organization’s federal and congressional advocacy. Through local and national coalition-building, Jorge designs strategies to advocate for policies that help protect individuals from housing discrimination, strengthen access to justice for victims of housing discrimination, and remove obstacles to housing opportunity. Jorge leads NFHA’s efforts on issues concerning the federal budget and appropriations, housing and housing-related legislation, and executive nominations. Jorge also staffs the Fair Housing Task Force of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, which NFHA co-chairs with NAACP LDF.
The federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 was passed in a time of turmoil, conflict, and often conflagration in cities across the nation. It took the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to finally secure its passage. The Kerner Commission warned in 1968 that "to continue present policies is to make permanent the division of our country into two societies; one largely Negro and poor, located in the central cities; the other, predominantly white and affluent, located in the suburbs and outlying areas". The Fair Housing Act was passed with a dual mandate: to end discrimination and to dismantle the segregated living patterns that characterized most cities. The Fight for Fair Housing tells us what happened, why, and what remains to be done.

Since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the many forms of housing discrimination and segregation, and associated consequences, have been documented. At the same time, significant progress has been made in counteracting discrimination and promoting integration. Few suburbs today are all white; many people of color are moving to the suburbs; and some white families are moving back to the city. Unfortunately, discrimination and segregation persist.

The Fight for Fair Housing brings together the nation’s leading fair housing activists and scholars (many of whom are in both camps) to tell the stories that led to the passage of the Fair Housing Act, its consequences, and the implications of the act going forward. Including an afterword by Walter Mondale, this book is intended for everyone concerned with the future of our cities and equal access for all persons to housing and related opportunities.

Amazon link: http://amzn.to/2CvKml4

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