

CIVIL RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD



A Presentation by the

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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).**

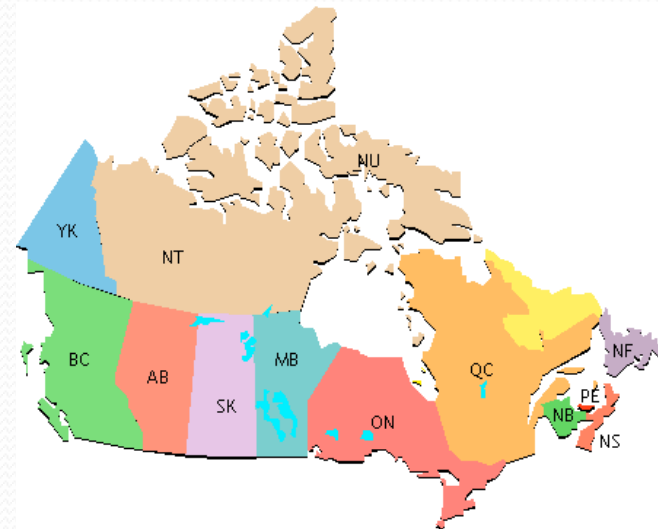
Canada



- 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.**

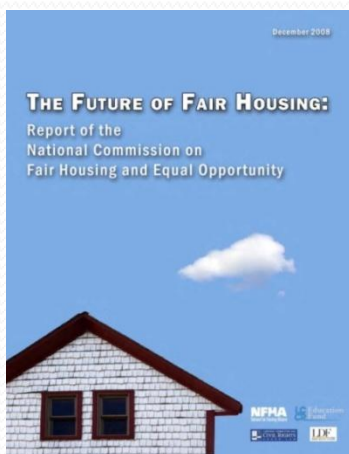
U. S. DOJ Report to Congress, December, 2008



“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.**

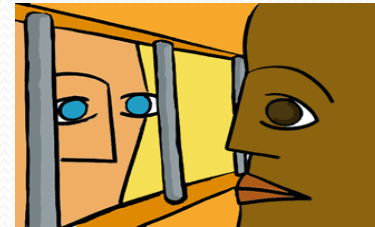
Proposed Civil Rights Act of 2009

NFHA
National Fair Housing Alliance

LC Education
CR Fund™

 **LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER LAW**

LDF
DEFEND EDUCATE EMPOWER



- “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.**